



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

Post-excavation Assessment

Shakespeare North
Playhouse,
Prospero Place,
Prescot,
Merseyside

Client:

Knowsley Council
Municipal Building,
Archaway Road,
Huyton,
Merseyside L36 9YU

Technical Report:

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Report No:

SA/2018/89



Site Location: The site comprises a car park bounded by the Prescott Bus Station to the south, Cockpit House to the north-west, and Mill Street to the east in Prescott town centre, Merseyside

NGR: Centred at NGR 346560 392780

Internal Ref: SA/2018/89

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Contents

Summary -----	1
1. Introduction -----	3
2. Original Research Priorities-----	4
3. The Setting-----	6
4. Historical Background-----	7
5. Summary of the Fieldwork Results-----	14
6. Material Assessed -----	29
7. Curation and Conservation-----	47
8. Statement of Potential -----	48
9. Updated Project Design -----	51
10. Method Statement-----	54
11. Presentation of Results -----	58
12. Resources and Management -----	60
Sources -----	62
Acknowledgments -----	66
Appendix 1: Figures-----	67
Appendix 2: Context List-----	78
Appendix 3: Photographic Register-----	80
Appendix 4: Written Scheme of Investigation -----	91

Summary

Knowsley Council has obtained planning consent for a major development in Prescot town centre, Merseyside (centred on NGR 346560 392780). The consented scheme allows for the erection of a four-storey building to accommodate a 350-seat theatre and multi-use space with ancillary features for the teaching of theatre practices, professional and community performances and film screenings (Planning Ref: 17/00577/FUL). The development site lies within the historic core of Prescot, and in an area acknowledged to be of high archaeological interest.

The potential for archaeological remains to survive across the development site was highlighted in a desk-based assessment that was prepared to support the planning application, coupled with archaeological monitoring during the excavation of a series of trial pits that were required for geotechnical purposes. In the light of the conclusions drawn from these initial studies, Knowsley Council commissioned Salford Archaeology to devise an execute an appropriate programme of further archaeological investigation, which allowed for an open-area excavation that aimed to record any archaeological remains that would be damaged or destroyed during the delivery of the consented scheme. The agreed programme of excavation was undertaken between December 2017 and February 2018, and was intended to offset the harm of development on the site's archaeological resource, in accordance with the policy guidance provided by the National Planning Policy Framework.

Physical evidence for continuous human occupation of the site between the 16th and 20th centuries was revealed during the eight-week excavation. The earliest activity appeared to be represented by a rock-cut well that was exposed at in southern part of the site. The lower part of a second well was also discovered, although this had been disturbed by stone-quarrying activity that reduced the ground level across part of the site by approximately 4m before being backfilled with domestic rubbish that included a large assemblage of pottery with a date range spanning the late 16th to 19th centuries.

Another large and significant assemblage of pottery was recovered from the south-eastern corner of the site. This contained numerous fragments of waste pottery and kiln furniture, indicative of a pottery production centre, which may have produced a range of utilitarian kitchen wares and a smaller component of finer table wares. This reinforced the available documentary evidence, which appears to suggest that several of the late 16th-century properties in the area were engaged in small-scale pottery production, with at least seven pottery kilns in operation in the town in 1592, two of which may have been in the study area or its immediate vicinity. Firm evidence for a kiln structure was not identified during the excavation, although the remains of a stone-built structure that was revealed beneath the floors of 19th-century houses along the northern edge of the site may have been associated with pottery production.

Following completion of the fieldwork, an assessment has been made of the project archive, with a view to defining the costs of completing an appropriate programme of post-excavation analysis and publication. This assessment examined the results of the excavation, and assessed the potential for further analysis of each category of data with regard to the project's research aims. The process has been designed to correspond to the objectives laid out in the guidance document (*Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*; Historic England 2015).

The results obtained from the assessment have concluded that elements of the dataset have considerable potential for further analysis, specifically the stratified assemblage of post-medieval pottery. An updated project design is therefore presented, and an appropriate programme of analysis outlined. It is recommended that, after analysis, the results are published in an appropriate, national, academic journal(s), such as *Medieval Ceramics* or *Post-Medieval Archaeology*. It is also recommended that a paper is prepared for publication in the *Merseyside Archaeological Society Journal* in order to disseminate the results obtained from the excavation to a regional audience.

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

In August 2017, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Knowsley Council to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation of land bounded by the Prescott Bus Station, Cockpit House and Mill Street in Prescott town centre, Merseyside. The excavation was required to fulfil the archaeological requirements associated with a consented scheme that allows for the erection of a four-storey building to accommodate a 350-seat theatre and multi-use space with ancillary features for the teaching of theatre practices, professional and community performances and film screenings. In the first instance, Salford Archaeology produced a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an appropriate scheme of works, which was approved by Knowsley Council in consultation with the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS), enabling the pre-commencement element of a condition attached to planning consent to be discharged (Planning Ref: 17/00577/FUL). The WSI allowed for the detailed excavation of the site (*Appendix 4*).

The excavation followed on from a desk-based assessment of the site that was prepared in 2016, and concluded that the site had considerable potential to retain significant archaeological remains deriving from the medieval and post-medieval occupation of the town (Philpott 2016). This was coupled with archaeological monitoring during the excavation of a series of trial pits that were required for geotechnical purposes, the results of which reinforced the potential for archaeological remains to survive.

The study area lies in the historic medieval and post-medieval core of Prescott, and is known from documentary sources to have been occupied by burgage plots that are recorded in detail in the late 16th century but are clearly of medieval origin. This reflects the site's location between two early thoroughfares, and its proximity to the historic market place. Documentary sources also indicate that there were two pottery kilns within the immediate vicinity of the study area.

The excavation aimed to record any archaeological remains that would be damaged or destroyed during the delivery of the consented scheme. The agreed programme of excavation was undertaken between December 2017 and February 2018. The work aimed to offset the harm of development on the site's archaeological resource, in accordance with the guidance provided by the National Planning Policy Framework.

Following completion of the fieldwork, an assessment has been made of the project archive, with a view to defining the costs of completing an appropriate programme of post-excavation analysis and publication, in accordance with guidelines provided by the National Planning Policy Framework. This assessment examined the results of the excavation, and assessed the potential for further analysis of each category of data with regard to the project's research aims. The process has been designed to correspond to the objectives laid out in Historic England's guidance document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment*.

2. Original Research Priorities

2.1 Research Aims

The main research aims of the archaeological excavation, as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (*Appendix 4*), were to excavate and record any surviving archaeological remains, and to obtain a full range of artefactual and environmental materials that would enable the stratigraphic sequence to be characterised, dated and interpreted. In particular, it was hoped to:

- advance understanding of medieval occupation and land-use in this part of Prescott town centre;
- advance understanding of post-medieval occupation and land-use in this part of Prescott town centre, and particularly evidence for the production of post-medieval pottery;
- as noted in the current *Archaeological Research Framework for North West England* (Brennand (ed) 2007) ‘the identification of products of the region’s potteries remains extremely insecure. Without basic information on regional pottery production it will remain difficult to engage in a wider study of the industry...’. With this in mind, a main aim of the project was to advance understanding of the post-medieval pottery industry in Prescott.

In addition, it was anticipated that the archaeological investigation might address several of the initiatives for archaeological research of the medieval, post-medieval and industrial periods stated in the current *Archaeological Research Framework for North West England*. In particular:

- *Initiative 5.18*: ‘The role and nature of small towns should be examined which should include below-ground investigations in well-preserved small towns’;
- *Initiative 5.40*: ‘Identification and investigation of pottery kiln sites including the use of archaeomagnetic dating to identify sequences more closely and investigate the links between producers and consumers’;
- *Initiative 6.2*: ‘Unpublished ceramic groups, especially those from areas with no previous evidence should be published as a priority. The relevant grey literature should be made generally available’;
- *Initiative 7.24*: Need to excavate urban cellar to examine life ‘below stairs’ in the middle class house and cellar dwellings and workshops in working class houses’;
- *Initiative 7.25*: ‘Where threatened with possible redevelopment excavations are required of now undeveloped and cleared former working class areas regarded as slums’.

2.2 *Objectives*

In order to meet the aims stated above, the following objectives were devised:

- to determine the presence, character, and extent of any buried remains pertaining to medieval and/or post-medieval settlement or activity;
- to make a full record of any archaeological remains to mitigate their damage or destruction during the proposed development;
- to carry out a programme of post-excavation assessment, which provides recommendations for further analysis and publication;
- to disseminate the results obtained from the excavation in a manner appropriate to their significance;
- to prepare a project archive for long-term deposition.

