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Land at Nile Street, Rochdale.
July 2015
V 1.0

Archaeological Evaluation
Project Code: A0062.1
Report no. 0063

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Archaeological Evaluation

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Project Code: A0062.1
Date: 02/07/2015
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REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

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1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Aeon Archaeology in partnership with Nexus Heritage was commissioned by Countryside Properties (UK) Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation of a proposed residential development located on approximately c1.97 ha of land situated in the eastern part of Rochdale, within the north-eastern part of Greater Manchester.

The archaeological evaluation at Nile Street, Rochdale has shown that the majority of the site maintains poor potential for the preservation of archaeological remains. Trenches 1 and 2 targeted areas of terraced housing constructed between 1893 and 1910 and both trenches produced cellar walls constructed from unfrogged red-brick that correspond with the terraced houses depicted on the historic ordnance survey map of 1910. Furthermore, trench 2 produced a red-brick drain that would have run to the north of the terraced housing fronting Nile Street, and within an alleyway connecting Nile Street with Howarth Square.

The degree of preservation of these remains however appear to be the exception rather than the rule, with the majority of both trenches having been massively disturbed through the successive phases of demolition, later construction and re-grading at the site from 2006 onwards. This phase of works appears to have removed all but a minority of the buried foundation remains of both suites of housing and it is not considered that any further assessment or mitigatory measures would be of value to the archaeological record.

Moreover, trenches 3, 4 and 5 also showed that although isolated remains persist at foundation level from the Trafalgar Street Mill, Rhodes Mill, and Central Foundry, the impact of modern phases of demolition have all but removed trace of these once substantial structures. With the exception of trench 5, all of the trenches corresponded with the historical cartographic evidence and all features could be identified as forming part of their respective structures. Unfortunately all of the archaeological remains existed as isolated pockets of preservation and were not indicative of the overall degree of survival across the site. Indeed, in every trench the revealed foundations did not continue through the entire length of the trench and had for the most part been demolished in their entirety.

Perhaps the only intriguing element of the fieldwork results was the discovery of a possible Victorian dump along the south side of Entwisle Road as seen in trench 1. The large quantity of well preserved Victorian ceramics and glass should be considered of importance both in contributing to the local historical narrative as well as the social and cultural development of Victorian Rochdale. As such it is recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundworks in the vicinity of trench 1 and along the southern side of Entwisle Road and that recovered ceramics are submitted to a specialist in post-medieval pottery for further analysis.

Although every attempt was made to contribute to the ambitions of the North West Regional Research Agenda the preservation of remains across the site were discovered to be low and no new information regarding aspects of late 19th Century life in Rochdale could be gained.

The archaeological evaluation has fulfilled the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition through confirmation of the poor levels of survival of archaeological remains of former structures once present across the site. Considering the results of the evaluation the overall potential for the remains at the site to address meaningful questions and issues associated with the history and development of Rochdale and Rochdale's society is considered low and as such there is no justification for further archaeological attendances under the terms of the condition, beyond a watching brief during groundworks in and around the location of trench 1.

2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology in partnership with Nexus Heritage was commissioned by Countryside Properties (UK) Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological evaluation of a proposed residential development located on approximately c1.97 ha of land situated in the eastern part of Rochdale, within the north-eastern part of Greater Manchester (**NGR: SD 90395 13527**) (figure 1). The archaeological evaluation was undertaken as a condition of full planning permission (**15/00113/FUL**) for the construction of low-rise dwellings and associated works including gardens, driveways, access roads, and adoptable infrastructure.

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, as advised by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), considers the site of potential archaeological interest and wishes to secure satisfactory treatment of the archaeological remains, as required by the National Planning Policy Framework and Policy BE/10 *Development Affecting Archaeological Sites and Ancient Monuments of the Rochdale Unitary Development Plan.* Accordingly, a condition relevant to archaeology has therefore, been applied to the permission for the development by the Council:

Condition 13.
No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

A written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (ref: 3240.RO1) (appendix II) was undertaken by Nexus Heritage in May 2015 which outlined the principle aims of the evaluation and the methods by which they would be met. This formed the basis of a method statement submitted for the work. The archaeological evaluation trenching was undertaken in accordance with this document and included the trench array as reproduced in figure 2.

An archaeological assessment (ref: 3224/RO1a) (appendix III) was undertaken by Nexus Heritage in March 2015 and provided to Aeon Archaeology. The assessment collated valuable data on remains dating from the early land-use history of the site from the medieval period until the present day with agricultural use to the east of the historic core of Rochdale until the mid-19th century when the first of a succession of industrial developments spread across the site, which also included residential thoroughfares. The assessment of the site through five archaeological evaluation trenches was deemed adequate for the purposes intended and a review of the data suggested however there was a requirement to marginally reposition all of the evaluation trenches as presented in the WSI trench array due to the presence of modern utilities.

The aim of this programme of archaeological evaluation was to establish the archaeological significance of the site, to assess the impact of the development proposals on surviving monuments or remains, and to help inform future decision making, design solutions and further potential mitigation strategies. This report includes an assessment of the potential for further investigative work if required, and where relevant give recommendations for an appropriate mitigation strategy.

This report conforms to the guidelines specified in the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014).

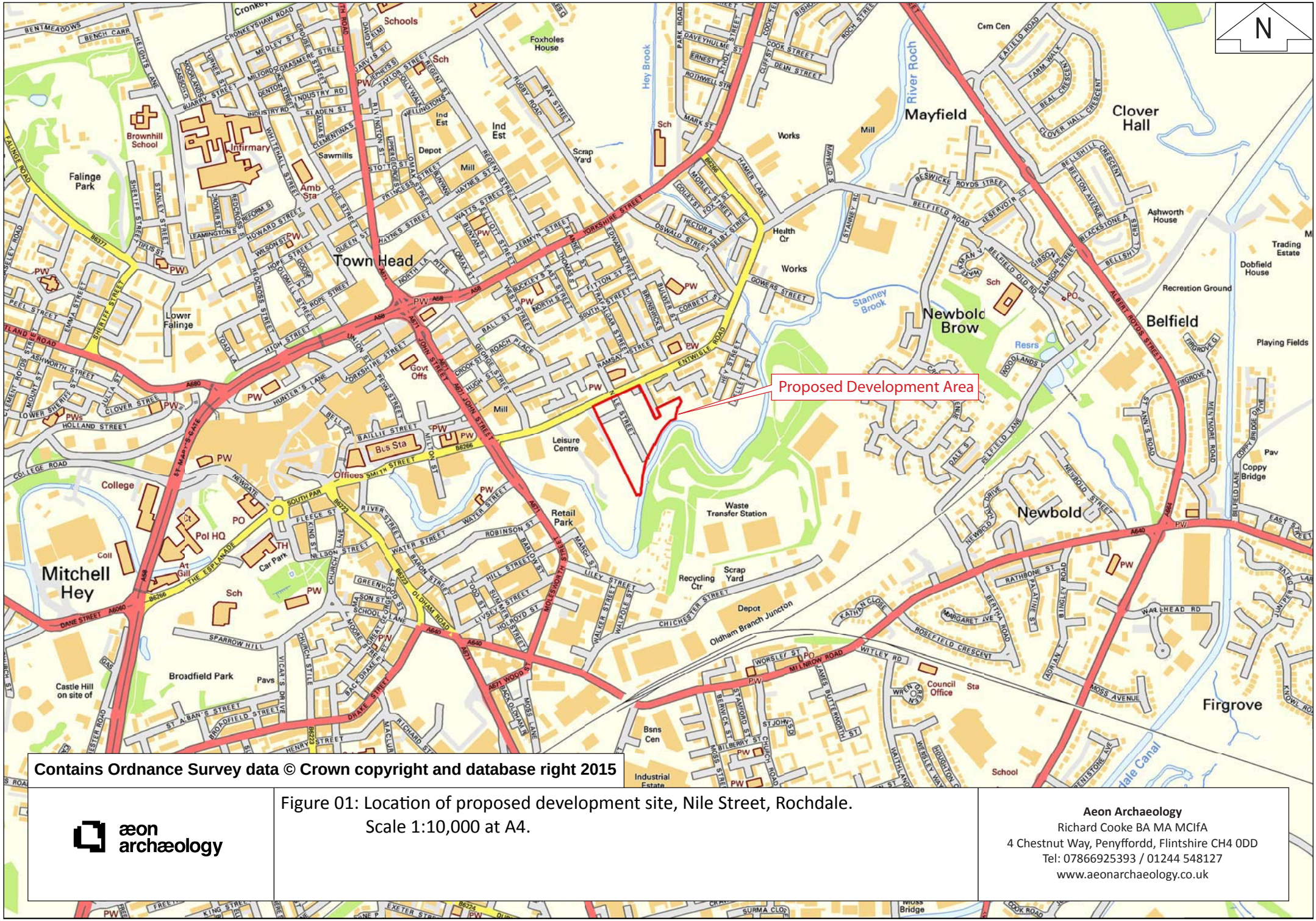

Figure 01: Location of proposed development site, Nile Street, Rochdale.
Scale 1:10,000 at A4.

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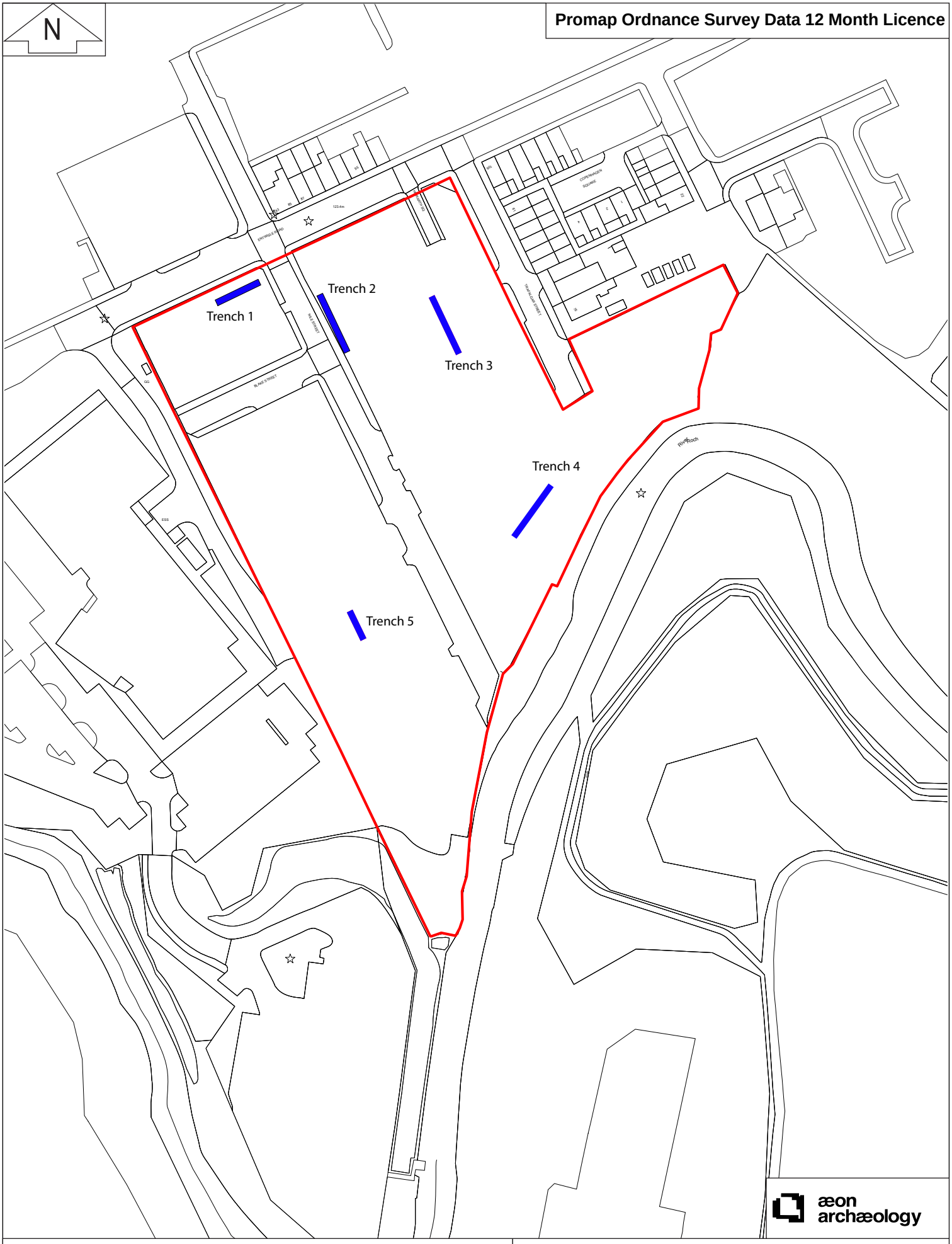

Figure 02: Location of archaeological evaluation trenches at Nile Street, Rochdale (shaded blue). Scale 1:1,500 at A4.

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3.0 PROJECT AIMS

The aim of the evaluation works was to characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains uncovered during the excavation of the archaeological evaluation trenches.

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation trenches were:

- To determine, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains on the site, the integrity of which may be threatened by development at the site.

- To establish the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusion to sub-surface deposits and, where the data allows, assess the degree of archaeological survival of buried deposits of archaeological significance.

- To enable the client to establish a schedule for archaeological risks.

- To report on the work and determine the need, if any, for further archaeological mitigation. This may consist of attempts to preserve significant remains in situ or, if this is not possible, more extensive excavation work and reporting. Less sensitive remains may require a watching brief. Any such further work may be secured by amendment to the condition.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological evaluation trenches were:

- Insofar as possible within methodological constraints, to explain any temporal, spatial or functional relationships between the structures/remains identified, and any relationships between these and the archaeological and historic elements of the wider landscape.

- Where the data allows, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in Greater Manchester.

The broad characteristics of the number, size, orientation and distribution of the trenches were considered to be appropriate and were agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS (Dr. A. Myers). The trench array was proposed as part of the WSI prepared by Nexus Archaeology and was designed to determine feature presence/absence, with a contingent trenching facility designed for site characterisation should features be present, the characteristics of which are insufficiently resolved within the core trenching provision. Contingent trenching was optional, upon the discovery of archaeological artefacts, deposits, features or structures the characteristics of which could only be sufficiently determined upon further spatial investigation.

The basic targeted objectives of the trenches were as follows:

Trench 1 - targeting the site of residential dwellings along Entwisle Road (20.0m x 2.0m)
Trench 2 - targeting the site of residential dwelling along Nile Street (20.0m x 2.0m)
Trench 3 - targeting the site of Trafalgar Cotton Mill (20.0m x 2.0m)
Trench 4 - targeting the site of Rhodes Mill (Cotton Waste) (20.0m x 2.0m)
Trench 5 - targeting the site of the Central Foundry (Iron) (10.0m x 2.0m)

The management of this project has followed the procedures laid out in the standard professional guidance *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006), and in the

CIFA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation (Chartered Institute For Archaeologists, 2014). Five stages are specified:

Phase 1: project planning
Phase 2: fieldwork
Phase 3: assessment of potential for analysis and revised project design
Phase 4: analysis and report preparation
Phase 5: dissemination

The current document reports on the phase 4 analysis and states the means to be used to disseminate the results. The purpose of this phase is to carry out the analysis identified in phase 3 (the assessment of potential phase), to amalgamate the results of the specialist studies, if required, with the detailed site narrative and provide both specific and overall interpretations. The site is to be set in its landscape context so that its full character and importance can be understood. All the information is to be presented in a report that will be held by the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record and the OASIS database so that it can be accessible to the public and future researchers. This phase of work also includes archiving the material and documentary records from the project.

4.0 METHODOLOGY

Before the evaluation trenching commenced an agreed programme of excavation timing, siting, duration, surface re-instatement and health and safety protection measures were agreed with the Client, Nexus Heritage and the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service.

4.1 Evaluation trenches

The evaluation trenching array was designed to investigate areas that may contain archaeological features. There was latitude on the location of each trench and slight repositioning to take account of buried services and other constraints was acknowledged as a possibility within the WSI.

A JCB excavator with toothless ditching bucket was used to open the trenches under constant archaeological supervision. Topsoil and overburden were to be removed by machine in spits down to archaeological deposits or natural sub-soils, whichever were encountered first. All uncovered archaeological features were to be excavated by hand.

A written record of the deposits and all identified features in each evaluation trench was completed via Aeon Archaeology pro-formas. All subsurface remains were to be recorded photographically, with detailed notations. The photographic record was completed using a digital SLR camera (Canon Eos 550D) set to maximum resolution.

Contingency provision was made for the following:

- Additional excavation of up to 100% of any given feature should the excavated sample prove to be insufficient to provide information on the character and date of the feature.

- Expansion of trench limits, to clarify the extent of features equivalent to an additional 20% of the core area.

The archaeological works were surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and with reference to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches and archaeological features within them were accurately located on a site plan prepared at the most appropriate and largest scale. All excavations were backfilled with the material excavated and upon departure the site was left in a safe and tidy condition.

4.2 Data Collection from Site Records

A database of the site photographs was produced to enable active long-term curation of the photographs and easy searching. The site records were checked and cross-referenced and photographs were cross-referenced to contexts. These records were used to write the site narrative and the field drawings and survey data were used to produce an outline plan of the site.

All paper field records were scanned to provide a backup digital copy. The photographs were organised and precisely cross-referenced to the digital photographic record so that the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER) can curate them in their active digital storage facility.

4.3 Artefact Methodology

All artefacts were to be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Finds numbers would be attributed and they would be bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. After processing, all artefacts would be cleaned and examined in-

house at Aeon Archaeology. If required artefacts would be sent to a relevant specialist for conservation and analysis.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds was kept under review throughout the evaluation trenching. Any changes in recovery priorities would be made under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the Client, Nexus Heritage and the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service. There was a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

4.4 Environmental Samples Methodology

The sampling strategy and requirement for bulk soil samples was related to the perceived character, interpretational importance and chronological significance of the strata under investigation. This ensured that only significant features would be sampled. The aim of the sampling strategy was to recover carbonised macroscopic plant remains, small artefacts particularly knapping debris and evidence for metalworking.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs would be obtained from Oxford Archaeology if required.

4.5 Report and dissemination

A full archive including plans, photographs and written material resulting from the project was prepared. All plans, photographs and descriptions were labelled, and cross-referenced.

Upon approval from the Client copies of the report will be sent to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record, the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, and the OASIS online database.

5.0 SITE LOCATION

The site is located to the south of Entwisle Road at grid referecne SD 90395 13527. It is irregular in plan form, but relatively level, with an elevation of *c.*123.5m AOD at Entwisle Road, sloping to 121.5m AOD adjacent to the River, a slope of *c.* 2.0m across the site. At the time of reporting the site is unoccupied by buildings or any traces of its industrial / commercial past (other than some boundary walls). It is understood that the Site has recently undergone a programme of demolition to remove all above ground structures and concrete slabs. The northern boundary is provided by Entwisle Road. The southern boundary is provided by the banks of the River Roch towards which the site slopes gently towards 2.0m high embankment incorporating a stone-built wall. To the west is a leisure centre separated from the site by a brick wall in poor state of repair. To the east the site is bounded by Trafalgar Street. The Site surface is laid to rough grass.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) characterises the bedrock at the site as Old Lawrence Rock of the Lower Coal Measures which is anticipated to comprise sandstone. The drift geology beneath the site comprises alluvium, which is anticipated to mainly comprise silty clay, sands and gravels. The BGS database of boreholes scans records no available borehole data for the site.

A geotechnical ground investigation was undertaken in January/February 2015 (e3p 2015) and comprised x20 machine excavated test pits to a maximum depth of 4.0m and x9 window samples to a maximum depth of 5.45m.

In summary the ground investigation has confirmed the predicted geological profile and has also allowed identification of the surface and near surface deposits. Made ground of mixed composition exists across the entire site and has a minimum recorded thickness of 1.0m and a maximum thickness of 4.0m. The made ground typically comprises a dark brown grey sandy ashy gravel with fragments of brick and concrete and frequent inclusions of plastic, wood, pottery, fuel ash slag and clinker. It should be noted that a previous ground investigation at the site (LK Consult Ltd. 2010) identified made ground to thickness of up to 4.7m, but that between 2010 and the most recent ground investigation in 2015 it is understood that the structures which once occupied the site were demolished, hardstanding surfaces removed and the resultant surface re-graded with imported soil and seeded. Therefore, the made ground at the site is likely to contain some infiltrated items.

The ground investigation also encountered numerous obstructions which are likely to be associated with brick and concrete foundations and brick and concrete floor surfaces associated with factory buildings and yards and residential dwellings and yards. Isolated horizons of soft clay with localised lenses of sand were identified across the site between 1.5m and 3.0m below ground level and this material corresponds to the anticipated superficial geological deposits. No bedrock was identified during the ground identification which corresponds with the recorded depth of sandstone in the vicinity of *c.* 65.0m below ground level.

6.0 HISTORY OF THE SITE

There are no records of finds or archaeological sites from the prehistoric era within the Site or in the locale and it is considered that the Site has a very low potential to contain archaeological remains dated to the prehistoric era.

There are no records of finds or archaeological sites from the Roman period within the Site or in the vicinity and in the wider Rochdale area there are few known remains of Roman date. The potential for remains of this date to exist in the Site is considered to be very low.

There are no confirmed archaeological remains from the Saxon/early medieval period recorded in the Site or in the local environment. .However, whilst there are no recorded Saxon/early medieval archaeological remains within the Site the historic and place-name evidence confirms the likelihood of some activity at Rochdale in the second half of the first millennium. The archaeological potential of the Site for this period can, however, be considered to be very low.

There are no confirmed archaeological remains from the medieval period recorded in the Site or in the general area. However, there are several known medieval sites in Rochdale and Rochdale is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The historic and archaeological evidence for settlement activity and landscape exploitation/modification at and around Rochdale in the period suggests that the archaeological potential of the Site for this period is low.

Rochdale was established as a notable market town by the mid 16th century and throughout the 17th century manufacturing and mining began to develop and the town began to grow. However, archaeological evidence for this period is sparse –but by the end of the 18th century Rochdale was renowned for its production of woollen cloth. Towards the late 18th century the Site remained as undeveloped land to the east of the town. As the century turned Rochdale began to expand rapidly, but there were no buildings on the Site in 1831. A land division, however, extended north-south across the Site – presumably a hedge.

By 1850 the Rhodes Mill has been built on the Site along with a thoroughfare that corresponds with Nile Street. The eastern boundary of the Site has been established and the mill appears to be in an enclosure, presumably defined by a wall the east-west length of which is likely to have formed the alignment for the later laying out of Entwisle Road.

The landscape in and around the Site was subjected to significant change during the second half of the 19th century – starting with the renaming of the Rhodes Mill as Nile Mill (Woollen) in about 1851. By 1893 Nile Mill is now returned to its original name of Rhodes Mill (Cotton Waste). Roch Mill has been built in the eastern portion of the Site and a Cotton Mill has been erected in the north east of the Site, with associated chimney and a well. A suite of terraced housing is present along the north eastern boundary of the site fronting onto Entwisle Road, and both Trafalgar Street and Nile Street have been laid out, extending as far south as the river.

By 1910 an Iron Foundry has been constructed in the southwest of the site, and Machinery Works has been constructed in the very east of the site. Further residential dwellings have been constructed in the north of the site along Blake Street and Howarth Square. By 1930 further industrial development has been undertaken with a Machinery Works constructed toward the northwest of the Site. A Chimney has been constructed in the eastern boundary and on the southern boundary, south of the mill building, Roch Mill is now labelled as disused.

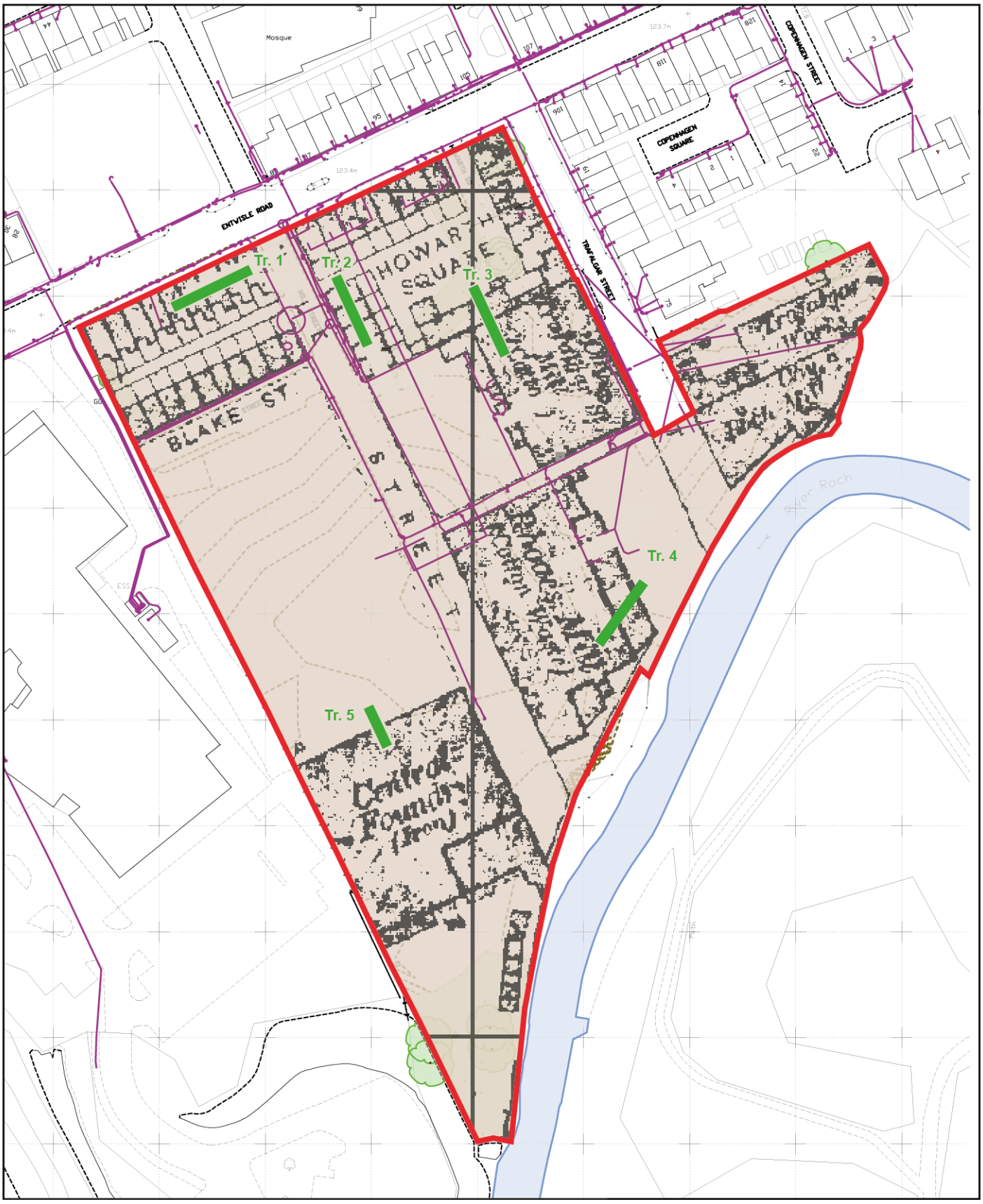

Figure 03: Location of archaeological evaluation trenches overlain on the historic ordnance survey map of 1910 at Nile Street, Rochdale (Unscaled) (known utilities shown in purple).

