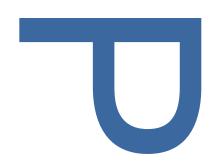
BLOCK A, BLOSSOM STREET, MANCHESTER M4 5AF

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION



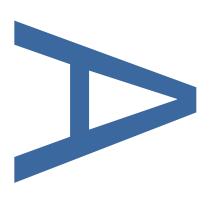


LOCAL PLANNING AUTHORITY:
MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL

PLANNING REF: 112256/FO/2016

PCA REPORT NO: R12808

MARCH 2017



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

BLOCK A, BLOSSOM STREET, MANCHESTER M4 5AF

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Quality Control

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BLOCK A, BLOSSOM STREET, MANCHESTER M4 5AF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Planning Application Number: 112256/FO/2016

Local Planning Authority: City of Manchester

Site Code: BLS17

Central National Grid Reference: SJ 84801 98615

Written by: Paw Jorgensen

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, February 2017

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1 ABSTRACT

- 1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Mulbury Homes (Blossom Street) Limited to undertake an archaeological evaluation of a potential development site (centred on NGR SJ 84801 98615) located on the east side of Blossom Street and straddling Gun Street in Manchester M4 5AF. The site was divided into two blocks; Block A located to the south of Gun Street, and Block B to the north. Only Block A was examined during the recent evaluation; another phase of evaluation work will be undertaken later in 2017 at Block B. The archaeological evaluation within Block A was carried out between the 13th and the 17th of February 2017 and the results are detailed within this report.
- 1.2 An historic environment desk-based assessment was previously carried out by PCA (Banens 2016) to accompany a planning application for the site in order to gauge the potential archaeological implications associated with the proposed development. This identified a number of heritage assets both within and near the study site, including the former Manchester Corporation Electricity Sub-station located within Block A. Following the desk-based assessment, historic building recording of the sub-station was carried out (Garwood 2017).
- 1.3 Along with the historic building recording, the archaeological evaluation was carried out in response to the archaeological condition attached to the planning permission granted for the site (planning application number 112256/FO/2016). The archaeological evaluation of Block A was to consist of five trenches measuring between 2.00m x 2.00m and 5.00m x 1.80m in plan. Four of these were located within the eastern part of the block, while the fifth was located in the western part within the paved forecourt of a former garage.
- 1.4 In the eastern part of the block, the natural clay survived relatively undisturbed to a height of roughly 49m OD, while the construction of basemented buildings in the 19th century had truncated the clay to approximately 47.50m OD in the southern corner. Where the clay survived undisturbed, it was sealed by an 18th century agricultural or horticultural soil horizon, which later formed the building level during the 19th century development of the site. Following that development, deposits of reworked natural clay, which were presumably derived from the excavation for basements, were deposited to raise the ground level to its present height of roughly 50m OD. Unfortunately, the level of archaeological survival within the western part of the site could not be determined as the trench excavated here had to be abandoned due to live services before the concrete slab could be fully penetrated.

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2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 This report details the methodology and results of an archaeological investigation undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA) between the 13th and 17th of February 2017, at Blossom Street in Manchester. The central National Grid Reference for the site is SJ 84801 98615 (Figure 1). The site is split into two areas, Block A and Block B, and the works herein reported were undertaken within Block A only. A further phase of archaeological evaluation work will be carried out within Block B site in the summer of 2017.
- 2.2 The overall site, consisting of Blocks A and B, is bordered to the southeast by Blossom Street and to the northeast and southwest by Henry Street and Great Ancoats Street respectively. Gun Street bisects the site and forms the boundary between Blocks A and B. At the time of writing, much of the site was occupied by industrial and commercial buildings.
- 2.3 The evaluation was commissioned by Mulbury Homes (Blossom Street) Limited in accordance with an archaeological condition attached to the planning permission granted for the site (planning application number 112256/FO/2016). In addition to the archaeological evaluation, the condition also required a Historic England level 2 historic building survey of the electrical sub-station. The building recording was carried out by PCA and reported on separately (Garwood 2017). Prior to both the historic building survey and the archaeological evaluation, during the pre-application stage, an historic environment desk-based assessment was carried out to gauge the archaeological potential and implications for the site. The desk-based assessment concluded that the potential for encountering remains associated with 18th to 20th century industrial and residential development was very high and that, if present, these may be of local to regional significance (Banens 2016).
- 2.4 Before the fieldwork commenced, a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing the scope and anticipated working methods of the evaluation was prepared by PCA (Mayo 2017) and approved by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the methods and standards set forth in the WSI, although the trench locations were altered slightly and the size of one of the trenches (Trench 5) had to be reduced from 5.0m x 1.8m to 2.0m x 2.0m due to site constraints. All of the remaining trenches were excavated to the size specified, namely 3.0m x 1.8m (Trench 1) and 5.0m x 1.8m (Trenches 2, 3, and 4).
- 2.5 The archaeological evaluation was project managed by Chris Mayo and supervised by the author, both of PCA. It was monitored on behalf of the local planning authority by Norman Redhead, of GMAAS. The archaeological project herein described was designed according to the guidelines set out in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006b). In line with MoRPHE guidelines, this report sets out a formal review of the data collected during the fieldwork.
- 2.6 The site archive (site code: BLS17), comprising the written, drawn and photographic records, as well as a selected assemblage of artefactual materials expected to be offered for deposition with the Museum of Science & Industry in Manchester (MoSI).

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3 PLANNING BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The planning background to the site is detailed within the desk-based assessment (Banens 2016), which provides information on the national, regional and local frameworks and planning policies governing heritage in the area.
- 3.2 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Site, or within the 500m radius of it. There are no Listed Buildings within the Site. The area of proposed development lies within the Ancoats conservation area, and is a very short distance to both the Smithfield and Stevenson Square conservation areas, which lie to the west and south-west of the site respectively.
- Planning permission for the development of the site has been granted by the City of Manchester under application number 112256/FO/2016. The consented scheme will see the:

Erection of 1 x 8 storey building and 1 x 7 storey building to form 140 residential apartments and 3 townhouses (143 units in total) with ground floor commercial uses (Use Class A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, B1 and / or D1) (378 sqm), car parking, boundary treatment, public realm works, access and servicing arrangements and other associated works following demolition of existing buildings

- 3.4 The consent includes the following condition:
 - 4) No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by the appointed archaeological contractor. The WSI should be submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

The WSI shall cover the following:

- (a) A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording to include:
 - A Historic England level 2 historic building survey of the substation;
 - Evaluation through trail trenching;
 - informed by the above, more detailed targeted excavation and historic research (subject to a new WSI).
- (b) A programme for post investigation assessment to include:
 - analysis of the site investigation records and finds
 - production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented.
- (c) A scheme to commemorate the site's heritage' commensurate with their significance
- (d) Dissemination of the results commensurate with their significance;
- (e) Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation
- (f) Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.