3. The Setting

3.1 Location, Land use and Topography

The study area (centred on NGR 346560 392780) lies within Prescott town centre, in the Merseyside borough of Knowsley. The site was used until recently as a car park, taxi stand and associated turning circle, bounded by the Prescott bus station to the south. The former Prescott Museum, a Grade II listed building now known as Cockpit House, lies to the north-west, with the remainder of the northern boundary formed by the rear of buildings that front onto the south side of High Street, including the old St John's ambulance building (Plate 1). The eastern boundary of the site lies along Mill Street, and comprises sections of roadway and two stretches of red sandstone wall.



Plate 1: Aerial view across the site, marking the development area boundary

The natural topography of the area has been masked by modern development, although the site is situated close to the crest of a sandstone ridge that is occupied by the historic core of Prescott. The site lies at a height of approximately 83.5m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

4. Historical Background

4.1 Historical Background

4.1.1 Prehistoric Period

Very little direct evidence for prehistoric settlement has been found locally, and none of the numerous archaeological investigations that have been carried out in Prescott since the 1970s have yielded any prehistoric material. Fragmentary evidence for a Bronze Age settlement was recovered from archaeological excavations near St Chad's in Kirkby and at Brunt Boggart in Tarbock (Cowell and Philpott 2000), although neither of these sites are in close proximity to Prescott. Firm evidence for Iron Age activity in the borough of Knowsley is similarly sparse, with perhaps the most convincing evidence being derived from the partial excavation of a double-ditched enclosure at Brook House Farm in Halewood (*ibid*), which again lies some distance from Prescott.

4.1.2 Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)

There is stronger evidence for Romano-British activity in the North West, and a cluster of sites deriving from this period is known to have existed to the south of Prescott. These include several probable farmsteads of Romano-British date around Halewood and Tarbock (some 5km to the south of Prescott), which included good evidence for the manufacture of tiles (Swan and Philpott 2000). However, despite these more permanent Romano-British additions to the landscape, and the attractive location of Prescott on a south-facing, well-drained sandstone ridge, only a single Romano-British pottery sherd is recorded from the town, which was found in the vicarage garden (Philpott 2008, 71).

4.1.3 Early Medieval (AD 410 – 1066)

Evidence for human settlement in the North West following the end of formal Roman administration in the 4th century AD is similarly scarce, with place-names being one of the most compelling types of evidence for pre-Conquest settlement in historic south-west Lancashire. Place-names such as Brettargh and Walton, for instance, point to a residual British population and a period of contact between the British population and the Anglian settlers (Wainwright 1942). Closer to Prescott, Eccleston provides an example of a place-name that combines Welsh *ecl*es with Anglo-Saxon *-tun*, hinting at the presence of a Celtic Christian community during the early Anglo-Saxon settlement of the area probably in the late 6th century (Thomas 1981, 264). Place-names of Anglo-Saxon origin, dating to the 7th century onwards, are common in the North West, but archaeological evidence of settlements and finds of this period are sparse, and whilst individual finds are known from Hale (Philpott 1999), and an early 10th-century coin hoard at Little Crosby, none is recorded within the immediate vicinity of Prescott.

4.1.4 Late Medieval (AD 1066 – 1540)

The earliest documentary reference to Prescott occurs in 1178 as *Prestecota*, and in c 1190 as *Prestecote*. Davey (1978, 3) attributes the origin of the settlement to a ‘Norman or pre-Norman religious centre around which the later town grew up’. The church lies at the centre of a very large parish, extending over 36.500 statute acres and containing 15 townships (Baines 1870, 241), emphasising the regional importance of medieval Prescott. The market was in existence by 1322, and charters for a market survive from 1333 and 1458.

Whilst no borough charter for Prescott survives, the use in 16th-century documents of the term ‘burgage’ for some town plots implies that a charter once existed, granting the preferential burghal status, and one granted by the lord of the manor rather than by the king (Bailey 1937, 317). Documents record about 45 plots referred to as burgages in the 16th century, with a concentration in the principal medieval thoroughfares of Kembel Street, High Street, Eccleston Street and Market Place (Philpott 1988, 22-24).

Firm evidence for medieval settlement in Prescott has been recovered from some of the numerous archaeological investigations that have been carried out in the town. An important assemblage of medieval pottery, for instance, was discovered during excavations on Derby Street in 1980-1. Significantly, this assemblage included several sherds of ‘wasters’, indicative of local pottery production (Holgate 1983, 11-16). Similarly, fragments of medieval pottery were recovered during archaeological monitoring that accompanied the construction work for the shopping centre in Prescott in the late 1980s and, more recently, during excavations in the garden of Prescott Vicarage (Philpott 2008, 74).

4.1.5 Post-medieval (AD 1540 – c 1750)

As with most urban settlements in the North West, Prescott expanded rapidly from the 16th century onwards. Available land in the heart of the historic town attracted new development, and buildings were erected on vacant plots and across the back plots of former burgages to the rear of the street frontages. As elsewhere, this process of infilling in Prescott involved the construction of small alleys and streets over the back plots, with dense urban housing mixed with small-scale industrial workshops (McNeil 2007, 154). There is also evidence to suggest that there was a transition from timber-framed construction to stone as a building material in the 17th century.

Evidence recovered from archaeological investigations has demonstrated that many of these small workshops were involved in the manufacture of earthenware vessels, whilst frequent references to clay pits in the Court Leet in the mid-16th century may be further evidence of pottery production (Philpott 2016, 16). Similarly, a survey of Prescott of 1592 marks all the property boundaries in the town centre, together with the distribution of houses and, crucially, the location of kilns. One such kiln is shown a short distance to the south of the present study area, and a second to the south-east, together with a windmill immediately to the north and the ‘cockpits’ to the west (Plate 2).

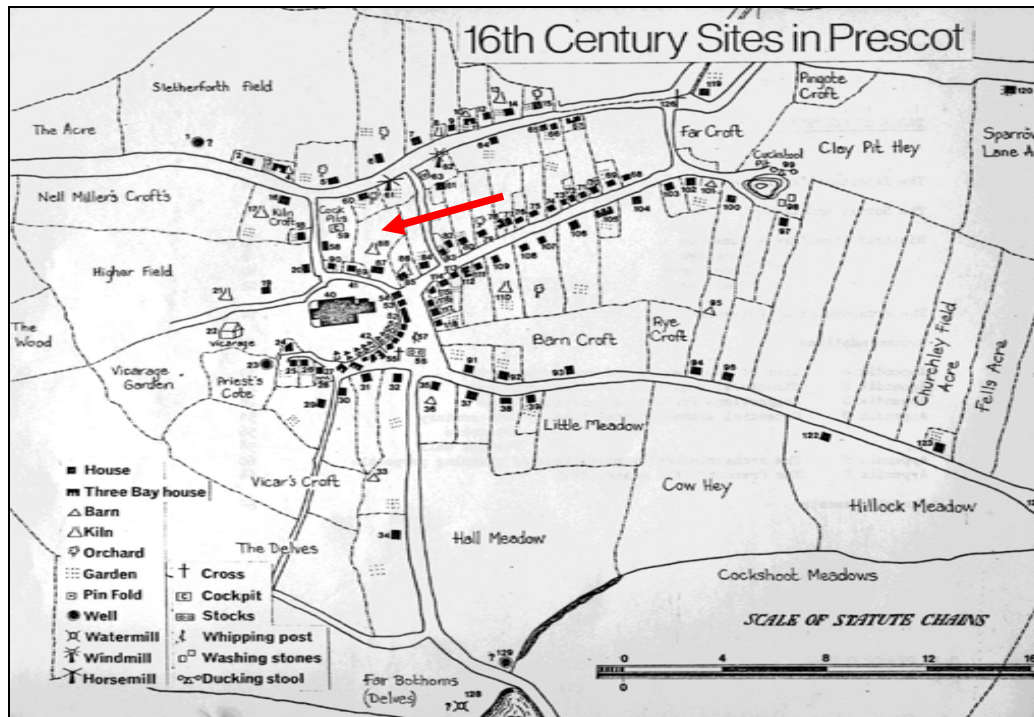


Plate 2: 16th-century sites in Prescott (after Davey 1978, 3; based on Bailey 1937), with arrow marking the location of the present study area

4.1.6 Industrial Period (Post c 1750)

The local pottery industry appears to have declined in the 17th century, but was reinvigorated in the 18th century with the development of increasingly efficient industrial methods. Baines records six potteries in the early 18th century, one of which appears to have been producing whitewares (Davey 1983). Another pottery was located in the back plot south of 40 Eccleston Street and west of Aspinall Street, where extensive evidence of a pottery factory was discovered, comprising clay bins, a sunning floor and large quantities of later 18th-century ceramics (McNeil 1983). Further evidence of the pottery works, including truncated remains of three pottery kilns of mid- / late 18th-century date, were discovered during the reduction of the ground level behind Eccleston Street for the construction of the Civic Centre and Town Centre Shopping Precinct (Philpott 2016, 18).

