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**Land at Whitworth Road, Rochdale,  
Greater Manchester (15/00942/FUL).  
March 2016  
V 1.0**



Archaeological Evaluation  
Project Code: A0073.1  
Report no. 0083

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aeon archaeology

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Archaeological Evaluation

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Project Code: A0073.1

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Client: Pulse Partnerships Ltd

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## **1.0 NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY**

Aeon Archaeology in partnership with Nexus Heritage was commissioned by Pulse Partnerships Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological mitigation of a proposed commercial development located on approximately c0.405 ha of land to the north of the centre of Rochdale, Greater Manchester.

The archaeological evaluation at Whitworth Road, Rochdale has shown that the preservation of structural remains belonging to the former 19<sup>th</sup> Century back to back housing is high. The upstanding remains of the cellars exist to a height of 1.5m and the laid floors are, for the most part, preserved and intact. The stratigraphic evidence is also well preserved and is of a degree that permits the phasing and order of construction to be firmly established within the archaeological record. The evaluation has also shown that ancillary features such as culverted drains, outbuildings, and features within the cellars have survived to a high level.

The historic cartographic evidence for the site is comprehensive and the revealed structural remains have been overlain with accuracy on to the historic mapping in order to confirm their identity.

It is however likely that despite the high level of preservation within the trench, the site as a whole is unlikely to have such a high potential for preserved remains. This is due to the construction of the later warehouse and garage to the immediate west and south of the site, the disturbance of which was observed in deposits at the western edge of the trench. It is probable that areas of preserved structural remains occur and persist across the site but these are likely to be isolated pockets that have lain outside of the later commercial units. It is therefore considered that the potential for preserved buried remains across the rest of the site is relatively low.

## 2.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology in partnership with Nexus Heritage was commissioned by Pulse Partnerships Ltd to carry out a programme of archaeological mitigation of a proposed commercial development located on approximately c0.405 ha of land to the north of the centre of Rochdale at grid reference **SD 89867 13990** (figures 1 and 2).

The archaeological evaluation was undertaken as a condition of full planning permission (**ref.15/00942/FUL**) for the demolition of the existing depot building and garages and the construction of two commercial units (A & B). Unit A will be to the northern side of the Site and Unit B to the south-eastern corner. The buildings are to comprise a steel framed portal shed construction.

Access to the Site will be via the existing entrance to the south-eastern corner, and car parking facilities will be provided to the majority of the southern part of the Site. There will be some soft landscaping around the Site. Site preparation in the footprints of Units A and B will include demolition of all structures and grubbing up of hard obstructions down to 1.0m below proposed formation level – to include the remove any existing cellar floors / stone slabs etc (DW Consulting Engineers 2015). Site preparation under car park areas and hardstandings will include for demolition all structures down to c. 450mm below proposed formation level (DW Consulting Engineers 2015).

The site of the proposed development corresponds with the location of now demolished residences, characterised as early workers' housing originating in the early 19th century and remaining extant until the 1960s. The nature of this domestic accommodation, including back to- back housing is an acknowledged target of archaeological research and inquiry in Greater Manchester.

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council (hereafter the Council) , 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 18*

*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 (WSI) which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Local Planning Authority. The WSI shall cover the following:*

1. A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording to include:
  - targeted archaeological evaluation
  - (depending upon the results of the evaluation) soil-strip, area excavation and recording
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 in Greater Manchester's Past Revealed series.

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: To record and advance the understanding of the significance of any buried archaeological remains for archival and research purposes in accordance with UDP Policy BE/10 and paragraph 141 within the National Planning Policy Framework.

Reason for pre-commencement condition: The commencement of development before the WSI is carried out could negatively impact upon archaeological remains on the site.

The Client has negotiated with RMBC on the scope of works to address the Condition and an agreement has been reached between the Client and RMBC to the effect that the archaeological works will comprise a single archaeological trench, towards the northeast corner of the Site; located and excavated in order to investigate the footprints of a pair of back-to-back houses.

A written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (ref: 3277.RO1a) was undertaken by Nexus Heritage in December 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 3.

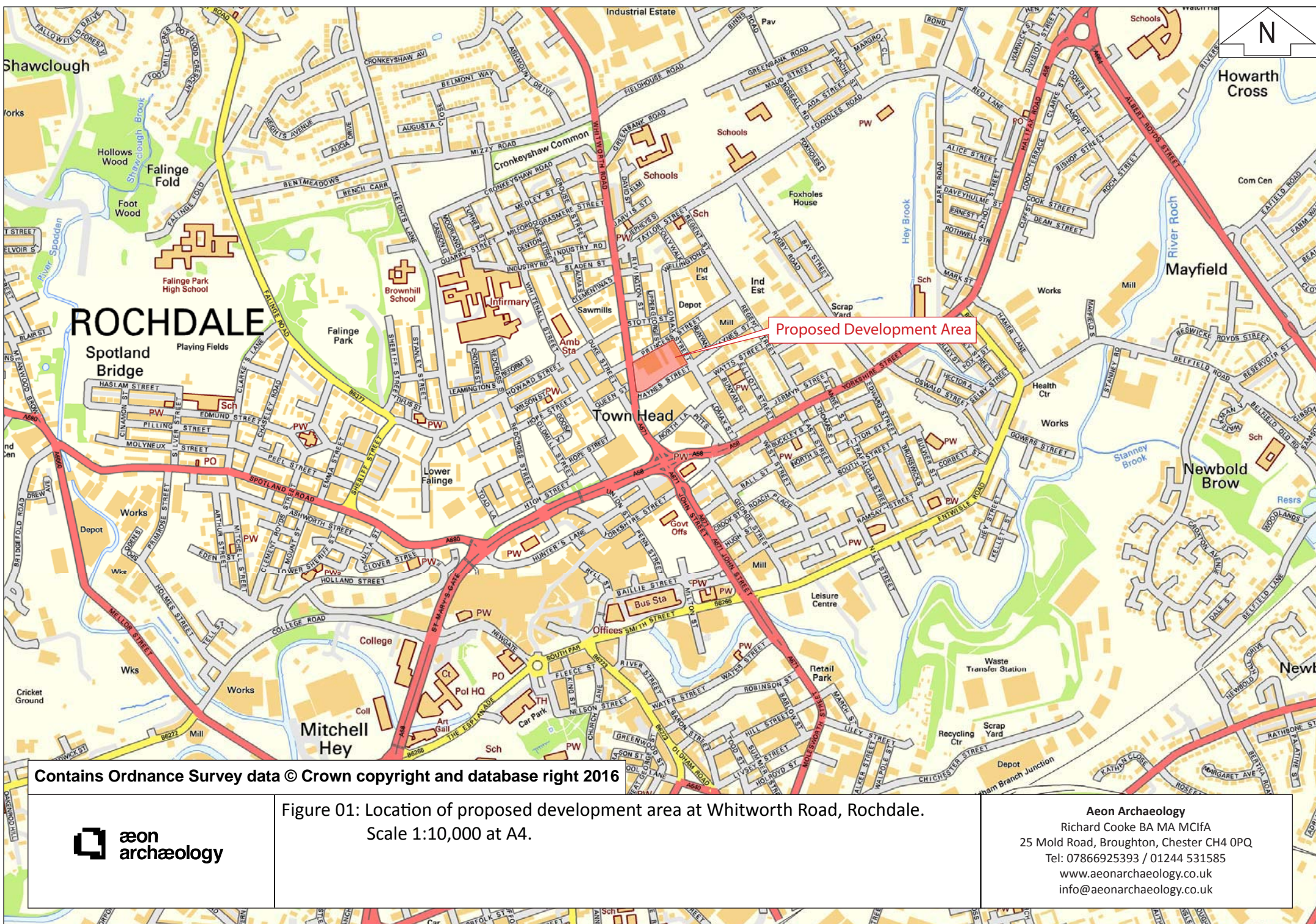
An archaeological assessment (ref: 3270/RO1) was undertaken by Nexus Heritage in October 2015 and provided to Aeon Archaeology. The assessment collated valuable data on remains dating from the early land-use history of the Site and confirmed that the Site corresponds with a complex of housing which originated during the mid 19th century.