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7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS

7.1 The Documentary Archive

The following documentary records were created during the archaeological evaluation trenching:

Trench sheets	5
Digital photographs	60
Context Sheets	21
Drawings	1 on 1 sheet

7.2 Environmental Samples

No environmental samples were taken as part of the evaluation trenching as no suitable deposits or fills were encountered.

7.3 Artefacts

A large quantity of Victorian and early 20th Century pottery and glass were recovered from a single deposit within trench 1.

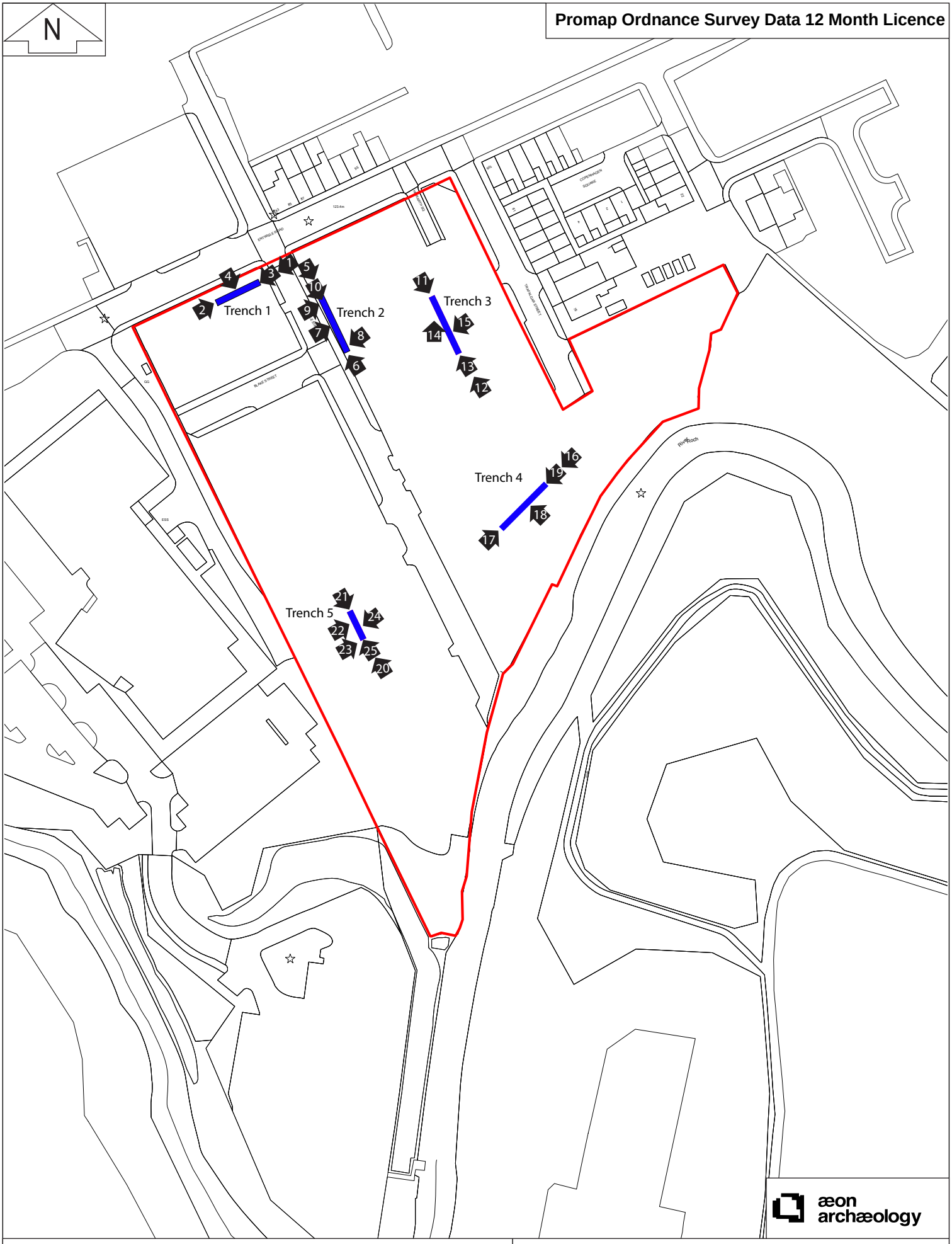

Figure 04: Location and orientation of photographs at Nile Street, Rochdale (numbered arrows refer to report plate numbers). Scale 1:1,500 at A4.

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8.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHES

The evaluation trenches were designed to evaluate and characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains. Each trench is described and discussed separately. The location of the trenches can be found on figure 2 and are overlain on the Ordnance Survey 25" County Series map of 1910 on figure 3. The location and orientation of photographs is shown on figure 4.

Where relevant context numbers have been assigned and are shown enclosed within brackets. Details of all contexts used can be found in appendix I

Trench 01 (Plates 1-4, figures 2-5)

Discussion

Trench 01 was located towards the northwest of the site and centred on NGR SD 90339 13578. The trench measured 20.0m in length by 2.0m in width orientated east-northeast to west-southwest and was targeting the site of residential dwellings along Entwisle Road constructed between 1893 and 1910.

The trench cut through a 0.5m deep soft, light yellow sand deposit (1007) which is likely to have been deposited across the site during the removal of upstanding remains and regarding at the site between 2010 and 2015. This deposit was also recorded extending into the area of trench 2 located 18.0m to the southeast and on the eastern side of Nile Street. Beneath this deposit lay a 1.0m deep loose, mixed light grey and dark black-grey silt-clay deposit (1008) with frequent inclusions of red-brick fragments as well as modern plastic. This deposit almost certainly represents a demolition phase, most likely dating to when the terraced housing stock was demolished between 1982 and 2006.

Lying beneath this demolition deposit at the east north-eastern end of the trench a red-brick wall (1005) running from north-northwest to south-southeast and measuring >2.0m in length by >2.0m in height was located. This wall was of unknown width due to the requirement to leave a bund of material during excavation on its west-southwest face in order to prevent collapse. The wall however was constructed from unfrogged red-brick bonded by mortar and standing to at least 22 courses, with individual bricks measuring 0.24m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.07m in depth. The base of the wall was not encountered due to an extreme trench depth in excess of 3.0m.

Also within the trench and lying beneath demolition deposit (1008) a second small section of red-brick walling (1006) was located towards the centre of the trench and against the south-southeast limit of excavation. This wall was also of unfrogged red-brick bonded by mortar and measured 0.7m in length by 0.3m in height, standing to approximately 5 courses in height. The width of the wall section was undetermined due to it running against the trench section and traces of white paint were observed on the north-northwest face. A small fragment of flagstone appeared to be in-situ at the base of the wall and most likely represents a floor surface of the former housing cellar.

The section of walling (1006) lay above a soft, organic-rich, dark grey-black slightly clayey-silt deposit (1009) that measured >2.0m in depth and produced many sherds of Victorian ceramic and glass including several well-preserved earthen-ware bottles. This deposit appeared lay beneath red-brick wall (1005) but it is also possible that the wall lay within a foundation cut that was simply not visible within the trench section.

The natural glacial substrata was not encountered anywhere within the trench despite the excavation of an exploratory sondage at the west-southwest end of the trench which extended to 3.75m beneath current ground level. The limit of deposit (1009) was also not encountered.

The trench was recorded using digital photographs, context sheets and a trench sheet pro-forma. Measurements were taken by hand at current ground level to produce figure 5 due to the extreme trench depths involved. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material.

Interpretation

The area of trench 1 had clearly seen a phase of demolition represented by deposit (1008) and had a deposition of building sand (1007) spread across the area, almost certainly in the period between 1982 and 2006 as well as 2010 and 2015.

The red-brick wall (1005) corresponds with that of the partition wall between the two most north-easterly terraced houses depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1910 (figure 3), and most likely represents a cellar partition. The extreme depths of the wall and indeed the presence of the organic-rich deposit (1009) are somewhat intriguing. The wall depth would suggest the presence of a cellar rather than just wall foundations, however at least 1.5m of the wall was butted by deposit (1009) on both sides suggesting that the cellars of the two houses had been deliberately in-filled with this material. However, the presence of such a high quantity of Victorian ceramic from deposit (1009) would strongly suggest that it predates the construction of the terraced housing stock between 1893 and 1910. As such the most logical explanation is that either the wall lies within a foundation cut into the earlier Victorian deposit (1009) that is simply not visible within the trench section or that the deposit was added immediately after the construction of the terraced housing as backfill material to brace the wall foundations.

The organic-rich characteristics of deposit (1009) suggests that it is a redeposited topsoil and the large quantity of ceramic suggests that it may have been the site of a Victorian dump, although re-deposition of this material from elsewhere should not be ruled out.

The likelihood is that the terraced housing did indeed have cellars and the single in-situ fragment of flagstone at the base of wall (1006) would suggest that it laid approximately 1.25m below current ground level. This would mean that >1.75m depth of wall (1005) is in fact foundations rather than sub-level walls. If this interpretation is correct then this may well have been a response to soft ground unsuitable to construction, possibly created by a large cut and fill landfill episode in the Victorian period and exemplified by deposit (1009).

The results of trench 1 shows that there are areas of well-preserved foundations belonging to the housing stock along the south side of Entwisle Road, but that these are more likely to be isolated pockets of preserved foundations rather than a representation of the level of preservation at this part of the site. Indeed, the fact that no other walls belonging to the terraced housing were encountered within the trench suggests that the majority of the remains were entirely demolished between 1982 and 2006 with additional ground disturbance between 2010 and 2015.

The presence of Victorian deposit (1009) is of particular interest due to the large quantity of ceramic vessels recovered from it and there may be some merit in maintaining an archaeological watching brief during groundworks in this area so that further artefactual evidence from this time period can be recovered and analysed.

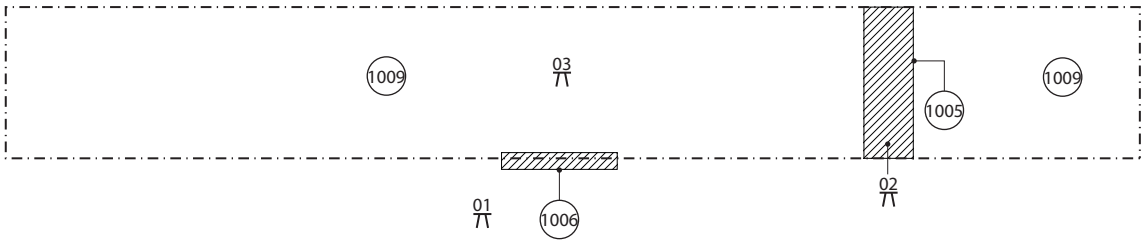
Plate 01: Trench 1, from the east-northeast. Scale 2.0m.

Plate 02: Trench 1, from the west-southwest. Scale 2.0m.

Plate 03: Trench 1 showing former terraced housing cellar wall (1005), from the east-northeast. Scale 2.0m.

Plate 04: Trench 1 showing north-northwest facing section and former terraced housing cellar wall (1006), from the north-northwest. Scale 2.0m.

Contexts
1005 = Red-brick cellar wall of former terraced housing 1006 = Red-brick cellar wall of former terraced housing 1009 = Dark grey-black silt-clay with frequent Victorian pottery sherds



0 5m

1:100 at A4

Located on figure 02

Levels OD (m) (approx)
1 = 123.4 2 = 122.8 3 = 120.4

Figure 05: Plan of trench 01 showing house cellar walls (1005) and (1006).
Scale 1:100 at A4 (Note: Trench could not be planned due to extreme depths, plan created by ground level measurements so should not be used for scaled drawings).

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Trench 02 (Plates 5-10, figures 2-4 and 6-7)

Discussion

Trench 02 was located towards the north of the site and centred on NGR SD 90369 13569. The trench measured 20.0m in length by 2.0m in width orientated north-northwest to south-southeast and was targeting the site of residential dwellings along Nile Street constructed between 1893 and 1910.

The trench cut through a 0.25m deep soft, light yellow sand deposit (1007) which is likely to have been deposited across the site during the removal of upstanding remains and regarding at the site between 2010 and 2015. This deposit was also recorded extending into the area of trench 1 located 18.0m to the northwest and on the western side of Nile Street. Beneath this deposit lay at least five separate modern demolition/dumping deposits that were recorded under the group context number (1010) and consisted of mixed dark grey-brown silt-clays and clays. This group of deposits produced reasonably large quantities of modern brick fragments, concrete, plastic and glass and collectively formed a deposit measuring 2.4m in depth. This deposit almost certainly represents a demolition phase, most likely dating to when the terraced housing stock was demolished between 1982 and 2006.

Lying beneath this demolition deposit at the south south-eastern end of the trench a red-brick wall (1012) running from north-northwest to south-southeast and measuring >3.3m in length by 0.24m in width and 1.9m in height was located against the west-southwest limit of excavation. The wall was constructed from unfrogged red-brick bonded by mortar and standing to 23 courses, with individual bricks measuring 0.24m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.07m in depth. The base of the wall laid upon a firm mid to dark grey clay natural glacial substrata (1011). The wall continued south-southeast into the trench section and turned at its north-northwest end to run east-northeast for 1.0m before having been entirely demolished.

Several modern utilities were uncovered during the excavation of the trench and as such bunds of soil were left unexcavated in order to protect them while the trench was open. The majority of the central part of the trench was dominated by the concrete foundations of a modern industrial unit that stood on the site after demolition of the terraced housing between 1982 and 2006. These foundations measured 0.45m in width, 0.5m in depth and at least 4.5m in length running north to south.

At the north-northwest end of the trench beneath demolition deposit (1010) a red-brick drain measuring >2.0m in length by 0.9m in width by 0.16m in height was located running east-northeast to west-southwest. This drain was constructed from unfrogged red-brick bonded by mortar, with individual bricks measuring 0.24m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.07m in depth. The edges of the drain stood at least 2 courses in height and the centre of the drain was clad in a firm concreted black material, most likely bitumen.

The trench was recorded using digital photographs, context sheets and a trench sheet pro-forma. Measurements were taken by hand at current ground level to produce figure 6 due to the extreme trench depths involved and photogrammetry was used to create a scale plan of red-brick drain (1013) (figure 7). The trench was backfilled using the excavated material.

Interpretation

The majority of trench 2 produced no archaeological remains due to the extensive demolition and regarding phases between 1982 and 2006 and 2010 and 2015 respectively. Moreover, any foundation remains of the terraced housing stock along Nile Street had been mostly removed during the construction of the modern industrial unit at this part of the site.

There were however very limited remains in the form of the red-brick cellar wall (1012) at the southern end of the trench that corresponds with the internal partition wall between the second and third southernmost houses depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1910 (figure 3). Aside from this

feature the only other surviving remains were that of the red-brick drain (1013) at the north of the trench that corresponds with an alleyway between Nile Street and Howarth Square depicted on the 1910 map.

It therefore appears that this part of the site has been heavily disturbed in modern times and there appears to be little potential for the preservation of buried remains on any real scale that would require further recording.

Plate 05: Trench 2, from the north-northwest. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 06: Trench 2, from the south-southeast. Scale 1.0m.

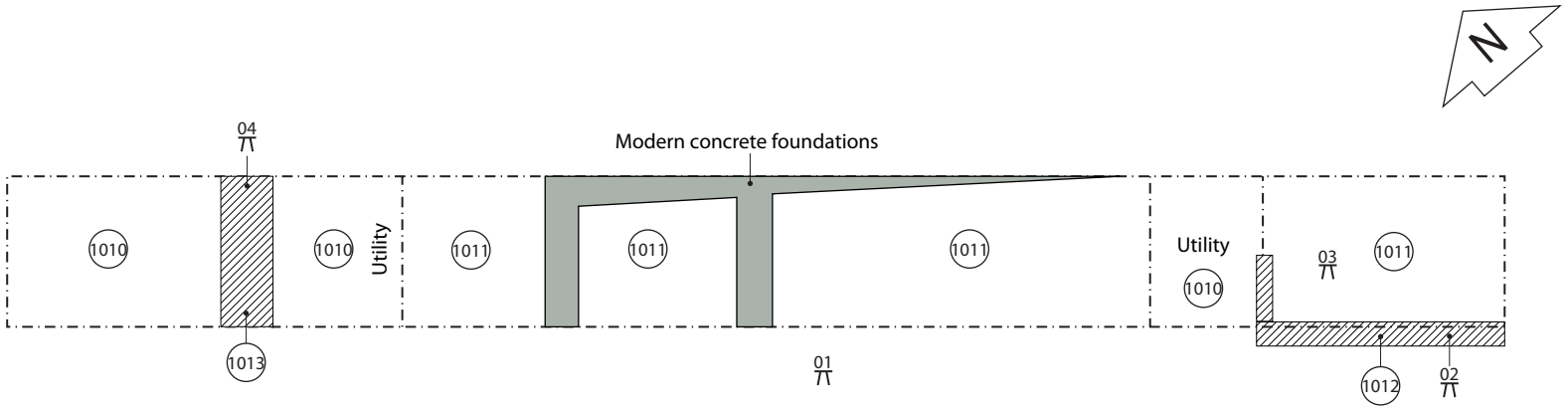
Plate 07: Trench 2 west-southwest facing section, from the west-southwest. Scale 2.0m.

Plate 08: Trench 2 showing former terraced housing cellar wall (1012), from the east-northeast. Scale 2.0m.

Plate 09: Trench 2 showing red-brick drain (1013), from the west-southwest. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 10: Trench 2 showing red-brick drain (1013), from the north-northwest. Scale 0.5m.

Contexts
1010 = Group number for modern demolition dumping deposits 1011 = Grey clay natural glacial substrata 1012 = Red-brick cellar wall of former terraced housing 1013 = Red-brick drain of former terraced housing



0 5m

1:100 at A4

Located on figure 02

Levels OD (m) (approx)
1 = 123.44 2 = 122.94 3 = 119.94 4 = 123.38

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Figure 06: Plan of trench 02 showing house cellar walls (1012) and drain (1013).
Scale 1:100 at A4 (Note: Trench could not be planned due to extreme depths, plan created by ground level measurements so should not be used for scaled drawings).

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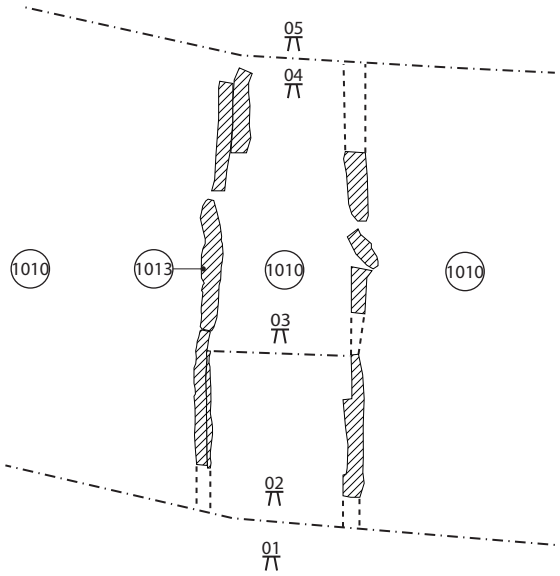
Contexts
1010 = Group number for modern demolition dumping deposits 1013 = Red-brick drain of former terraced housing



1:50 at A4

Located on figure 06

Levels OD (m) (approx)
1 = 123.44 2 = 122.52 3 = 122.62 4 = 122.74 5 = 123.38

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Figure 07: Plan of red-brick drain (1013) in trench 02. Scale 1:50 at A4.

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Trench 03 (Plates 11-15, Figures 2-4 and 8)

Discussion

Trench 03 was located towards the northeast of the site and centred on NGR SD 90404 13568. The trench measured 20.0m in length by 2.0m in width orientated north-northwest to south-southeast and was targeting the site of the former Trafalgar Cotton Mill constructed between 1851 and 1892.

At the north-northwest end of the trench immediately beneath 0.15m of turf and dark brown-grey silt-clay topsoil the red-brick foundations of the northern wall (1014) of the former Trafalgar Street cotton mill were uncovered. This consisted of a double-skin wall of unfrogged red-bricks bonded by mortar, orientated from east-northeast to west-southwest and measuring >2.0m in length by 0.25m in width by >2.0m in height. The foundations stood to >23 courses and continued beneath the base of the trench which could not be reached due to extreme depths in excess of 3.0m in places.

The wall turned at the northeast corner of the trench and headed south-southeast along the easternmost limit of excavation for approximately 10.0m, reducing in height the whole time until no longer present in the trench section presumably entirely demolished. The west-southwest of the red-brick elevation showed traces of white paint and as the JCB excavator cleared the base of the trench it appeared that traces of red-brick flooring remained in-situ although these could not be cleaned or revealed due to their depth.

As the trench continued southward the built remains ceased entirely and the trench became dominated by a succession of at least five modern dumping/demolition deposits recorded under the group context number (1015). This material had clearly been spread southward across the site in-filling the remains of the mill cellar.

The trench was recorded using digital photographs, context sheets and a trench sheet pro-forma. Measurements were taken at current ground level using a robotic total station to produce figure 8 due to the extreme trench depths involved. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material.

Interpretation

The red-brick wall foundations located at the northernmost end of trench 3 correspond with the northernmost wall of the Trafalgar Street Cotton Mill and ancillary building depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1910 (figure 3). It is not clear from the map exactly what function these ancillary buildings had in relation to the mill proper, but are likely to have been utilised for storage. Moreover, it is clear from the recorded remains that the mill and ancillary building had cellars which is all of the physical evidence that remains of their construction. Aside from access between the mill and ancillary building cellars and the use of white paint upon the internal wall faces there is very little else that can be interpreted from the results of the trench.

It is clear that the surviving foundations of the mill are limited to the northern part of the structure and that as one moves south the degree of demolition increases to the level where no remains persist. The foundations therefore should be seen as an isolated patch of preserved archaeology and seemingly is not indicative of the scale of preservation across the remaining part of the Trafalgar Street Mill site. As such it appears that there is very little else to be gained from further assessment of these remains.

Plate 11: Trench 3, from the north-northwest. Scale 2.0m.

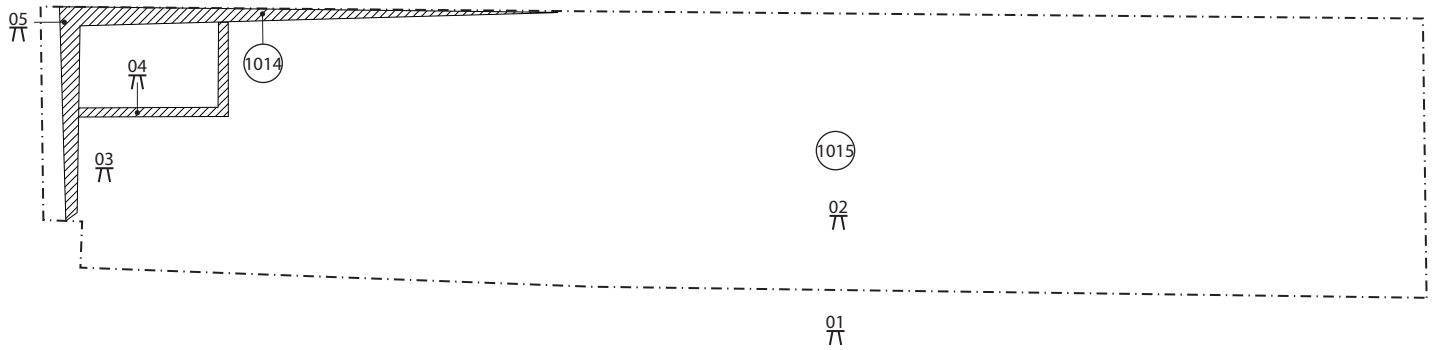
Plate 12: Trench 3, from the south-southeast. Scale 2.0m.

Plate 13: Trench 3 showing cellar foundations of Trafalgar Street Cotton Mill (1014), from the south-southeast. Scale 2.0m.

Plate 14: Trench 3 showing cellar foundations of Trafalgar Street Cotton Mill (1014), from the south. Scale 2.0m.

Plate 15: Trench 3 showing successive demolition deposits (1015), from the east-northeast. No Scale due to unstable section.

Contexts
1014 = Red-brick cellar foundations of former Trafalgar Street Mill 1015 = Demolition material



1:100 at A4

Located on figure 02

Levels OD (m) (approx)
1 = 122.75 2 = 120.55 3 = 120.35 4 = 122.25 5 = 122.35

Figure 08: Plan of trench 03 showing red-brick cellar foundations of former Trafalgar Street Mill (1014). Scale 1:100 at A4.

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Trench 04 (Plates 16-19, Figures 2-4 and 9)

Discussion

Trench 04 was located towards the southeast of the site and centred on NGR SD 90427 13515. The trench measured 20.0m in length by 2.0m in width orientated east-northeast to west-southwest and was targeting the site of Rhodes Mill (Cotton Waste) constructed between 1832 and 1850.

The trench cut through a 0.7m deep soft dark grey-brown silt-clay deposit with frequent demolition material of red-brick fragments, concrete and stone. This overlaid a 1.4m deep soft dark black-grey silt-clay deposit also with frequent demolition material, with both deposits being recorded under the group context number (1004).

Beneath the demolition deposits (1004) and approximately 2.1m beneath current ground level a surface of laid York stone flagstones (1003) were encountered forming a floor surface running from north-northwest to south-southeast across the trench. These slabs averaged 0.6m in length by 0.38m in width by 0.04m in depth and had been laid onto the natural glacial clay. The surface measured a maximum of 9.8m in length by >2.0m in width and were bounded on the southernmost edge by red-brick foundations (1001). These foundations consisted of laid unfrogged red-brick bonded by mortar and all laid with the stretcher face upward and with no headers suggesting that they had been utilised as a floor surface as opposed to the foundations of a wall. The red-bricks measured 0.24m in length by 0.11m in width by 0.07m in depth and formed a linear structure measuring 6.9m in length by 0.6m in width and of unknown depth. Within the centre of the red-brick structure a slab of concrete (1002) measuring 1.3m square and also of unknown depth had been cast. This feature had a central anchor bolt of steel.