The development shall be undertaken in line with the approved WSI.

Reason - To investigate the archaeological interest of the site and record and preserve

any remains of archaeological interest, pursuant to saved policy DC20.1 of the Unitary Development Plan for the City of Manchester and guidance in the National Planning Policy Framework.

- 3.5 The archaeological evaluation was carried out in response to the above condition, and followed from a level 2 historic building survey of the electrical substation occupying the central part of Block A. The latter was undertaken by PCA and its results detailed in a separate report (Garwood 2017).
- 3.6 The evaluation fieldwork followed a Written Scheme of Investigation (Mayo 2017) which was approved on behalf of the local planning authority by Norman Redhead of GMAAS.

4 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 4.1 As stated within the desk-based assessment (Banens 2016), the site is underlain by Triassic Sandstone of the Chester Pebble Beds Formation, deposited between 251 and 246 million years ago in a local environment dominated by rivers. This is overlain by superficial deposits of Devensian Diamicton till, laid down in ice age conditions.
- 4.2 The site lies on land that is relatively flat at a surface height of c. 49.7m OD
- 4.3 Recent work by PCA at 74-88 Great Ancoats Street, approximately 100m to the south of the site, recorded natural till at a depth of approximately 0.5m BGL. It had been extensively truncated by 19th and 20th century cellars.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

5.1 Archaeological and Historical Background, Potential and Significance

- 5.1.1 The site has been the subject of a desk-based assessment (Banens 2016) which contained the following summary statements:
 - 9.2 The archaeological, cartographic and historical evidence consulted ... suggests that there is a negligible potential for encountering prehistoric material, a low potential for encountering Roman deposits, a negligible potential for encountering early medieval remains, and a low potential for encountering medieval remains. ... remains of these periods, if found, would be of local significance.
 - 9.3 There is a very high potential for remains of late 18th to 20th century date associated with the industrial development of the Ancoats area and related construction on the study site. Such remains would be of local to regional significance.

5.2 Archaeological investigations in the vicinity of the Site

- 5.2.1 Archaeological investigations at 74-88 Great Ancoats Street were completed by PCA in 2016 (Turner forthcoming). The site work revealed a series of cellars associated with19th century properties which had been adapted and reused into the 20th century. The cellars could be correlated to structures identifiable on historic maps.
- 5.2.2 The work revealed an assemblage of artefacts associated with the trades and pastimes of the occupants of the structures at the site, including ceramics and glassware.
- 5.2.3 The work showed that all ground level surfaces from the previous structures had been removed by modern landscaping and development. Only below ground foundations and basement structures were exposed.
- 5.2.4 The desk-based assessment (Banens 2016), provides a comprehensive background to the site.

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6 PROJECT AIMS AND RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 6.1 The archaeological evaluation was designed to determine the presence or absence of surviving archaeological remains/deposits at the site and inform the design of an appropriate mitigation strategy. The fieldwork aimed to address the following questions:
 - To determine the natural topography of the site, and the height at which it survived.
 - To determine the presence or absence of prehistoric deposits/activity.
 - To determine the presence or absence of Roman deposits/activity.
 - To determine the presence or absence of medieval deposits/activity.
 - To determine the presence or absence of post-medieval deposits/activity.
 - To ascertain the state of preservation of 18th, 19th, and early 20th century domestic dwellings and associated structures which are known to have stood at the site.
 - To ascertain whether any evidence remains for late 18th century structures such as that shown on Cole and Roper's Map of 1801. If present, have these structures been incorporated and reused into later buildings?
 - To ascertain whether evidence remains for the Court Dwellings shown on the site from the maps of the mid-19th century.
 - To establish the extent of past post depositional impacts on the archaeological resource.

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7 METHODOLOGY

7.1 Fieldwork

- 7.1.1 The trial-trenching evaluation fieldwork was undertaken 13-17 February 2016. All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standard and guidance document of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA). The evaluation was undertaken according to the WSI compiled by PCA (Mayo 2017) and approved by GMAAS.
- 7.1.2 The recent evaluation was undertaken within Block A only. Until recently the western part of Block A was in use as a car show room; the eastern part was used for car parking and the central part was occupied by a derelict electrical sub-station.
- 7.1.3 Five trenches (Trenches 1-5) were proposed for investigation across Block A of the site. The dimensions of the trenches, as designed and set out in the WSI, were as follows:

Trench	Proposed	Expected Max	Achieved	Achieved
Number	dimensions (m)	Depth (m)	dimensions (m)	depth (m)
Trench 1	3.0 x 1.8	c. 1.2	3.0 x 1.8	2.3
Trench 2	5.0 x 1.8	c. 1.2	5.0 x 1.8	2.3
Trench 3	5.0 x 1.8	c. 1.2	5.0 x 1.8	1.1
Trench 4	5.0 x 1.8	c. 1.2	5.0 x 1.8	1.1
Trench 5	5.0 x 1.8	c. 1.2	2.0 x 2.0	0.2

- 7.1.4 Due to live services encountered at a depth of 0.20m below ground service, Trench 5 was abandoned at this point. The remaining trenches were excavated to the top of the natural clay underlying the site.
- 7.1.5 All trenches were mechanically-excavated by a JCB with toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision. The trenches were excavated to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon, or the clearly defined top of the natural sub-stratum, whichever was reached first.
- 7.1.6 Hand cleaning was undertaken in those trenches where it could safely be achieved. All features were subject to partial or complete excavation within the trenches, with the exception of areas that exceeded 1.2m deep or were not accessible due to health and safety constraints.
- 7.1.7 A photographic record of the investigations was compiled using a digital SLR camera illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record also included 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All record photographs included a legible graduated metric scale.
- 7.1.8 All trenches were recorded, irrespective of whether or not they contained archaeological features. All trenches were planned to scale (1:20). One long section was drawn to scale (1:10) in each trench.
- 7.1.9 Temporary Bench Marks (TBMs) were established at the site using known heights from a topo

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map issued by the client. All trench locations were triangulated from known points in order to locate them on the OS grid.

7.2 Post-Excavation

- 7.2.1 The stratigraphic data generated by the project is represented by the written, drawn and photographic records. A total of 31 archaeological contexts were defined during the course of the archaeological investigations. Post-excavation work involved checking and collating site records, grouping contexts and phasing the stratigraphic data.
- 7.2.2 Artefactual material from the investigations comprised assemblages of pottery, glass, clay tobacco pipe, ceramic building material, shell, 'small finds' and faunal remains. Assessment report for the pottery, clay tobacco pipe, animal bone, CBM and small finds have been produced including a basic quantification of the material and a statement of its potential for further analysis and relevant comments. These are presented in appendices 2 to 5.
- 7.2.3 In preparing the Site Archive for deposition, all relevant standards and guidelines documents referenced in the Archaeological Archives Forum guidelines document (Brown 2007) will be adhered to, in particular a well-established United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) document (Walker, UKIC 1990) and an IfA publication (ClfA 2014c). The depositional requirements of the body to which the Site Archive will be ultimately transferred will be met in full.
- 7.2.4 Upon completion of all phases of work, the Site Archive will most likely be offered to The Manchester Museum of Science and Industry, under the site code BLS17.