The assessment of the site through a single archaeological evaluation trench measuring 15.0m by 12.0m was deemed adequate for the purposes intended as represented in the trench array reproduced in figure 3.

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).





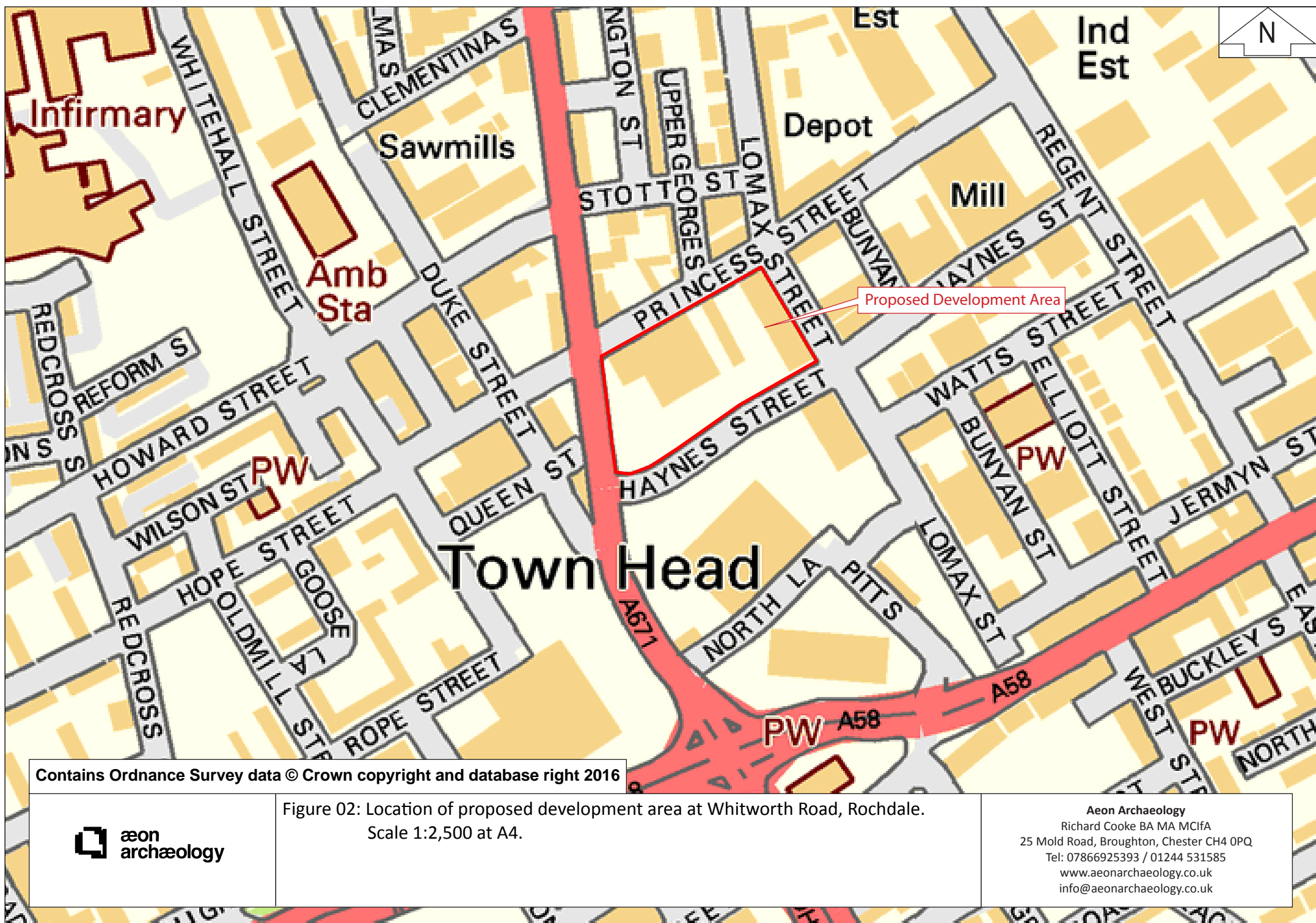
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Figure 01: Location of proposed development area at Whitworth Road, Rochdale.  
Scale 1:10,000 at A4.