Several utilities including an asbestos water pipe at the northernmost end of the trench and an armoured electrical cable towards the southernmost part of the trench were encountered with bunds of soil left unexcavated to protect them. At the west south-western limit of the trench a slab of concrete measuring >2.0m in length by 0.75m in width and of unknown depth ran from north-northwest to south-southeast across the trench. The slab did not have any steel anchors or fixings although a single laid flagstone at the north-northwest limit of the feature appeared to be an in-situ floor slab.

The trench was recorded using digital photographs, context sheets and a trench sheet pro-forma. A measured plan was taken of the trench and utilised to produce figure 9. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material.

Interpretation

The stone and brick floor surface encountered within trench 4 corresponds with the range of ancillary buildings shown attached to the northeast elevation of Rhodes Mill on the Ordnance Survey map of 1910 (figure 3). The depth of the floor surface at 2.1m below ground level (120.76m OD) would suggest that the surface represents that of a sub-level or cellar to the mill, however an aerial photograph from the mid-1980's and reproduced as plate 2 in the archaeological desk-based assessment by Nexus Heritage, appears to show a possible descending slope at this point for vehicular access to the mill. Moreover, the location of the red-brick structure (1001) appears to correspond with a retaining wall in the photograph, suggesting that perhaps the interpretation as a floor surface for this part of the structure may be incorrect and that it may in fact have been the footings of a wall.

The floor surface appears to be well preserved despite the level of demolition shown through deposits (1004), although the lack of a continuation south-westward of any real remains except for the isolated concrete slab suggests that the mill floor is an isolated area of preservation rather than indicative of

the scale of preservation at this part of the site. As such no further assessment or mitigatory measures are proposed for this part of the site.

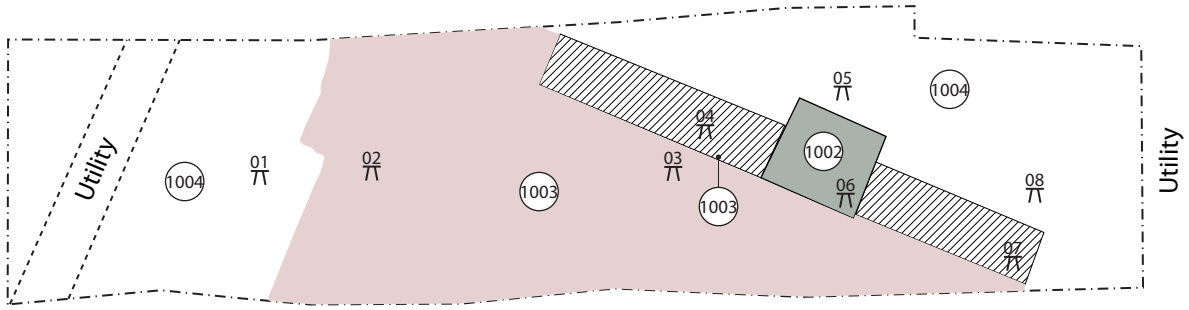
Plate 16: Trench 4, from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 17: Trench 4 showing concrete slab (1014), from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 18: Trench 4 southeast facing section showing demolition deposit (1004), from the southeast. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 19: Trench 4 showing Rhodes Mill floor surface (1003), from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.

Contexts
1001 = Red-brick floor surface of former Rhodes Mill 1002 = Concrete anchor block 1003 = Stone flagstones of former Rhodes Mill 1004 = Demolition material



0 5m

1:100 at A4

Located on figure 02

Levels OD (m)
1 = 120.69 2 = 120.76 3 = 120.77 4 = 120.77 5 = 120.8 6 = 120.8 7 = 120.88 8 = 120.89

Figure 09: Plan of trench 04 showing floor surface (1001), (1002) and (1003) of former Rhodes Mill. Scale 1:100 at A4.

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Trench 05 (Plates 20-25, Figures 2-4)

Discussion

Trench 05 was located towards the southwest of the site and centred on NGR SD 90376 13473. The trench measured 10.0m in length by 2.0m in width orientated north-northwest to south-southeast and was targeting the site of the Central Foundry (Iron) constructed between 1892 and 1910.

The trench cut through a 0.7m deep loose dark-brown silt-clay deposit which overlaid a 0.2m dark black ashy clinker deposit, which overlaid a 0.38m deep light yellow sand deposit, all of which contained frequent red-brick fragments, concrete, and metal inclusions and were recorded using the group context number (1017). These deposits overlaid a firm, dark black-grey clay natural glacial substrata (1018).

At the south south-eastern end of the trench and lying beneath demolition deposits (1017) the partial base of a concrete tank (1019) was located. This consisted of a precast concrete base and upstanding edge of approximately 0.17m. Along the perimeter of the base a shallow channel had been cast. The tank base had only partially survived and measured 1.0m in length by 0.7m in width by 0.17m in depth orientated east-northeast to west-southwest.

Towards the centre of the trench and approximately 2.0m north-northwest of tank (1019) was a small isolated section of floor surface constructed from crushed red-brick (1020). This surface measured 0.8m in length by 0.67m in width by 0.3m in depth orientated east-northeast to west-southwest. At its west-southwest face the floor surface was butted by a substantial concrete block (1021) measuring 0.8m cubed. A steel anchor bolt was secured on its upward face suggesting that the block formed part of a machine anchor.

The trench was recorded using digital photographs, context sheets and a trench sheet pro-forma. The trench was backfilled using the excavated material.

Interpretation

The excavation of trench 5 has shown that very little of the Central Foundry remains preserved. The trench did not locate the northern wall of the foundry as depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1910 (figure 3) and it appears that the phases of demolition work carried out after 2006 has resulted in the loss of the majority of the foundry remains.

The presence of the tank base (1019), floor surface (1020) and anchor block (1021) within the trench shows that small isolated pockets of preservation do persist but that these are in a poor state of repair. As such it is not recommended that any further assessment or mitigatory work is carried out at this part of the site.

Plate 20: Trench 5, from the south-southeast. Scale 1.0m.

Plate 21: Trench 5, from the north-northwest. Scale 1.0m.

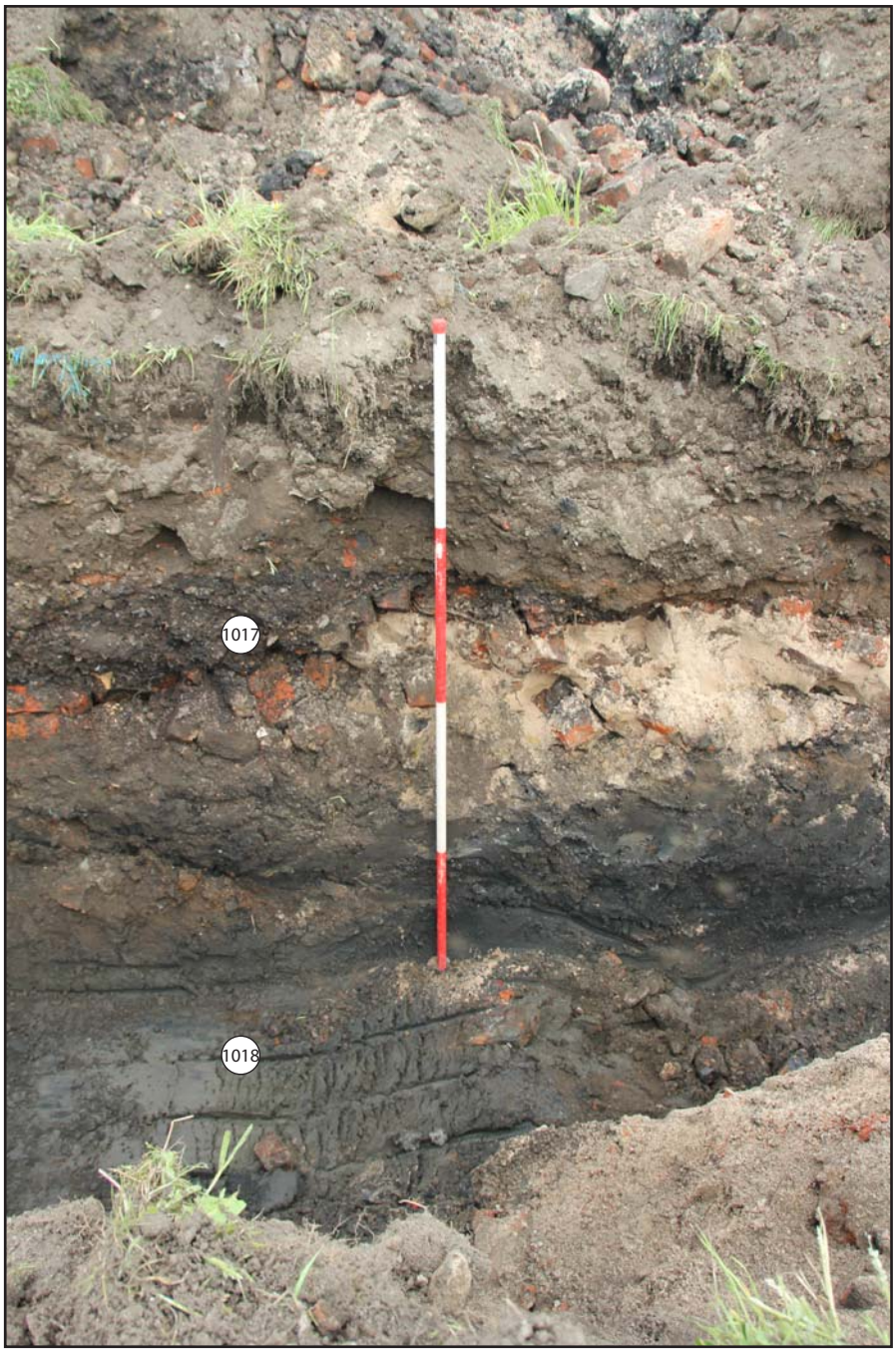

Plate 22: Trench 5 west-southwest section showing demolition deposits (1017), from the west-southwest. Scale 2.0m.

Plate 23: Trench 5 showing remains of concrete tank (1019), from the west-southwest. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 24: Trench 5 showing remains of crushed brick floor surface (1020) and concrete anchor block (1021), from the east-northeast. Scale 0.5m.

Plate 25: Trench 5 showing remains of crushed brick floor surface (1020) and concrete anchor block (1021), from the south-southeast. Scale 0.5m.

9.0 CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The archaeological evaluation at Nile Street, Rochdale has shown that the majority of the site maintains poor potential for the preservation of archaeological remains. Trenches 1 and 2 targeted areas of terraced housing constructed between 1893 and 1910 and both trenches produced cellar walls constructed from unfrogged red-brick that correspond with the terraced houses depicted on the historic ordnance survey map of 1910. Furthermore, trench 2 produced a red-brick drain that would have run to the north of the terraced housing fronting Nile Street, and within an alleyway connecting Nile Street with Howarth Square.

The degree of preservation of these remains however appear to be the exception rather than the rule, with the majority of both trenches having been massively disturbed through the successive phases of demolition, later construction and re-grading at the site from 2006 onwards. This phase of works appears to have removed all but a minority of the buried foundation remains of both suites of housing and it is not considered that any further assessment or mitigatory measures would be of value to the archaeological record.

Moreover, trenches 3, 4 and 5 also showed that although isolated remains persist at foundation level from the Trafalgar Street Mill, Rhodes Mill, and Central Foundry, the impact of modern phases of demolition have all but removed trace of these once substantial structures. With the exception of trench 5, all of the trenches corresponded with the historical cartographic evidence and all features could be identified as forming part of their respective structures. Unfortunately all of the archaeological remains existed as isolated pockets of preservation and were not indicative of the overall degree of survival across the site. Indeed, in every trench the revealed foundations did not continue through the entire length of the trench and had for the most part been demolished in their entirety.

Perhaps the only intriguing element of the fieldwork results was the discovery of a possible Victorian dump along the south side of Entwisle Road as seen in trench 1. The large quantity of well preserved Victorian ceramics and glass should be considered of importance both in contributing to the local historical narrative as well as the social and cultural development of Victorian Rochdale. As such it is recommended that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundworks in the vicinity of trench 1 and along the southern side of Entwisle Road and that recovered ceramics are submitted to a specialist in post-medieval pottery for further analysis.

Although every attempt was made to contribute to the ambitions of the North West Regional Research Agenda the preservation of remains across the site were discovered to be low and no new information regarding aspects of late 19th Century life in Rochdale could be gained.

The archaeological evaluation has fulfilled the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition through confirmation of the poor levels of survival of archaeological remains of former structures once present across the site. Considering the results of the evaluation the overall potential for the remains at the site to address meaningful questions and issues associated with the history and development of Rochdale and Rochdale's society is considered low and as such there is no justification for further archaeological attendances under the terms of the condition, beyond a watching brief during groundworks in and around the location of trench 1.

10.0 SOURCES

OS Maps

OS 1:10 000 Series sheet SD 91 NE, SD 91 SE, SD 91 SW and SD 91 NW.

Promap Mastermap Data: 12 month licence.

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APPENDIX I – DETAILS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

Context	Trench	Description
1001	4	Red-brick foundations of Rhodes mill.
1002	4	Concrete anchor block.
1003	4	Stone flagstones of former Rhodes Mill floor surface.
1004	4	Demolition material.
1005	1	N-S Red-brick cellar wall of former terraced housing.
1006	1	E-W Red-brick cellar wall of former terraced housing.
1007	1 and 2	Yellow sand deposit.
1008	1	Demolition deposit.
1009	1	Dark black clay-silt deposit containing frequent Victorian ceramics.
1010	2	Group number for modern demolition/dumping material.
1011	2	Grey clay natural glacial substrata.
1012	2	N-S red-brick cellar of former terraced housing.
1013	2	Red-brick drain of former terraced housing.
1014	3	Trafalgar Street Mill red-brick cellar foundations.
1015	3	Demolition material in-filling (1014).
1016	4	Concrete slab of former Rhodes Mill.
1017	5	Group number for modern demolition/dumping material.
1018	5	Natural grey clay glacial substrata.
1019	5	Partial remains of concrete tank.
1020	5	Crushed red-brick floor surface of former Central Foundry.
1021	5	Concrete anchor block of former Central Foundry.

APPENDIX II – WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

NEXUS
HERITAGE

Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, (15/00113/FUL)

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

Document No: 3240.R01

May 2015

Nexus Heritage Controlled Document – Commercial-in-Confidence

Document Number	3240.R01	
Document Status	**FINAL**	
Prepared by:	Anthony Martin	Date: 14.05.15
Checked by:	Gerry Wait	Date: 15.05.15
Approved by:	Gerry Wait	Date: 15.05.15

Revision Record		
Revision No.	Date	Details

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CONTENTS:

APPENDICES

INTRODUCTION

Planning permission has been secured by Countryside Properties (UK) Ltd. for a residential development on land at Nile Street, Rochdale (15/00113/FUL) – hereafter the Site. The Site extends over *c.* 1.97ha and consists of a partially fenced, open area of land with no standing buildings. The Site has recently undergone a phase of demolition works to remove all above ground structures and some hardstanding surfaces.

The proposed development layout is presented as Appendix A, Drawing No. SK_313/PL/Rev_A.

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (hereafter the Council), as advised by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (hereafter GMAAS), considers the site is of potential archaeological interest and wishes to secure satisfactory treatment of the archaeological remains, as required by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (hereafter NPPF) and Policy BE/10 *Development Affecting Archaeological Sites and Ancient Monuments* of the Rochdale Unitary Development Plan. Accordingly, a condition relevant to archaeology has therefore, been applied to the permission for the development by the Council.

Condition 13. No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

This document provides details of a programme of archaeological work (the excavation of a number of evaluation trenches) proposed for the Site in response to the spirit and intent of Condition No. 13.

Discussions have been held with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS (Dr. A. Myers), to discuss the aims of the archaeological works, and the methods to be employed, in order to ensure that the archaeological works meet the expectations of the Council. Dr. Myers wishes it to be stressed that if the evaluation finds significant archaeology that will be destroyed by development ground works then further, target archaeological excavation and recording will be necessary in order to address Condition No. 13.

Nexus Heritage is appointed as the Archaeological Consultant for this project and has prepared this document, which acts as a Written Scheme of Investigation (hereafter WSI) for a programme of archaeological works. This WSI is designed to comply with the spirit and intent of the *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*, 2012 and Policy BE/10 of the Rochdale Unitary Development Plan to achieve an investigation of archaeological remains, and to record and advance understanding of their significance before they are impacted upon by construction works. The results of the investigative works will be reported and submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GMHER). If merited the results of the archaeological works would be published in a local or national journal, as appropriate and/or disseminated via an information panel at a suitable location. The records generated during the fieldwork (paper, photographic and digital) will be offered to a local museum or other public depository willing to receive them.

This document is offered for consideration to the Council and its archaeological advisor (Dr. Myers) for verification with reference to the Condition applied to the planning consent and the relevant provisions in *NPPF* and the locally applicable policy.

LOCATION AND SITE INFORMATION

Rochdale is situated within the north-eastern part of Greater Manchester and the Site lies in the eastern part of Rochdale.

The Site is located to the south of Entwisle Road at grid reference SD 90395 13527. It is irregular in plan form, but relatively level, with an elevation of *c.* 123.5m AOD at Entwisle Road, sloping to 121.5m AOD adjacent the River, a slope of *c.* 2m across the site. At the time of reporting the Site is unoccupied by buildings or any traces of its industrial / commercial past (other than some boundary walls). It is understood that the Site has recently undergone a programme of demolition to remove all above ground structures and concrete slabs. The northern boundary is provided by Entwisle Road. The southern boundary is provided by the banks of the River Roch towards which the Site slopes gently towards 2.0m high embankment incorporating a stone-built wall. To the west is a leisure centre separated from the Site by a brick wall in poor state of repair. To the east the site is bounded by Trafalgar Street.

The Site surface is laid to rough grass.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html characterises the bedrock at the Site as Old Lawrence Rock of the Lower Coal Measures which is anticipated to comprise sandstone. The drift geology beneath the site comprises Alluvium, which is anticipated to mainly comprise silty clay, sands and gravels. The BGS database of boreholes scans records no available borehole data for the Site.

A geotechnical ground investigation was undertaken in January/February 2015 (e3p 2015) and comprised x20 machine excavated test pits to a maximum depth of 4m and x9 window samples to a maximum depth of 5.45m. The locations of the trial pits and borehole are provided in Fig. 3.

In summary the ground investigation has confirmed the predicted geological profile and has also allowed identification of the surface and near surface deposits. Made ground of mixed composition exists across the entire Site and has a minimum recorded thickness of 1.00 and a maximum thickness of 4.00m. the made ground typically comprises a dark brown grey sandy ashy gravel with fragments of brick and concrete and frequent inclusions of plastic, wood, pottery, fuel ash slag and clinker. It should be noted that a previous ground investigation at the Site (LK Consult Ltd. 2010) identified made ground to thickness of up to 4.70m, but that between 2010 and the most recent ground investigation in 2015 it is understood that the structures which once occupied the site were demolished, hardstanding surfaces removed and the resultant surface re-graded with imported soil and seeded. Therefore, the made ground at the Site is likely to contain some infiltrated items.

The ground investigation also encountered numerous obstructions which are likely to be associated with brick and concrete foundations and brick and concrete floor surfaces associated with factory buildings and yards and residential dwellings and yards.

Isolated horizons of soft clay with localised lenses of sand were identified across the Site between 1.50m and 3.00m below ground level and this material corresponds to the anticipated superficial geological deposits. No bedrock was identified during the ground identification which corresponds with the recorded depth of sandstone in the vicinity of *c.* 65m below ground level.

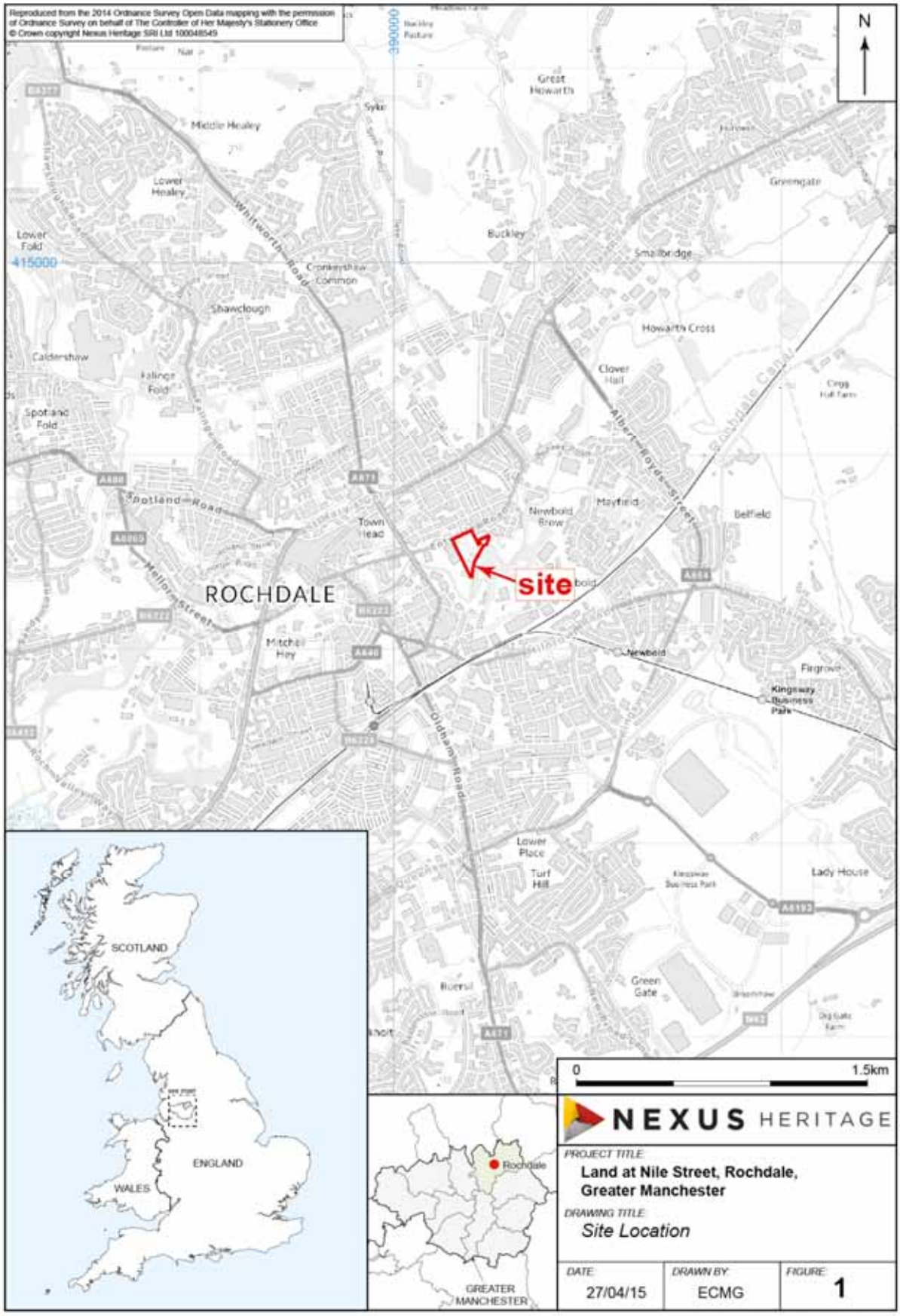


Fig. 1: Site Location Map (reproduced from Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO © Crown Copyright Nexus Heritage-SRI Licence No. 100048549)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The planning application was accompanied by an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment (Nexus Heritage, 2015) and the details of the assessment need not be rehearsed here. However, the following summary provides a concise outline of the broad archaeological and historic context.

There are no records of finds or archaeological sites from the prehistoric era within the Site or in the locale and it is considered that the Site has a very low potential to contain archaeological remains dated to the prehistoric era.

There are no records of finds or archaeological sites from the Roman period within the Site or in the vicinity and in the wider Rochdale area there are few known remains of Roman date. The potential for remains of this date to exist in the Site is considered to be very low.

There are no confirmed archaeological remains from the Saxon/early medieval period recorded in the Site or in the local environment. .However, whilst there are no recorded Saxon/early medieval archaeological remains within the Site the historic and place-name evidence confirms the likelihood of some activity at Rochdale in the second half of the first millennium. The archaeological potential of the Site for this period can, however, be considered to be very low.

There are no confirmed archaeological remains from the medieval period recorded in the Site or in the general area. However, there are several known medieval sites in Rochdale and Rochdale is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086. The historic and archaeological evidence for settlement activity and landscape exploitation/modification at and around Rochdale in the period suggests that the archaeological potential of the Site for this period is low.

Rochdale was established as a notable market town by the mid 16th century and throughout the 17th century manufacturing and mining began to develop and the town began to grow. However, archaeological evidence for this period is sparse –but by the end of the 18th century Rochdale was renowned for its production of woollen cloth. Towards the late 18th century the Site remained as undeveloped land to the east of the town. As the century turned Rochdale began to expand rapidly, but there were no buildings on the Site in 1831. A land division, however, extended north-south across the Site – presumably a hedge. By 1850 the Rhodes Mill has been built on the Site along with a thoroughfare that corresponds with Nile Street. The eastern boundary of the Site has been established and the mill appears to be in an enclosure, presumably defined by a wall the east-west length of which is likely to have formed the alignment for the later laying out of Entwisle Road.

The landscape in and around the Site was subjected to significant change during the second half of the 19th century – starting with the renaming of the Rhodes Mill as Nile Mill (Woollen) in about 1851. By 1893 Nile Mill is now returned to its original name of Rhodes Mill (Cotton Waste). Roch Mill has been built in the eastern portion of the Site and a Cotton Mill has been erected in the north east of the Site, with associated chimney and a well. A suite of terraced housing is present along the north eastern boundary of the site fronting onto Entwisle Road and both Trafalgar Street and Nile Street have been laid out, extending as far south as the river.

By 1910 an Iron Foundry has been constructed in the south-west of the site, and Machinery Works has been constructed in the very east of the site. Further residential dwellings have been constructed in the north of the site along Blake Street and Howarth Square. . By 1930 further industrial development has been undertaken with a Machinery Works constructed toward the north west of the Site. A Chimney has been constructed in the eastern boundary and on the southern boundary, south of the mill building, Roch Mill is now labelled as disused.