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8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PHASE DISCUSSION

During the investigations, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual 'context' numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example, [1]. The archaeological sequence is described by placing stratigraphic sequences within broad phases, assigned on a site-wide basis in this case. An attempt has been made to add interpretation to the data, and correlate these phases with recognised historical and geological periods.

8.1 Phase 1: Fluvial Deposits

8.1.1 Natural clay was reached in four of the five trenches. In Trenches 3 and 4, the natural clay survived untruncated to a height of 49.03m OD, while in Trenches 1 and 2 it had been truncated by the construction of basements. Here the natural was first encountered at a height of 47.47m OD. In all four trenches the natural clay comprised stiff mid- to dark bluish grey clay, which is identifiable as the Till recorded by the British Geological Survey.

8.2 Phase 2: Post-Medieval

Trench 1 (Figure 2; Section 1)

8.2.1 In Trench 1, the natural clay was sealed by a demolition deposit, [30], comprising loose brick rubble in a soft light brown sandy lime mortar matrix. The 1.1m-thick deposit extended across the entire trench and was first seen at a height of 48.57m OD. Considering the height of the natural clay at 49.03m OD in nearby trenches, it is highly likely that it had been truncated in Trench 1 (and 2) where it was first seen at 47.45m OD. As the brick rubble deposit directly overlies the clay, it is probable that it was used fill in this truncation; most likely a basement of one of the former units fronting Great Ancoats Street. Sealing deposit [30] was a second layer of demolition rubble, [1], comprising whole and fragmented bricks contained within a matrix of dark brown silty sand with frequent pockets of lime mortar. Like the lower demolition deposit, it is likely that this was used to backfill the basements of the former buildings fronting Great Ancoats Street.

Trench 2 (Figure 2; Section 2)

8.2.2 The archaeological sequence within Trench 2 was similar to that in Trench 1, with the exception that the natural clay was sealed by a stone floor, [4], comprising York flagstones. Due to the depth of the trench, it was not possible to safely enter the excavation in order to thoroughly clean and examine the floor; however, as far as could be determined, fragmented flagstones had been used in the construction of the floor rather than whole square or rectangular cut slabs. The floor was first seen at a height of 47.71m OD and seemed to remain relatively level across the trench. Overlying the floor were two consecutive demolition deposits similar to those in Trench 1. Here the lower deposit was recorded as [3], and the upper as [2].

Trench 3 (Figure 3; Section 3; Plate 1)

8.2.3 Sealing the natural clay in Trench 3, was a layer, [27], of friable mid-greyish brown humic sandy

silt with moderately frequent charcoal and CBM flecks. This was first seen at 49.11m OD and extended across the entire trench. It is likely that this deposit is evidence for the agricultural use of the area prior to the development in the late 18th century. This deposit had been cut by the construction cuts for two brick footings, [20] and [22]. Footing [20], which survived to a height of 49.20m OD, was slightly curvilinear in shape and had been constructed using red unfrogged bricks measuring 220mm x 100mm x 70mm. No bonding material was visible, which may have been a result of erosion. Alternatively, the foundation bricks may have been dry laid. As far as could be ascertained, the bricks, many of which were fragments, had been laid in stretcher bond four bricks wide. The second footing, [22], which survived to a height of 49.50m OD, was of a similar construction, although it was only three bricks wide (0.30m).



Plate 1: Overview of Trench 3 (with 1m scale), looking southwest.

8.2.4 Following the construction of the two footings, the ground was raised to 49.44m OD, through the deposition of a layer of firmly compacted light yellowish grey clay with frequent brick fragments and pockets of ash recorded variably as [19], [21], and [23]. Prior to the deposition

of this deposit, a small woven straw mat, which had been folded around the partial remains of medium sized adult dog (see Rielly, appendix 4 in this report), had been placed against the north side of footing [22] and then covered by the ground raising deposit. To the south of footing [22], the ground raising deposit had been partially truncated by the construction cut for a brick lined box drain, [24]. The drain had been constructed using unfrogged red brick fragments measuring on average 80mm x 80mm x 60mm.

8.2.5 Sealing the brick drain, the two footings, and the ground raising deposit, was a layer of made ground, [29], comprising friable mid-brown clayey silt with frequent charcoal flecks and pockets of ash. This appeared to have been laid down as bedding material for a Yorkstone surface, [28], which extended across the entire trench at a height of 49.94m OD. This was then sealed by the modern concrete slab forming the car park surface within this part of the site.

Trench 4 (Figure 3; Plate 2)

8.2.6 In Trench 4, the natural clay was sealed by a layer of agricultural/horticultural soil, [10]/[11], similar to layer [27] in Trench 3. Pottery recovered from this deposit is suggestive of a late 18th century date. The agricultural horizon was cut by the construction cut, [18], for a roughly northwest-southeast aligned brick footing, [13]. Footing [13] had been constructed of unfrogged red bricks measuring 220mm x 100mm x 65mm. These had been laid one skin thick in stretcher bond and were set in hard moderately coarse light grey lime mortar. While the upper part of the footing was only a single header wide (100mm), the lower three courses had been laid in header bond in order to provide a more substantial foundation. The foundation was sealed by the backfill, [17], of the construction cut. This comprised compact dark brown clay with occasional charcoal flecks. Excavation of the construction cut backfill produced a single small, a copper alloy farthing (sf 1), dating from 1860 to 1895 (Appendix 5, although this may have been intrusive. During the excavation of the fill it was unclear whether the coin was from the top of the backfill, or from a later truncation caused by the demolition of the wall as it was found at the interface of the two. On both sides of the wall, the construction cut was sealed by a 0.10m-thick masons' floor comprising compacted brick dust and crushed lime mortar [8]/[9]. To the west, the masons' floor had been truncated by the construction cuts for two northeast-southwest aligned brick footings, [14] and [15] butting against the north and south sides of footing [13] respectively. These footings appear to have been constructed at the same time, and at roughly the same time as [13]. Like footing [13], both of these footings had been constructed using red unfrogged bricks laid in stretcher bond. To the east, a brick pier, [16], had been constructed against the south side of footing [13]. Following the construction of the footings and the brick pier, the ground level on both sides of footing [13] was raised to 49.82m OD through the deposition of a layer of made ground, [6]/[7]. Pottery recovered from the made ground is consistent with an 18th century date. Sealing the made ground, and extending across the entire trench, was a stone floor, [5], first seen at 49.83m OD. The stone floor was constructed from Yorkstone slabs and appeared to respect the brick footings, suggesting that it formed the surface inside the buildings formed by these rather than an external surface following their demolition. This was in turn sealed by the concrete slab forming the car park surface in this part of the site.