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Figure 02: Location of proposed development area at Whitworth Road, Rochdale.  
Scale 1:2,500 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 trench.

The broad aims of the archaeological mitigation was:

- to enhance knowledge and understanding of the historic environment of Rochdale in particular, and north-western England in general;
- to effectively and rapidly disseminate the results of the project, and to archive them, enabling the project findings to be widely and readily accessed by professional and nonprofessional audiences alike;
- to ensure that professional expertise and experience is advanced by the continual improvement of archaeological method and practice.

The detailed objectives of the archaeological mitigation was:

- To make a full and proper record of any archaeological structures, deposits, features, artefacts and ecofacts within the relevant areas of the Site, permitting a reconstruction of the site's history and formation processes. To recover all artefacts and material samples from deposits of potential;
- To analyse the site records, artefacts and ecofacts to produce a report on the archaeology of the site, identify the research implications of the site with reference to the regional research agenda and recent work in the Rochdale area.

The archaeological mitigation was implemented with reference to a research design which reflects the ambitions of the North-West England Regional Research Agenda (2007), specifically relating the Industrial and Modern periods (McNeil and Newman 2007a and b).

The trench array was proposed as part of the WSI prepared by Nexus Heritage 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 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 the trench and slight repositioning to take account of buried services and other constraints was acknowledged as a possibility within the WSI.

An eight ton tracked excavator with hydraulic ground breaker was used initially to remove the upper surface of modern reinforced concrete after which a 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.



Reproduced from Nexus Heritage WSI report (3277\_RO1a)

Figure 03: Location of archaeological evaluation trench at Whitworth Road, Rochdale.

## **5.0 SITE LOCATION**

Rochdale is situated within the north-eastern part of Greater Manchester and the Site lies to the north of the centre of Rochdale at grid reference SD 89867 13990. The Site is bounded to the north by Princess Street, to the south by Haynes Street (from which vehicular and pedestrian access is gained).

The site is an approximate rectangle in plan form, and had until recently been occupied by standing buildings in the form of a warehouse and attached office block. The open surface areas of the Site are laid to hardstanding.

The British Geological Survey (BGS) characterises the bedrock at the Site as Old Lawrence Rock (sandstone) above Westphalian carboniferous Pennine Lower Coal Measures the Lower Coal Measures – generally undifferentiated sandstone, mudstone and coal seams.

A geotechnical ground investigation was undertaken in October 2015 (ref: T.J Booth Associates, 2015) and comprised at least seven machine excavated test pits. The open test pits were examined by Nexus Heritage who confirmed made ground of mixed composition existed across the Site. The ground investigation encountered numerous obstructions which were likely to be associated with brick foundations and brick/stone floor surfaces associated with residential dwellings and yards.



## 6.0 HISTORY OF THE SITE

The planning application to develop the Site was accompanied by an archaeological assessment (Nexus Heritage 2015).

It is not intended to rehearse the detail of the assessment document here, but in summary research undertaken for the assessment confirmed that the Site corresponds with a complex of housing which originated during the mid 19th century. The Ordnance Survey (OS) 1845 map surveyed shows that the Site had been partially built upon – and appears to show the beginnings of housing within the Site to the south of Princess Street. The Site also showed three east-west thoroughfares extending off Whitworth Road – these were to become later Clear Street, Proctor Street and Uncle Tom's Place/Uncle Sam's Place.

The large scale OS map of 1851 shows the disposition of the Site in the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The eastern part of the Site appears to remain undeveloped, its edge defined by a culvert leading to a pool in the south-east corner. The western side contains large properties fronting onto Whitworth Road. Towards the centre of the Site three rows of back-to-back houses form the rear of the properties on Whitworth Street. There are at least 30 back-to-back houses and two through-terraces. There are two smaller detached buildings about half-way along what was to become Clear Street.

The OS map of 1893 shows some changes at the Site since 1850 and depicts in fine detail, although doesn't name, all streets, courts ('places') back-to back housing, blind-back housing, through-terraces and blind-terraces. The street, the eastern edge of which now forms the eastern boundary of the Site is named as Richmond Street. The row of housing on the northern side of the street which is later named as Clear Street appears to retain the structures in the centre of the street first shown in detail on the OS map of 1851. The centre of the Site also contains a large building aligned approximately east-west which is later identified as a warehouse. The OS map of 1910 is all but identical to that of 1893.

The OS map dating to 1930 appears to show no meaningful changes since the OS edition of 1910. The OS map of 1958 shows that a complex of houses to the south of Clean Street and the north of Proctor Street, extending towards the Site's eastern boundary had been demolished. Substantial changes appear to have been wrought upon the open space known Uncle Sam's Place. The former back-to back houses at this location are now mapped as through-terraces backing onto it from Proctor Street and Haynes Street and they appear to have been provided with back-yards and the court has diminished to an alley.

The 1961 OS map appears to show no changes from 1958. The 1972 OS map shows that by the early 1970s the Site has witnessed significant changes. The residences on Haynes Street, Clean Street, Uncle Tom's Place and much of the housing along Whitworth Road had been removed. The OS map of 1977 shows that the Site has been cleared of all housing and is now occupied by a garage in the northern portion and associated yard to the south.

The greatest potential for buried archaeological remains at the Site derives from the construction and use of a complex of dwellings at the Site in the early/mid-19th century through to the mid-20th century. The remains of these structures have been observed in geo-technical test pits excavated in order to inform the planning application (TJ Booth Associates 2015). The archaeology of the domestic arrangements and living conditions of Great Manchester's poor during the 19th century is a recognised research priority for North West England (Brennand 2007) and any archaeological remains associated with dwellings are likely to furnish knowledge of local/regional significance. The principal archaeological interest at the Site is, therefore, focussed on the remains of domestic occupation, in particular, a pair of back-to-back houses –one fronting onto Princess Street and one fronting onto Clean Street.

## **7.0 QUANTIFICATION OF RESULTS**

### **7.1 The Documentary Archive**

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

Trench sheets	1
Digital photographs	100
Context Sheets	24
Drawings	9 on 9 sheets

### **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**

Several ceramic artefacts were recovered unstratified from the trench and have been the focus of a specialist analysis report reproduced in section 8.0 below.