By 1958 Roch Mill and Rhodes Mill have been demolished. By 1975 the Iron Foundry in the south west of the site has extended to the north and east, with Tanks now located on the northern edge of the structure. A Builder's Yard is present in the western part of the Site. A Chimney has been constructed in the Site and a Concrete Works with associated tanks is now present in the location of the former Rhodes Mill, and a garage has been constructed to the east of this with associated tanks. The Cotton Mill towards the north east of the Site is recorded as a Motor Body Repair Works and Warehouse. The Chimney associated with the Cotton Mill has been demolished.

By 1992 the Builders Yard is no longer present and by 2015 all structures and buildings on the Site had been demolished (with the exception of some boundary walls) and the Site has been re-graded and most of it laid to grass.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Nexus Heritage acts as Archaeological Consultant to the Client. The trial trench evaluation will be undertaken by a suitably qualified and experienced archaeological organisation, partnering with and contracted to Nexus Heritage.

Nexus Heritage operate in accordance with:

- The Institute for Archaeologist's *Code of Conduct* (2012 edition).
- The Institute for Archaeologist's *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2008 edition).
- The Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (2014 edition).
- The European Association of Archaeologists *Principles of Conduct for Archaeologists Involved in Contract Archaeological Work (1998).*
- The Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2014 edition).
- The Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014 edition)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCHING

The rationale underpinning the evaluative archaeological works at the Site involves the recovery of archaeological information from the excavation of 180m^2 of archaeological trial trenches each to be a minimum of 2.00m wide in a trench array as shown on Figure 2. The broad characteristics of the number, size, orientation and distribution of the trenches are considered to be appropriate and have been agreed with Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS. The trench array has been designed to determine feature presence/absence, with a contingent trenching facility designed for site characterisation should features be present, the characteristics of which are insufficiently resolved within the core trenching provision. Contingent trenching will be optional, upon the discovery of archaeological artefacts, deposits, features or structures the characteristics of which can only be sufficiently determined upon further spatial investigation. The contingent excavation of trenches is limited to a further 30m^2 of trench or reasonable addtional depth.

The basic targeted objectives of the trenches are as follows:

Trench 1 - targeting the site of residential dwellings along Entwisle Road

Trench 2 - targeting the site of residential dwelling along Nile Street

Trench 3 - targeting the site of Trafalgar Cotton Mill

Trench 4 - targeting the site of Rhodes Mill (Cotton Waste)

Trench 5 - targeting the site of the Central Foundry (Iron)

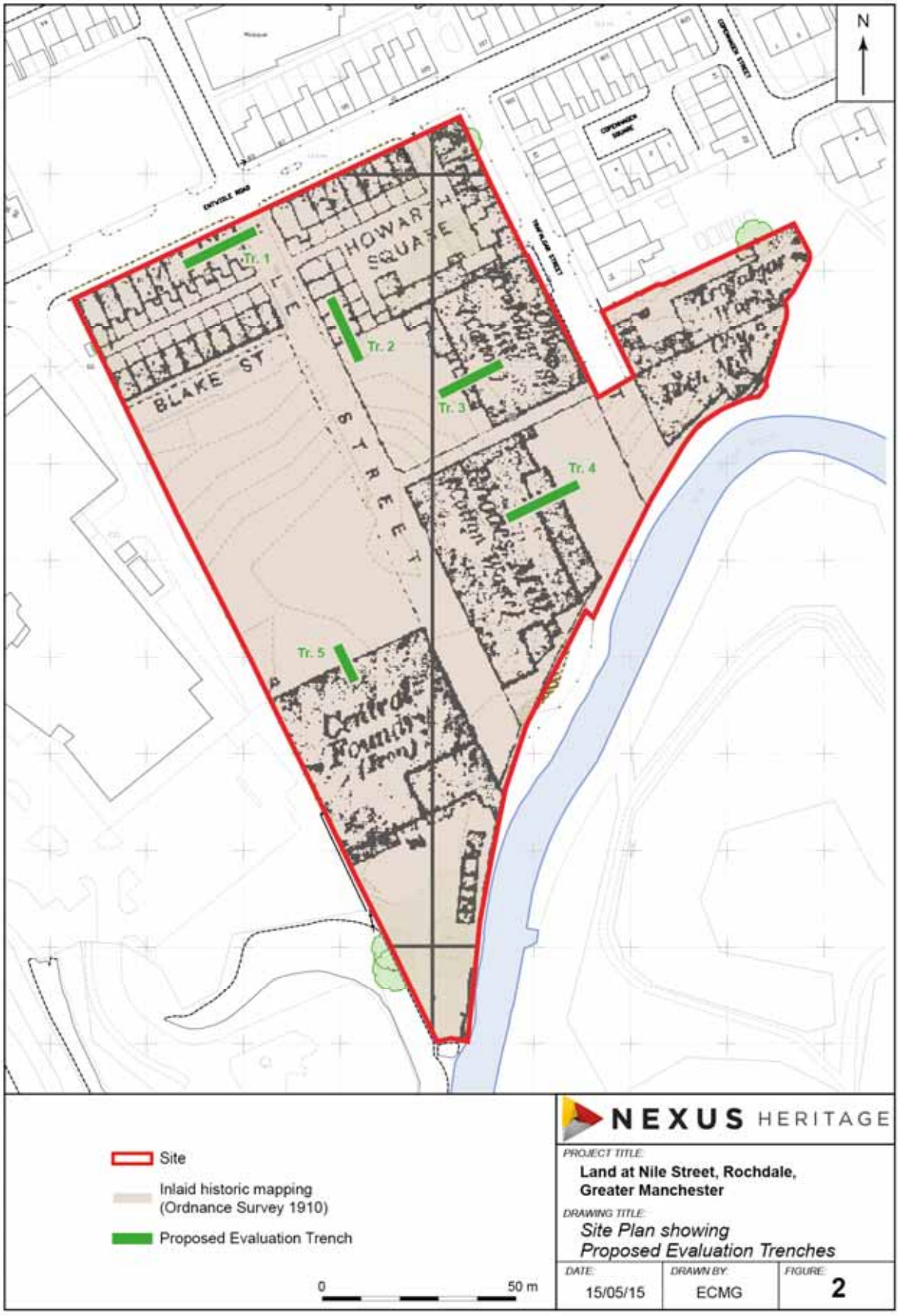
Groundwater may be present at the Site and localised pumping or de-watering may be required in order to expose the deposits which may contain archaeological evidence. The control of water during the excavation works will be the responsibility of the Countryside Properties (UK) Ltd. or its agents/contractors.

The evaluation trenches will be opened using a mechanical excavator equipped with a hydraulic pecker and wide toothless blade under the constant direction of the archaeologist and any topsoil and vegetation cover will be removed in spits of no more than 0.3m in thickness. After the trenches have been opened, excavation will be by hand. Surfaces will be cleaned and prepared as appropriate in order to allow visual inspection for the presence/absence of archaeological remains, deposits, features and structures. Upon exposure of the first horizon exhibiting archaeological artefacts, deposits, features or structures the use of the mechanical excavator will cease. Under no circumstances will the mechanical excavator be used to excavate archaeological deposits features or structures, unless extraordinary circumstances apply associated with large-scale homogenous and/or modern deposits in which case dispensation may be provided to permit selective and controlled excavation with a mechanical excavator. After the trenches have been opened, excavation will be by hand. Surfaces will be cleaned and prepared as appropriate in order to allow visual inspection and recording. All trenches will conform to the stated dimensions at their base (subject to the presence of sub-surface services and any other insurmountable obstructions) shoring/stepping will be employed as appropriate.

The following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% (or at least 1 metre) of the exposed areas of each liner/ring feature and all terminals/intersections

- 50% of structural features
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. kilns, hearths and ovens)
- Surviving structural elements such as walls, engine bases will be exposed and cleaned


N
Tr. 1
Tr. 2
Tr. 3
Tr. 4
Tr. 5
BLAKE ST
STREET
Site
Inlaid historic mapping
(Ordnance Survey 1910)
Proposed Evaluation Trench
0
50 m
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale,
Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Site Plan showing
Proposed Evaluation Trenches
DATE:
15/05/15
DRAWN BY:
ECMG
FIGURE:
2

The archaeological works will be surveyed with respect to the nearest Ordnance Survey datum point and to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The trenches, and any artefacts deposits, features and structures within them will be accurately located on a site plan prepared at an appropriate scale.

Archaeological artefacts, deposits, features and structures will be excavated manually using best-practice techniques and in a controlled and stratigraphic manner sufficient to address the aims and objectives of the project. An appropriate level of sample excavation in order to determine and demonstrate the presence/absence of archaeological remains and their state of preservation adequate to provide a site-wide deposit model to inform the targeted area excavation and recording will be undertaken. With this in mind it may not be necessary to excavate the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits but the inter-relationships between archaeological deposits, features and structures will be investigated sufficiently and the complete stratigraphic sequence to geologically lain deposits will be investigated where practicable. The cessation of excavation in any trench prior to the establishment of the level at which geologically lain material survives may be agreed with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS during the course of the field work.

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

The aims, objectives and expectation of a palaeoenvironmental and palaeoindustrial strategy will parallel the over-arching goals for the project (English Heritage, 2011). The sampling and assessment strategy will address the project goals especially questions regarding the agrarian economy of the early post-medieval era and the industrial economy of the later industrial era. Should appropriate deposits be present addressing such questions would be attempted by recovering a sufficient sample of remains such that the activities on the Site can be further interpreted and compared with other similar sites in the region. Also, could the distribution and range of palaeoenvironmental/palaeoindustrial remains on the Site be used to identify and highlight differences in use across the site, focusing on divisions between activities?

Residue samples secured from key stratified deposits will be collected processed and analysed. The retention and analysis of samples will only take place where appropriate measures are in place to mitigate the risks and hazards associated with toxic, chemical or biohazard contamination. Staff and/or sub-contractors with appropriate specialist knowledge of the relevant industrial processes and technologies, particular types of find, sampling techniques and analytical methods will be deployed (English Heritage 2006). The sampling strategy aims to recover sufficient material relevant to the historic industries in order to address the questions raised by the identified research aims.

If any identified features or deposits are appropriate for environmental sampling a strategy and methodology will be developed. Preparation for, taking of, processing of and assessment of environmental samples will be in accordance with current best practice. Should a range of features represent multiple feature types, areas within the Site and stratigraphic/chronological phases be present a sample will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.

Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit. Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located. Waterlogged remains, if present,

will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and metallic residues provided that they are uncontaminated. If buried soils are encountered sampling for micromophological/phosphate analysis by taking monoliths with sub-samples for soil chemistry composition will be considered.

Reservoirs of palaeo-environmental data, including alluvial sequences and palaeo-channels, which may be of intrinsic interest, should be identified and sampled on site subject to health and safety considerations and where contamination does not prohibit retrieval.

All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers. Appropriate contexts will be bulk sampled (50 litres or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.

Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs will normally be achieved through processing other bulk samples although other samples may be taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.

Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

Recommendations for discard/further analysis (including the sub-sampling volumes) will be made in accordance with the English Heritage guidance (2012) and *Geoarchaeology – Using Earth Sciences to Understand the Archaeological Record* (2007). It is expected that the scientific sampling strategies will evolve subject to the requirements of the project's aims and objectives but in the first instance the environmental and scientific sampling regime will proceed in accordance with the latest guidelines. The proposed environmental and scientific sampling regime will form part of the compliance statement and will need to be agreed between Nexus Heritage, the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor in advance of implementation. Any deviation from the sampling procedures outlined in the above guidance documents will be discussed and agreed with Nexus Heritage and the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS in advance of implementation.

Human remains, if encountered, will be left *in situ* and protected. Nexus Heritage will notify the Client and the appropriate authorities of the presence of human remains at the earliest opportunity. If removal is necessary and mandated by the relevant regulatory authorities the remains would be excavated archaeologically in accordance with the English Heritage document *Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (2005) and any conditions imposed by the Ministry of Justice and/or the Local Planning Authority Environmental Heath Directorate. Any assessment and reporting work on recovered human remains would be undertaken in accordance with the

The photographic record will meet the requirements of the designated local archive repository, whether 35mm film-based or digital in origin or both media. It is understood that the minimum requirement for photographic media for archival purposes in Greater Manchester is conventional 35mm monochrome (silver halide) negatives and prints.

Soil excavated from the trenches will be scanned for ferrous and non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making the necessary discrimination and operated by an experienced metal detector user under constant supervision. The metal detector operative will waive all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the *Treasure Act* (1996).

Contingency is allowed for the recovery and processing of sufficient C^{14} and/or archaeo-magnetic samples in order to fulfil the aims and objectives of the project. The prospective archaeological contractors should supply unit rates for C^{14} and/or archaeo-magnetic dates. In the event that discoveries during excavation warrant refinement of the overall C^{14} dating strategy a sampling strategy should be agreed with a suitably qualified and experienced dating specialist. The archaeomagnetic dating strategy will follow English Heritage's 2006 *Archaeomagnetic Dating Guidelines on producing and interpreting archaeomagnetic dates*.

The Client will be responsible for securing information on known services within the excavation areas and providing such information to Nexus Heritage who will take all reasonable precautions to avoid damage to such services.

In the event of significant archaeological discoveries the treatment of which (either arising from the volume/quantity of material and/or the complexity/importance of the material) is beyond the reasonable expectations arising from a duly diligent approach to the evaluative approach detailed here or which would constitute remains for which preservation *in situ* should be considered, Nexus Heritage will notify the Client and arrange a site meeting with the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS and a representative of the Council. Any such remains will be protected from deterioration.

An archaeological risk schedule and strategy for the use of the contingent response will be provided. These responses may be deployed, when appropriate, to provide for excavation and recording and for the cleaning, processing, conservation of artefacts/ecofacts, and the identification analysis, cataloguing and archiving of those artefacts/ecofacts which may need to be recovered either to meet the objectives of the project and/or for the safety and security of the archaeological resource.

The Client or the Client's Agent will be responsible for securing information on known services within the excavation areas and providing such information to Nexus Heritage. Nexus Heritage will take all reasonable precautions to avoid damage to such services.

The Client or the Client's Agent will be responsible for securing the site during the evaluation works and fencing off the working easements associated with the works. Nexus Heritage will be responsible for maintaining and locking any fencing/gates etc around the archaeological excavations within the site in accordance with health and safety provisions. Any damage to or breakage of the fencing/security provisions will be reported to the Client/Client's Agent as soon as possible after discovery.

At or towards the conclusion of the archaeological evaluation a site meeting will be convened at which the works can be inspected with a view to confirming completion of the evaluative archaeological excavations and compliance with the approved archaeological strategy. Upon such confirmation the trenches can be handed over to the Client or Client's Agent for treatment in accordance with the ongoing obligations of this document.

At the conclusion of the fieldwork, a brief summary of the results will be prepared. This summary will be prepared after the retained artefacts have been cleaned, identified, labelled, assessed and dated. The artefacts will be packed and stored in appropriate materials and conditions to ensure that no deterioration occurs. All artefact/ecofact processing/storage will

be carried out in accordance with UKIC (United Kingdom Institute for Conservation) guidelines and should accord with the Institute for Archaeologists document *Guidelines on Finds Work*. Soil or other samples recovered will be processed as appropriate by a qualified and experienced bio-archaeological scientist. Where the need for dating of individual contexts/features arises, material suitable for dating will be identified as well as the most appropriate chronometric techniques(s).

After the completion of the evaluative archaeological fieldwork a report will be prepared. The report will, as appropriate, contain the following:

- A non-technical summary
- A table of contents
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site
- A statement of the project aims and objectives
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site
- A summary description of the investigation results including any archaeologically significant features/deposits identified within the proposed development site. A brief description of the stratigraphy of each trench will be given, even where no archaeological features or deposits are identified
- A discussion of the location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition, and significance of any archaeological deposits/features uncovered, together with a discussion of their relationship with known archaeological features and/or historic buildings in the vicinity
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the trenches and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the watching brief
- Trench plans at appropriate scales. Each trench in which archaeological remains were discovered will be presented in the report with at least one plan (scale 1:50 or 1:20) and section (scale 1:20 or 1:10) as well as appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate
- Summary assessment reports on the artefact, bio-archaeological, dating and other assessments/analyses
- Appendices to the report will include artefact catalogues, reports on assessments/analyses and an index to the project archive, a statement on its location/proposed repository and an OASIS report.

One digital .PDF copy of a draft version of the report will be made available by Nexus Heritage to the Client for comment within three weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. Nexus Heritage will forward the draft report to the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS for review. Nexus Heritage will take into account any observations on the content of the draft report made by Nexus Heritage the Client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS during preparation of the final version of the report.

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

Report copies in the appropriate numbers, formats and media (e.g. digital .PDF/A format generated using Adobe Acrobat) of the final report will be prepared and submitted the Client, the Council, the archive repository, the NMR, and the GMHER.

As part of a commitment to reducing carbon emissions, one digital .PDF copy (PDF/A format generated using Adobe Acrobat) of the final report will be prepared and submitted to the Client and the Council. Paper copies are available upon request at cost. Hard copies of the report will be provided to the archive repository, the NMR and the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.

COPYRIGHT

CONFIDENTIALITY

Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors will treat as confidential all information obtained directly or indirectly from the Client in connection with the archaeological works and will not, without the prior consent of the Client, disclose any information relating to the project or publicise the project in any way. Nexus Heritage will manage, on behalf of the Client, all matters pertaining to publicity arising from the archaeological works and for any public education/outreach events or matters, as appropriate.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Nexus Heritage responsible for obtaining all relevant certification regarding Health and Safety prior to any site works. Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors will adhere to all relevant health and safety legislation and be guided by, *inter alia*, the *Health and Safety at Work Act* (1974), *Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) Regulations* (2002), *Construction Design and Management (CDM) Regulations* (2007), *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations* (1999), the *Work at Height Regulations* (2005), the *Confined Spaces Regulations* (1997) and the *Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations* (2002).

While carrying out the archaeological works Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors will operate in accordance with all applicable Health and Safety Legislation.

Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors will provide its staff and site visitors with all necessary protective clothing and equipment.

Where contaminated material is present in the surface or sub-surface deposits at the site appropriate measures will be taken by Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors will to ensure the health and safety of its staff which may come into contact with contaminants. In case of encountering contaminated soil, Nexus Heritage will inform the Client immediately.

In the event of encountering contaminated material, it may be necessary for Nexus Heritage to produce a revised method statement. Nexus Heritage will forward the revised method statement to the Client, the Council, and the GMAAS for reference.

Nexus Heritage will submit a Health and Safety Plan (including a Risk Assessment) to the Client before site works commence.

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ARCHIVE

The anticipated recipient organisation for the project archive is Touchstones Rochdale.

Nexus Heritage will conform to the arrangements for archive preparation and submission prior to commencing the works and provide copies of the relevant correspondence and accession number to the GMHER.

Nexus Heritage will maintain the archive until the period of report preparation is complete.

The archive is to be prepared, compiled and presented by Nexus Heritage for long term storage according to the format requirements of the recipient organisation and as set out relevant standards including

- The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (2014 edition).
- The Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (2014 edition)

Nexus Heritage will be responsible for the security of the project archive. An indexed project archive will be prepared. The project archive will comprise all primary written documents, maps, plans and plots, unprocessed raw data and photographs.

Any artefacts or other items identified and/or recovered during the archaeological works remain the property of the land owner. Nexus Heritage will, however, request deposition of the artefact archive along with the remainder of the archive by means of an agreement to transfer legal title to the artefacts from the landowner to the archive repository.

MONITORING

The Client, or an agent of the Client will monitor the works for the Client's benefit and the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS will act on behalf of the Council. A minimum of two week's notice of the commencement of the archaeological evaluation will be given by Nexus to the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS so that arrangements for monitoring can be made.

Reasonable access to the site works will be provided by Nexus Heritage and its subcontractors and the Construction Contractor to representatives of the Client, the Council and GMAAS in order to monitor the works. A site tour and opportunity to scrutinise site records will be provided to the monitors.

Nexus Heritage will ensure that any significant results recovered during the archaeological investigations are brought to the attention of the Client who will notify the relevant organisations/authorities as soon as is practicably possible, and certainly within 24 hours.

Any monitoring visits or communications will be documented by Nexus Heritage and copied to the Client.

Consultations between the Nexus Heritage, the Client and the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS will be convened periodically during the project. The purpose of these consultations is to advise the monitors on the manner in which the objectives of the project have been addressed and secure agreement that the milestone elements of the project have been concluded to the satisfaction of the Client and the Council. A series of consultations are suggested in the table below with potential outcomes.

Milestone	Purpose of Consultation	Participants	Format	Outcome
Draft of WSI	To discuss draft WSI, areas of excavation, timetable, etc.	Nexus Heritage / Client / Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS	Telephone/e-mail/	Authorisation of WSI and issue of final WSI. Authorisation to begin evaluation. Confirmation that the pre-commencement obligations of the condition have been addressed.
At half-way point of evaluation trench excavations	To confirm compliance with WSI	Nexus Heritage Client Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS	Site meeting	Continuation of archaeological investigations
Upon completion of archaeological evaluation trench excavations	To review results	Nexus Heritage Client Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS	Site meeting	Confirmation of completion of archaeological excavations and compliance with the WSI. Authorisation to commence reporting.
Production of the draft evaluation Report.	To review results of data assessment and to authorise continuation to next stage	Nexus Heritage Client Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS	Telephone/e-mail	Authorisation to commence production of final report
Production of final evaluation report	To review results	Nexus Heritage Client Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS	Telephone/e-mail	Confirmation of completion of reporting in compliance with the WSI.
Submission of project archive	To confirm that all tasks have been completed with reference to the WSI and to formally close the project	Nexus Heritage Client Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS	Telephone/e-mail	Submitted archive
Discussion	To determine need for and scope of archaeological mitigation works	Nexus Heritage Client Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS	Telephone/e-mail	Conclusion of project and discharge of Condition No. 13 or mobilisation for mitigation works in the form of further archaeological works.

RESOURCES AND PROGRAMMING

The archaeological works will be undertaken by a team of demonstrable competence and the names, qualifications and experience of the Competent Persons, relevant to a successful completion of the works, are provided below.

The project will be managed by Anthony Martin, a Director of Nexus Heritage with over 25 years' experience in the heritage and archaeology sector. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Mem. No. 1091) and has a BA (Hons) in History and an MA in Scientific Methods in Archaeology.

Nexus Heritage is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

The evaluation will be carried out by a field team with relevant experience and qualifications and will be drawn from one of the regional archaeological contractors routinely working in the Greater Manchester area. The field team will not be deployed until confirmed as appropriate by the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS.

Nexus Heritage will provide target dates for the start and completion of the site works and the submission of reports, publications and archival material.

It is understood that should any archaeological remains be located, the undertaking of development works beyond any area designated for further archaeological investigations pursuant to Condition No. 13 is acceptable, thereby allowing both timely development attendances and archaeological attendances to take place concurrently.

COMMUNICATION PATHS

Anthony Martin is identified as the Project Manager on behalf of Nexus Heritage. He is to be the main point of contact between the Client, the Senior Planning Archaeologist at GMAAS and representatives of the Council. In Anthony's absence contact should be made with Gerry Wait of Nexus Heritage (gerry.wait@nexus-heritage.com, telephone 07500 527110) or Kate Churchill of Nexus Heritage (kate.pagesmith@nexus-heritage.com, telephone 07733 005812) or Keith Ray of Nexus Heritage (keith.ray@nexus-heritage.com, telephone 07879 401350).

Any questions or requests for clarification arising from examination of this document are to be submitted in writing to Nexus Heritage.

SOURCES

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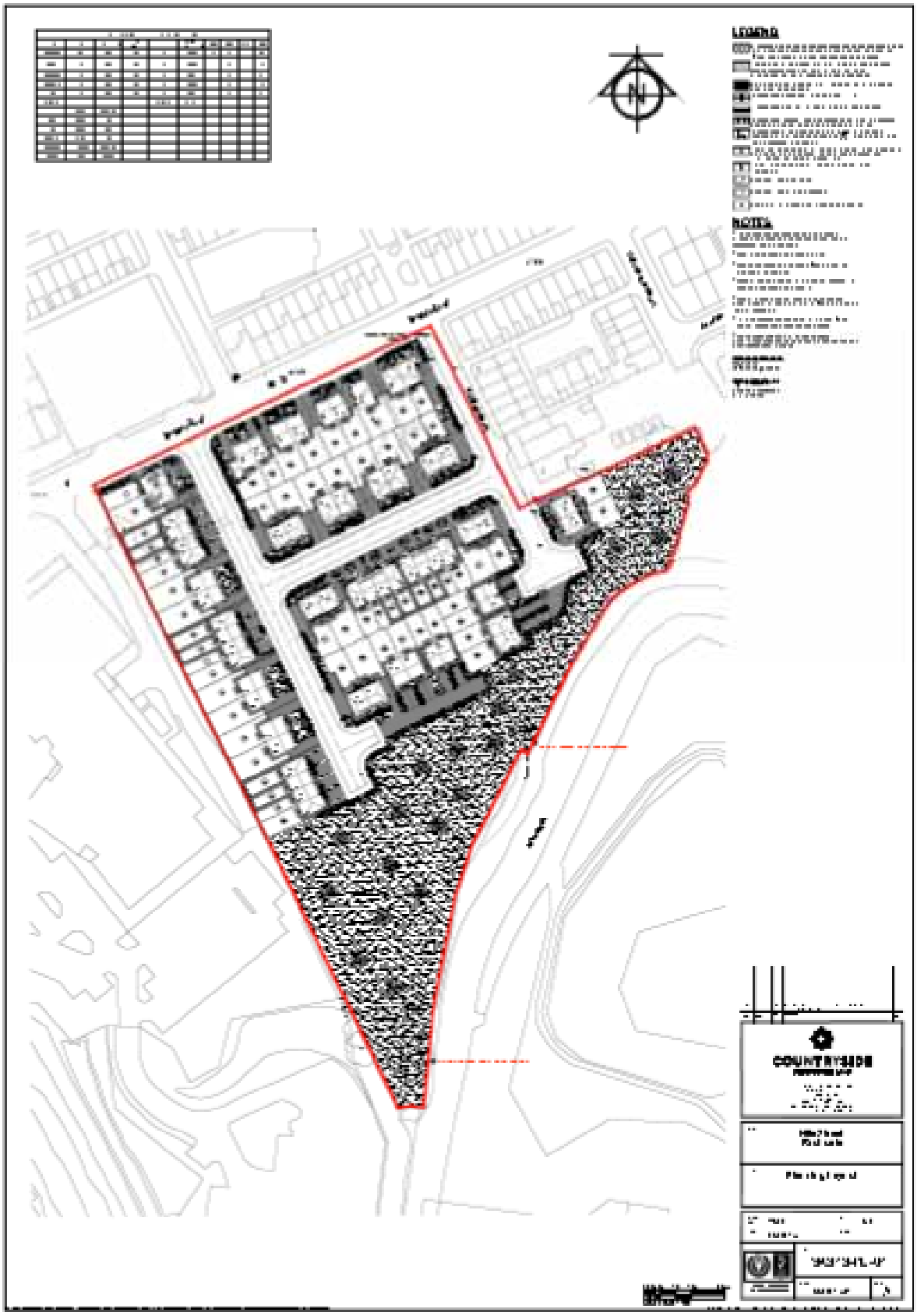
APPENDIX A

Planning Layout, Drawing No. SK_313/PL/Rev_A



APPENDIX III – ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

NEXUS
HERITAGE

Land at Nile Street, Rochdale
Archaeological Assessment

Report No: 3224.R01a

March 2015

Nexus Heritage Controlled Document

Report Number	3224.R01a	
Report Status	**Final**	
Prepared by:	Anthony Martin	Date: 16/03/2015
Checked by:	Gerry Wait	Date: 17/03/2015
Approved by:	Gerry Wait	Date: 17/03/2015
Revision Record		
Revision Ref./ Date	Details	
a (19.03.15)	Confirmation of data on site elevation and insertion of Fig. 20 following client review	

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Vincent Carey Road
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Hereford
HR2 6FE

Countryside Properties (UK) Ltd/
600 Lakeside Drive
Centre Park
Warrington
WA1 1RW

CONTENTS:

FIGURES:

1. INTRODUCTION

Countryside Properties has commissioned Nexus Heritage to prepare an Archaeological Assessment for land at Nile Street, Rochdale (hereafter the 'Site') in order to support a planning application for residential development (Fig. 1). The document is prepared in accordance with government guidance on the historic environment and planning (*National Planning Policy Framework*) and in line with advice from the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).