Watch-making emerged as another important industry in Prescott in the 18th and 19th centuries. A distinctive type of architecture developed to accommodate this industry, based in outriggers attached to the rear of dwellings, in which heavy metalworking was carried out on the ground floor and finer work in upper workshops lit by gallery windows. The industry declined rapidly through competition from overseas in the late 19th century, and finally ended in 1952 with the closure of the last workshops (Philpott 2016, 18).

4.2 Development of the Site

The map by FA Bailey that reconstructs Prescott at the time of the 1592 survey shows some development within the present study area (Plate 2), which is shown to have comprised several plots (Table 1). Of these, however, plots 84, 85/86 and 87/88 (including two kilns) formed the majority of the study area.

Plot no (Bailey 1937; Davey 1978)	Plot / building	1592 owner	1592 tenant	1721 owner
58	2 burgages and 2 crofts	John Ogle, Gent.	Jn Dichfield and Robert Powhton, 1 rood	George Bradshaw
59	cockpits	-	-	-
60	Burgage, garden and orchard	Richard Simons	-	George Bradshaw
61	Horsemill	-	-	-
84	Messuage and garden	Thomas Pike	James Taylor	John Bradburn
85	Burgage garden and way (to Mill Hill)	Thomas Fox	-	Isaac Greene
86	Kiln	-	-	-
87	Burgage and cottage	Robert Plumton	-	Thomas Wood
88	Kiln	-	-	-
89	Building	Wardens of school	-	-
90	Burgage and garden	Wardens of school	Edward Scasbrick	Thomas Cobham

Table 1: List of plots in 1592 survey with 1721 owners (after Davey 1978, 53-4)

The earliest contemporary plan of Prescott is thought to be that produced by Richard Edge in 1743. This plan was surveyed primarily to illustrate the location and extent of coal deposits below the Prescott Hall Estate, and shows the layout of the town more schematically. Nevertheless, the west side of Mill Street is shown with buildings along all but the southern end of the frontage just before it reaches Eccleston Street, together with a right-angled street in the position of the southern portion of Mill Street. Highfield Place is not shown by Edge, although it is shown leading off from Market Place on a late 18th-century map. This map also appears to show the western side of Mill Street lined with houses as far as Mill Brow.

The next available map to show the study area is that produced by R Piercy in c 1809. This shows that the distinctive right-angled Highfield Place had been carved out of a series of burgage plots between the two main streets, Eccleston Street (then Long Street) to the south and High Street (then Mill Brow Street), and defined by Church Street and Mill Street (Plate 3). The southern end of Mill Street as far as its junction with Highfield Place is shown to have formed part of a built-up block. However, detail of individual buildings is lacking.



Plate 3: 'Plan of the Township of Prescott', produced by R Piercy in c 1809, with arrow marking the location of the study area

Notwithstanding the value of the early plans of Prescott, the first detailed map to record buildings in the study area accurately is the Ordnance Survey 1:500 map of 1852 (Fig 3). This shows the Highfield Place area (then known as Parr's Square) in considerable detail, recording the location of every building, together with an indication of internal sub-divisions within terraced housing, backyards and garden features, and the position of water pumps, privies, and steps up to front doors. This map clearly shows that this part of Prescott had been subject to intensive development, with the street frontage of Parr's Square almost fully occupied by housing. Mill Street is also shown to have been built up along the western side, with a row of buildings lacking rear yards on the street frontage. Amongst the few open spaces was a garden on the eastern side of the study area, and a courtyard accessed through a building to the west of Parr's Square.

Subsequent Ordnance Survey maps show very little alteration in the configuration of buildings during the second half of the 19th and early 20th centuries (Figs 3-5). The land is virtually fully built up and scope for change within the existing configurations is limited.

The next major change within the site was the demolition of the buildings in the mid-20th century, as part of what was viewed as slum clearance. Arthur Roberts describes Highfield Place as subject to gradual dilapidation of long condemned houses before they were demolished (1990, 52). An undated photograph, probably of the late 1950s or early 1960s, shows the Market Place but also the levelled ground of Highfield Place surrounded by fencing.

4.3 Overview of Pottery Production in Prescott

There were considerable changes in tablewares and the choices available middle and lower class households during the post-medieval period. Importantly for pottery studies, the period from the mid-17th to the mid-18th century saw pewter tablewares decline in popularity (Hornsby *et al* 1989), whilst glass tableware still remained a luxury item, both factors encouraged local potteries to produce a range of relatively cheap, durable, and good quality table wares, and especially drinking vessels, to fill the gap (McNeil 1989, 59). For a while these potteries flourished and multiplied, their market increasing as the population rose during the 18th century. In response, there was corresponding rise in the number of relatively small-scale potteries, many appearing in the later 18th and early 19th centuries (Brears 1971, 56-8).

The area around Prescott and Rainford was exploiting the local coal-measures clays, producing dark-glazed and yellow earthenwares from the 16th century onwards, and there seems little doubt that they were supplying utilitarian wares to Liverpool from the 18th century onwards (Davey 1991), whilst Liverpool itself concentrated on finewares relying on imported clays, producing tin-glazed or delftware in the earlier 18th century, whilst the Herculaneum pottery produced refined white earthenwares between 1796-1840 (Hyland 2005). Coarse earthenwares were also produced in the St Helens area until 1925, and Buckley in North Wales was also continuing to produce dark-glazed earthenware in the early years of the 20th century (McGarva 2000, 10).

Despite pottery production in Prescott having probably commenced in the late medieval period, little evidence exists for large-scale production in the town until the mid-18th century. Though documentary evidence exists for pottery production in Prescott in the 16th century, little artefactual evidence exists, and no kiln sites have been identified.

Greater evidence for earlier pottery manufacturing in the region during the late 16th and 17th centuries has been identified in Rainford, Eccleston, Windle and Sutton. These rural industries are likely to have developed on the former waste moss land with easy access to peat, coal, clay and water. Recent excavations in Rainford have identified the local pottery industry dating back to the mid- to late 16th century with the discovery of a kiln dump complete with wasters, seconds and dark-glazed fineware in a great variety of forms and local styles (Philpott 2015b).

The pottery industry in Prescott appears to have expanded rapidly in the early 18th century, by which date there were six factories active in the town (McNeil 1983, 54), coinciding with a growth in the town's population (Cowell and Chitty 1983, 29). Material evidence for pottery manufacture in the town from the mid-18th century is abundant. The majority of kiln groups consist of mottled wares and dark-glazed fine and coarse earthenware in the form of kitchen or dairy vessels. There is evidence for the production of sugar-refining pottery in the later 18th century, including sugar-loaf moulds and syrup jars to supply sugar manufacturers in Liverpool. This period also saw a rise in the production of stoneware (Davey 1983c, 104-105; McNeil 1983, 59). The pottery industries were centralised around the Eccleston Street area.

4.4 Previous Archaeological Work

Prescot is recognised as having been one of only three medieval urban settlements in the modern metropolitan county of Merseyside and, as such, was the focus of several archaeological investigations between the late 1970s and the mid-1990s. Perhaps ironically, however, the town has attracted very little archaeological work since the introduction of Planning Policy Statement 5 in 2010 (and superseded subsequently by the National Planning Policy Framework), which embedded archaeological issues as a material consideration in planning decisions.

Amongst the earliest controlled archaeological investigations carried out in Prescot town centre were six excavations undertaken in 1980-81 (McNeil 1983; Holgate 1983). This was followed by an excavation to the rear of the north side of Eccleston Street that was undertaken in 1982 (Cowell and Chitty 1983). In 1983-84, a series of test pits were excavated at 26 locations to characterise the below-ground archaeological deposits across the town (Philpott and Davey 1984). Further work has been undertaken in the Vicarage garden by National Museums Liverpool in 1993 and again in 1997.