## 8.0 SPECIALIST ANALYSIS – CERAMICS

### Introduction

A small finds assemblage – comprising pottery and clay tobacco pipe all dating to the 19th century – was recovered during machine stripping.

### 1. Post-Medieval Pottery

#### Summary

A total of 21 sherds, weighing 3993g, representing a total of five individual vessels, were recovered. Wares were limited to blackware, slipware and stoneware, with forms limited to large utilitarian types comprising bowls and bottles. The vessels are quantified in the table below.

<i>Ware</i>	<i>No. of sherds</i>	<i>Weight (g)</i>	<i>No. of vessels</i>
Blackware	18	3620	2
Slipware	1	158	1
Stoneware	2	215	2
<i>Total</i>	<b>21</b>	<b>3993</b>	<b>5</b>

Table 1: Quantification of pottery

#### Catalogue

##### Blackware

1. Bottle, 17 sherds from a large bottle including spout and single vertical loop handle. The red fabric contains striations of white clay and the glaze, which covers the interior and extends to above the base on the exterior, has a lustrous metallic sheen. The body of the vessel has pronounced throwing ribs. This vessel was probably produced at one of the Buckley potteries in Flintshire, North Wales.
2. Bowl or jar, a single sherd from the wall of a red-bodied, white-streaked vessel glazed on the interior.

##### Slipware

3. Bowl, a single sherd, forming the complete profile to a medium-sized flared bowl with flattened everted rim. The surface of the rim has been decorated with a single wavy line, the upper of the interior with two parallel lines, and the base coated all in trailed white slip under a clear glaze. The red body of this vessel is very dense with the occasional white inclusion. This vessel may also have been produced at Buckley, Flintshire.

##### Stoneware

4. Bowl, a single large sherd from a medium-sized, steep-sided bowl with flattened everted rim (damaged). The exterior of this vessel has been decorated with impressed bands of rosettes and circles between borders of vertical lines. The fabric is grey and the glaze a lustrous orange-brown.
5. Bottle, spout only, probably from a bottle of large proportions. The fabric is buff coloured and the brown glaze very worn.

## **Discussion**

The pottery recovered represent a small assemblage of kitchen wares, comprising medium-sized bowls and large beer or spirit bottles, all dating to the middle of the 19th century. The blackware and slipware vessels are typical products of the country potteries that produced robust, utilitarian wares suitable for everyday use in rural communities throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th century. The large blackware bottle in particular was probably produced at Buckley, Flintshire, and a close parallel for this particular vessel can be found in McGarva (2000, 29).

## **2. Clay Tobacco Pipe**

### **Summary**

Two clay tobacco pipes were recovered, both in relatively complete condition but both missing their mouthpiece. Both pipes showed signs of having been smoked.

### **Catalogue**

1. Spurred pipe with plain bowl (no leaf moulding to seams); bore measurement 4/64".
2. Spurred pipe with leaf moulding to the bowl seams and a small circle above the spur which is repeated on either side of the bowl; bore measurement 5/64".

## **Discussion**

The pipes are generally unremarkable representing both plain and leaf-decorated standardised types produced c. 1810–1870.

## 9.0 RESULTS OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION TRENCH

The evaluation trench was designed to evaluate and characterise the known, or potential, archaeological remains. The location of the trench can be found on figures 3 and 4 and the location and orientation of photographs is shown on figure 5.

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 1-20)

#### *Discussion*

The trench measured 15.0m by 12.0m orientated approximately north to south, and was located in the north-eastern corner of the development site. It was repositioned approximately 1.0m to the west from that originally proposed in order to avoid the structural remains of Richmond Street and the utilities that run within it.

The trench was excavated using a 16 ton tracked excavator, initially equipped with a hydraulic ground breaker in order to remove the area of modern hard-standing across the trench location. It was then equipped with a toothless ditching bucket and reduced the trench area in spits of approximately ten inches, until the upper level of foundation remains were encountered.

Once the hard-standing was removed the trench was excavated through a 1.5m deep demolition deposit of loosely compacted light grey-brown sandy soil with very high inclusions of fragmented and whole red-bricks and occasional fragments of ferrous slag (1003). This deposit was found to overlay the entirety of the trench location and when removed was found to infill the structural remains of at least three cellars belonging to the back to back houses (1005). These remains consisted of a rectangular structure measuring 9.5m in length by >4.6m in width orientated east to west. The eastern and southern walls were of double-skin of dressed sandstone blocks bonded by mortar, and standing to an average height of 1.5m. The sandstone blocks utilised in the construction measured 0.3m in length by 0.20m in width by 0.06m in depth. Towards the western end of the southern elevation it was found that unfrosted red-bricks bonded by mortar and averaging 0.24m in length by 0.12m in width by 0.08m in depth, had been used for the wall construction above the sandstone blocks – although these had mostly been removed during the demolition of the houses.

It was apparent from the southern face of the southern elevation that wall (1005) had been constructed within a foundation cut [1004] measuring at least 1.5m in depth with vertical sides and cut into the natural glacial substrata (1019 and 1020).

At the westernmost end of the southern elevation a small section of unfrosted red-bricks measuring 0.6m in length by 0.11m wide by 0.25m high and bonded by mortar were located upon a large flat sandstone slab (1029). These appeared to represent a deliberate feature rather than an occurrence of demolition and have been interpreted as a coal chute that would have been accessed from Clean Street and the southern side of the property.

The western wall (1011) of the structure measured >5.0m in length by 0.6m in width by 0.13m in height and was orientated north to south. The northern end continued into the northern trench limit and the southern end had been damaged by a modern service cut thus obscuring the stratigraphic relationship between it and wall (1005), although it is assumed to be contemporary. It was of double-skin construction from medium sized sub-angular sandstone cobbles bonded by mortar. To the immediate west a second wall (1012) was found to butt up against wall (1011) and run parallel with it. This wall measured >4.2m in length by 0.34m in width by 0.28m in height orientated north to south and was of double-skin construction utilising unfrosted red-bricks bonded by mortar, and averaging

0.24m in length by 0.12m in width by 0.08m in depth. This wall appeared to represent an internal partition, probably between two adjacent cellars.