The Site extends over *c.* 1.97ha and consists of a partially fenced, open area of land with no standing buildings. The Site has recently undergone a phase of demolition works to remove all above ground structures and some hardstanding surfaces.

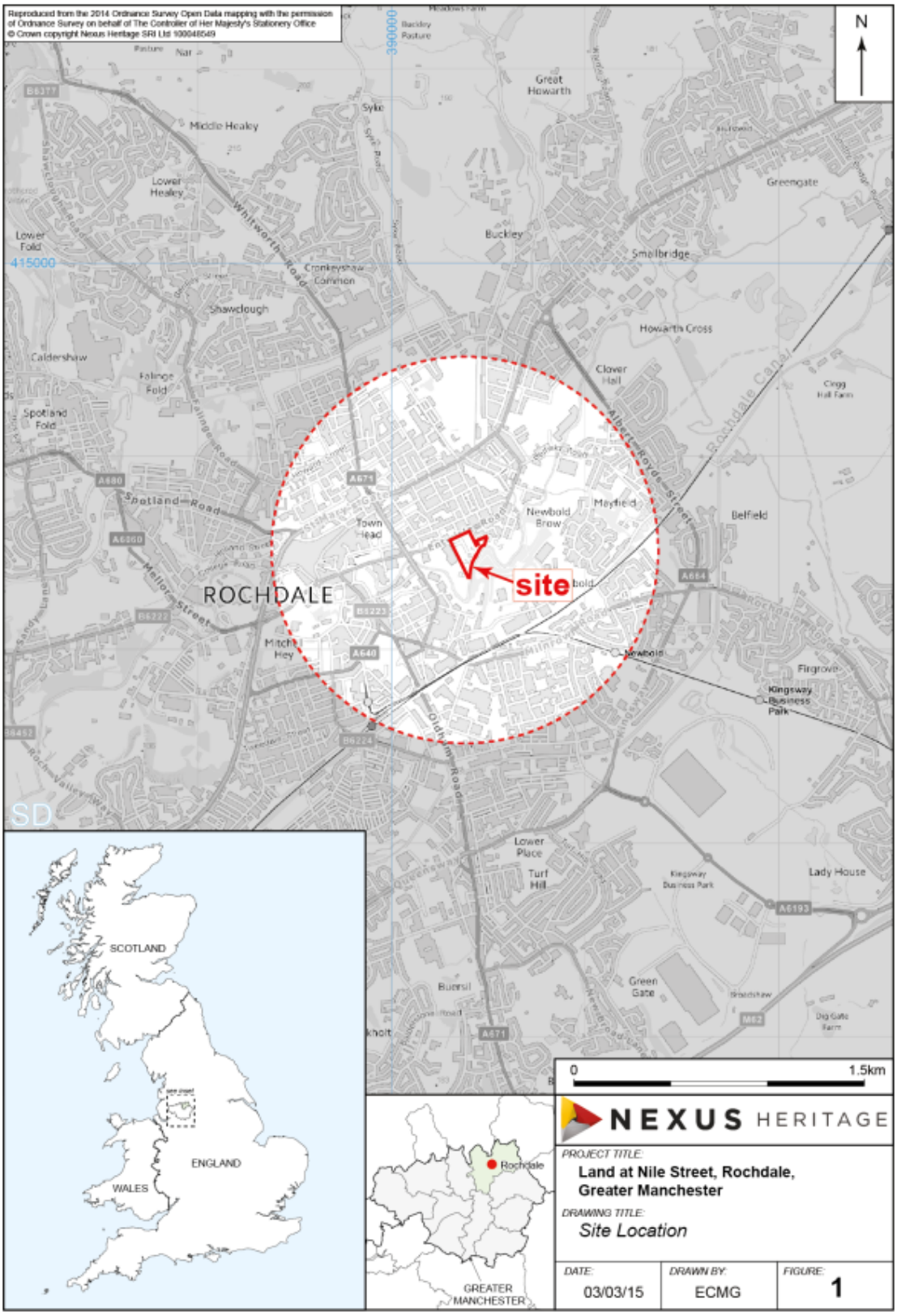
For the purposes of the Assessment the Site has been considered within a wider Assessment Area covering the landscape to a radius of 750m from the centre of the Site.

The aim of this Assessment is to determine, in so far as is reasonable by desk based research and a site visit, the presence or absence of archaeological assets and the character, survival, state of preservation and significance of any such assets on the Site. The Assessment provides as comprehensive an understanding of any identified archaeological assets within the limitations of a desk-based exercise.

The Assessment comprises an examination of evidence found in the Lancashire Record Office (hereafter 'LRO'), the Rochdale Local Studies Centre (hereafter 'RLSC') and the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (hereafter 'GMHER'). It also incorporates other available published and unpublished material.

There are no registered World Heritage Sites, Archaeological Areas, Scheduled Ancient Monuments, or Registered Battlefields wholly or partly within in the Assessment Area. There are 29 specific archaeological assets recorded in the Assessment Area within the GMHER one of which is recorded within the Site. The Site corresponds with the location of now demolished Trafalgar Mill (cotton), is identified on the GMHER as entry 5134.1.0. The site also corresponds to the sites of the now demolished Rhodes Mill (cotton waste) Nile Mill (wool) and an iron foundry. The northern part of the Site also once contained a complex of 19th century housing.

For clarity, this Assessment does not consider the heritage of the built environment, such as Listed Buildings, Locally Listed Buildings/Buildings of Local Interest, historic buildings with no formal or informal designation, Conservation Areas, Historic Landscape Character or Registered Parks/Gardens. These features of the built environment are considered and assessed, where relevant, under separate cover as part of the application package.


Reproduced from the 2014 Ordnance Survey Open Data mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Nexus Heritage SRI Ltd 100048569
N
site
ROCHDALE
SD
SCOTLAND
ENGLAND
WALES
Rochdale
GREATER MANCHESTER
0
1.5km
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Site Location
DATE:
03/03/15
DRAWN BY:
ECMG
FIGURE:
1

2. PLANNING POLICY BACKGROUND

At the national level, the principal legislation governing the protection and enhancement of monuments of national importance is the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979. The 1979 Act provides protection to Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The consent of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport is required for works of demolition, destruction to or damage to a Scheduled Ancient Monument. There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within or in the immediate vicinity of the Site.

Other than Scheduled Ancient Monuments, the place of historic environment assets (such as archaeological sites and listed buildings) within the planning system is governed by the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF).

Various principles and polices related to the historic environment are set out in NPPF which guide local planning authorities.

The following paragraphs from NPPF are particularly germane to the current project and are quoted in full:

128 In determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary. Where a site on which development is proposed includes or has the potential to include heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation.

129 Local planning authorities should identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal (including by development affecting the setting of a heritage asset) taking account of the available evidence and any necessary expertise. They should take this assessment into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset, to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the proposal.

131 In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of:

- *the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;*
- *the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality; and*
- *the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness.*

135 The effect of an application on the significance of a non-designated heritage asset should be taken into account in determining the application. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

At the local level, planning considerations are guided by the Rochdale Unitary Development Plan which guides considerations of the future use and development of land and buildings in the borough.

Policy BE/10, Development Affecting Archaeological Sites and Ancient Monuments deals with archaeology and states:

Developers must take full account of the presence of known Ancient Monuments and sites of archaeological importance and their settings in proposals. Planning permission will be refused where developers do not sympathetically accommodate such structures or remains, particularly where the proposal has a significant affect (sic) *on the site itself or its setting.*

Proposals should accommodate the physical preservation of archaeological features in situ. In exceptional circumstances where this is not possible, and where the site is of lesser significance, archaeological excavation to secure the preservation of features either on or off site may be appropriate to enable preservation by record. In such cases, the applicant may be required to carry out a programme of proper recording of archaeological evidence before development takes place. Such a programme could be secured by planning conditions or through a Section 106 obligation negotiated with the applicant. In all cases there should be a full and appropriate prior evaluation of the archaeological resource detailing its value, the likely impact of proposals and mitigation as required.

3. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Rochdale is situated within the north-eastern part of Greater Manchester and the Site lies in the eastern part of Rochdale at grid reference SD 90395 13527.

The site is irregular in plan form, but relatively level, with an elevation of *c.* 123.5m AOD at Entwisle Road, sloping to 121.5m AOD adjacent to the River, a slope of *c.* 2m across the site (Fig. 2). At the time of reporting the Site is unoccupied by buildings or any traces of its industrial / commercial past (other than some boundary walls). It is understood that the Site has recently undergone a programme of demolition to remove all above ground structures and concrete slabs. The northern boundary is provided by Entwisle Road. The southern boundary is provided by the banks of the River Roch towards which the Site slopes gently towards 2.0m high embankment incorporating a stone-built wall. To the west is a leisure centre separated from the Site by a brick wall in poor state of repair. To the east the site is bounded by Trafalgar Street.

The Site surface is laid to rough grass.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html characterises the bedrock at the Site as Old Lawrence Rock of the Lower Coal Measures which is anticipated to comprise sandstone. The drift geology beneath the site comprises Alluvium, which is anticipated to mainly comprise silty clay, sands and gravels. The BGS database of boreholes scans records no available borehole data for the Site.


N
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Site Plan
DATE:
03/03/15
DRAWN BY:
ECMG
FIGURE:
2
0
50 m

A geotechnical ground investigation was undertaken in January/February 2015 (e3p 2015) and comprised x20 machine excavated test pits to a maximum depth of 4m and x9 window samples to a maximum depth of 5.45m. The locations of the trial pits and borehole are provided in Fig. 3.

In summary the ground investigation has confirmed the predicted geological profile and has also allowed identification of the surface and near surface deposits. Made ground of mixed composition exists across the entire Site and has a minimum recorded thickness of 1.00 and a maximum thickness of 4.00m. The made ground typically comprises a dark brown grey sandy ashy gravel with fragments of brick and concrete and frequent inclusions of plastic, wood, pottery, fuel ash slag and clinker. It should be noted that a previous ground investigation at the Site (LK Consult Ltd. 2010) identified made ground to thickness of up to 4.70m, but that between 2010 and the most recent ground investigation in 2015 it is understood that the structures which once occupied the site were demolished, hardstanding surfaces removed and the resultant surface re-graded with imported soil and seeded. Therefore, the made ground at the Site is likely to contain some infiltrated items.

The ground investigation also encountered numerous obstructions which are likely to be associated with brick and concrete foundations and brick and concrete floor surfaces associated with factory buildings and yards and residential dwellings and yards.

Isolated horizons of soft clay with localised lenses of sand were identified across the Site between 1.50m and 3.00m below ground level and this material corresponds to the anticipated superficial geological deposits. No bedrock was identified during the ground identification which corresponds with the recorded depth of sandstone in the vicinity of *c.* 65m below ground level.

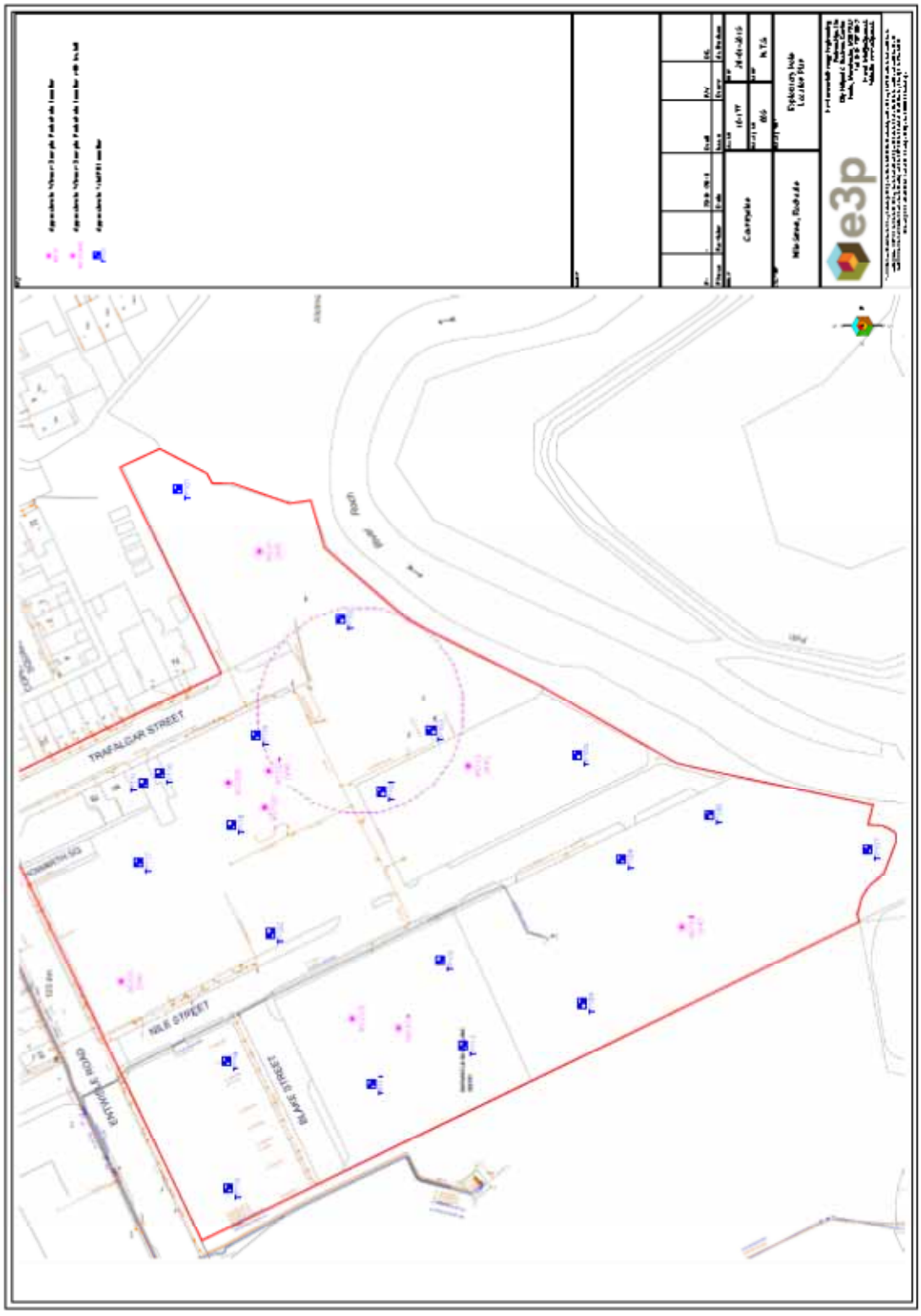
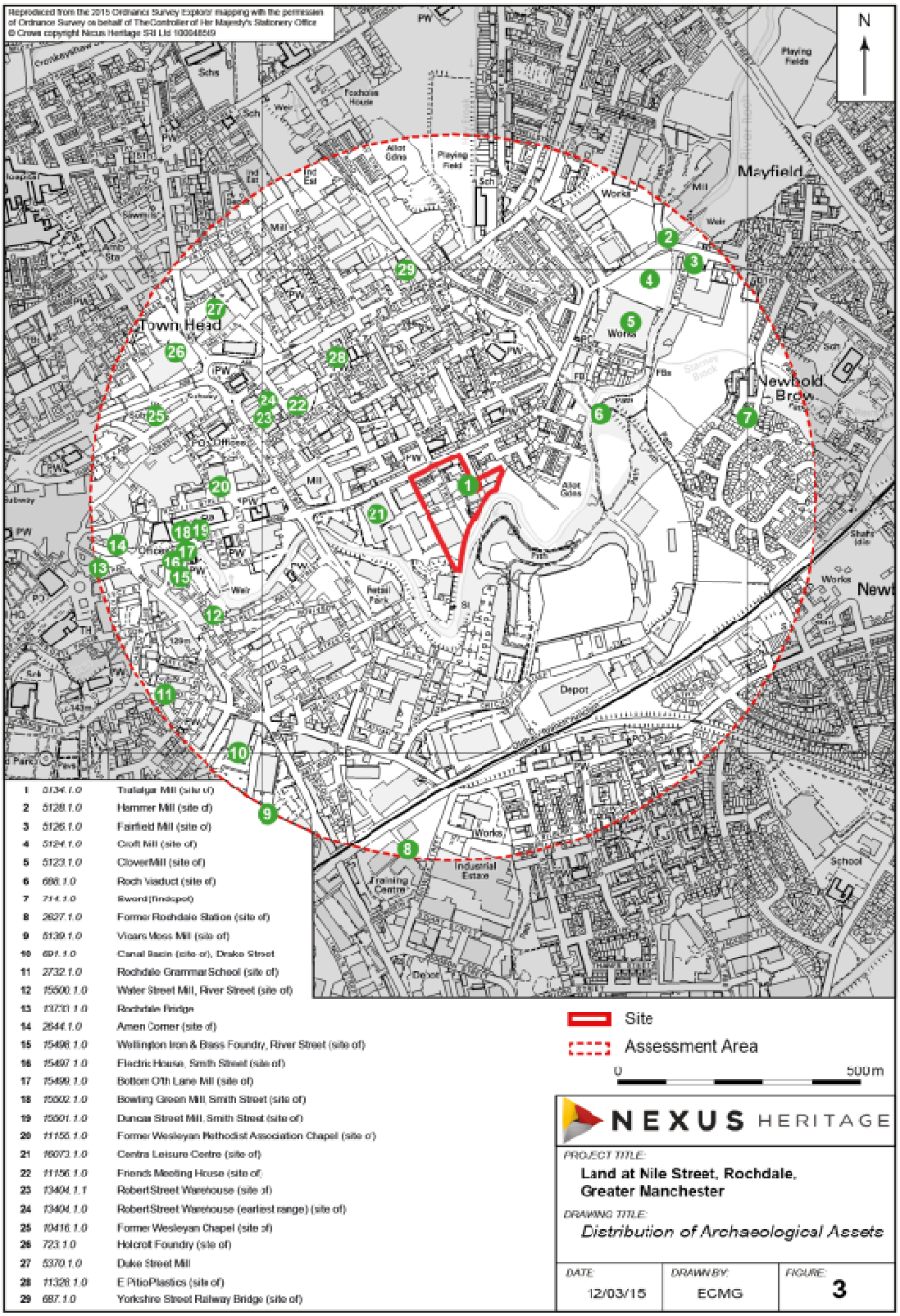


Fig 3: Location of Trial Pits and Boreholes at Nile Street, Rochdale, Jan. 2015 (courtesy of e3p – drawing ref. 10-177-005)

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

The following section is a summary of the archaeological evidence found within a 750m radius of the Site; this wider area is referred to as the 'Assessment Area'. The evidence has been compiled from the GMHER, the LRO, RLSC, the National Heritage List and other documentary and cartographic sources. The data collected is considered to provide a good indication of the character, distribution and survival of archaeological assets within and in the vicinity of the Site and also of any potential archaeology on the Site. The various records of archaeological assets are illustrated in Fig 4 which incorporates a gazetteer.


Reproduced from the 2015 Ordnance Survey Explorer mapping with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of The Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright Nexus Heritage SH Ltd 100048569
N
Mayfield
Town Head
Newbold Brow
Depot
Site
Assessment Area
0
500m
1 0134.1.0 Trafalgar Mill (site of)
2 5128.1.0 Hammer Mill (site of)
3 5126.1.0 Fairfield Mill (site of)
4 5124.1.0 Croft Mill (site of)
5 5123.1.0 CloverMill (site of)
6 698.1.0 Roch Viaduct (site of)
7 714.1.0 Sword (finishpot)
8 2627.1.0 Former Rochdale Station (site of)
9 5139.1.0 Vicars Moss Mill (site of)
10 691.1.0 Canal Basin (site of), Drake Street
11 2732.1.0 Rochdale Grammar School (site of)
12 15500.1.0 Water Street Mill, River Street (site of)
13 13701.1.0 Rochdale Bridge
14 2644.1.0 Amen Corner (site of)
15 15498.1.0 Wellington Iron & Brass Foundry, River Street (site of)
16 15497.1.0 Electric House, Smith Street (site of)
17 15499.1.0 Bottom O'th Lane Mill (site of)
18 15502.1.0 Bowling Green Mill, Smith Street (site of)
19 15501.1.0 Duncan Street Mill, Smith Street (site of)
20 11155.1.0 Former Wesleyan Methodist Association Chapel (site of)
21 16073.1.0 Centre Leisure Centre (site of)
22 11156.1.0 Friends Meeting House (site of)
23 13404.1.1 Robert Street Warehouse (site of)
24 13404.1.0 Robert Street Warehouse (earliest range) (site of)
25 10416.1.0 Former Wesleyan Chapel (site of)
26 723.1.0 Holcroft Foundry (site of)
27 5370.1.0 Duke Street Mill
28 11326.1.0 E PitioPlastics (site of)
29 687.1.0 Yorkshire Street Railway Bridge (site of)
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Distribution of Archaeological Assets
DATE: 12/03/15
DRAWN BY: ECMG
FIGURE: 3

Prehistoric Period: Palaeolithic (500,000 - 12,000 BC), Mesolithic (12,000 – 4,000 BC) and Neolithic (4,000 – 1,800 BC), Bronze Age (1,800 - 600 BC), Iron Age (600 - 43 AD)

There are no records of finds or archaeological sites from the prehistoric era within the Site or in the Assessment Area. However, this statistic is probably more a reflection of the level of archaeological enquiries in the vicinity rather than an absolute measure of the prehistoric archaeological remains that may be present within and in the vicinity of the Site. In the wider region the evidence for human activity during this period is also relatively poor. Remains dating to the Mesolithic period have been recorded, and comprise small scatters of stone and flint tools, which occasionally are associated with hearths, areas of burning, and ephemeral structures (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 27-8). However, these finds are predominantly located in the upland areas of the southern Pennines. For much of this period the Site and the landscape in general are likely to have covered in woodland, which was progressively cleared by Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age communities. Specific evidence for human activity during the Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age in the Rochdale area is not fully understood, but chance finds of typologically distinct artefacts such as flint microliths, flakes, blades, scrapers, micro burins and cores polished stone axes and flint tools, stone axe-hammers and metalwork in the wider area, particularly in the uplands of the Pennine spine indicate the presence of prehistoric populations in the area (Fishwick 1889, UMAU, 1996).

On the basis of the available evidence it is considered that the Site has a very low potential to contain archaeological remains dated to the prehistoric era.

Roman Period (43- 410 AD)

There are no records of finds or archaeological sites from the Roman period within the Site or in the Assessment Area and in the wider Rochdale area there are few known remains of Roman date. The most obvious recognised evidence of Roman occupation locally is the reporting of numerous coin finds (Lewis, 1838) notably at Shaw and a hoard of 76 *denarii* from Littleborough in 1994.

There is no evidence for any Roman activity in central Rochdale, and the potential for remains of this date to exist in the Site is considered to be very low.

Saxon/Early Medieval Period (410 - 1066 AD)

There are no confirmed archaeological remains from the Saxon/early medieval period recorded in the Site or in the Assessment Area. Combine this with the paucity of archaeological evidence in the region for this period between the end of the Roman occupation and it is difficult to conclude anything other than that the Site has a very low potential for remains of this date to exist in the Site Area. However, the place-name evidence suggests that there may have been some activity in the Rochdale area during this period. In the Domesday Survey (see below) Rochdale is recorded as *Recedham*. This name is thought to derive from the OE element *hām,* linked to the river name (Mills 1976, 127). Anglo-Saxon communities used the place name termination – *hām* with considerable frequency and it can be conveniently understood to

equate to a settlement. The place-name evidence is supported to a degree by the history of St. Chad's Church. This place of worship lies just to the west of the Assessment Area and a relief sculpture of a head (GMHER ref. 2376.1.1), thought to date to a previous site of an Anglo-Saxon church, is set on the tower of church.

Whilst there are no recorded Saxon/early medieval archaeological remains within the Site or Assessment Area the historic and place-name evidence confirms the likelihood of some activity at Rochdale in the second half of the first millennium. And whilst this period can be poorly represented through artefactual evidence, the lack of recorded entries in the sources for the Assessment Area should not necessarily be taken as an indication of a lack of activity.

However, the lack of evidence does indicate that the archaeological potential of the Site for this period can be considered very low.