An excavation was also carried out in 1980-81 by Liverpool University's Rescue Archaeology Unit within the boundary of the present study area. The resultant report contains sections and plans of the excavation, with a discussion of the finds, but no detailed account of the stratigraphic sequence that was excavated (Holgate 1983).

More recently, in January 2017, an archaeological watching brief was maintained by Dr R Philpott during the excavation of several trial pits across the present study area. The trial pits were excavation by Soil Engineering to furnish geotechnical information required to inform the design proposals for the Shakespeare North development. In total, four trial pits were excavated mechanically, and a further six test pits by excavated by hand. Two trial pits were placed across the northern end of the site, and showed a sequence of car park deposits laid directly on the truncated bedrock surface. A third trial pit revealed a deep deposit of redeposited crushed sandstone, whilst the fourth produced a more complex stratigraphic sequence. This comprised a deep deposit of crushed sandstone, potentially within a cellar or hillslope terrace, which had been cut by a pit or other negative feature, and sealed subsequently by material containing 17th-century pottery. Other finds included a fragment of late medieval pottery and two fragments of vitrified brick indicative of pottery kiln structure. Whilst the date of the deposit and the full character of the features encountered remained uncertain, they nevertheless demonstrated the archaeological potential of the site. The six hand-dug test pits yielded little additional archaeological information, as they were located around the plot boundaries, and all were located within the disturbed ground of wall foundation trenches (Philpott 2017).

5. Summary of the Fieldwork Results

5.1 Phasing

Each of the features, deposits and structures encountered during the investigation has been ascribed to one of four general phases of activity. This phasing, based on the site matrix and initial assessment of the artefactual evidence, is both broad and provisional, as is appropriate for an assessment of the site, and will undoubtedly be refined in the light of evidence produced from detailed analysis of the dataset. Nevertheless, the phasing of each context has been assigned with a high degree of confidence:

- *Phase 1:* Late medieval – mid-17th century
- *Phase 2:* Mid-17th century – 18th century
- *Phase 3:* 19th century – early 20th century
- *Phase 4:* Modern

A summary of the results obtained from the excavation is presented below. This narrative is divided into four sections, which consider the archaeological development of each of the provisional phases of activity. Site plans are presented in *Appendix 1* and additional contextual information is provided in *Appendix 2* in tabular form.

In addition to the physical evidence for human activity across the site was exposure of the natural bedrock (**007**) in several parts of the excavated area. This was revealed at various depths, ranging from less than 1m in the north-eastern part of the site and 1.1m beneath the modern ground surface in the western corner of the site, suggesting that the area had been truncated (Plate 4).



Plate 4: The western corner of the site, showing the stratigraphic sequence overlying the natural geology 007, looking west

5.2 Phase 1: Late Medieval – Mid-17th Century

The earliest evidence for anthropogenic activity appeared to be provided by dark brown, silty clay soil horizon **048**, which was encountered in the eastern part of the site, with very similar and probably associated deposits **046**, **047** and **50** that were revealed in the south-eastern corner of the excavated area. These deposits had an average depth of 1m, and contained numerous fragments of pottery and clay tobacco pipes with a date range potentially spanning the late 16th and 17th centuries.

The fragmentary remains of an L-shaped wall (**020**) discovered in the western part of the site may also be ascribed to a primary phase of activity (Fog 6). The wall measured 1.45m north-west/south-east and 1.40m north-east/south-west, with the vestiges of a stone floor on the northern side (Plate 5). The fabric of the wall was principally stone, although it also incorporated some brick-built elements, which may have represented later repair. The wall was built directly on top of the natural bedrock, but was otherwise stratigraphically isolated from other features, making it difficult to determine its date of origin. However, it appeared to have been damaged by later quarrying, suggesting that wall **020** was a primary feature.



Plate 5: The remains of stone-built structure **020**, looking south

5.3 Phase 2: Mid-17th Century – 18th Century

Several stone-built structures and evidence for other activity has been ascribed provisionally to a second phase of the site's development which, based on an initial assessment of the artefactual data, appeared to span the mid-17th and 18th centuries. The remains of one of these stone-built structures were revealed beneath the brick floors (**014** and **015**, *Section 5.4* below) of a later house in the north-western part of the excavated area (Fig 6). The structure (**064**) was cut into the bedrock, and measured 3.40m by 2.72m, with a maximum depth of 0.54m (Fig 7). The component walls all comprised roughly hewn blocks of stone that had been stacked without the use of any bonding material (Plates 6 and 7) These external walls encompassed stone-built partitions that created a series of parallel channels, although these were not set at regular intervals; from north to south, the channels measured 0.35m, 0.18m, 0.48m, 0.40m, 0.30m and, furthest south, 0.45m to the widest point. Further stonework had been built against the northern and southern internal faces, where the bedrock had not fractured neatly as opposed to the east and west internal faces. Two flagstones across the western end of the southernmost channel represented the vestiges of a capping.



Plate 6: Structure 064 fully excavated, looking west

The foundations of another stone-built structure (**049**) were revealed in the eastern part of the site, immediately to the south-west of 19th-century brick-built foundations (*Section 5.4* below). The northern wall of this rectangular structure measured 5.80m long and 0.40m wide, and survived to a maximum height of 0.55m (Plate 8). The wall had been cut into layer **050** (Phase 1). The eastern and western walls were both 0.40m wide and survived to a height of 5.80m, level with the northern wall; the eastern wall was excavated to a length of approximately 2m and the western wall 3m. The building seemed to contain two rooms, although the eastern one was very narrow at only 0.78m wide. No internal surfaces survived. Excavation of the material within the footprint of the structure yielded a large quantity of domestic pottery with a date range spanning the 17th and 18th centuries.



Plate 7: The internal divisions of structure 064, looking south



Plate 8: Foundations of stone structure 049, situated in the south-eastern part of the site, looking south

Much of the central part of the excavation area was dominated by a large quarry (032), which was roughly triangular in shape and measured approximately 12m north/south by 11m north-west/south-east (Fig 6). On the western side, the edge of the cut appeared in the form of a substantial rock-face of natural bedrock (Plate 9). Natural bedrock at the base of the quarry was reached in a mechanically-excavated sondage at a depth of almost 4m beneath the modern car-park surface.



Plate 9: The rock face of the excavated quarry, looking north-west

Along the southern edge, roughly 1m from the base of the quarry, a semi-circular recess cut into the bedrock may have formed part of a well, which had been mostly removed during the quarrying activity (Plate 10). The quarry had evidently been backfilled with quarrying waste, which contained a large assemblage of pottery fragments, with a date range spanning the 17th and 18th centuries.



Plate 10: The quarry (032) fully excavated, showing the possible well, looking west

Two large pits (**060** and **061**), cut into the natural bedrock, was revealed in the north-eastern part of the site. Excavation of the blackish-brown sandy clay fills yielded a numerous fragments of slipware pottery, with many co-joining sherds that allowed three vessels to be largely reconstructed. Pit **060** was cut by a modern gas-monitoring well.

The truncated remains of an isolated pit (**030**), cut into bedrock **007**, was revealed in the north-western part of the site (Plate 11). The pit was just 0.15m deep, and contained a single homogeneous fill of black silt with frequent inclusions of cinder. The pit lay within the area that is shown on mid-19th-century mapping as Parr's Square.



Plate 11: Rock-cut feature 030 fully excavated, looking north

5.4 Phase 3: 19th Century – Early 20th Century

Excavation in the north-western part of the site revealed the well-preserved remains of two contiguous brick floors (**014** and **015**), separated by a single-course brick wall that almost certainly represented an internal partition (Plate 12). The location of these floors correspond to the footprint of a single double-depth dwelling shown overlooking the northern side of Parr's Square on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1852 and surviving into the 1930s (Figs 3-6). The two rooms represented by the brick surfaces were at ground-floor level, with no evidence for the house having contained a cellar; both floors had been laid almost directly onto bedrock **007**. The southern, or front, room of the property was 3.46m wide, and its floor (**014**) comprised hand-made bricks that had been broken in half and laid header up.

The southern wall of the room only survived at the eastern end, comprising a single course of hand-made bricks that were bonded with lime-based mortar. The wall survived to a length of 2.39m and a maximum height of five courses. The narrow width of this wall suggests that it was probably a partition, rather than the front wall, perhaps forming an entrance hall passage. The eastern wall of the room, forming a partition between the adjacent property, retained the remains of a fireplace that had an internal width of 1.14m with 0.36m wide brick-built cheeks that survived to a height of five courses (Plate 13). Situated to the south of the fireplace in the south-east corner of the room there appeared to have been a bricked-up doorway using a single brick-course wall, 0.76m in length.