The northern cellar wall was not encountered and was presumed to lie beyond the northern trench limit. The structure was divided into three separate bays or cellars, the central and easternmost of which both measured 1.9m in width by >4.2m in length orientated north to south and continuing beyond the trench limits. They were delineated by two internal walls, the easternmost of which (1006) was constructed from unfrosted red-brick bonded by mortar and measuring >3.8m in length by 0.24m in width by 0.28m in height orientated north to south. This was of double-skin construction utilising handmade bricks measuring 0.24m in length by 0.12m in width by 0.08m in depth and butted up against external wall (1005) at its southern end.

The second dividing wall (1007) was also constructed from unfrosted red-brick of the same dimensions and bonded by mortar but was only of single-skin construction. In places, and especially at lower levels, small sandstone blocks bonded by mortar had been utilised within the construction. This wall measured 3.8m in length by 0.12m in width by 0.21m in height orientated north to south and divided the central cellar from the westernmost cellar. The wall also butted up against external wall (1005) at its southern end and mid way along its length had two projecting walls, also of unfrosted red-brick, orientated east to west and situated 1.1m apart. These were not keyed into wall (1007) and appeared to be stratigraphically later, suggesting they had been constructed as a storage or utility bay of some sort, although another and perhaps less likely interpretation is that they represent the base of a centralised chimney passing through the house, although no sign of burning was observed.

The floors of both the central and eastern cellar had been laid with rectangular stone slabs of York stone (1008) and (1009). These averaged 0.9m in length by 0.6m to 0.4m in length by 0.2m in width, with a depth of 0.04m and butted up against walls (1006), (1007) and (1005) thus showing the order of construction. The preservation of these floor layers was particularly good with no missing slabs within the uncovered part of the cellars. At the northern end of both of these cellars there was an apparent step up in the floor slabs - this appeared to be a deliberate construction and possibly represented the first tread of a stair leading upwards to the ground floor and continuing beyond the northern limit of the trench.

The westernmost cellar was of a larger dimension to the central and eastern cellars, measuring 4.3m in length by >4.1m in length orientated east to west. In the north-eastern corner a small section of cobbled surface (1010) was situated and measured 2.5m in length by 1.2m in width orientated north to south. This was constructed from a firmly compacted sandy mortar layer with very frequent small rounded cobbles set within the matrix. This surface had been truncated on its southern and western sides showing that it had been laid upon a firm mid black-grey silt-clay deposit (1028) which was almost certainly a layer of made ground laid down as part of the house construction. At the western end of the cellar a flagstone floor (1018) of York stone had been laid upon deposit (1028) and appeared to be of the same form and construction as floors (1008) and (1009). Cobbled surface (1010) and flagged floor (1018) butted up against walls (1010) and (1011) respectively, thus showing the stratigraphic order of construction.

At the eastern limit of the trench and to the immediate east of the external cellar wall (1005) a malleable light grey-yellow clay (1016) was encountered beneath demolition deposit (1017). This appeared to be a deliberate back-fill episode against wall (1005) and it is probable that this material was used to infill foundation cut [1004] and to raise the ground level to the desired height.

At the western limit of the trench a firm dark black-grey silt-sand with frequent angular pebble, concrete, and red-brick fragment inclusions (1013) was uncovered, occupying >2.4m in length by >1.2m in width orientated north to south. The southern edge of this deposit was bounded by a patch of modern concrete, and the deposit almost certainly represented the start of an area of disturbance and demolition extending to the west and beneath what was, up until recently the warehouse.

Towards the western edge of the trench and to the south of the cellar structural remains a firm dark red-brown silt-sand deposit with small sub-rounded pebble and small sub-rounded cobble inclusions (1014) was encountered beneath demolition layer (1017). This deposit occupied an area measuring >1.8m in length by >1.7m in width orientated east to west, but had been observed running further east to west alongside the southern cellar wall elevation during machining. This deposit appeared to be a metallised surface or trackway, possibly having formed part of Clean Street. At the western limit of the trench an exploratory sondage was machined through the surface deposit to reveal a soft, friable yellow-black granular silt-sand deposit with occasional sub-angular pebble inclusions (1015). This deposit was likely a bedding sand material laid down prior to surface deposit (1014) and probably forming part of the construction of Clean Street.

Deposit (1014) was machined away across the southern face of the cellar walls and was found to measure 1.0m in depth and had been deposited over a series of four culverted drains. The westernmost of these drains (1024) measured 1.94m in length by 0.58m in width orientated north to south, and had been constructed from unforged red-brick bonded by mortar to three courses high with grey stone flags being used as capstones along its length. The drain did not appear to be keyed into the masonry of wall (1005) but rather butted up against it suggesting it had been a later addition to increase drainage beneath the cellar floor.

Approximately 1.9m further to the east a 20<sup>th</sup> Century ceramic waste pipe had cut through an earlier drain (1023), also constructed from unforged red-brick bonded by mortar with grey stone capstones. This drain measured 2.12m in length by 0.6m in width and was orientated north-northwest to east-southeast and fed into a third drain (1022) located approximately 1.4m to the east. This third drain was also constructed from unforged red-brick bonded by mortar with grey stone capstones, measuring 4.6m in length by 0.56m in width and orientated north to south. This drain, unlike the earlier two, appeared to drain directly beneath the central cellar rather than the westernmost one.

A further 2.3m to the east a fourth and substantial culverted drain (1021) was uncovered. This drained from beneath the easternmost cellar and had also been constructed from unforged red-brick bonded by mortar but these were laid upon sandstone flags with grey stone capstones. The drain measured 7.56m in length by 0.52m in width orientated northeast to southwest. Stratigraphically this drain laid upon and was sealed by infill deposit (1016), it seemingly having been available to use before and after the construction of the drain.