Medieval Period (1066 - 1485 AD)

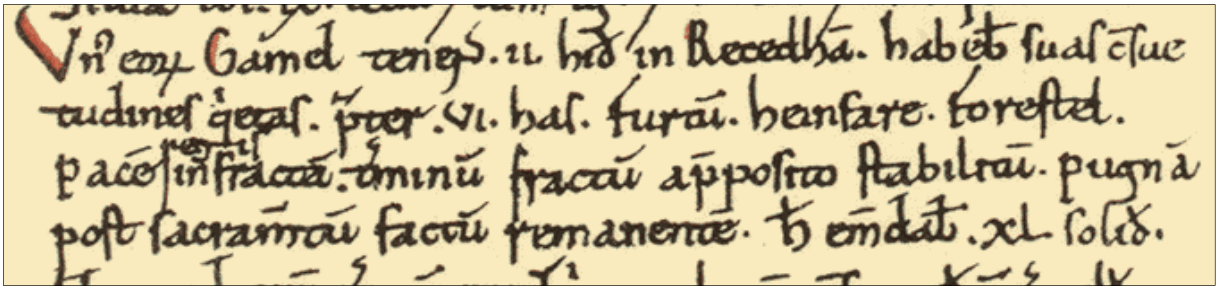
There are no confirmed archaeological remains from the medieval period recorded in the Site or in the Assessment Area. However, just outside the Assessment Area there are several known medieval sites which include:

GMHER ref: 2672.1.0 Hamer Hall (site of)

GMHER ref: 5217.1.0 Rochdale Town Centre (site of)

GMHER ref: 5241.1.0 Newbold Settlement (site of)

Rochdale is mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Morgan 1978)



Recedham (Rochdale) was within the Hundred of Salford. In 1066 the overlord was King Edward and the lord was Gamal son of Gruffydd to whom twenty-one thanes owed fealty. The land was recorded as 9.5 leagues of woodland, and 5 leagues and 1 furling of mixed measure. In 1086 the land was assigned to Roger of Pitiou.

It is reported that fragments of Norman masonry were encountered during renovation of St. Chad's Church in 1815 (Fishwick 1889, 12).

The manor of Rochdale appears to have been come into the ownership of the Holts of Stubly, but most of the land was held by Whalley Abbey. Rochdale was to become one of the largest ecclesiastical parishes in England, consisting of several townships. The Site appears to have lain across the townships of Wardleworth (originally part of a wider unit called Honorsfield or

Hundersfield) and Castleton (Farrer and Brownbill 1911).

Rochdale is further mentioned in historic sources from the 13th century. By 1212 the Manor has been assigned to the Lord of Clitheroe and was held by Roger de Lacy and several under-tenants. Rochdale castle is thought to have been situated on Castle Hill, but it was a short-lived structure, being abandoned in the early 13th century. In 1251 the Manor of Rochdale was granted a Market Charter, gifting it the right to hold weekly markets and a yearly fair. The Manor was held by the Crown from 1399-1638 when it was purchased by John Byron. During this period Rochdale effectively became a town, with many of the characteristics' of a borough, however, it was governed though a manorial court until 1825 when a Police Act was obtained (Fishwick 1889) and then in 1856 Rochdale became a Municipal Borough.

Whilst there are no recorded medieval archaeological remains within the Site there is historic and archaeological evidence for settlement activity and landscape exploitation/modification at and around Rochdale in the period.

However, the lack of evidence for the Site and immediate environs suggests that the archaeological potential of the Site for this period is very low.

Post Medieval Period (1486 – Present)

Rochdale was established as a notable market town by the mid 16th century, as evidenced by its portrayal on Saxton's map of 1577 (Fig. 5).

Throughout the 17th century manufacturing and mining began to develop and the town began to grow. However, archaeological evidence for this period is sparse –the GMHER records the find spot of a 17th century sword and the stocks (inscribed WW1688) near to St Chad's Church. By the end of the 18th century Rochdale was renowned for its production of woollen cloth, not only for the domestic market, but also for export to Europe (Aiken, 1795). William Yates' map of 1786 (Fig. 6) is an early, but relatively reliable, cartographic depiction of the town which shows the Site as undeveloped land to the east of the town. As the century turned Rochdale began to expand rapidly, in the vanguard of the Industrial Revolution. It became a hub on the early canal network and both the population and the built form of the town expanded as Rochdale became an important, regional manufacturing locus. As the 19th century progressed so Rochdale became an important centre of cotton production, but also maintained its reputation in woollen cloth, especially flannel and baize. All the 29 GMHER entries for the Assessment Area date to this period and include the sites of mills, viaducts, canal and railway infrastructure, foundries, places of worship and a swimming pool. The broad landscape changes can be seen in the sequence of cartographic representations of the area. Small-, medium- and large-scale cartographic efforts of the early 19th century such as that by Greenwood, 1818 (Fig. 7), Baines (1824 – not reproduced as it does not depict the Site) Wood, 1831 (Fig. 8), Dawson, 1832 (Fig. 9) and Whitehead, 1850 (Fig. 10) begin to provide a schematic representation of the town with also some meaningful data to consider the Site. The Wood effort, for example shows that there were no buildings on the Site in 1831, but a land division extended north-south across the Site

– presumably a hedge. The Whitehead plan is, however, very significant in that it shows Rhodes Mill has been built on the Site along with a thoroughfare that corresponds with Nile Street. The eastern boundary of the Site has been established and the dotted line appears to correspond to the township boundary between Wardleworth and Castleton. The mill appears to be in an enclosure, presumably defined by a wall the east-west length of which is likely to have formed the alignment for the later laying out of Entwisle Road.

Approximate Site

NEXUS HERITAGE

PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

DRAWING TITLE:
Saxton's Map, 1577

DATE:	DRAWN BY:	FIGURE:
16/03/15	ECMG	5

NEXUS HERITAGE

Approximate Site

NEXUS HERITAGE

PROJECT TITLE
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

DRAWING TITLE
Yates' Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, 1786

DATE	DRAWN BY	FIGURE
18/03/15	ECMG	**6**

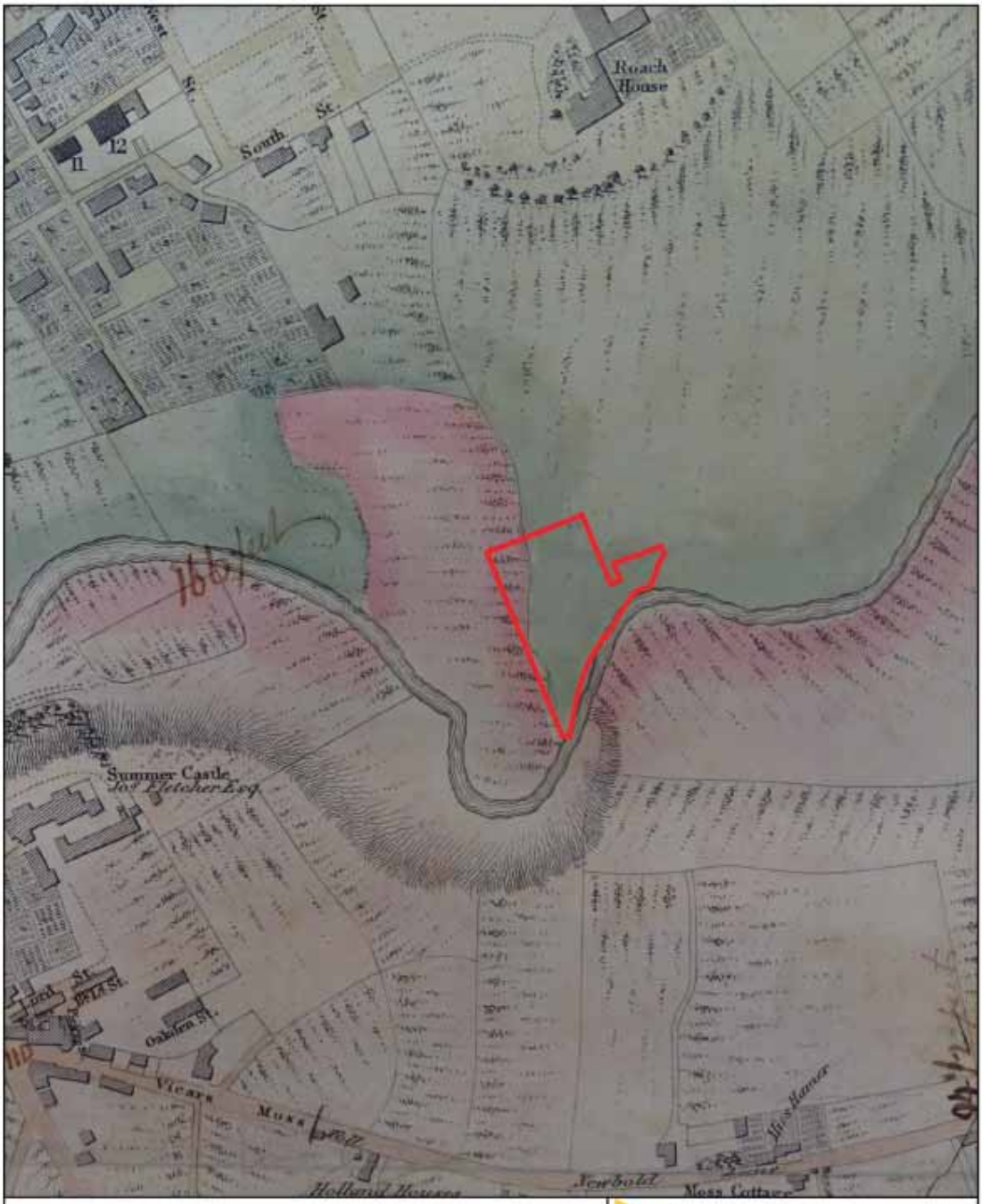
Approximate Site

NEXUS HERITAGE

PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

DRAWING TITLE:
Greenwood's Map of the County Palatine of Lancaster, 1818

DATE:	DRAWN BY:	FIGURE:
18/03/15	ECMG	**7**



NEXUS HERITAGE

PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

DRAWING TITLE:
Wood's Plan of Rochdale, 1831

DATE:	DRAWN BY:	FIGURE:
16/03/15	ECMG	8

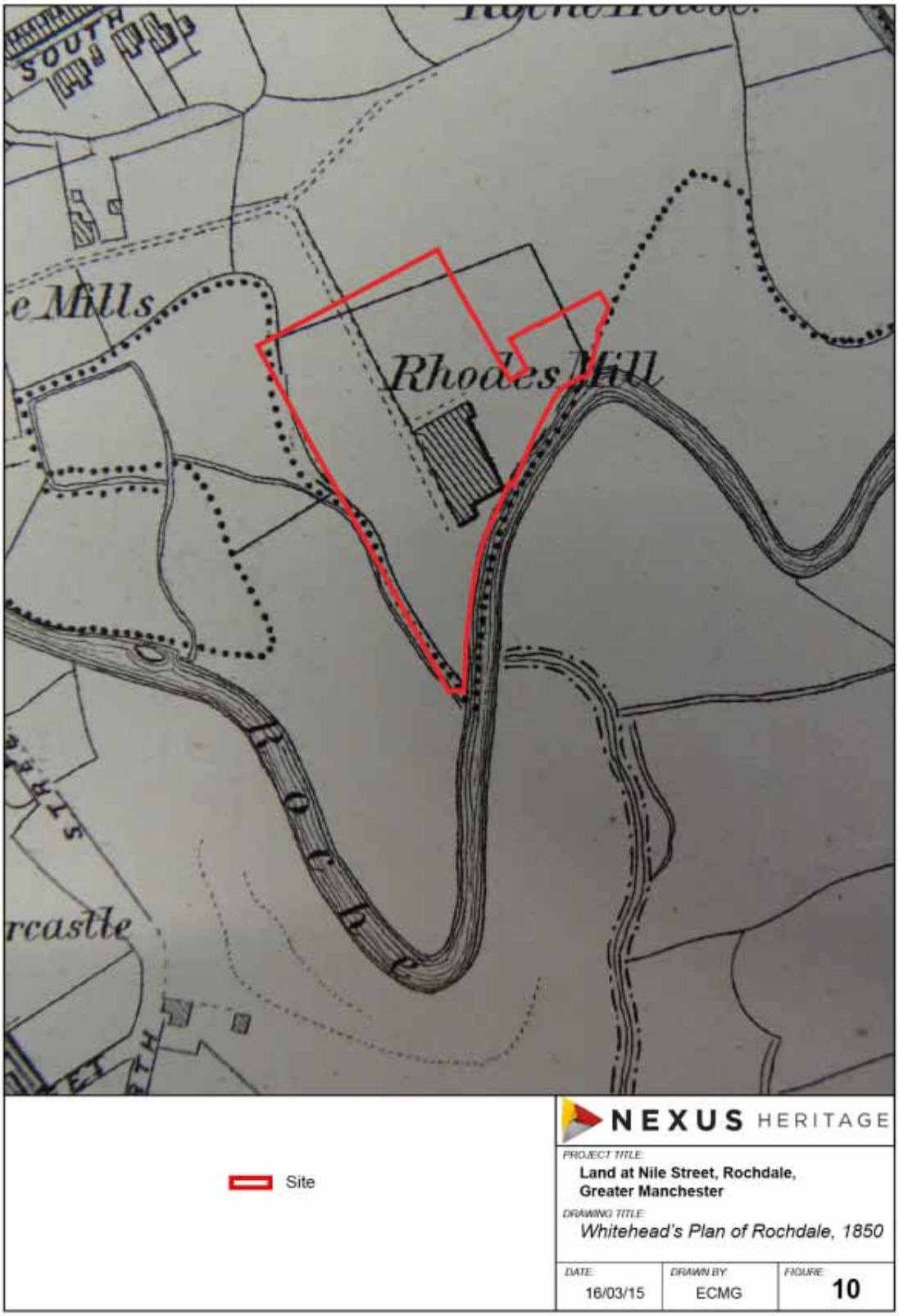
Approximate Site

NEXUS HERITAGE

PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

DRAWING TITLE:
Dawson's Plan of Rochdale, 1832

DATE:	DRAWN BY:	FIGURE:
16/03/15	ECMG	9


SOUTH
e Mills
Rhodes Hill
Roch
rcastle
Site
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Whitehead's Plan of Rochdale, 1850
DATE:
16/03/15
DRAWN BY:
ECMG
FIGURE:
10

The landscape in and around the Site was subjected to significant change during the second half of the 19th century – starting with the renaming of the Rhodes Mill as Nile Mill (Woollen) in as shown in the Ordnance Survey(OS) map from 1851 (Fig. 11). The site of this mill is not recorded on the GMHER, but it stands comparison as an archaeological asset with other now demolished mill sites recorded on the GMHER. The Assessment Area also contains a number of standing mills dating the period the architectural, social and historic value of which is linked to the archaeological value of the sites of the demolished mills. Both upstanding and demolished mills share a group value and the specific characteristics of the historic value of the built environment is dealt with under separate cover.

The generally reliable sequence of large-scale OS maps of the area from 1851 through to the present day provide a useful characterisation of landscape development.The OS map of 1893 (Fig. 12) shows a much altered landscape. Nile Mill is now returned to its original name of Rhodes Mill (Cotton Waste). Roch Mill has been built in the eastern portion of the Site and a Cotton Mill has been erected in the north east of the site, with associated chimney and a well. A suite of terraced housing is present along the north eastern boundary of the site fronting onto Entwisle Road and both Trafalgar Street and Nile Street have been laid out, extending as far south as the river.

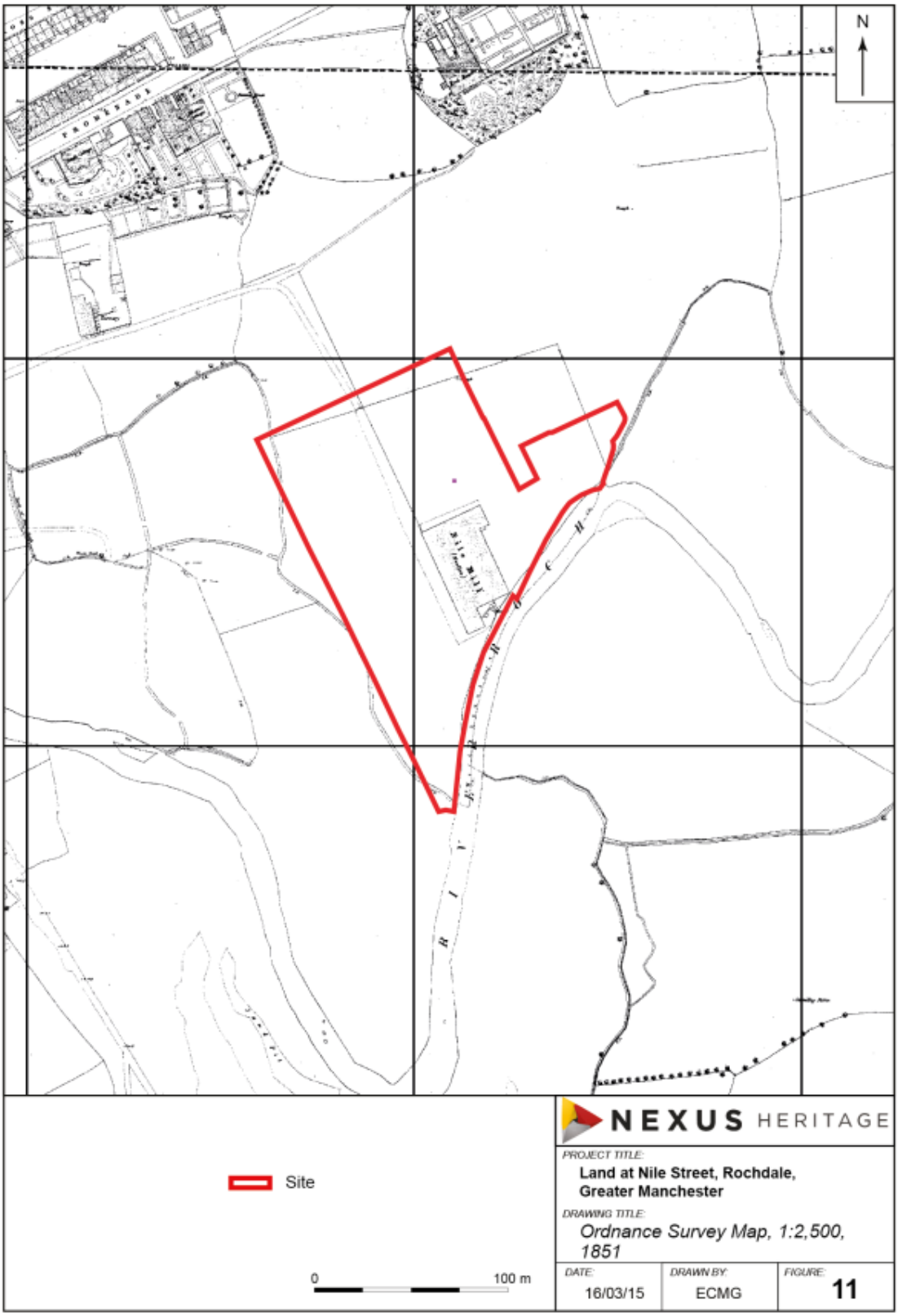
By1910 (Fig. 13) an an Iron Foundry has been constructed in the south-west of the site, and Machinery Works has been constructed in the very east of the site. In 1916 Clegg's Commercial Directory records an iron foundry of Nile Street as *Issac Butterworth – Central Foundry – Nile Street.* Further residential dwellings have been constructed in the north of the site along Blake Street and Howarth Square. . The well towards the north-east of the site is no longer present. In 1907 Clegg's Commercial Directory has an entry for *Jackson, J. & L. Cotton Manufacturers, Trafalgar Street Mills*.

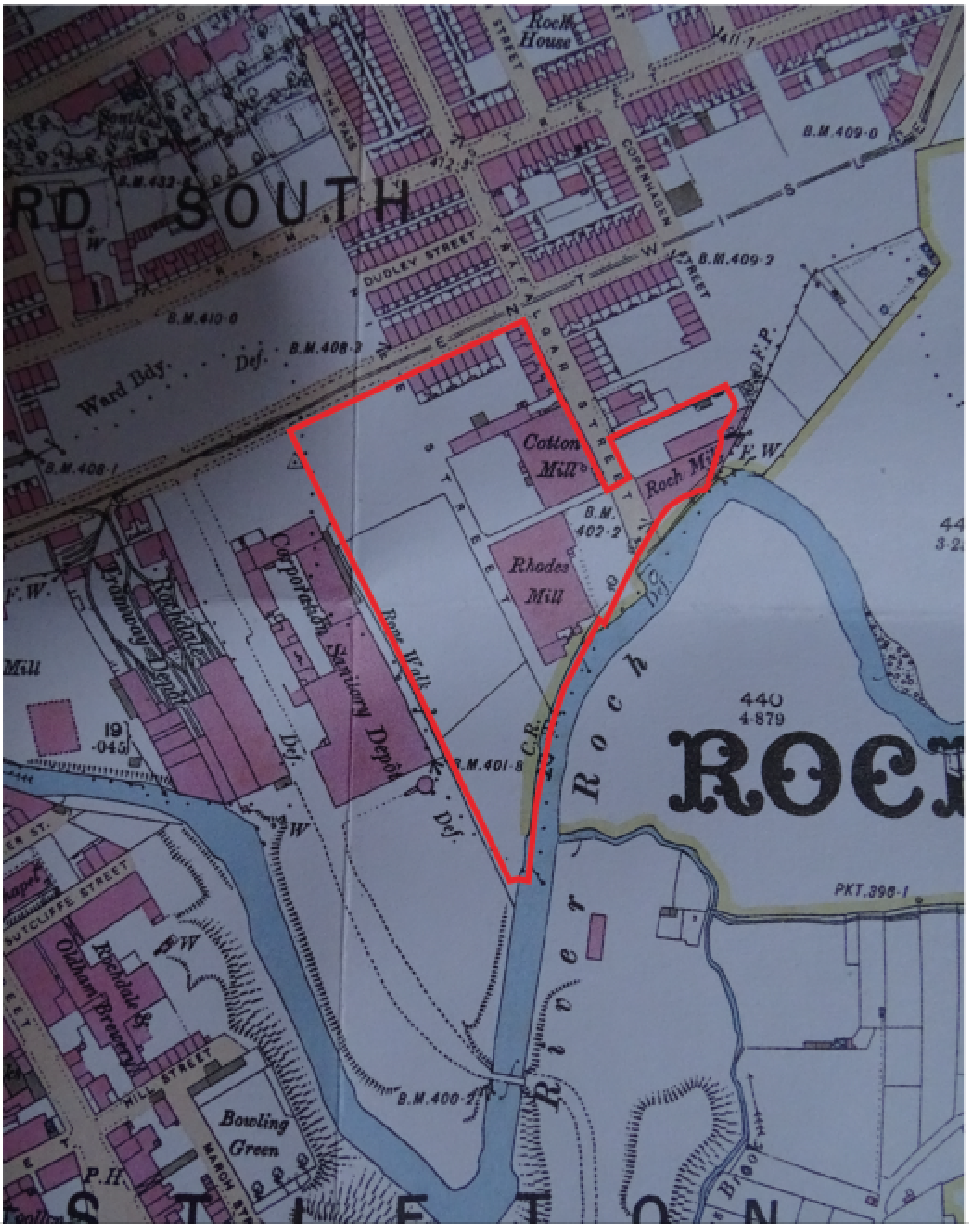
By 1930 (Fig. 14) further industrial development has been undertaken with a Machinery Works constructed toward the north west of the Site. A Chimney has been constructed in the eastern boundary and on the southern boundary, south of the mill building. Roch Mill is now labelled as disused.

The 1958 OS map (Fig. 15) depicts a crane in the Site and also that Roch Mill and Rhodes Mill have been demolished. By the time of the 1975 OS map (Fig. 16) the Iron Foundry in the south west of the site has extended to the north and east, with Tanks now located on the northern edge of the structure. A Builder's Yard is present in the western part of the site and the Crane is no longer shown. A Chimney has been constructed in the Site. A Concrete Works with associated tanks is now present in the location of the former Rhodes Mill, and a garage has been constructed to the east of this with associated tanks. The Cotton Mill towards the north east of the Site is recorded as a Motor Body Repair Works and Warehouse. The Chimney associated with the Cotton Mill has been demolished.

The OS map from 1984 (Fig. 17) shows no meaningful changes however by 1992 (Fig. 18), the Builders Yard is no longer present. As noted above in 2015 all structures and buildings on the

Site have been demolished (with the exception of some boundary walls) and the Site has been re-graded and most of it laid to grass.