The northern, rear, room of the house was similarly characterised by a surface of hand-made bricks (*15*) that appeared to have been laid directly onto the natural bedrock. The majority of the component bricks were full size, although several half-bricks were also included. As with the southern room, a fireplace was placed midway along the eastern wall of the room, which formed a partition between the adjacent property. The partition for the most part comprised a single course of hand-made bricks, although its thickness increased to two courses to the north of the fireplace. The fireplace had an internal measurement of 0.96m with two flanking brick-built cheeks.

No evidence for a doorway between the two rooms was clearly apparent, suggesting that the threshold, and the original ground-floor level, had been truncated. By extension, this would imply that the brick surface had been overlain by flagstones or timber to provide the floor in the house. However, a threshold leading to the northernmost room on the ground floor of the house was identified in the north-east corner, comprising a rectangular stone slab with concaved wear mark on the upper surface. The stone slab was 0.79m long and 0.30m wide. The fragmentary remains of a flagstone floor and brick-built foundations exposed to the west of room *15* almost certainly represented the vestiges of the adjacent property.



Plate 12: The remains of two rooms with brick floors in the north-west corner, looking west



*Plate 13: The eastern wall and surface **014**, showing the fireplace and bricked-up doorway on the right, looking east*

The location of two walls (**017** and **018**) revealed in the south-western corner of the excavated area correspond closely to the walls of two domestic properties on the eastern side of Parr's Square, as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1852 (Fig 3). Given the depth of the walls, it is likely that these had formed cellars, despite the absence of pavement lights on the historic mapping. Both walls had been truncated by the insertion of a modern man-hole/gully system to the north, probably associated with waste water removal from the car park. The fabric of wall **017** comprised hand-made bricks, each measuring 0.23 x 0.11 x 0.07m, and bonded with lime mortar, consistent with an early 19th-century construction date. The wall was aligned roughly east/west, surviving to a height of 12 brick courses and a length of 1.55m; it was truncated to the east by the foundation trench for a modern drain and associated man-hole (Plate 14). The wall almost certainly represented the northern wall of the short terrace of houses, with a short return to the south at the western end representing the front wall of the property; this continued to the south as wall **018**.

Wall **018** survived to a length of 3.73m, a height of 1.30m (14 brick-courses) and comprised two brick-courses in width. It was keyed into an east/west-aligned wall that undoubtedly formed the partition wall for the adjacent property. A few flagstones (**019**) revealed immediately to the north of the partition wall represented the surviving remnants of the cellar floor (Plate 15). Removal of these flagstones exposed a bedding layer of red sand that had been deposited directly on top of bedrock **007**. The southern elevation of the partition was abutted by two short stubs of brick wall, both measuring 0.5m long. These almost certainly represented the cheeks of a 0.70m wide fireplace in the cellar of the central of the three houses in the row. The remains of a flagstone floor were also identified, although this was not exposed fully due to the unstable character of the sides of the excavation in this area.



Plate 14: Cellar walls 017 (foreground) and 018 (rear) and associated drainage infrastructure, looking south-east



Plate 15: Flagstone floor 019 associated with cellar walls 017 and 018, with sondage showing red sand below and natural bedrock, looking south-east

The brick-built foundations of several structures were revealed in the eastern part of the site. Abutting the eastern side of stone building **049** were the fragmentary remains of L-shaped structure **052**, which comprised two short sections of wall. The fabric of the walls comprised hand-made bricks, bonded with lime-based mortar, consistent with an early 19th-century construction date. The position of these walls corresponded closely with the northern corner of a house shown on 19th-century mapping. A flagstone situated between the two sections of walling is likely to have represented a threshold.

Situated 1.36m to the north of wall **052** were the remains of another brick-built structure (**053**), which measured 3m long and 4.60m wide. The position of this structure corresponded with an apsidal enclosure shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1852 (Fig 3), the intended purpose of which remains uncertain, although it is tempting to associate the curved southern wall as the base of a redundant and largely demolished pottery kiln. The component walls were two brick-courses wide, with only the northern wall surviving to a height of more than one or two brick courses (Plate 16). The later insertion of ceramic drains had removed the south-east corner and part of the northern wall of structure **053**. These drains appeared to serve a toilet that had been inserted in the centre of the structure, presumably in the late 19th or early 20th century.

Excavation of the area (**054**) enclosed by structure **053** yielded a large quantity of pottery kiln waste, including wasters, fragments of saggars and kiln bricks, some of which can be dated to the 19th century.



*Plate 16: Structure **053** and associated pottery-manufacturing waste during excavation, looking north*

On the northern side of **053** were the partial remains of a series of brick floors and walls (**056**), which had been truncated by modern services to the north (Plate 17). The majority of the bricks were hand-made, typically measuring 0.23 x 0.11 x 0.07m, except the central area where they measured 0.24 x 0.12 x 0.08m. The fabric of the wall on the far left was notable for its use of large bricks, each measuring 0.24 x 0.15 x 0.12m. A layer of black cinder (**055**) covered the floors, and contained fragments of 20th-century pottery.



Plate 17: Wall 056 and associated brick floors, looking south-west

Situated 2.7m to the north-west of **053** were the remains of another brick-built structure (**059**), which measured 4.28m east/west by 2.29m north/south, forming a rectangular tank (Plate 18). The walls were all two brick-courses thick (0.25-0.26m thick), and the component bricks measured 0.25 x 0.12 x 0.08m, bonded with pink, shell and stone tempered mortar. The northern wall survived to a height of 0.97m, whilst the southern wall survived the lowest at 0.50m where it had been truncated by the installation of the waste water gully for the car park. The interior was filled with demolition rubble comprising mostly bricks and a number of very large stone slabs.

A brick-built cellar (**042**) containing a rock-cut well (**044**) was unearthed near the southern edge of the excavated area (Plate 19). A few fragmentary flagstones revealed in the south-western part of the cellar almost certainly represented the original floor. These had been laid on a thin bedding layer of clay, which in turn overlay the natural bedrock. Abutting the western side of the western wall were the vestiges of a stone wall (**062**), which measured 0.77 x 0.66m and survived to a maximum height of 0.77m.



Plate 18: Rectangular structure 059, looking north-west

The northern wall of the cellar was aligned east/west, measured 4.99m long, 0.36m wide (comprising three brick-courses), and survived to a height of 1.71m (Plate 19). The component bricks were bonded with sandy lime-based mortar, consistent with an 18th- or early 19th-century construction date. The western wall, aligned north/south, was excavated to a length of 5.71m but extended beyond the edge of the excavated area. The fabric of the wall comprised hand-made bricks bonded with sandy lime-based mortar, and was four brick-courses wide (048m) and survived to a height of 1.71m. It had been set in a foundation trench (063) that had been cut into the bedrock.

The well cut into the bedrock beneath the cellar floor was bell-shaped and measured 2.58m north/south, 2.10m wide at the southern end (Fig 8) and 1.39m wide at the northern end; the edge of the well extended beneath the north wall of the cellar (Plate 20). Mechanical excavation revealed that the well had vertical sides, and the base was exposed a depth of 2.95m below the level of the cellar floor. The material backfilled into the well (045) comprised mostly clinker and produced fragments of pottery with a date range spanning the 18th to 20th centuries. Eight leather shoes were also recovered from fill 045 at a depth of 2.60m, close to the bottom.

Excavation of the material (043) that had been backfilled into the cellar contained a large quantity of 20th-century artefacts, including metal rubbish bins, three metal buckets, a large ceramic ‘Improved Bristol Glazed’ (IBG) flagon, date stamped 1915, part of a ceramic toilet and a collection of domestic pottery and glass. A metal frame recovered from this backfilled material may have formed part of the mechanism for raising water from the well.



Plate 19: Cellar 042 to the south of the site during excavation, showing top of rock-cut well 044, looking north-east



Plate 20: Detail of well 044 during excavation, looking north-east

A series of 19th-century surfaces were revealed in the eastern part of the excavated area, to the east of quarry **032** (Plate 21). These included the vestiges of a 1.40m wide cobbled path that was aligned north-east/south-west which appeared to run between two houses or rows of houses. On the south-eastern side of the path was a spread of ‘Staffordshire Blue’ floor tiles (**029**) that covered an area measuring 0.90 x 0.68m, together with a 1.50 x 1.74m area of flagstones (**022**), and a brick floor (**023**) that measured 1.88 x 0.98m. These surfaces probably represented the vestiges of internal floors. On the north-western side of the cobbled path was another flagstone floor (**025**), measuring 3.90 x 1.30m, which had been truncated by a modern service trench.