Plate 2: Overview of Trench 4 (with 1m scale), looking southwest

9 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

9.1 Discussion

Phase 1: Natural Sub-Stratum

9.1.1 The intact height of the natural clay was ascertained in Trenches 3 and 4, where it was recorded at roughly 49.03m OD. In the southern corner of the site, the natural clay had been truncated, most likely by late 18th or 19th century basements, to a level of 47.47m OD.

Phase 2: Post-Medieval

- 9.1.2 The Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment indicates that up until the late 18th century, the site remained as open agricultural land, although by 1794 it was occupied by multiple buildings. With the exception of the northern corner, Block A was entirely occupied by buildings fronting Gun Street, Blossom Street, and Great Ancoats Street. Unfortunately, the earliest maps of the area do not show individual building footprints, so it is difficult to differentiate between different properties. It is not until Bancks & Cos' 1831 *Plan of Manchester and Salford* (Figure 6) that individual buildings become identifiable.
- 9.1.3 Using the 1794 map as a base (Figure 5), the earlier brick walls recorded in Trench 3 fit well with external walls shown on the map. These seem to form boundary walls between the rear yards of the buildings fronting Blossom Street. None of the brick walls recorded in Trench 4 are directly identifiable with walls shown on the 1794 map, although the mortar used in their construction appears to be of late 18th/early 19th century date. As the 1794 map does not show individual building units, these can be estimated from the boundary walls of the associated yards, which are shown. Considering this, along with later cartographic evidence, it is likely that the walls in Trench 4 form the boundary wall and internal partitions of two of the properties fronting Blossom Street. While the configuration of the back yards changed throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the building footprints remain unchanged from 1794 until their recent demolition in the late 20th century. It is of course possible that the buildings were rebuilt, respecting the old plots, however considering the lack of later walls within the excavated trenches, this seems unlikely.
- 9.1.4 The walls recorded in Trenches 3 and 4 are likely associated with the building occupying the corner of Blossom Street and Gun Street, and the two buildings southwest of it along Blossom Street and their back yards. In Adshead's *Twenty Four Illustrated Maps of the Township of Manchester* (1851) these three buildings are shown as commercial properties, although there is no further evidence for their use. The earliest map showing the site developed is William Green's 1794 *Plan of Manchester and Salford*. Earlier maps, such as Yates' 1786 map of Lancashire, show the site within a rural landscape. The late 18th century development of the site, suggested by the cartographic material, is consistent with the artefactual evidence recovered from the site. Both the clay tobacco pipe and the pottery assemblage associated with the pre-construction and construction deposits dated to the 18th century, with the pottery from

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the construction deposits dated more closely to the last two decades of the century.

9.1.5 While the natural clay had been heavily truncated within Trenches 1 and 2, this is likely to have occurred at an early date, and as a result of basemented buildings being constructed along Great Ancoats Street. While the natural clay in Trench 1 was sealed directly by brick and mortar rubble, in Trench 2 a flagstone floor survived between the natural clay and the brick and mortar rubble. The fact that the stone floor survived shows that the initial truncation of the clay was likely due to basementing rather than for example quarrying. Additionally, suggests that other masonry features may survive within the basement in the southern corner of Block A.

9.2 Conclusions and Recommendations

- 9.2.1 The evaluation has demonstrated the presence of intact natural strata beneath late 18th and 19th century structural remains, which were retained into the 20th century, within the eastern third of the site at the Blossom Street frontage. In this area, the southern area (formerly occupied by 53 Great Ancoats Street) has been truncated to depth by former cellars although of some potential archaeological interest, the absence of floor slabs within Trench 1 implies that the demolition and in-filling of these structures has been substantive. The northern part of this eastern third, however, has shown extremely good archaeological potential for evidence of the late 18th century development of the Ancoats area.
- 9.2.2 The evaluation was unable to adequately investigate the forecourt area to the south of the former car showroom due to the presence of services. There is anecdotal evidence that buried fuel tanks may have once been located in this part of the site and this is being further researched by the client. The archaeological potential of the showroom cannot therefore be defined.
- 9.2.3 The archaeological potential within the footprint of the former substation has not been investigated, although based upon the recent historic building survey complete by PCA (Garwood 2017) the construction of this structure is believed to have caused a significant effect on buried remains.
- 9.2.4 In terms of further archaeological mitigation of the Block A site, it is considered that an archaeological excavation of the northern half of the eastern third of the site, roughly equating to the area of the current car park at the corner of Blossom Street and Gun Street, will be required in advance of development. This approach was discussed with Norman Redhead of GMAAS at a site meeting to review the evaluation work on the 16th February 2017, and broadly agreed as an appropriate response.
- 9.2.5 Further mitigation work will be designed in a Written Scheme of Investigation which is prepared by PCA in due course and approved by GMAAS. Mitigation work may proceed after the client takes vacant possession of the site, later in 2017.
- 9.2.6 Until mitigation work is completed and the archaeological condition is deemed satisfied, PCA will retain the site archive at its head offices in Brockley, London until it is offered for deposition to the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester.

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10 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- 10.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology would like to thank Mulbury Homes (Blossom Street) Limited. for commissioning the archaeological evaluation herein described, and Jack Brister of Rider Levett Bucknall for his assistance
- 10.2 The curatorial role of Norman Redhead (Heritage Management Director) of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service is gratefully acknowledged.
- 10.3 The project was supervised for PCA by Paw Jorgensen, with assistance during the fieldwork from Mike Tunnicliffe and James Hopper. The finds assessment in this report were prepared by Chris Jarrett, Marit Gaimster and Kevin Rielly, and the illustrations produced by Mark Roughley. The project was managed and this report edited by Chris Mayo.