N
Site
0
100 m
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Ordnance Survey Map, 1:2,500, 1851
DATE:
16/03/15
DRAWN BY:
ECMG
FIGURE:
11



Site

0 100 m

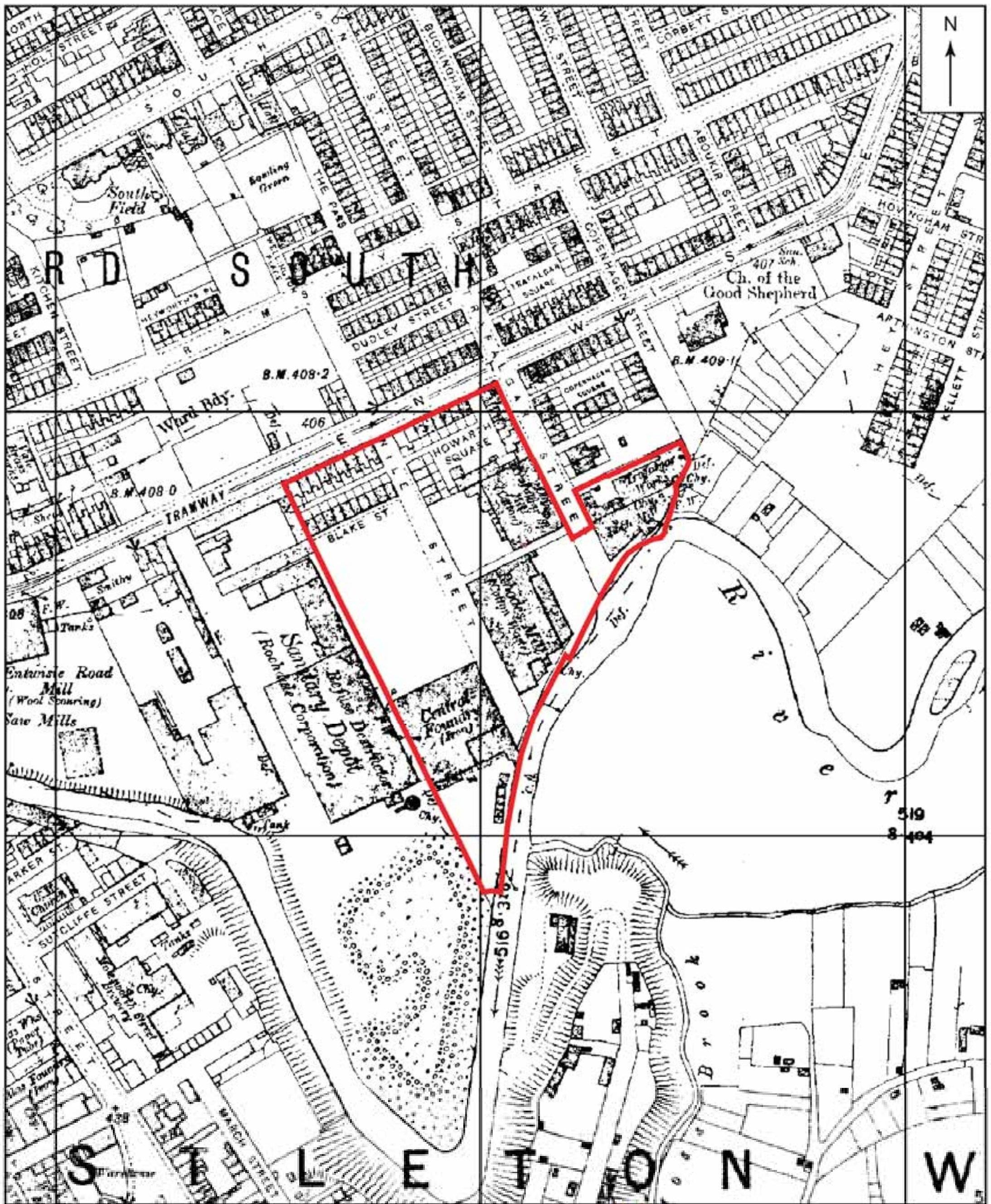
NEXUS HERITAGE

PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester

DRAWING TITLE:
Ordnance Survey Map, 1:2,500, 1893

DATE:	DRAWN BY:	FIGURE:
16/03/15	ECMG	12

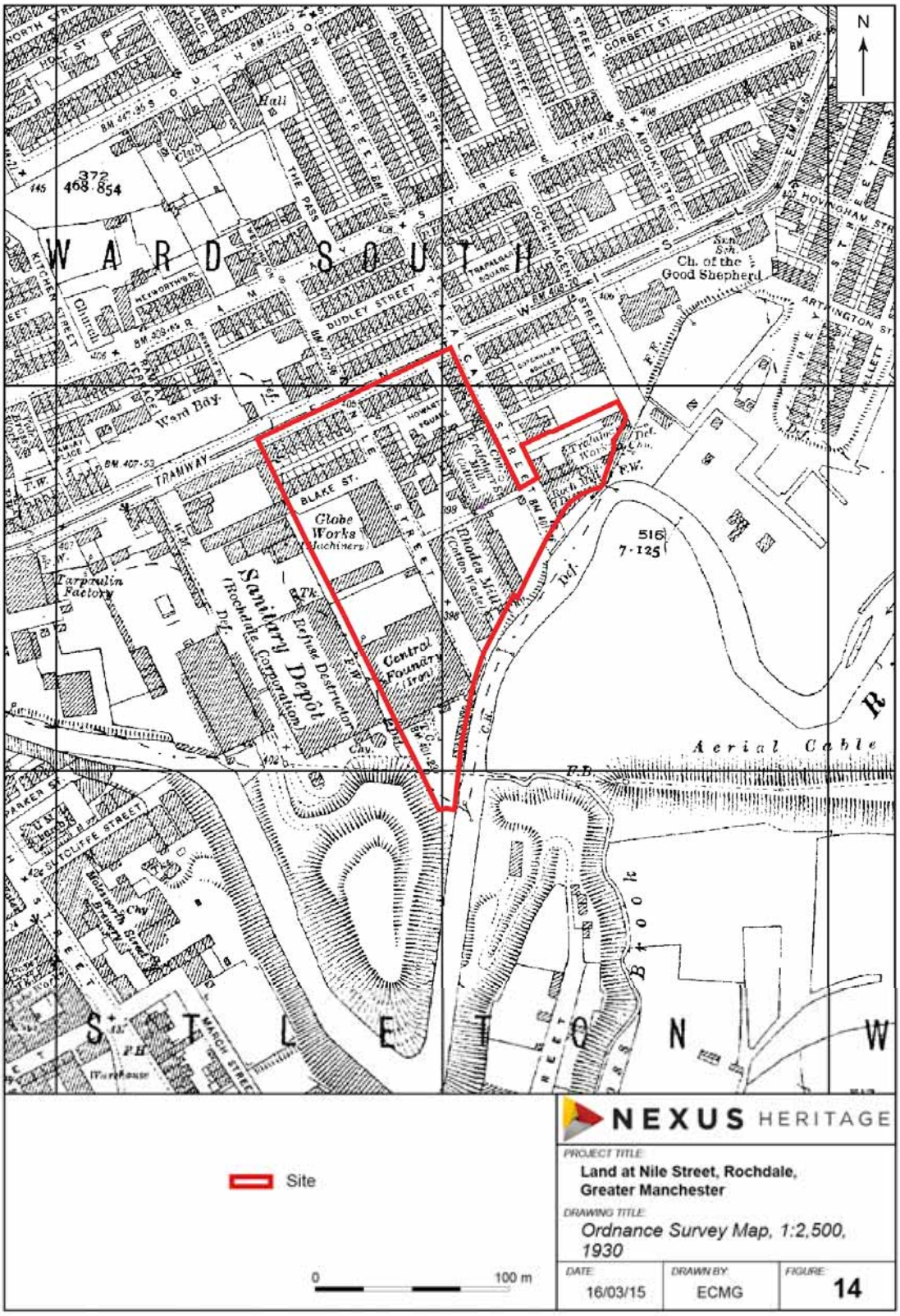
NEXUS HERITAGE

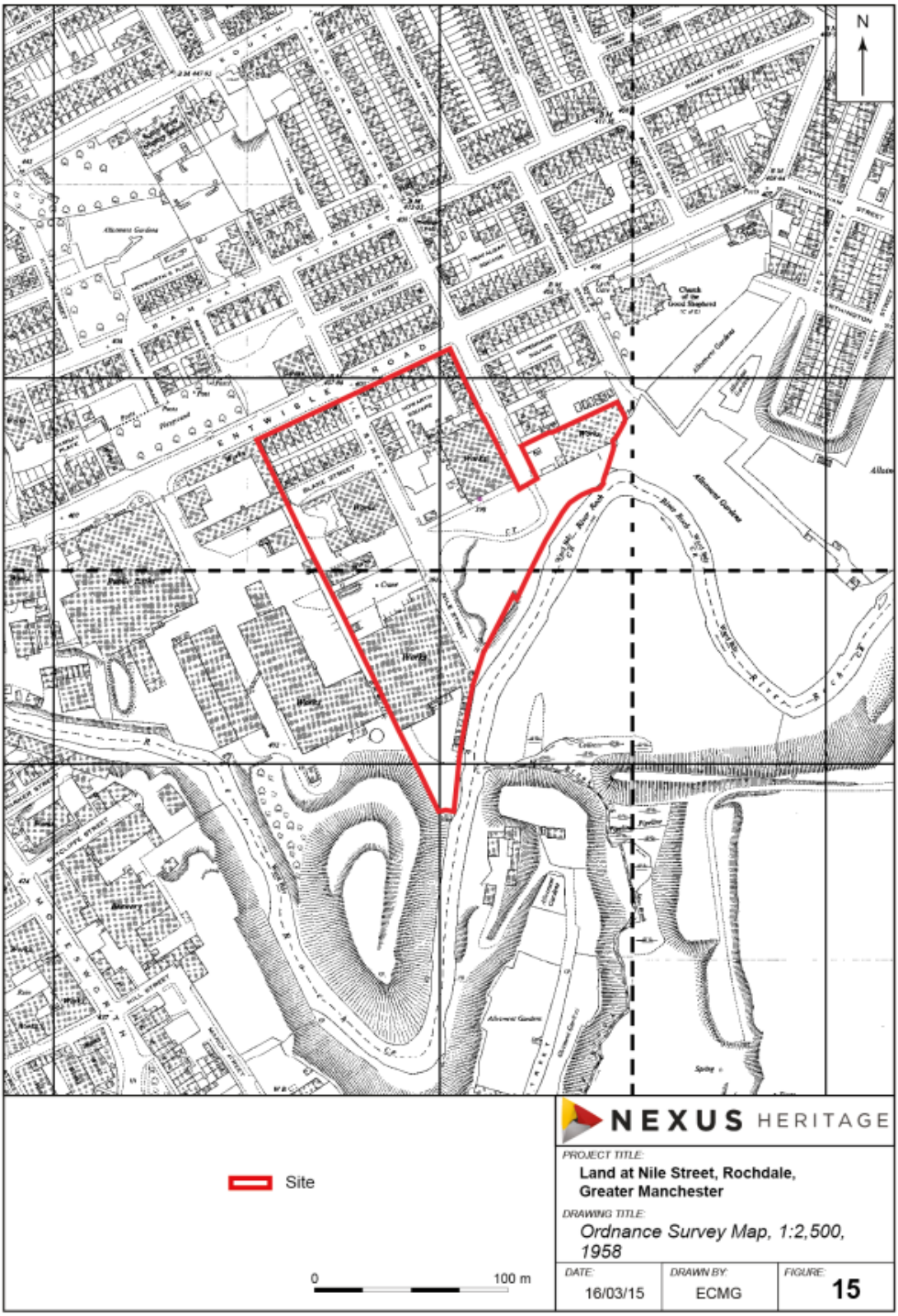


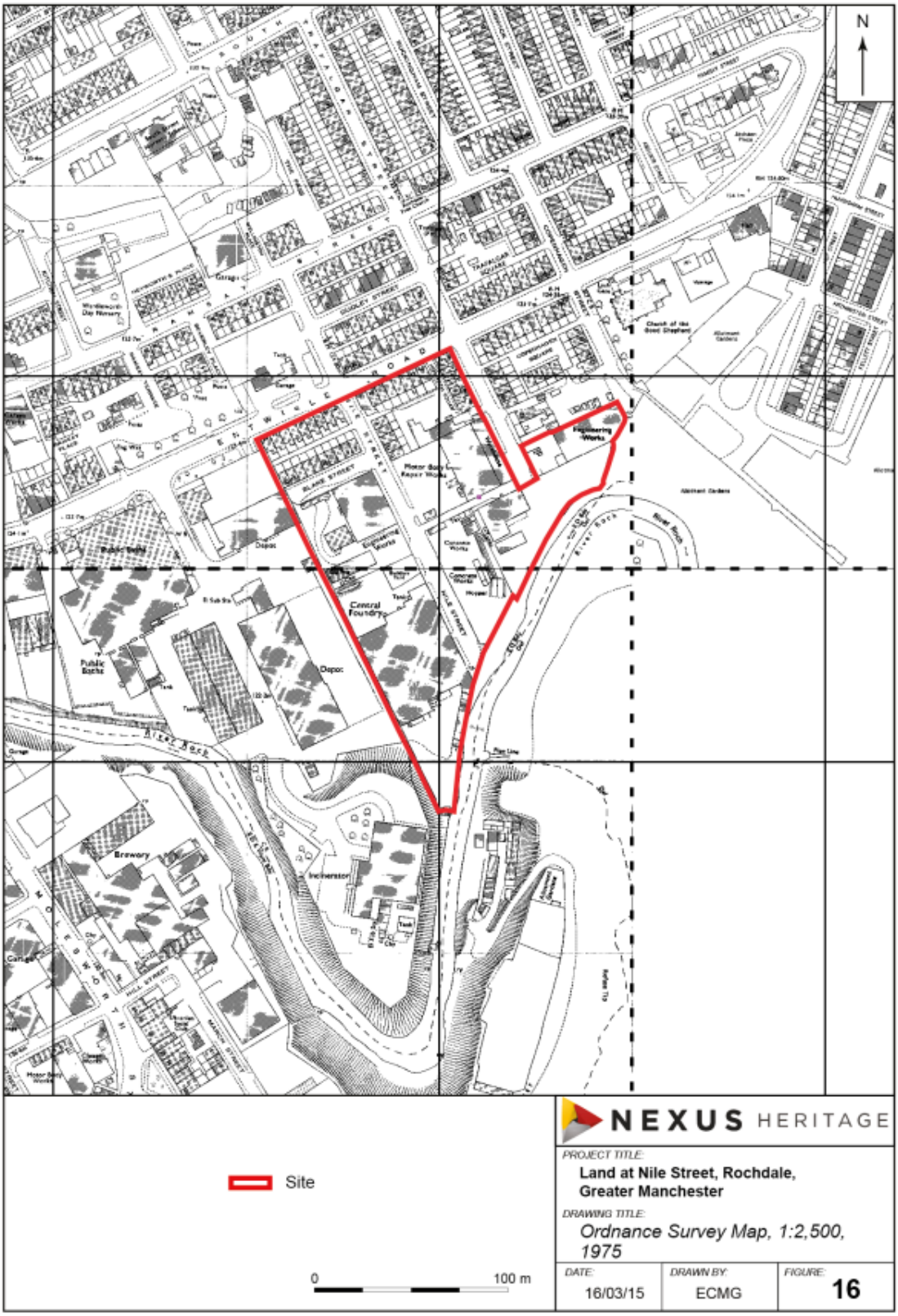
Site

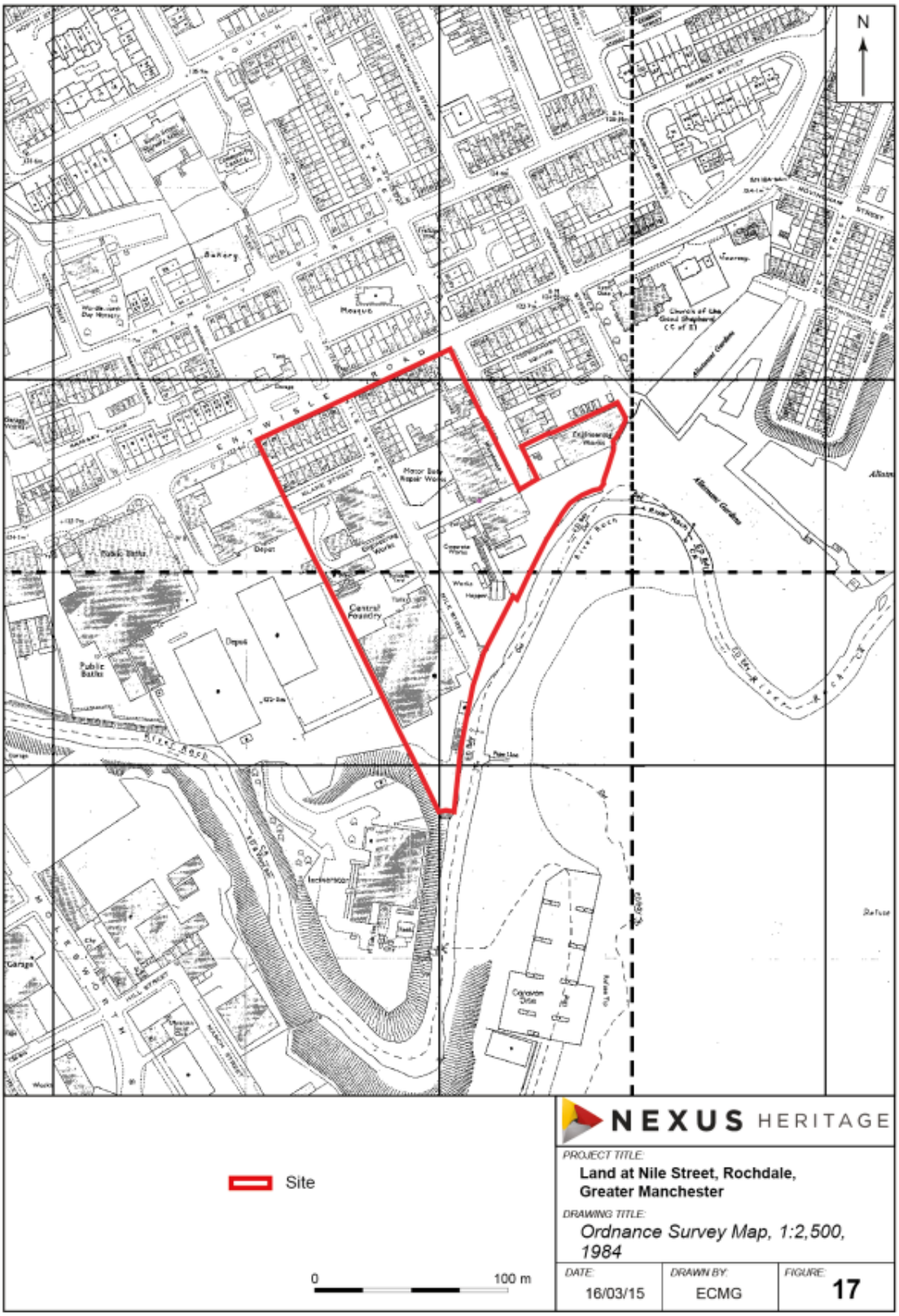
0 — 100 m

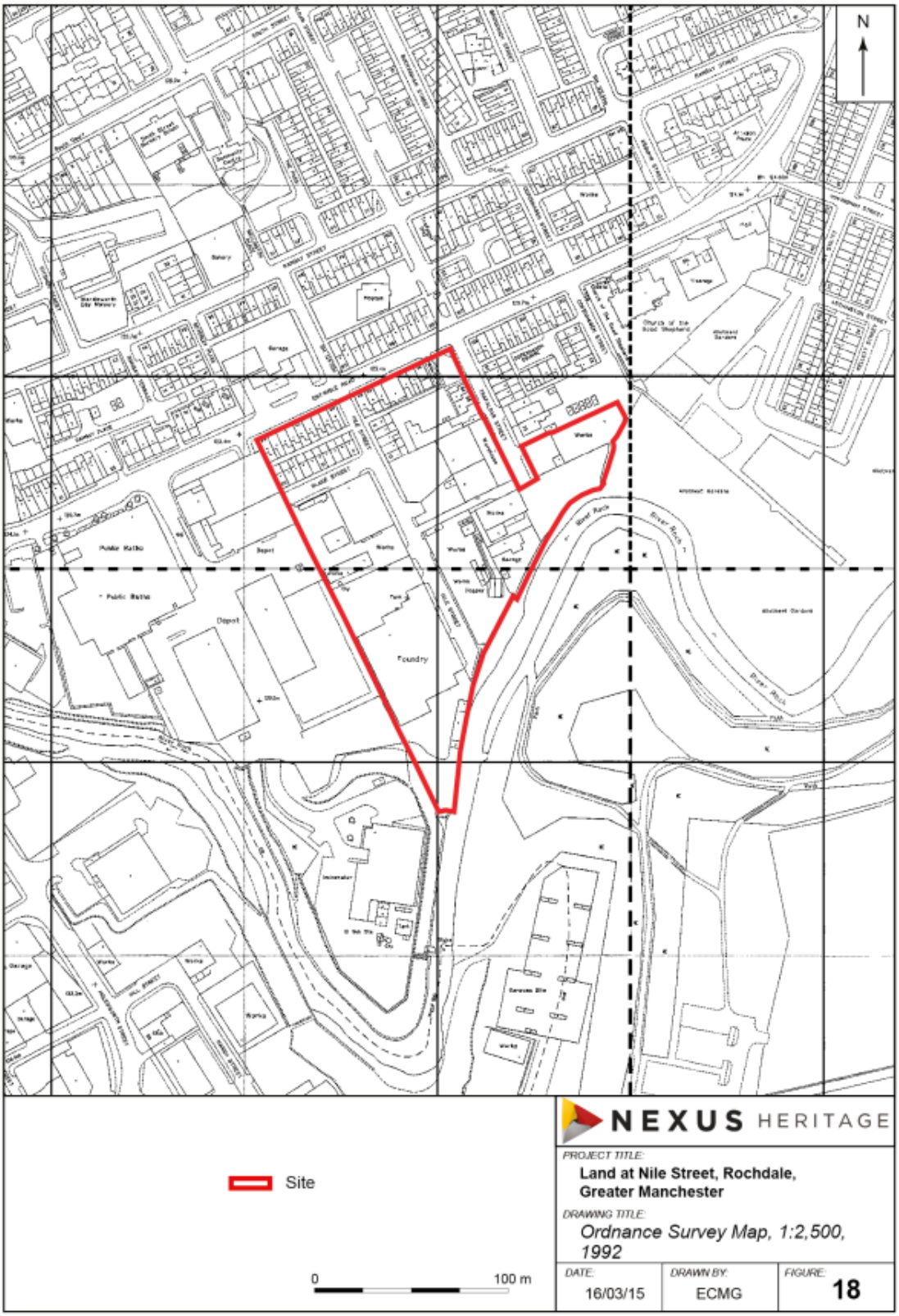
NEXUS HERITAGE		
PROJECT TITLE: Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester		
DRAWING TITLE: *Ordnance Survey Map, 1:2,500, 1910*		
DATE: 16/03/15	DRAWN BY: ECMG	FIGURE: **13**

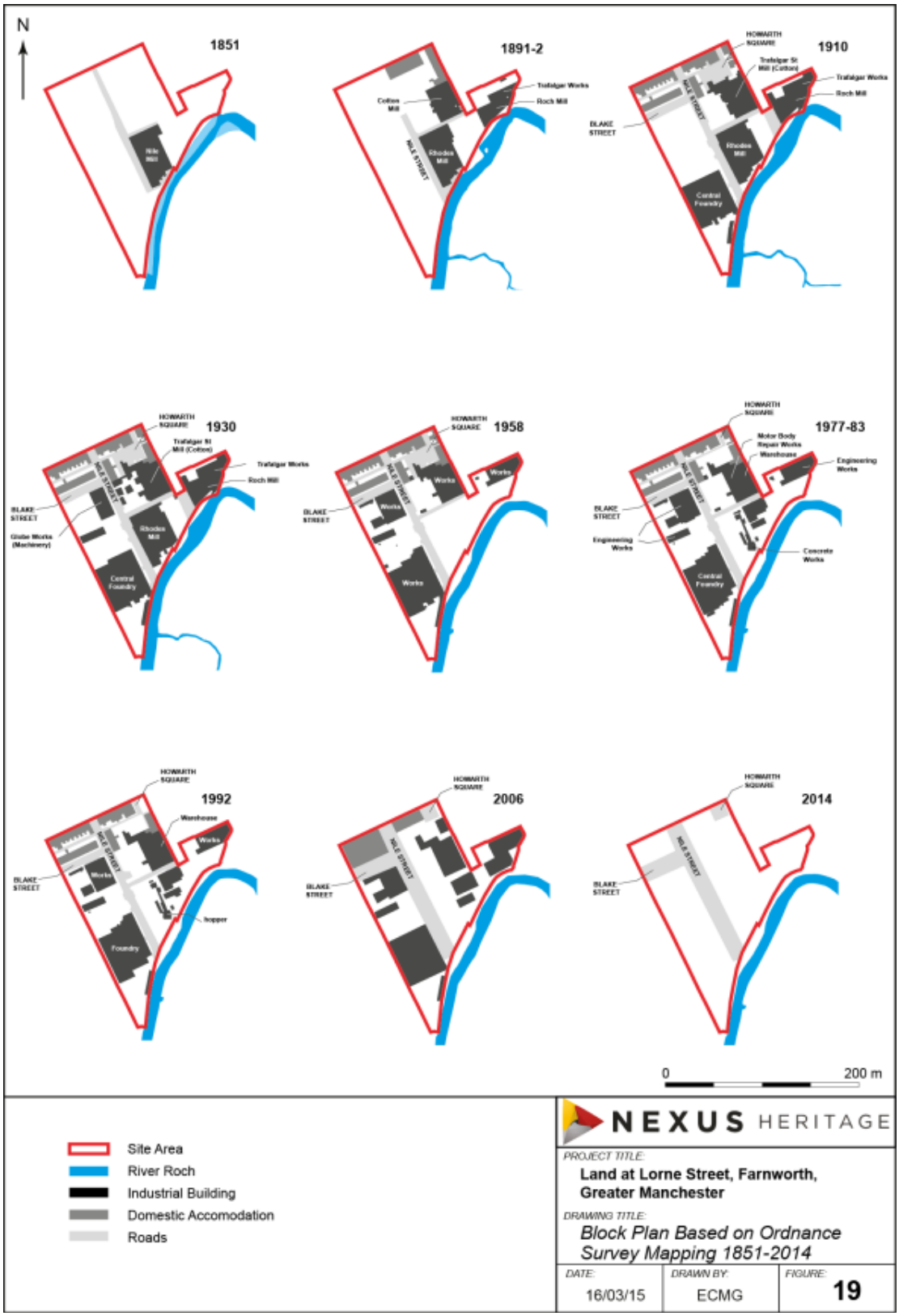

N
WARD SOUTH
Globe Works
Sanitary Depot
Central Foundry
Tarpaulin Factory
Aerial Cable
STALEYBRIDGE
Site
0
100 m
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Ordnance Survey Map, 1:2,500, 1930
DATE:
16/03/15
DRAWN BY:
ECMG
FIGURE:
14


N
Site
0
100 m
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Ordnance Survey Map, 1:2,500, 1958
DATE:
16/03/15
DRAWN BY:
ECMG
FIGURE:
15


N
Site
0
100 m
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Ordnance Survey Map, 1:2,500, 1975
DATE:
16/03/15
DRAWN BY:
ECMG
FIGURE:
16


N
Site
0
100 m
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Ordnance Survey Map, 1:2,500, 1984
DATE:
16/03/15
DRAWN BY:
ECMG
FIGURE:
17


N
Foundry
Site
0
100 m
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Nile Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Ordnance Survey Map, 1:2,500, 1992
DATE:
16/03/15
DRAWN BY:
ECMG
FIGURE:
18


N
1851
1891-2
1910
1930
1958
1977-83
1992
2006
2014
0
200 m
Site Area
River Roch
Industrial Building
Domestic Accomodation
Roads
NEXUS HERITAGE
PROJECT TITLE:
Land at Lorne Street, Farnworth, Greater Manchester
DRAWING TITLE:
Block Plan Based on Ordnance Survey Mapping 1851-2014
DATE:
16/03/15
DRAWN BY:
ECMG
FIGURE:
19

The map from 1984 (Fig.18) can be cross-referenced with some aerial photographs of the Site taken as part of a RCHME/GMAU survey of Greater Manchester's cotton mills during the mid-1980s[1] (N. Redhead pers. comm.). A selection of these photographs (14442/SF3190/31-37) is provided below courtesy of GMAAS.

Plate 1- aerial photograph of the Site, mid 1980s, from the south-west

[1] A survey to identify and record all surviving textile mills within Greater Manchester was undertaken by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (RCHME) and the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU), between 1985 and 1991. The Greater Manchester Textile Mills Survey was jointly funded by RCHME and the Greater Manchester Council, and later its successor body, the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities The objectives of the survey were twofold: to create an archive of survey data, and to publish the results. The survey was completed in 1991 and the results were published in *Cotton Mills in Greater Manchester*, by M. Williams with D.A. Farnie (Preston: Carnegie Publishing Ltd, 1992).