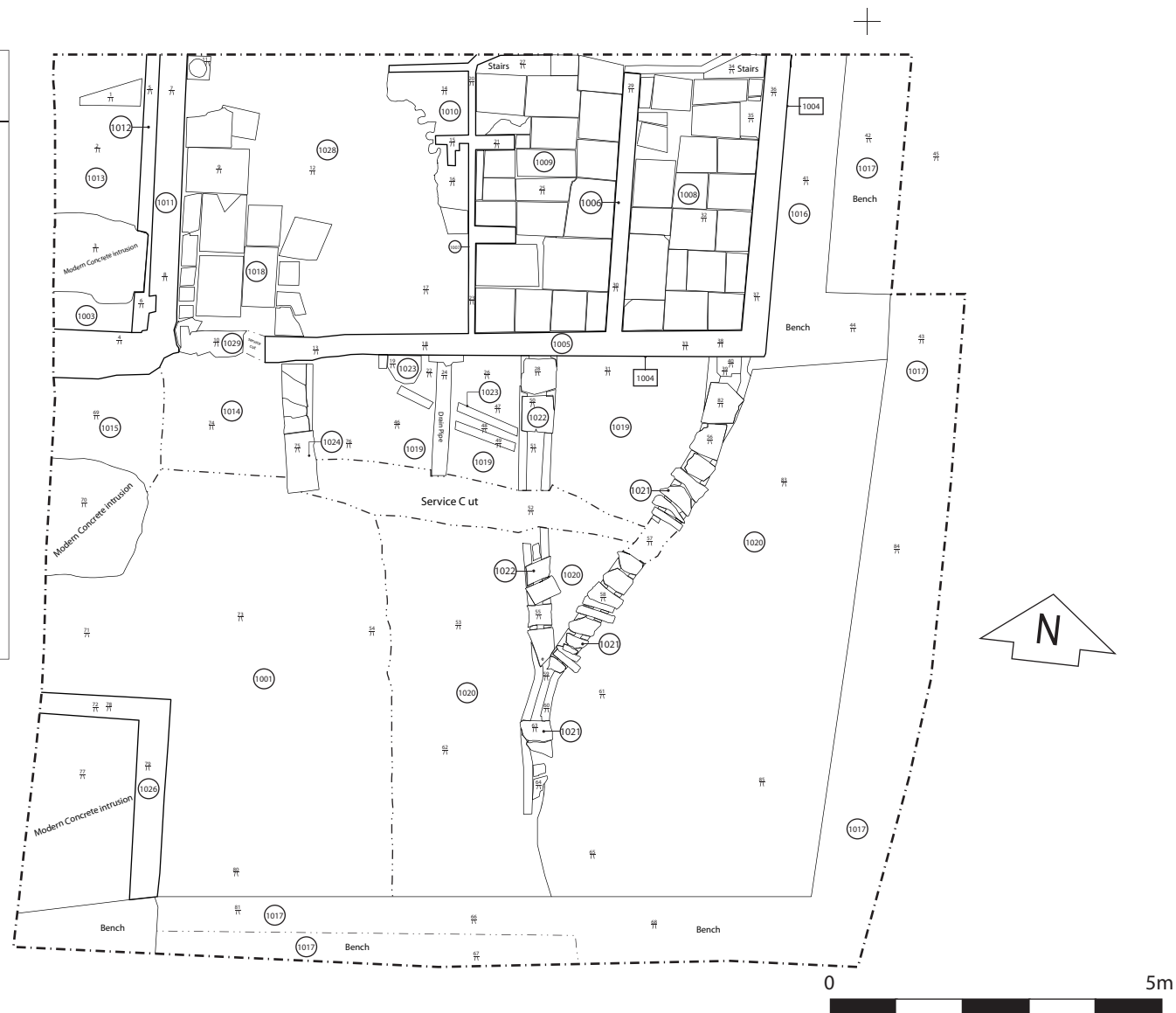
Towards the south and east the trench was machined onto a firm grey-orange silt-sand deposit (1020) which was likely a continuation of firm red-orange silt-sand deposit (1019) observed to the north and between the culverted drains. These deposits almost certainly represent the working platform from when the back to back houses were constructed and deeper machining to the west showed that this deposit measured 0.48m in depth, lying directly above a moderate to firm dark black-grey natural clay substrata (1001).

At the south-western corner of the trench and lying directly beneath demolition deposit (1017) the northern and eastern walls of a probable rectangular structure (1026) was uncovered. These walls measured >2.9m in length north to south and >1.5m in length east to west, by 0.5m in width and standing to 1.0m in height. The walls were constructed from medium sized, dressed sub-angular sandstone cobbles bonded by mortar and had been constructed upon deposit (1020). The internal part of the structure was in-filled by a modern concrete intrusion and although the walls continued beyond the western and southern trench limits it appeared that this area had been heavily disturbed by the former warehouse at the site, suggesting that the preserved structural remains did not continue particularly far beyond the confines of the trench.



# Spot Heights (reduced level OD)

1 = 141.41m	22 = 141.07m	43 = 142.03m	64 = 140.16m
2 = 141.43m	23 = 141.16m	44 = 141.68m	65 = 139.77m
3 = 141.52m	24 = 140.62m	45 = 142.99m	66 = 141.02m
4 = 141.40m	25 = 140.86m	46 = 140.42m	67 = 141.94m
5 = 141.36m	26 = 140.30m	47 = 140.30m	68 = 141.26m
6 = 141.45m	27 = 141.19m	48 = 140.31m	69 = 141.30m
7 = 141.16m	28 = 140.46m	49 = 140.36m	70 = 141.49m
8 = 141.17m	29 = 141.39m	50 = 140.38m	71 = 140.15m
9 = 141.03m	30 = 141.41m	51 = 140.23m	72 = 141.38m
10 = 141.65m	31 = 140.30m	52 = 140.19m	73 = 139.72m
11 = 141.09m	32 = 141.02m	53 = 140.36m	74 = 141.40m
12 = 140.88m	33 = 141.74m	54 = 139.88m	75 = 140.64m
13 = 141.61m	34 = 141.28m	55 = 140.39m	76 = 140.42m
14 = 140.97m	35 = 140.94m	56 = 141.22m	77 = 141.39m
15 = 141.06m	36 = 142.42m	57 = 140.72m	78 = 141.49m
16 = 140.97m	37 = 142.32m	58 = 140.72m	79 = 141.48m
17 = 140.92m	38 = 142.20m	59 = 140.26m	80 = 140.39m
18 = 141.72m	39 = 141.66m	60 = 140.44m	81 = 141.51m
19 = 140.58m	40 = 141.40m	61 = 139.86m	82 = 141.36m
20 = 141.16m	41 = 141.24m	62 = 140.38m	83 = 140.49m
21 = 141.09m	42 = 141.87m	63 = 140.44m	84 = 141.94m