Plate 21: The various surfaces exposed to the east of quarry 032, looking north-east

5.5 Phase 4: Modern

The only archaeological remains encountered in the western extent of the excavated area were the foundations of a 20th-century wall (**011**) that survived to a maximum height of four brick courses and was two brick-courses wide. The fabric comprised modern engineering bricks had a uniform measurement of 0.21 x 0.10 x 0.07m. The bricks were laid on a concrete base (**010**), which measuring 2m east/west, was 0.60m wide with a return at the eastern end to the south-east of 1.60m (Plate 22).

The wall had evidently been demolished in the late 20th century, and sealed beneath a series of levelling deposits associated with the modern car park. The sequence revealed in the east-facing section of the excavated trench consisted of modern kerb stones (**001**) that had been laid onto a 0.15m thick layer of limestone gravel (**002**) and 0.13m of dark greyish-black levelling material (**003**) above a 0.22m thick layer of demolition rubble (**008**). These modern layers were deposited fairly uniformly across the entire excavated area.



Plate 22: 20th-century brick wall 011 on concrete base 010, placed directly on top of the natural bedrock in the western corner of the former car park, looking east

6. Material Assessed

6.1 Introduction

The entire paper and material archive generated from all stages of the fieldwork was examined to ascertain its potential for further study. The method of assessment used varied with the class of information examined, although in each case it was undertaken in accordance with guidance provided by English Heritage in *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition (English Heritage 1991) and updated subsequently by MoRPHE (Historic England 2015). All classes of finds were examined in full, with observations supplemented by the records generated during the course of the fieldwork and maintained within the project archive. Quantifications are incorporated within the individual assessments. A breakdown of the paper and photographic archive appears in Table 2.

Total Contexts	65
Drawings	12
Total Digital Photographs	447

Table 2: Quantification of the paper/digital archive

6.2 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the assessment was to evaluate all classes of data from the excavation, in order to formulate a project design for a programme of further analysis appropriate to the potential demonstrated by the site archive. A statement of the significance of the results from each element of the archive is given below. The quantification and assessments represent an amalgamation of the total body of work undertaken in 2018.

The objectives of this assessment correspond to *Appendix 4* of *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition (English Heritage 1991) and MoRPHE (Historic England 2015). They are:

- to assess the quantity, provenance and condition of all classes of material: stratigraphical, artefactual and environmental;
- to comment on the range and variety of that material;
- to assess the potential of the material to address questions raised in the course of the project;
- to formulate any further questions arising from the assessment.

This assessment will present:

- a factual summary, characterising the quantity and perceived quality of the data contained within the site archive;
- a statement of the academic potential of the data;
- recommendations for the storage and curation of the data.

6.3 *Stratigraphic Data*

6.3.1 *Assessment*

The paper archive represents a percentage of the overall data gathered during the course of the excavation (Table 2). In total, 65 contexts were recorded. The context record has confirmed the identification of features and structures of various periods. Overall, the main features of significance can be grouped into four principal phases of activity, spanning the 16th to 20th centuries. The stratigraphic sequence is simple, but elements could be understood in greater depth.

6.3.2 *Potential*

Analysis of the stratigraphic data has the ability to refine the site sequence and to add value to the artefact analysis. A thorough appraisal of the context sheets, drawing, digital plans and site matrices would allow nuances and sub-phasing to be devised for the features identified during excavation.

6.4 *Photographic Data*

6.4.1 *Assessment*

In all, there are 447 site images (*Appendix 3*). The site photographs cover the whole of the excavation works.

The images are an invaluable aid in all aspects of post-excavation analysis. They provide a general and detailed pictorial record of the site throughout all phases of its excavation and recording.

6.4.2 *Potential*

The images include archaeological features and finds, and record how the site was excavated. They will undoubtedly aid the stratigraphic analysis. The images could also be integrated with the site database to provide a visual element, which is helpful when dealing with a large corpus of information, and also have the ability to add valuable illustrative material to the final report and publication.

6.5 *Digital Data*

6.5.1 *Assessment*

The digital data include all the records of survey undertaken using the total station theodolite, and the digital photographic archive.

6.6 *The Finds Evidence*

6.6.1 *Introduction*

The artefactual assemblage comprises finds from various material categories, mainly pottery (post-medieval), ceramic building material / kiln furniture and clay tobacco pipes, together with lesser quantities of metalwork, ceramic building materials, glass, industrial residues, animal bone, leather (shoes) and wood. An assessment of each class of artefact/ecofact is provided in the following sections. The aim of the finds assessment is to evaluate all classes of archaeological material from the excavation to assess their research potential and significance.

6.6.2 *Methodology*

Finds were collected using a 100% collection policy on site during the excavation, with the exception of a large deposit of kiln material that was deposited as waste in context **054**, which was recorded on site and diagnostic fragments retained as a sample (Plate 23). All finds were returned to the Salford Archaeology finds' laboratory in sealed and labelled polyethylene bags. All finds were washed, except organic material and metal, which were dry brushed, and grouped by material for assessment.



Plate 23: Assemblage of pottery-manufacturing waste recovered from the material (054) within structure 053, looking west

6.6.3 Overview of the Assemblage

A total of 67 contexts were recorded on the site, 36 of which contained finds. In total, 7432 artefacts were recovered, weighing a total of 744.6kg (Table 3). All the finds date from the late 16th/17th to mid-20th century, with a majority comprising late 17th- and 18th-century pottery, together with a large amount of pottery-manufacturing waste.

6.6.4 Provenance

Pit 061: the fill of pit **061** contained 766 sherds of post-medieval pottery, including at least eight vessel profiles of various classes of pottery dating from the late 17th to mid-18th century. The fill also included several sherds of self-coloured earthenware and at least five 17th-/18th-century clay tobacco pipe bowls.

Layer 046: a dark brown silty sand deposit consisting of coal, cinder and charcoal that contained the largest quantity of clay tobacco pipes from the site (140 in total).

Deposit 054: the fill (**054**) of feature **053** yielded the largest portion of ceramic material from the excavation, including a large waste dump of pottery and kiln furniture, likely to have been laid down as hardcore for the foundations of the later structure. This deposit contained 189.8kg of baked/fired clay, 42.5kg of bricks and 290kg of post-medieval pottery consisting of 3008 sherds, which includes saggars.

Pit 037: whilst only four fragments of pottery were recovered from this pit, assessment suggests they represent the earliest pottery from the site, dating from the late 16th to mid-17th century.

The fill (065) of Well 045: the fill of a well cut into bedrock contained several finds including eight leather shoes, some of which were complete.

Material	Period	Count	Weight (g)
Animal bone		82	915
Building material	Industrial	131	72376
Charcoal		2	15
Clay tobacco pipe	17 th -20 th century	456	1676
Coin		1	6
Fired clay	17 th -19 th century		191455
Glass	17 th -20 th century	338	15985
Leather (shoe)	18 th -20 th century	19	13231
Metal	Modern	8	2951
Oyster shell		12	234
Pottery	Post-medieval	6345	442648
Slag	Industrial	18	1911
Wood		8	1076
Other / Miscellaneous		12	92
Total		7432	744571g (744.6kg)

Table 3: All material recovered from the Shakespeare North site by material, count, weight and period

6.6.5 Post-medieval Pottery

Quantification: in total, 6345 sherds of pottery were collected from 33 contexts and unstratified deposits. The pottery was quantified by sherd count and weight, and the material was scanned to identify the major fabric types/forms present. The fragments are generally in good condition, and include several near-complete vessels, together with many large fragments, significant proportions of rims and bases, and many joining sherds. The majority of the assemblage undoubtedly reflects the range of vessels produced at a local kiln, rather than being a purely domestic assemblage, and includes significant amounts of seconds, as well as misfired and rejected wasters, indication of a production site. This assessment provides a summary of the assemblage and its potential for further detailed study.