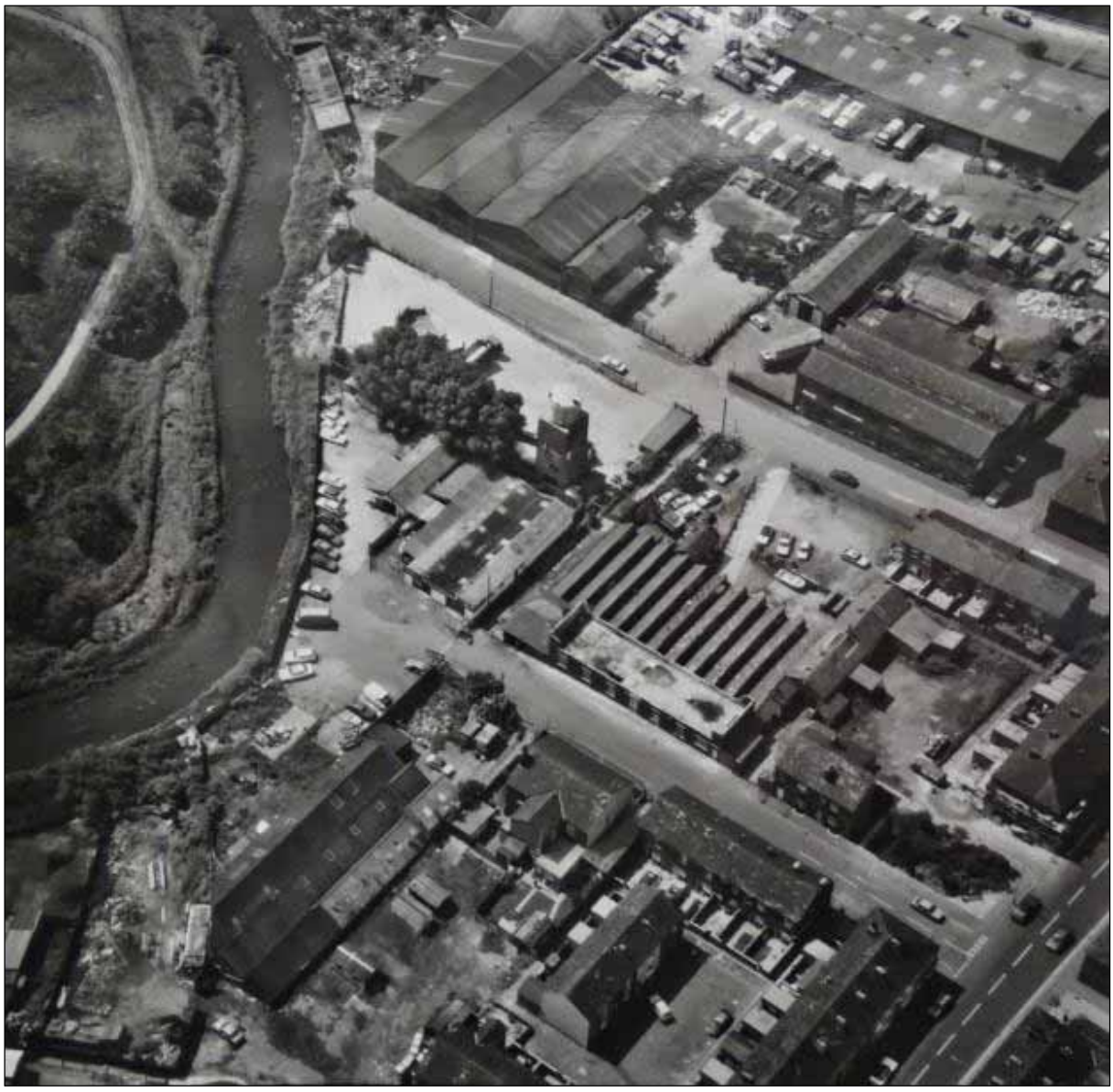


Plate 2- aerial photograph of the Site, mid 1980s, from the north-east

Plate 3: - aerial photograph of the Site, mid 1980s, from the north-east

Plate 4: - aerial photograph of the Site, mid 1980s, from the south-east

Previous Archaeological Investigations

This Site has not been the subject to known archaeological investigations

Site Walk-Over Survey

The Site was visited on 12 March 2015 in dry, overcast conditions and the characteristics of the Site as outlined on p. 6 above were confirmed. The Site no longer contains any above ground structures, which historically are known to have once been present.

Plate 5: Sight-line into the Site, looking south-south-west, towards the River Roch

Plate 6: Sight-line across the Site, looking south along the tarmacadam surface of Nile Street.

Plate 7: Sight-line across the Site, looking south-east.

Plate 8: Brick wall farming western boundary to Site, laid to English Garden Wall bond

Plate 9: Sight-line across the Site, looking north along the tarmacadam surface of Nile Street.

Plate 10: Sight-line across the Site, looking north-east

Plate 11: Upstanding stone-built wall atop the northern embankment of the River Roch

Plate 12: Sight-line across the Site, looking north-east along boundary to River Roch.

Plate 13: Sight-line across the extreme eastern portion of the Site, looking north to boundary with residences on Trafalgar Street.

Plate 14: detail of brick wall (laid in an eccentric bond apparently mixing Flemish Bond and Scottish Bond) and embedded rolled steel joist structure), presumably boundary to or wall of industrial building which once occupied this part of the Site (Trafalgar Works)

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AND POTENTIAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPACTS

The application proposals have been developed within the context of an appreciation of the archaeological potential of the site. The Design and Access Statement submitted with the application sets out the proposals in some detail and should be read in conjunction with this archaeological assessment.

Countryside Properties wish to develop 61 dwellings with associated works on land off Nile Street.

The general arrangement of the new buildings, vehicle and pedestrian access and circulation routes, and landscaping can be seen on Fig. 20.

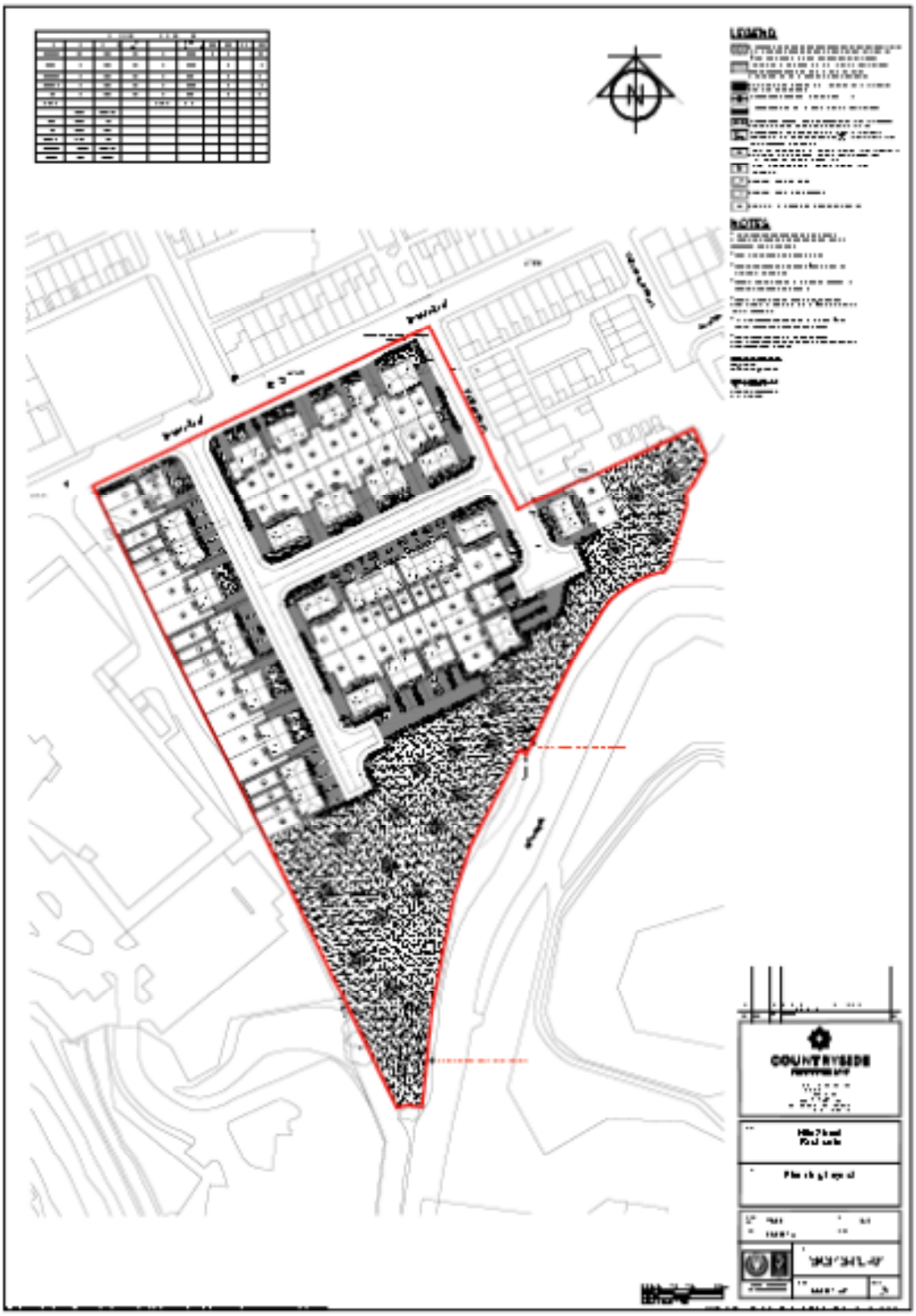


Figure 20: Planning Layout

Direct Impacts

The assessment of the archaeology of the Site has been undertaken in the knowledge of the uncertainties that arise when trying to assess a resource that is not wholly known and is often poorly understood. It should be noted that the assessment is based on information held in source repositories and published data. Neither of these represents exhaustive and comprehensive sources of information on the presence/absence of archaeological features. However, from the data available it is possible to quantify and qualify the known archaeological resource, to determine the potential for as yet unknown or unrecorded archaeological sites and historic landscape features to be present and identify areas within the Site where activities are likely to have compromised archaeological survival. These factors have been taken into consideration during this preparation of this assessment. This information has in turn been considered against the pre-existing impacts to the Site which may have compromised the survival of any archaeological remains.

Potential for Archaeological Remains to be Present and Their Significance

The Site was once occupied by structures the earliest of which probably dates to the mid-19th century and from this period on the Site was subjected to periodic use, alteration and development, mainly industrial in character but also with some domestic accommodation in the form of terraced housing. No historic structures survive as extant fabric (with the exception of boundary walls) but the remains of foundations, internal and external floors and surfaces and cellars/basements, engine beds and furnace floors/flues, chimney bases, wells etc may be present as sub-surface features. The site may also contain relict land-surfaces dating to the medieval and earlier periods.

The potential for as yet unknown archaeological remains to be present at the Site is therefore, estimated as high. However, the level of preservation of any archaeological remains at the Site is likely to be variable as later 19th and 20th century development is likely to have had an adverse impact on the condition, survival and legibility of earlier fabric in the archaeological record.

The significance of any archaeological remains at the Site can be tested against a range of criteria as advised by the Secretary of State's and as contained in Annexe 1 of the policy statement on scheduled monuments produced by the Department of Culture, Media, and Sport (2010). These criteria relate to period, rarity, documentation, group value, survival/condition, fragility/vulnerability, diversity, and potential.

Documentation: the historical development of the Site from the mid 19th century can be traced with some certainty from cartographic and other sources. Further documentary research may furnish additional evidence, including more precise dating of the construction of the industrial buildings. In addition census returns are likely to provide data on the occupiers of the residences. However, such research is not necessary for this assessment, the conclusions of which would not be materially altered by addtional documentary data.

Group Value: the Site has a demonstrable place within the wider elements of the 19th and 20th century Rochdale townscape. In this respect, the archaeology of the Site has a high group value with the remains of demolished mills and housing in the vicinity and with the remaining upstanding mills and 19th century housing stock.

Survival/Condition: it is possible that any buried remains of the now demolished structures may survive as archaeological deposits and features, relatable to the minor survival of some upstanding fabric as demonstrated above. The geotechnical survey has identified subsurface obstructions which may be foundations and/or floor surfaces associated with the mill. The degree of 'grubbing up' of near surface elements during the demolition is unknown, but it would be reasonable to assume some degree of archaeological survival to various degrees across the Site. The possibility that medieval or post-medieval agricultural layers survive beneath later hard surfacing cannot be discounted entirely, but is very unlikely given the ground modification required for the construction and in any case the archaeological value of such layers is very low.

Fragility/Vulnerability: any buried archaeological remains, should they be present and survive *in-situ*, are vulnerable to damage or destruction during any ground works on the Site.

Diversity: the potential archaeological remains relate to the 19th and 20th-century Industrial endeavour, namely, textile production and associated works such as an iron foundry and housing. The multiple characteristics of the remains means that the Site has a medium diversity value. ,

Overall Potential: there are no known prehistoric sites within the Site and the potential for prehistoric remains is considered to be very low. The potential for Roman, early medieval and medieval remains to survive *in-situ* within the Site Area is similarly considered to be equally low, reflecting the absence or low-intensity of known archaeological remains form this period in the vicinity and the intensive development of the site from the mid-19th century onwards. The greatest potential for buried archaeological remains derives from the construction and use of a mills at the Site in the mid to late 19th century and through to the mid-20th century and residential terraces, presumably for the workforce of the mills. The archaeology of the textile industries of Great Manchester is an acknowledged research priority for North West England and any archaeological remains associated with the mill are likely to be limited to a local/regional significance and may be further diminished in value by variable degrees of preservation and legibility.

The impact on any archaeological remains would arise from pre-construction activities – such as geotechnical site investigations, or ground preparation/improvement/remediation. Construction activities with the potential to impact upon archaeological remains include excavations for the foundations of buildings, excavations for services such as drains and sewers and excavations in order to lay the sub-grade as a base for roads, paths and circulation areas. The strategy for this particular Site may include a programme of remediation and enabling works to construct a suitable development platform and the programme would impact

upon relict foundations and other buried obstructions which may include any archaeological remains present.

A likely foundation solution for the proposed development may target the bearing layer of the natural medium-dense granular deposits and cohesive deposits *c.* 2.00-3.00m bgl, where an acceptable Allowable Bearing Pressure (ABP) is anticipated (e3p 2015b). However, due to the variability of the drift and areas of deep Made Ground up to *c.* 4.70m bgl, a specialist foundation solution will be required to mitigate the variation and low ABP's within the shallow soils.

Foundation depths should take account of the presence of proposed trees with foundations deepened locally and where foundations would bridge different strata, allowance for reinforcement and/or increased depth would be made. Extensive remnant substructures are anticipated and therefore over-dig for foundations is to be expected. Pre-boring and breaking out of obstructions is likely to be required for piling and the foundations located in shrinkable clay soils will need to be deepened where they are within the influence zone of any proposed trees. The construction programme for the proposed development would give consideration to re-engineering the ground using a Vibro Replacement Stone Column (VRSC) as well as the use of a pre cast driven pile solution with the piles potentially extending into stiff, high-strength cohesive deposits at *c.* 6.00-10.00m bgl.

It should, however, be noted that a significant proportion of the proposed development is given over to open space and that the facility exists for any ground works in the open space to be light-touch in character, effectively allowing any sub-surface archaeological remains to be preserved *in situ*. The open space corresponds with the footprints of Roch Mill, the Central Foundry and with a proportion of the Nile/Rhodes Mill. With this in mind the proposed development can be said to contain a degree of fortuitous, but nevertheless, inherent archaeological mitigation which not only secures the appropriate treatment of archaeological remains but would render any archaeological attendances in that part of the Site given over to open space, redundant.

Indirect Impacts on Settings of Heritage Assets

The effect of development on the significance of the setting of heritage assets (including archaeological assets) is a material consideration in determining a planning application and NPPF advises Local Planning Authorities that they should require an applicant to provide a description of the significance of the archaeological assets affected and the contribution of their setting to that significance.

Setting is defined as the surroundings in which an archaeological asset is experienced and all archaeological assets have a setting, irrespective of the form in which they survive and whether they are designated or not. Therefore all the archaeological assets identified during this assessment have settings and it is right and proper for this assessment to identify the key attributes of the archaeological assets and their settings and the potential impact upon the settings occasioned by proposed development within the Site. In order to identify these key

attributes it is necessary to consider the physical surroundings of the assets, including relationships with other heritage assets, including the way the assets are appreciated and the assets' associations and patterns of use.

A consideration of these attributes allows an estimation to be made of whether, how and to what degree setting makes a contribution to the heritage assets.

Development is capable of affecting the settings of archaeological assets and the ability to understand experience and appreciate them. An assessment of the scope of the magnitude and effect of any impact on settings is part of the remit of this assessment and has been undertaken with reference to the English Heritage document *The Setting of Heritage Assets: English Heritage Guidance*. It is noted that English Heritage states that while heritage assets such as archaeological sites which consist solely of buried remains may not be readily understood by a casual observer, they nonetheless retain a presence in the landscape (in terms of their location, topographical position, and spatial relationship with other heritage assets) and so, like all heritage assets, have a setting. While the form of survival of an asset may influence the contribution its setting makes to its significance, it does not follow that the invisibility of the asset necessarily reduces that contribution.

The value of an archaeological asset can be harmed or lost through alteration within or destruction of its setting. Current policy states that the extent of a setting is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. It is acknowledged that a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the value of a cultural heritage asset, it may affect the ability to appreciate that value or it may be neutral.

Setting is most commonly framed with reference to visual considerations and so lines of sight to or from a cultural heritage site will play an important part in considerations of setting. However, non-visual considerations also apply, such as spatial associations and an understanding of the historic relationship between places. In order to undertake an assessment of significance of the settings to a level of thoroughness proportionate to the relative importance of the assets, the settings of which may be affected by development on the Assessment Site, this assessment has sought to describe the setting for each significant cultural heritage site and provide a measure of the contribution that the setting plays in the value of the asset.

The overall objective of the assessment of setting is to provide a realistic assessment of any indirect effects with reference to cultural heritage assets and their settings and allow for an informed decision-making process. The broad approach adopted has followed the English Heritage guidance and takes the form of a series of steps:

Step 1: identify heritage assets and their settings

Step 2: assessment of, whether how and to what degree these settings make a contribution to the significance of the heritage assets

Step 3: assessment of the effects of the proposed development, whether beneficial or harmful,

on that significance

Figure 4 illustrates the location of all known archaeological assets in the vicinity of the Site.

In order to identify archaeological assets and their settings a suitable area of land extending around the Site boundaries has been utilised which represents the likely distances at which it was anticipated that a perceptible measure of magnitude of change to settings might bring about an adverse impact to the settings of archaeological assets, and therefore their significances. This area is 1km and it corresponds with the assessment area chosen for this archaeological assessment. Beyond the area considered it is judged that the general sweep and interest within any given sightline across the landscape would be such that any impact upon the setting of any undesignated cultural heritage asset arsing from development within the densely developed urban area around Rochdale would be sufficiently diluted so as to render the impact immaterial. However, in order that potential impacts to settings beyond the chosen assessment area were not inadvertently discounted without proper consideration, certain designated heritage assets (the nearest Scheduled Ancient Monument) which is further than 1km from the location of the proposed development has also been identified and taken into account. The nearest Scheduled Ancient Monuments to the Site is the March Barn Bridge (NHL ref. 1005559) on the Rochdale Canal – *c.* 3km to the south-west of the Site. Due to the separation distance and the intervening land form and built-environment development at the Site would have no impact on the setting of this designated heritage asset.

Many archaeological assets within any given landscape may be visible from a number of locations – publically accessible areas such as footpaths, streets and the open countryside and also private spaces such as dwellings and private land. The majority of sightlines from to, into and across archaeological assets are, therefore, incidental and are not intrinsically or intimately associated with the significances assigned to any given archaeological asset. However, there are instances where the characteristics of sightlines may be have been intentionally designed and as part of the setting are integral to the significance. Taking into account these considerations the archaeological assets identified in this assessment do not require a detailed setting assessment. In addition, a degree of inherent landscape mitigation has been designed into the proposed development which, in critical boundary zones, softens the incorporation of the development into the surrounding articulation zones with the existing environment.

Gaz. No	Identifier	Status	Name	Setting Description	The Contribution of Setting to the Significance of the Asset	Effects of the proposed development, on significance
	STEP 1				STEP 2	STEP 3
1	GMHER 5134.1.0	Undesignated	Trafalgar Mill (site of)	The proposed development would lead to the effective disturbance of the asset, as such it would no longer have a setting upon which an impact can be considered.		
2	GMHER 5128.1.0	Undesignated	Hammer Mill (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.		
3	GMHER 5126.1.0	Undesignated	Fairfield Mill (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.		
4	GMHER 5124.1.0	Undesignated	Croft Mill (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.		
5	GMHER 5123.1.0	Undesignated	Clover Mill (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.		

6	GMHER 688.1.0	Undesignated	Roch Viaduct (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
7	GMHER 714.1.0	Undesignated	Sword (find spot)	The archaeological find has been removed from its original location and therefore it no longer has a setting upon which an impact can be considered.
8	GMHER 2627.1.0	Undesignated	Former Rochdale Station (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
9	GMHER 5139.1.0	Undesignated	Vicars Moss Mill (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
10	GMHER 691.1.0	Undesignated	Canal basin, Drake Street (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
11	GMHER 2732.1.0	Undesignated	Rochdale Grammar School (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.

12	GMHER 15500.1.0	Undesignated	Water Street Mill, River Street(site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
13	GMHER 13733.1.0	Undesignated	Rochdale Bridge	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
14	GMHER 2644.1.0	Undesignated	Amen Corner (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
15	GMHER 15498.1.0	Undesignated	Wellington Iron & Brass Foundry, River Street (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
16	GMHER 15497.1.0	Undesignated	Electric House, Smith Street (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
17	GMHER 15499.1.0	Undesignated	Bottom O'th Lane Mill (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be

				no effect on the significance of the asset.
18	GMHER 155092.1.0	Undesignated	Bowling Green Mill, Smith Street (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
19	GMHER 15501.1.0	Undesignated	Duncan Street Mill, Smith Street (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
20	GMHER 11155.1.0	Undesignated	Former Wesleyan Methodist Association Chapel (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
21	GMHER	Undesignated	Central Leisure Centre (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
22	GMHER 16073.1.0	Undesignated	Friends' Meeting House (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
23	GMHER 13404.1.1	Undesignated	Robert Street Warehouse	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into

			(site of)	account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
24	GMHER 13401.1.0	Undesignated	Robert Street Warehouse, earliest range (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
25	GMHER 10416.1.0	Undesignated	Former Wesleyan Chapel (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
26	GMHER 723.1.0	Undesignated	Holcroft Foundry (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
27	GMHER 5370.1.0	Undesignated	Duke Street Mill	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.
28	GMHER 11328.1.0	Undesignated	E Pitio Plastics (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.

29	GMHER 687.1.0	Undesignated	Yorkshire Street Railway Bridge (site of)	Due to the incidental nature of the sightlines to, from, into and across the setting of this heritage asset upon which the proposed development may have a visual influence and also taking into account the separation distance, the intervening characteristics of the landform, built and natural environment and the nature of the immediate and wider setting it is concluded that there would be no effect on the significance of the asset.

5. CONCLUSIONS

This Assessment enables an informed, sustainable and responsible approach to development works at land off Nile Street, Rochdale. The information provided meets the expectations of NPPF and the local policy in that the applicant has described the significance of known and potential archaeological assets that may be affected by proposed development. It is considered that the level of detail provided is proportionate to the assets' importance and provides sufficient information to understand the potential impact of the proposal on the significance of archaeological remains and therefore, there is sufficient information on which to make determination of the planning application.

The land-use history of the Site from the medieval period until the present day appears to be broadly traceable in that it was associated with agricultural use to the east of the historic core of Rochdale until the mid-19th century when the first of a succession of industrial developments spread across the Site, which also included residential thoroughfares.

There are no registered World Heritage Sites, Archaeological Areas or Scheduled Ancient Monuments, wholly or partly within in the Assessment Site. Therefore, this assessment confirms that the Site does not contain any designated heritage assets for which there would be a presumption in favour of preservation *in situ* and against development. There is one known undesignated archaeological assets within the site but this assessment has identified that the site corresponds to the footprints of other now demolished 19th century mills, foundries, works and housing, sub-surface remains of which may exist on the site – e.g. foundations and possibly contained basements/cellars, in addition floor surfaces, engine beds and furnace ducts etc.

The archaeological potential for the Prehistoric and Roman periods has been identified as very low, but this is based on the available information, rather than an absolute value derived from adequate data. Place-name evidence suggests that the Site is within or in close proximity to a settlement at Rochdale during the late first millennium AD, but the degree to which the community modified the landscape at the location of the Site and the potential for any evidence of this modification to survive in the archaeological record is remote, but unknown.

There are no known medieval archaeological sites or finds at the Site and the potential for sub-surface archaeological remains dating to the medieval period is considered to be low. The potential for sub-surface archaeological remains dating to the later post-medieval period- specifically the Industrial Period - is considered to be high.

On the basis of the evidence presented in this assessment the proposed development on the Site would not be contrary to any local or national policy.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

On the balance of evidence, the archaeological interest at the Site is realistically limited to a high potential for industrial archaeological remains related to the mid and late-19th century development and use of various mills, factories and housing. Any such remains are, at present characterised as a non-designated heritage asset and are likely to extend across large proportions of the Site, and in the absence of any data confirming the absence of sub-surface remains and features of archaeological interest, the precautionary principle requires an assumption that at least some archaeological remains are present at the Site. The proposed development includes the construction of 61 dwellings, the groundworks for which are likely to impact upon archaeological deposits. It must also be noted that the proposed development includes a significant area of open space and that within this space there would be no impact to archaeological deposits.

It is understood that the LPA has been advised by its archaeological advisor that it would be appropriate for a programme of archaeological work be conditioned upon any consent being granted. The following wording for a negative planning condition has been suggested by the Senior Planning Archaeologist of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service:

No demolition or development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. That programme should be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The WSI shall cover the following:

1. A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording to include:

- Desk-based documentary assessment

- Targeted archaeological evaluation trenching

- Targeted open area excavation

2. 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, architectural and historical interest represented.

3. Provision for publication and dissemination of the analysis and report on the site investigation.

4. Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds and records of the site investigation.

5. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.

Reason: In accordance with NPPF paragraph 141, to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible.

In line with its commitment to act as responsible and diligent applicant and developer Countryside Properties offers this document to the LPA in order to address in advance the first task within Part 1. of the recommended Condition and to act as a baseline for further discussion on the remaining two tasks within Part 1. and the tasks within Parts 2. to 5. inclusive.

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