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12 APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT INDEX

Context	Туре	Fill of	Equal to	Trench	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Level high (m OD)	Level low (m OD)	Phase
1	Layer			1	Demolition layer	3.0 0	1.8 0	1.2 0	49.7 7	49.7 7	PH 3
2	Layer			2	Demolition layer	5.0 0	1.8 0	1.2 0	49.8 7	49.8 7	PH 3
3	Layer			2	Demolition layer	5.0 0	1.8 0	0.8 6	48.6 7	48.6 7	PH 2
4	Masonr y			2	Yorkstone floor surface.	5.0 0	1.8 0	0.0	47.7 1	47.7 1	PH 2
5	Masonr y			4	Yorkstone floor surface.	5.0 0	1.8 0	0.0 7	49.8 3	49.7 9	PH 2
6	Layer		7	4	Made ground.	2.5 1	1.8 0	0.4 9	49.8 2	49.7 7	PH 2
7	Layer		6	4	Made ground.	1.9 6	1.8 0	0.4 4	49.8 2	49.7 7	PH 2
8	Layer		9	4	Masons' floor.	2.8 1	1.9 6	0.1 3	49.3 8	49.2 1	PH 2
9	Layer		8	4	Masons' floor.	1.9 6	1.8 0	0.1 0	49.3 8	49.2 1	PH 2
10	Layer		11	4	Agricultural/horticultura I horizon.	2.8 1	1.8 0	0.3 7	49.2 9	49.1 6	PH 2
11	Layer		10	4	Agricultural/horticultura I horizon.	1.9 6	1.8 1	0.3 7	49.2 9	49.1 6	PH 2
12	Natural			4	Natural clay	5.0 0	1.1 8	0.2 0	49.0 3	48.9 3	PH 1
13	Masonr y	18		4	East-west aligned brick wall.	1.8 0	0.1 0	0.9 5	49.6 0	49.6 0	PH 2
14	Masonr y			4	North-south aligned brick wall.	2.5 1	0.1 2	0.8 8	49.8 9	49.8 9	PH 2
15	Masonr y			4	North-south aligned brick wall.	1.8 8	0.1 0	0.8 4	49.7 7	49.7 7	PH 2
16	Masonr y			4	Brick pier base.	0.4 7	0.3 7	0.7 0	49.6 8	49.6 8	PH 2
17	Fill	18		4	Fill of construction cut [18].	1.8 0	0.2 4	0.2	49.2 4	49.2 1	PH 2
18	Cut			4	Construction cut for wall [13].	1.8 0	0.2 4	0.2	49.2 4	49.0 2	PH 2
19	Layer		21	3	Made ground deposit. Same as [21] and [23].	1.8 0	1.6 0	0.1 0	49.2 9	49.2 9	PH 2
20	Masonr y			3	Curvilinear brick wall.	1.9 0	0.5 0	0.6 2	49.2 0	49.2 0	PH 2
21	Layer		23	3	Made ground deposit. Same as [19] and [23].	2.0	1.8 0	0.5 0	49.1 1	49.1 1	PH 2
22	Masonr y			3	East-west aligned brick wall.	1.8 0	0.3 0	0.3 6	49.5 0	49.5 0	PH 2
23	Layer		19	3	Made ground deposit. Same as [19] and [21].	1.8 0	1.4 0	0.0 5	49.4 4	49.4 4	PH 2

Context	Туре	Fill of	Equal to	Trench	Interpretation	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Level high (m OD)	Level low (m OD)	Phase
24	Masonr y	26		3	Brick box drain.	1.6 0	0.3	0.0 6	49.4 7	49.4 7	PH 2
25	Fill	24		3	Silty fill of drain [24].	1.4 0	0.2	0.0 4	49.4 3	49.4 3	PH 2
26	Cut			3	Construction cut for brick drain [24].	1.6 0	0.3 0	0.0 6	49.4 4	49.3 8	PH 2
27	Layer			3	Agricultural/horticultura I horizon.	1.4 0	0.3	0.1 2	49.1 1	49.1 1	PH 2
28	Masonr y			3	Yorkstone floor surface.	3.2 0	1.8 0	0.0	49.9 4	49.9 4	PH 2
29	Layer			3	Made ground.	5.0 0	1.8 0	0.1 4	49.8 8	49.8 8	PH 2
30	Layer			1	Demolition layer.	3.0 0	1.8 0	1.1 0	48.5 7	48.5 7	PH 2
31	Natural			1	Natural clay.	3.0 0	1.8 0	0.1 0	47.4 7	47.4 7	PH 1

13 APPENDIX 2: POTTERY ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, February 2017

13.1 Introduction

- 13.1.1 A small sized assemblage of pottery was recovered from the site (one box). The pottery dates entirely to the post-medieval period and particularly as types characteristic of the 18th century. Very little of the pottery is laminated or abraded and only a few sherds are possibly residual. The pottery is in a fragmentary state and can be defined as mostly sherd material; none of the vessels have a complete profile and only approximately 40% of the vessels can be assigned to a specific form. The pottery appears to have been deposited under secondary, possibly tertiary circumstances, although the wares found together are largely contemporaneous and perhaps a few sherds represent vessels that were old fashioned. The pottery was quantified by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV's), besides weight. Pottery was recovered from five contexts and the sizes of the groups of the pottery are all small (fewer than 30 sherds).
- 13.1.2 In total the assemblage consists of 26 sherds, 24 ENV, 346g (of which none are unstratified). The assemblage was examined macroscopically and microscopically using a binocular microscope (x20), and recorded in a database format file by fabric, form and decoration. The pottery is discussed by its distribution and types. The pottery types have been classified according to the coding system used by the Museum of London (2014) or suitable alphabetical codes were cross referenced to this.

13.2 The pottery types

- 13.2.1 The range of pottery types and the forms that occur in these wares are shown in Table 1.
- 13.2.2 The blackware (BLACK), dated 1600–1900, produced only one identifiable form as a sherd from a chamber pot made in a more refined fabric than the norm and has an internal and external glaze and an internal cess deposit (context [6]). The other sherds of this pottery type are made in coarser fabrics and indicate that larger forms, bowls or jugs are represented (contexts [10] and [21]). A base sherd is only recorded in the marbled pink fabric with brownglaze (MARB BRGL) (context [21]). The Midlands purple ware (MPUR: dated c. 1480–1750) sherds indicate that closed forms are represented: possibly butter pots (contexts [10] and [19]).

Pottery type	Code	Date range	SC EN	1A M	Vt (g)	Forms
Blackware	BLACK	1600–1900	3	3	87	Chamber pot
Marbled pink fabric with brown-glaze	MARB BRGL	1600-1900	2	1	29	-
Midlands purple ware	MPUR	1400-1750	2	2	16	-
Pearlware with transfer-printed decoration	PEAR TR	1780–1840	1	1	3	Plate
Staffordshire-type brown salt-glazed stoneware	STBRS	1690–1730	2	2	8	?Drinking forms
Staffordshire-type mottled brown- glazed ware	STMO	1650–1800	10	9	116	Dish, rounded, ?drinking forms

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Pottery type	Code	Date range	SC E	NV W	/t (g)	Forms
Staffordshire-type red-slipped black- glazed ware	STRSB	1700–1800	1	1	33	Dish, rounded
Staffordshire-type combed slipware	STSL	1660-1870	1	1	19	Dish
White salt-glazed stoneware	SWSG	1720–1780	3	3	34	Plate, saucer
English tin-glazed ware	TGW	1570–1846	1	1	1	Plate