Range of Material: the assemblage is dominated by fragments of dark-glazed coarse earthenware (domestic kitchenware), but also contains dark-glazed finewares, red earthenware, sugar mould, self-coloured earthenware, tin-glazed earthenware, mottled ware, industrial slipware and modern china. The earliest material from the excavation, however, appears to include a fragment of a dark-glazed faceted ‘tyg’ and early 17th-century slipware, all recovered from pit **037** (Plate 24). Amongst the pottery is also a quantity of kiln furniture, including saggars of various fabrics and sizes.



Plate 24: Fragment of slipware cups

The pottery recovered from pit **061** included numerous refitting sherds of a dark-glazed pipkin with straight handles; sufficient fragments of this vessel enable its near-complete reconstruction (Plate 25). It is probable that large elements of other earthenware vessels can be reconstructed from the fragments recovered from pit **061**. Other material included a distinctive, decorated slipware plate or dish that can similarly be largely reconstructed from the sherds recovered (Plate 26), substantial elements of a mottled ware jar (Plate 27), two dark-glazed deep bowls, two decorated fine slipware cups, and a tin-glazed earthenware plate (Plate 28).



Plate 25: Reconstructed dark-glazed pipkin of probable late 16th-/early 17th-century date from pit 061



Plate 26: Reconstructed 17th-century slipware dish from pit 061

The majority of the pottery recovered from fill **054** consists of fragmented dark-glazed coarseware (Plate 29), unglazed red earthenware, and sugar mould (Plate 30), but also contains fragments of tin-glazed earthenware, self-coloured earthenware, stoneware, saggars, and kiln furniture. The pottery may be dated very broadly to the period spanning the late 17th to 20th centuries, and probably derived as dumped waste from a nearby kiln.

It is perhaps notable that some early post-medieval fabric types, such as Cistercian ware and Midland Purple, were entirely absent from the assemblage. Midlands Purple ware is the dominant coarseware throughout the Midlands and north-west England throughout the 15th and 16th centuries, and its absence from the present assemblage reinforces the probable 17th-century date for the earliest activity on the site.

The apparent paucity of slip-coated/buff-bodied wares from the assemblage is also of interest. In its heyday, this ware was produced in Staffordshire between the 1720s and 1740, although it has been found in domestic groups dating up to the 1770s (Barker 2008). Important groups of this ware have been recovered from excavations in Salford (Garratt 2008), Bury (Tyson 1975, OA North 2008) and Bewsey Old Hall near Warrington (Lewis *et al* 2011, 123-8).



Plate 27: Reconstructed 18th-century mottled ware jar from pit 061



Plate 28: Reconstructed 18th-century tin-glazed earthenware plate from pit 061



Plate 29: Reconstructed dark-glazed pancheon from pit 061

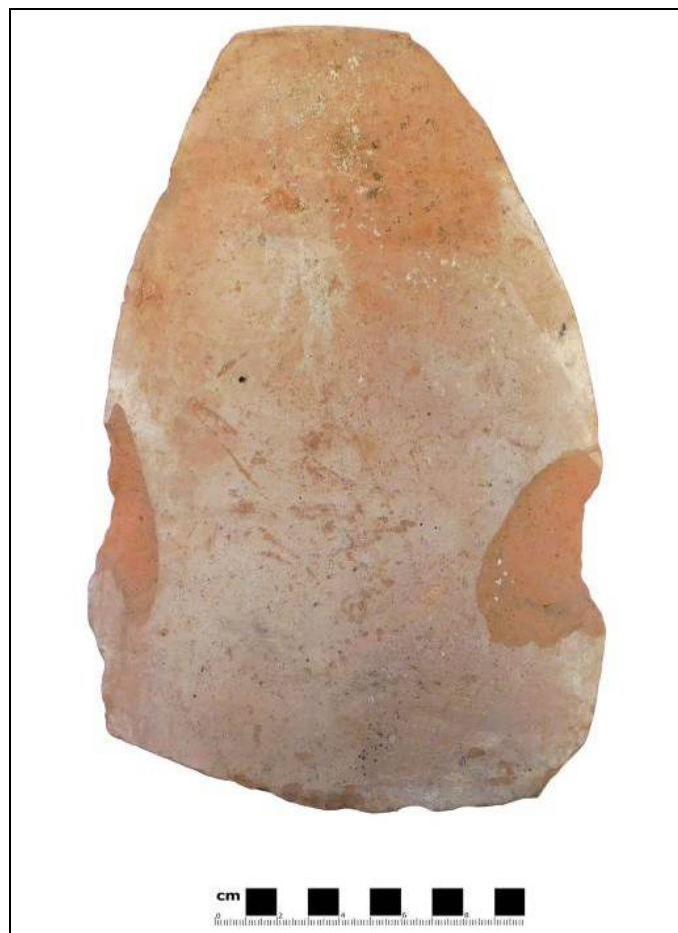


Plate 30: Sherd of an 18th-century sugar mould fill 054

Dating: there are significant problems associated with the dating of dark-glazed earthenwares in general, with their typically utilitarian nature meaning that neither forms, nor glaze and fabric change appreciably through time. This is particularly noticeable in the conservative range of rim forms used by potters within Lancashire, as noted during a previous excavation of an 18th-century pottery at Prescott (McNeil 1989); typically, the forms attributed to this group consist of cylindrical and globular jars, as well as pancheons and bowls, although examples of jugs, cisterns and trenchers are also known.

The problem of attributing close dating to dark-glazed earthenware and identifying the products of individual pot houses is further complicated by the similarity in fabrics, since most of the potteries south of the River Ribble used the coal measures clays, which are effectively indistinguishable (Ricketts 2010, 12-3). From an initial inspection and assessment, the dark-glazed earthenware recovered from the present excavation appears to differ little from vessels being produced elsewhere in the region during the 18th and 19th centuries, although detailed analytical work may enable distinctive and characteristic traits to be identified, whilst association with well-dated groups from sealed context raises the potential of dating the dark-glazed earthenwares by association. Whilst no formal attempt at creating a fabric series has been attempted to date, the practicality and validity of this exercise has been assessed.

Some of the other pottery types recovered from the excavation can be quite closely dated, such as the glazed faceted ‘tyg’ and the slipware from pit **037**, to which an early 17th-century date may be attributed. Similarly, tin-glazed earthenware was prevalent during the first half of the 18th century, with 14 factories producing this distinctive type of pottery had been established in Liverpool between 1710 and 1760 (Black 2001, 8). However, demand for tin-glazed earthenware declined rapidly thereafter and the local industry was extinct by the end of the 18th century, reflecting the introduction and rapid dominance of refined earthenwares (Barker 1999, 226-7).

Barker (2008) suggests that manufacture of mottled ware occurred in c 1700-70, with variations in the colour of the glaze from dark to light, with the lightening seen as a later trait. However, writing in the late 17th century, Dr Plot noted that mottled ware was being produced at that time (Plot 1686, 123). Prescott is known to have been one of the production centres for mottled ware (McNeil 1983, 60-1), and a better understanding of the range of forms and fabrics produced in the town would be of considerable assistance in dating material recovered from excavations across the North West.

Kiln and Production Waste: a total of 191kg of fired waste clay / kiln furniture was recovered from the site. This waste clay represents the remnants of pottery production, and there are many examples with finger impression marks where the clay has been pressed and shaped, probably from packing the sides of a kiln (Plate 31). The types of kiln furniture, and to a lesser extent, the way the glaze has adhered to the rims of individual vessels, has the potential to elucidate not only the type of firing technology used, but also whether material collected from elsewhere on the site is earlier or later.

Saggars: these are coarsely thrown, unglazed cylindrical pots, large enough to hold a single fineware vessel (Brears 1971, 130). They appear to be relatively rare within the assemblage, which probably reflects the nature of the vessels produced here, and the dominance of coarseware types. Nevertheless, some fragments of saggars are present in the assemblage (Plate 32).



Plate 31: Sample of fired clay with fingerprint and pottery impressions



Plate 32: Examples of saggarg fabrics

Potential: it is clear that further study of the assemblage has the potential to make a significant contribution towards a greater understanding of the post-medieval ceramic traditions in Merseyside and, indeed, the North West in general. As such, the assemblage is considered to be of regional interest, and to have considerable research potential. In particular, the material offers a very rare opportunity to examine the output of a single dark-glazed earthenware producer in detail, and will contribute greatly to an understanding of the manufacture of a range of essential day-to-day vessels. The dearth of archaeological evidence for pottery production sites in the North West has been highlighted as a major gap in regional knowledge (Newman and McNeil 2007a, 128; Newman and McNeil 2007b, 151).