**Plate 01:** Structural remains at Whitworth Road, Rochdale, from the southwest.



**Plate 02:** Structural remains at Whitworth Road, Rochdale, from the southeast.





**Plate 03:** Structural remains at Whitworth Road, Rochdale, from the east.



**Plate 04:** Structural remains of terraced house (1004) at Whitworth Road, Rochdale, from the north.





**Plate 05:** Structural remains of terraced house (1004) at Whitworth Road, Rochdale, from the north.



**Plate 06:** Terraced house outer wall (1005), from the northeast. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 07:** Terraced house internal wall (1007), from the east. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 08:** Cobble surface (1010), from the west. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 09:** Sandstone wall of terraced house (1011), from the north. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 10:** Possible coal chute (1029), from the north. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 11:** Possible cellar steps into cellar 1, from the south. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 12:** Possible trackway (1014), from the west. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 13:** Possible trackway (1014) and wall (1011) from the south. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 14:** External drains (1021), (1022) and (1023) from the southeast.





**Plate 15:** Wall (1005) and external drain (1021), from the southwest. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 16:** Wall (1005) and external drain (1021), from the west. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 17:** Wall (1005) and external drains (1022) and (1023), from the south. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 18:** External drain (1024), from the east. Scale 1.0m.





**Plate 19:** Sandstone wall (1026), from the east. Scale 1.0m.



**Plate 20:** Sandstone wall (1026), from the south. Scale 1.0m.



## *Interpretation*

Trench 1 was targeting a pair of back to back houses fronting on to Princess Street and Clean Street as depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1893 (figure 6). The archaeological trench revealed the southern half of the cellars of the pair of houses, which had both fronted on to the former Clean Street. These remains consisted of the eastern, southern and western exterior walls of the houses, constructed from sandstone blocks bonded by mortar and laid within a foundation cut. The northern wall was not encountered and is likely to have lain just to the north of the northern limit of excavation. The sandstone outer walls stood to a height of 1.5m and in places it appeared that unfrogged red-brick courses had been laid above these blocks suggesting that sandstone had been utilised for the construction of the house foundations but that the above ground walls may have been of unfrogged red-brick bonded by mortar.

Three distinct cellars were identified, all divided by partition walls and again all of unfrogged red-brick bonded by mortar. When the Ordnance Survey map of 1893 is traced and overlain on the structural remains (figure 7) it becomes apparent that the eastern and central cellars (cellars 1 and 2) belonged to the same house, the easternmost of the terrace and the last house on the northeast side of Clean Street. It appears that at some point after the construction of the houses this cellar was divided into two separate cellars by a central partition, both possibly accessed via a stair at the northern end – although the archaeological evidence for this was not conclusive due to modern disturbance. The reason for this division is unclear but clearly related to a required separation of two functions, possibly as an area for storage and an area for a workshop or even living quarters. The westernmost cellar (cellar 3) remained true to its original layout as a single large square room, partially paved with stone flags and partially of cobbles – the latter possibly representing a phase of repair.

The only structural features of note within the cellars were a bay created by two projecting walls on the western wall of cellar 2 that may represent a storage bay or less likely a hearth and chimney breast; and a red-brick and stone slab feature on the southern wall of cellar 3 that may have been a coal chute, accessed via Clean Street to the south. The lack of any sign of scorching or burning with the former, nor any hearth structure would suggest that it functioned merely as storage bay, and the stratigraphic evidence shows that this had been constructed after the dividing wall between cellars 2 and 3, perhaps at the same time cellars 1 and 2 had been divided. The possible coal chute within cellar 3 would have been a very practical way of negating the lack of an enclosed yard. Coal would have played a vital role both in heating and cooking within the houses, and would have been delivered weekly into Clean Street where it would have been shovelled by hand through the chute into the cellar for storage.

To the immediate south of the cellars the remains of Clean Street itself were encountered, including an upper stony surface and a lower bedding sand. These deposits suggest that the street had no hard-standing of any sort and was not cobbled, just being a compressed metalled surface. Beneath these deposits four well made culverted drains were encountered, constructed from unfrogged red-brick with flat capstones. These drains entered the cellars beneath floor level to remove any ground water and to help prevent the cellars from flooding, and appeared to be stratigraphically contemporary with the houses construction. The movement of water south from this part of the site appears to be the historic route for drainage, with the Ordnance Survey map of 1851 depicting an open leat or drain running along what later became Richmond Street into a pond that would have been located in the south-eastern corner of the site, before the houses were built.

The lack of any structural remains to the south of the cellars and within the southern half of the trench matches with the historic cartographic evidence, and it can be seen from the Ordnance Survey map of 1893 (figure 6) that this area was occupied by Clean Street running east to west.

In the south-western corner of the trench the eastern and northern walls of a structure were encountered. This was constructed from sandstone rubble bonded by mortar and appears to be a small rectangular outbuilding depicted on the 1893 Ordnance Survey map on the south side of Clean Street.



This feature could not be investigated further due to having been in-filled with concrete but is likely to be the structural remains of a storage outbuilding or even an outside toilet.