Table 1. BSL17: post-medieval pottery types (and their forms) quantified by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV) and weight

- 13.2.3 Staffordshire-type mottled brown-glazed ware (STMO), dated *c*. 1650–1800 is recorded in the form of dishes surviving as a narrow flat rim (context [10]), a rim-wall carination (context [19]) and a base (context [11]). Other sherds found in contexts [10], [11] and [19] are probably derived from closed forms, perhaps drinking vessels. Additionally, a base sherd from a vessel found in context [6] was used to cook with and the glazed is slightly heat altered. Staffordshire-type red-slipped black-glazed ware (STRSB), dated to the 18th century, occurs as the flat rim of a dish and was present in context [21]. The latter was found with a dish made in Staffordshire-type combed slipware (STSL), dated c. 1660—1870 and the flat rim has an unusual finish consisting of relatively large rounded lobes on the edge.
- 13.2.4 Stonewares are represented in the assemblage and include Staffordshire-type brown salt-glazed ware (context [10]) and include two sherds from drinking forms, one possibly being from a tankard, decorated with a horizontal combed band near the base and the other sherd has a rouletted notch band. These sherds are one of the oldest wares in the assemblage and may represent residual material or vessels that had a long use life. The white salt-glazed stoneware (SWSG), dated 1720–1780, is noted in the form of a plate base and a saucer rim (context [10]), while a thick walled rounded sherd noted in context [21] may be from a jug.
- 13.2.5 The only industrial fineware recorded is pearl ware with transfer-printed decoration (PEAR TR) and this occurs as a rounded wall sherd with a transfer-printed Chinoiserie geometrical hexagonal border (context [10]) and the vessel dates to the end of the 18th century and start of the 19th century.

13.3 Distribution

13.3.1 The distribution of the pottery is displayed in Table 2 and shows the contexts containing pottery, the size, number of sherds, ENV and weight, the earliest and latest date of the most recent pottery type (Context ED/LD) and a considered (spot) date for the group. All of the pottery was recovered from layers dated to Phase 2.

Pottery type	Code	Date range	SC E	NV V	Vt (g)	Forms
Blackware	BLACK	1600-1900	3	3	87	Chamber pot
Marbled pink fabric with brown-glaze	MARB BRGL	1600-1900	2	1	29	-
Midlands purple ware	MPUR	1400-1750	2	2	16	-
Pearlware with transfer-printed decoration	PEAR TR	1780–1840	1	1	3	Plate
Staffordshire-type brown salt-glazed stoneware	STBRS	1690–1730	2	2	8	?Drinking forms
Staffordshire-type mottled brown-	STMO	1650–1800	10	9	116	Dish, rounded,

Pottery type	Code	Date range	SC E	NV W	/t (g)	Forms
glazed ware						?drinking forms
Staffordshire-type red-slipped black- glazed ware	STRSB	1700–1800	1	1	33	Dish, rounded
Staffordshire-type combed slipware	STSL	1660-1870	1	1	19	Dish
White salt-glazed stoneware	SWSG	1720-1780	3	3	34	Plate, saucer
English tin-glazed ware	TGW	1570–1846	1	1	1	Plate

Table 2. BSL17: Distribution of the pottery showing for each context the phase it occurs in, its quantification by sherd count (SC), estimated number of vessels (ENV), weight and estimated vessel equivalents (EVEs) as well as the date range of the latest pottery type (Context ED/LD), the pottery types and forms present and a suggested spot date for the deposition of the deposit.

13.4 Significance, potential and recommendations for further work

13.4.1 The pottery has little significance at a local level, although it is interesting that the pottery types are largely restricted to those of 18th-century types. At least two other assemblages of post-medieval pottery have been recovered from local archaeological excavations, which allow for comparison with this assemblage: Greengate Towers, Salford (Hughes 2007; Bradley 2014) and 16 Chapel Street, Salford (Jarrett 2015). The pottery has the potential to date the deposits it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work at this stage on the material, although if further archaeological work is undertaken on the study area and new finds of pottery are recovered, then the importance of this assemblage should be reviewed.

13.5 References

- Bradley, J. 2014, Greengate Towers, Salford. Archaeological analysis (issue 2). Oxford Archaeology North unpublished document
- Hughes, V. 2007. 'Greengate Towers, Salford, Greater Manchester, archaeological investigation'. Oxford Archaeology North, unpublished document.
- Jarrett, C. 2015. 'Pottery Assessment'. In: J. Taylor, Assessment of Archaeological Investigations at 16 Chapel Street, Salford, Greater Manchester. Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited unpublished report.

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14 APPENDIX 3: CLAY TOBACCO PIPE ASSESSMENT

By Chris Jarrett, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, February 2017

14.1 A total of three fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem were recovered from a single deposit: context [10]. Two of the stems are thin and have wide bores (probably of a 17th century date), while one example is of a medium-thin thickness and has a fine bore and probably dates to the 18th century. The clay tobacco pipes have limited potential and can only provide broad dating for the context it was recovered from. There are no recommendations for further work on the material.

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15 APPENDIX 4: FAUNAL REMAINS ASSESSMENT

By Kevin Rielly, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, February 2017

15.1 Introduction

15.1.1 The site was situated at the junction of Great Ancoats Street and Blossom Street in the central part of Manchester. Five small trenches were excavated, Trench 5 to the south-west and the remaining four at the eastern extremity of a study area measuring some 25 by 40m. The stratigraphy consisted of clay natural with an overlying 18th century agricultural or horticultural soil in turn beneath features and levels associated with the 19th century development of this area. Animal bones were found within a deposit [21] positioned and filling the space between walls [20] and [22] in Trench 3.

15.2 Methodology

15.2.1 The bone was recorded to species/taxonomic category where possible and to size class in the case of unidentifiable bones such as ribs, fragments of longbone shaft and the majority of vertebra fragments. Recording follows the established techniques whereby details of the element, species, bone portion, state of fusion, wear of the dentition, anatomical measurements and taphonomic including natural and anthropogenic modifications to the bone were registered.

15.3 Description of faunal assemblage

15.3.1 A total of just 11 bones were hand recovered from this site, all taken from deposit [21], dated from the associated finds between 1720 and 1780. These few bones clearly represent the partial remains of a dog skeleton consisting of a selection of the left and right elements of the hind feet: left metatarsus 3, 4 and 5, right metatarsus 3 and 4 including 4 tarsals, and two phalanges. All these bones are fused indicative of an adult individual while their size suggests they belonged to a medium sized animal (possible 40 to 50cm at the shoulder). The metatarsus 3 and 4 are 56.4mm and 58.7mm in length respectively. Of some interest, these bones were found lying on the remains of a woven 'mat' manufactured from strips of plant material. While this may be purely coincidental, it could be suggested that this juxtaposition of osseous and botanical materials may represent a structured deposit – the deposition of an animal wrapped within this woven 'material'. It can be supposed that the rest of the carcass had been removed, possibly by later truncation, the mix of left and right parts suggestive of some disturbance.