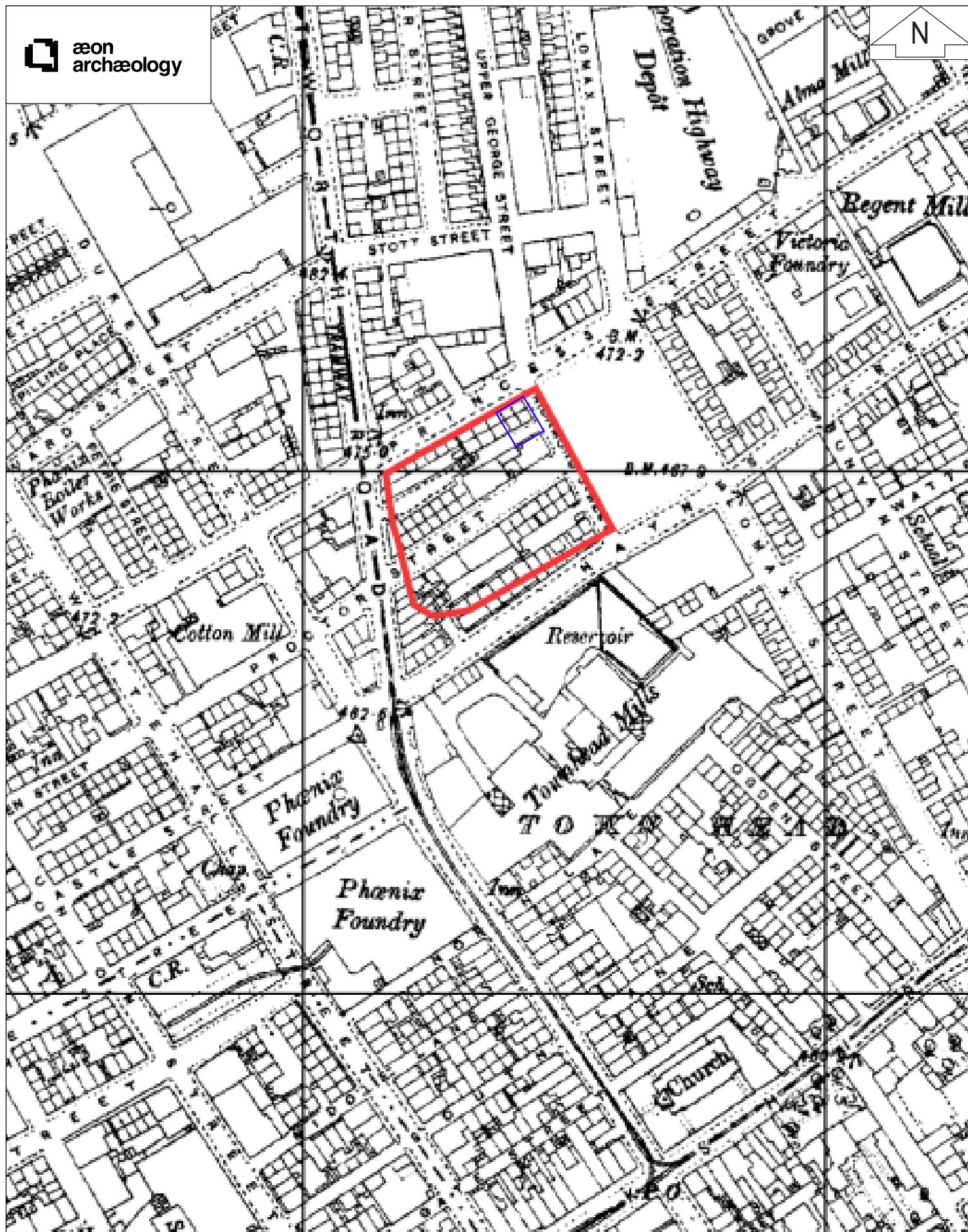


Figure 06: Location of archaeological evaluation trench overlaid on the Ordnance Survey map of 1893.



## 10.0 CONCLUSION

The archaeological evaluation at Whitworth Road, Rochdale has shown that the preservation of structural remains belonging to the former 19<sup>th</sup> Century back to back housing is high. The upstanding remains of the cellars exist to a height of 1.5m and the laid floors are, for the most part, preserved and intact. The stratigraphic evidence is also well preserved and is of a degree that permits the phasing and order of construction to be firmly established within the archaeological record. The evaluation has also shown that ancillary features such as culverted drains, outbuildings, and features within the cellars have survived to a high level.

The historic cartographic evidence for the site is comprehensive and the revealed structural remains have been overlain with accuracy on to the historic mapping in order to confirm their identity.

It is however likely that despite the high level of preservation within the trench, the site as a whole is unlikely to have such a high potential for preserved remains. This is due to the construction of the later warehouse and garage to the immediate west and south of the site, the disturbance of which was observed in deposits at the western edge of the trench. It is probable that areas of preserved structural remains occur and persist across the site but these are likely to be isolated pockets that have lain outside of the later commercial units. It is therefore considered that the potential for preserved buried remains across the rest of the site is relatively low.

The preserved structural remains at Whitworth Road, Rochdale can be seen as having contributed to the ambitions of the North West Regional Research Agenda regarding aspects of late 19<sup>th</sup> Century life in Rochdale. The size, form, material, structure, and construction phasing of the former houses have been recorded as well as the presence of ancillary structures and features related and integral to the everyday life of Victorian Rochdale. Moreover, the material archive represents an assemblage of kitchen and domestic wares attributed to everyday use in rural communities throughout the 19th century and well into the 20th century.

The archaeological evaluation can be seen as having fulfilled the spirit and intent of the archaeological condition through confirmation of the level of disturbance and preservation across the site.



## 11.0 SOURCES

### *OS Maps*

OS 1:10 000 Series sheet SD 81 NE, SD 81 SE, SD 81 SW and SD 81 NW.

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## APPENDIX I – DETAILS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXTS

Context	Description
1001	Natural black-grey clay substrata.
1002	Concrete overlying the area of trench 1.
1003	Brick rubble in-fill deposit.
1004	Foundation cut for (1005).
1005	Sandstone cellar foundations of back to back houses.
1006	Red-brick internal dividing wall between cellar 1 and cellar 2.
1007	Red-brick internal dividing wall between cellar 1 and cellar 2 and cellar 3.
1008	Stone flagged floor of cellar 1.
1009	Stone flagged floor of cellar 2.
1010	Cobbled surface in cellar 3.
1011	Westernmost sandstone wall of back to back houses.
1012	Red-brick internal wall to west of (1011).
1013	Demolition fill caused by modern intrusions.
1014	Relict trackway, possibly part of Clean Street.
1015	Bedding sand deposit for (1014).
1016	Backfill and levelling material filling [1004].
1017	Demolition deposit spread across site.
1018	Stone flagged floor of cellar 3.
1019	Construction platform relict soil.
1020	Construction platform relict soil, same as (1019)?
1021	Culverted drain.
1022	Culverted drain.
1023	Culverted drain.
1024	Culverted drain.
1025	Void
1026	Sandstone structure in southwest corner of trench.
1027	Black demolition material high in slag inclusions.
1028	Made ground beneath (1018).
1029	Red-brick structure, possible coal chute.