15.4 Conclusions and recommendations for further work

15.4.1 These few bones are certainly of interest and of course it would be useful to identify the material used in the burial of this animal. No further analysis is required, although this situation may change if more parts of this individual are discovered following further excavation in this part of the site. Any additional excavation in this location should be preferentially carried out by collecting whole earth samples, with the resultant soil either dry or wet sieved, depending on the site conditions. This should ensure the recovery of all parts of the skeleton, assuming its

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presence, most importantly including the bacculum or *os penis*, as well as the skull and at least some of the limb bones. This will ensure the identification of sex, type and size respectively.

16 APPENDIX 5: THE METAL AND SMALL FINDS

By Märit Gaimster, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited, February 2017

- 16.1 Only three small finds were recovered from the excavations. All were from Phase 2 contexts. They include an incomplete lead strap mount (SF 2) and a piece of loosely woven matting of plant fibre (SF 3), both associated with pottery dating from the 18th century or around 1800. A small copper-alloy coin is likely a late farthing of Victoria (SF 1). The coin, which was not associated with pottery, came from the backfill of construction cut [18]. It could potentially give a *terminus post quem* for this activity.
- 16.2 The small finds from this site have limited significance for the understanding of the site. Beyond the possible dating potential of the coin, perhaps the most interesting find here is the fragment of 18th-century plant fibre matting. No further work is recommended at this stage although, considering its fragility, it would be useful to photograph the remains of the straw matting. Were the site taken further to publication, the farthing coin should be cleaned by conservator to allow a more precise date to be established and the species of the plant fibre matting should be identified.

context	SF	description	pot date	recommendations
10	2	Lead mount; incomplete strap with rounded finial,	c. 1800	
		irregular hole may be for fixing; W 20mm:		
		L 60mm+		
17	1	Copper-alloy farthing; heavily corroded but likely	n/a	Clean to identify
		Victoria "bun head" issue (1860-1895);		
		diam. 20mm		
21	3	Fragment of loosely woven straw or plant fibre	1720-1780	Photograph
		matting; 100 x 140mm		

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17 APPENDIX 6: OASIS REPORT FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-277628

Project details

Project name Block A, Blossom Street, Manchester M4 5AF

Short description of the project An archaeological evaluation was carried out on Block A of the

proposed development site located along Blossom Street in Manchester. A total of five trenches were proposed, ranging in size from 3.0m x 1.8m to 5.0m x 1.8m. These revealed that the southern part of the site had been truncated during the late 18th or 19th century during the construction of basemented buildings. Additional evidence for late 18th or very early 19th century buildings was seen at the Blossom Street frontage in the form of several brick footings belonging to various residences and

workshops.

Project dates Start: 13-02-2017 End: 17-02-2017

Previous/future work Yes / Yes

Any associated project reference 112256/FO/2016 - Planning Application No.

codes

Any associated project reference

codes

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Vacant Land 1 - Vacant land previously developed

BLS17 - Sitecode

Current Land use Industry and Commerce 1 - Industrial

Monument type FOOTINGS Post Medieval
Monument type DOG BURIAL Post Medieval
Monument type CELLAR Post Medieval
Significant Finds POTTERY Post Medieval
Significant Finds CTP Post Medieval

Significant Finds ANIMAL BONES Post Medieval

Significant Finds COIN Post Medieval
Significant Finds CBM Post Medieval
Methods & techniques ""Sample Trenches""

Development type Urban commercial (e.g. offices, shops, banks, etc.)

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

Prompt Planning condition

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

Project location

Country England

Site location GREATER MANCHESTER MANCHESTER MANCHESTER

Block A, Blossom Street, Manchester

Postcode M4 5AF

Study area 1200 Square metres

Site coordinates SJ 84801 98615 53.483782036674 -2.229068356731 53 29 01

N 002 13 44 W Point

Lat/Long Datum Unknown

Height OD / Depth Min: 48.93m Max: 49.03m

Project creators

Name of Organisation Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

Project brief originator Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

Project design originator Chris Mayo
Project director/manager Chris Mayo
Project supervisor Paw Jorgensen
Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body Mulbury Homes (Blossom Street) Limited

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Manchester Museum of Science and Industry

Physical Archive ID BLS17

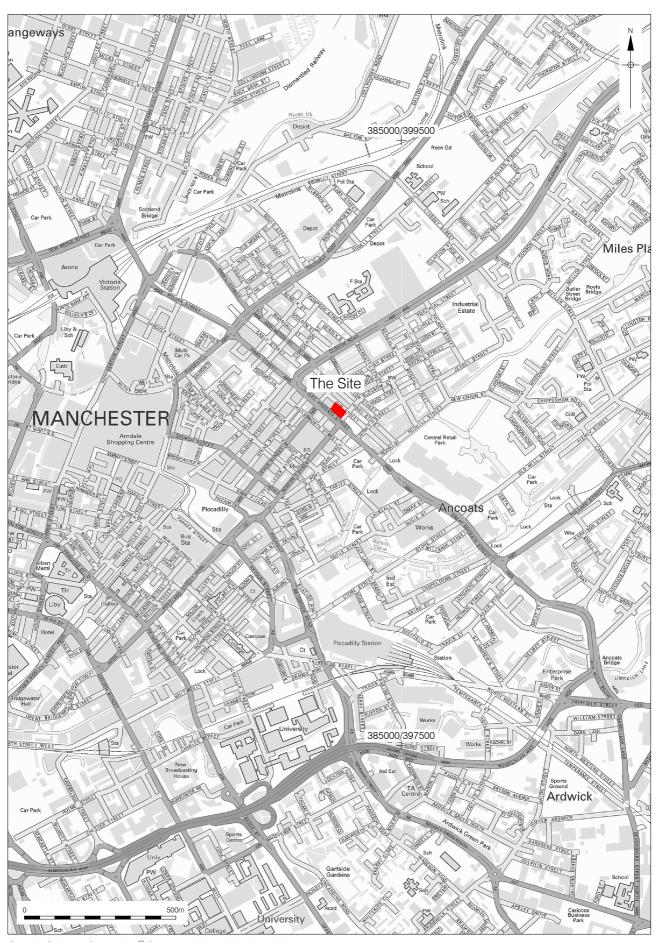
Physical Contents "Animal Bones", "Ceramics", "Metal", "other" Digital Archive recipient Manchester Museum of Science and Industry Digital Archive ID BLS17 **Digital Contents** "Stratigraphic" "Database","Images raster / digital photography","Images Digital Media available vector", "Spreadsheets" Paper Archive recipient Manchester Museum of Science and Industry Paper Archive ID BLS17 Paper Contents "Stratigraphic" Paper Media available "Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section" Project bibliography 1 Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) Block A, Blossom Street, Manchester M4 Title 5AF: An Archaeological Evaluation Author(s)/Editor(s) Jorgensen, P. Other bibliographic details PCA R12808 2017 Issuer or publisher Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Place of issue or publication **Brockley** Description A4 grey literature report with PCA covers

08-Mar-17

Chris Mayo (cmayo@pre-construct.com)

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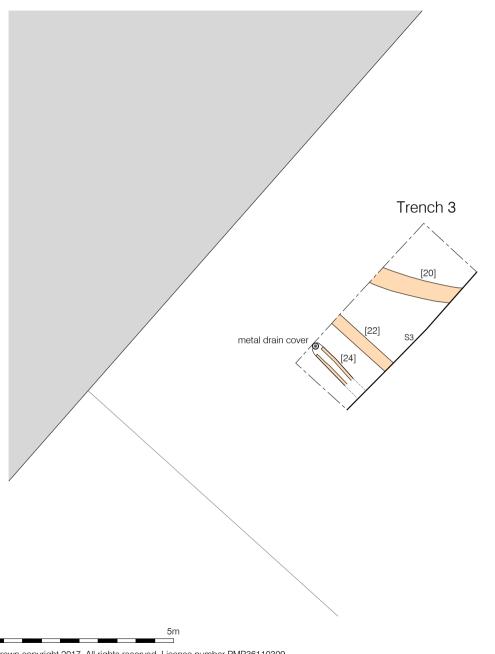
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© Crown copyright 2017. All rights reserved. License number PMP36110309 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017 21/02/17 MR Figure 2 Block A Trench Locations 1:400 at A4





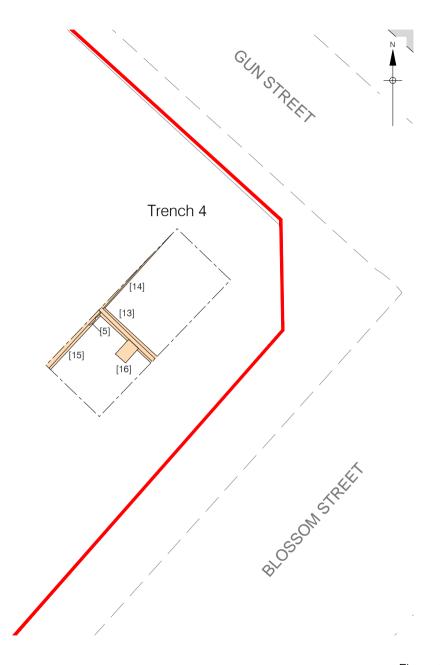
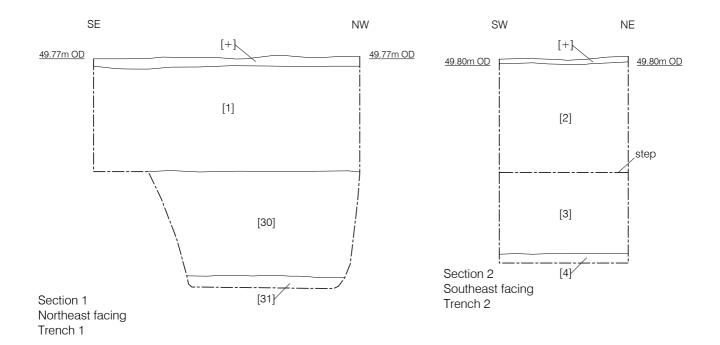
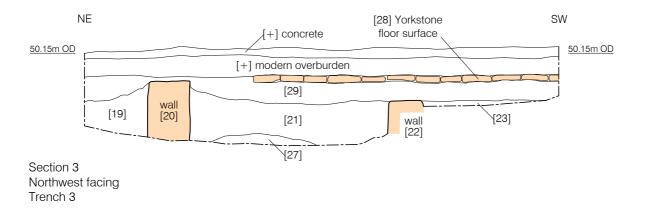


Figure 3
Trenches 3 and 4 showing masonry features
1:100 at A4







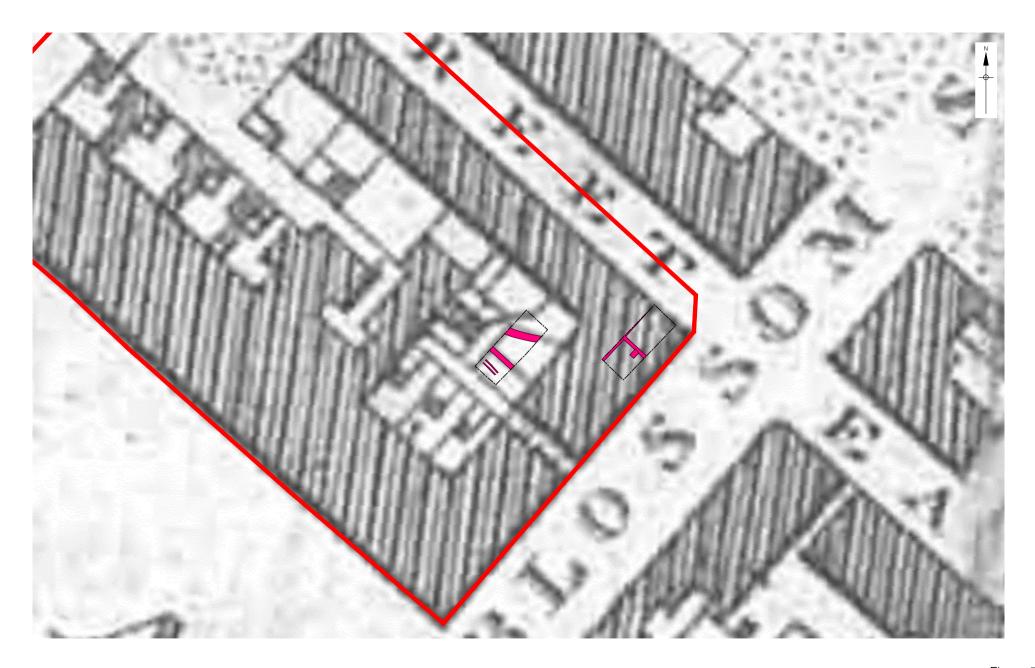


Figure 5 Masonry features overlain on an extract of William Green's Plan of Manchester and Salford, 1794 © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd 2017 21/02/17 MR



Figure 6
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21/02/17 MR
Figure 6
Masonry features overlain on an extract from Bancks & Cos. Plan of Manchester and Salford, 1831
1:250 at A4

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