In addition, The Medieval Pottery Research Group (MPRG), whose remit has been expanded recently to include pottery from the post-medieval and industrial periods, has also raised a series of research questions about the nature this type of pottery manufacturer. The evidence from Prescott may address such questions as what prompted the rise in 18th-century potteries, and also, can the distribution of pottery be tied to social vectors, rather than being purely influenced by larger-scale distribution mechanisms. At a regional level, analysis of the Prescott assemblage will contribute to the emergence of more coherent picture of the development of post-medieval pottery in Prescott and the wider region (MPRG 2010, 8-9).

The assemblage of post-medieval pottery is large and there are many different types of vessel forms represented, including some that are unusual, and these provide a good cross-section of the wares produced and used in Prescott and surrounding district between the late 16th / 17th and 19th centuries. Although there were several potteries producing dark-glazed earthenwares and other fabric type in Prescott during the 17th and 18th centuries, the material so far published contained a limited number of forms.

Dark-glazed earthenware: the assemblage will enable the range of dark-glazed earthenware forms produced locally during the 17th and 18th centuries to be identified, and allow the initial type and fabric series (McNeil 1983) for one of the key centres of pottery production in the North West to be enhanced and expanded. The resultant analytical dataset will form a benchmark from which to re-examine material recovered from earlier excavations, and establish whether any significant differences can be discerned between the products of different local kilns.

Up until now, the lack of closely dated dark-glazed earthenware assemblages from known production sites has hampered dating of this distinctive type of pottery, since unlike whitewares, where chronological changes in fashion are well known, and can be followed with relative ease, very little change of dark-glazed earthenware vessel forms over a protracted period has been identified.

There is small assemblage of material from the dump deposits that probably represent pottery used, rather than produced on the site, which bears the potential to contribute to the dating of dark-glazed earthenware. Thus, by tying the dark-glazed earthenware to a known source with identifiable typologies, it should be possible to refine the dating of the assemblage.

Tin-glazed earthenware: analysis of the small tin-glazed earthenware component of the assemblage will be focused on establishing whether the type was actually produced in Prescott, or if the recovered sherds represent domestic waste.



Plate 33: Selection of tin-glazed earthenware fragments recovered from the excavation

Recommendations for analysis: it has thus been established that the site has considerable potential to provide a chronological framework for local dark-glazed earthenwares, and it is recommended that the assemblage is subject to detailed analysis. It is recommended that it be fully catalogued, a full fabric series produced, and a full range of rim types and forms illustrated. Moreover, the assemblage should then be studied in conjunction with the existing assemblages with Prescott, and nearby settlements such as Rainford and Liverpool, to ascertain typological links and published as part of a comprehensive analysis of the site.

It is further recommended that a report be prepared for publication on the production waste. This should describe and illustrate the main vessel forms present in the assemblage, and describe the production methods which can be determined from the vessels and kiln furniture. The report should include brief notes on the other types of kiln waste from the site in order to record their presence, and place the dataset in its context amongst the results obtained from previous excavations in Prescott.

This material should be photographed in detail and a small, representative portion retained for the archive for future research purposes and comparative analysis. However, due to the quantity of material collected, it is recommended that most is discarded.

6.6.6 Clay Tobacco Pipes

Quantification: in total, 456 clay tobacco pipe fragments were retrieved from 27 contexts and unstratified deposits. This includes 70 pipe bowl fragments, consisting of 42 complete or near complete bowls. An assessment of the potential of this material for further study was undertaken by rapid scan and, where possible, spot dates were assigned to individual pipes and/or contexts. All the material was examined, with the intention of determining a range of factors that might influence its potential, including the level of preservation and the degree of fragmentation.

Where possible the pipes have been dated by the use of the general bowl typology developed by Oswald (1975), which has been refined by further research into pipe production in nearby Rainford (Philpott (ed) 2015) and the wider Merseyside area (Higgins 2008). A relatively close date for the manufacture of a particular pipe can be achieved by this method. However, where a large part of the bowl is missing or its typology cannot be determined, then only a wide date range, or perhaps no date at all, can be given. No attempt has been made to date the pipes using the stem bore diameter formula developed by Harrington and Binford. That dating method requires a very large assemblage of pipes and it has also been demonstrated to be inaccurate, especially for pipes made during the 17th and 19th centuries (Noël Hume 1982, 121-2).

Assessment: the clay tobacco pipes recovered from the excavation have a date range spanning the mid-17th to mid-20th centuries. Approximately half of the assemblage of the pipe bowls date to the 17th century, with 36% dating to the 18th-19th century, and 14% are of 20th-century date. The majority (*c* 90%) of the pipe bowls are plain, however, and only three 17th-century pipe bowls include stamps; ‘TB’ bowl stamp, ‘RL’ heel stamp, ‘GR’ heel stamp. Only one of the pipe bowls is decorated, with a crossed flag design, dating to the 20th century.



Plate 34: Variety of clay tobacco pipe bowls from the excavation

One of the clay tobacco pipe stamps in the assemblage has been identified amongst material excavated previously in the area; ‘RL’ may be the stamp of Richard Lyon, who is known to have been producing clay tobacco pipes in Rainford during the 17th century, and is referred to as a pipe maker in the Rainford Court Rolls of 1678 (Higgins 2008, 138). The ‘TB’ and ‘GR’ stamps have similarly been recognised previously, although have not as yet been attributed to a specific pipe maker.

Potential: some of the pipes from the excavation are datable by bowl typology and/or makers’ marks, and should assist in establishing a chronology of the site’s development from the late 16th century to the late 19th century. Some further research is required to provide more specific dating on the pipe bowls, as well as to identify pipe makers’ from their stamps. This research could usefully include comparison with material recovered from previous excavations in Prescott.

6.6.7 Ceramic Building Material and Kiln Furniture

Quantification and Assessment: a total of 118 bricks was collected from the site. Some bricks exhibited lime mortar still adhered to the surface and are clearly from demolished structures. The bricks are hand made and have a coarse fabric, probably dating to the 17th-18th centuries. Some bricks exhibit glazing and over-firing, the result of being used as kiln bricks (Plate 35). Further analysis of the bricks is required to assess how many may have been used as kiln bricks or as part of the kiln structure. In addition, 15 fragments of slag and industrial waste were recovered from the site, no doubt the remnants of a pottery kiln.



Plate 35: Vitrified brick deriving from a kiln lining

Nine tiles were retrieved from the site. This includes post Victorian green-glazed tiles, and modern unglazed decorated floor tiles. No further work is required on the tiles.

6.6.8 Animal Bone

Quantification and assessment: a small collection of animal bone (22 fragments) was recovered from the excavations, and scanned rapidly for assessment. Species present include domestic and wild mammals and birds. The material is in a poor state of preservation, frequently with erosion of the surface of the bone, and often fragmented, with less than 50% of the original anatomical part represented.

For each bone, the following information was recorded where appropriate: number of bones; size; fusion state; preservation (*eg* burning); butchery; measurements; and tooth wear development. The database will comprise the archive record, as appropriate.

Potential: the bone assemblage has little potential for further analysis, beyond adding a descriptive text to the site narrative. It is recommended that the animal bone is discarded upon completion of the project.

6.6.9 Marine Molluscs

Quantification and assessment: a small amount of marine mollusc shell (12 single or part-valves) was recovered from the excavation. All can be identified as edible oyster (*O edulis*), which almost represent a small amount of food debris rather than natural examples. Assessment was based on an inspection of all individual shells, and an outline database has been created using Microsoft Excel. Data were recorded in a standardised format, noting provenance and species. The database will comprise the archive record, as appropriate.

Potential: this group presumably represents a small amount of discarded food remains. It is too small for any valid statistical analysis, and thus has no potential for further research.

All material has been identified to species level, and these data have been entered within the site database. No further work is recommended, and the present level of recording is considered sufficient for archival purposes.

6.6.10 Glass

Quantification and assessment: a total of 338 glass fragments were collected from the site from 21 contexts and unstratified contexts. The assemblage comprises fragments of at least 42 glass bottles, approximately 40% of which are green bottle glass with a date range spanning the 17th to 19th centuries (Plate 36). A few complete bottles were recovered from the excavation, together with fragments from embossed machine-blown mineral and beer bottles. Where the necks have survived, they are either cork-stoppered or had the typical constricted neck of Codd bottles. The latter, patented in 1870, were out of use in Britain by *c* 1935 (Talbot 1974) and provide a broad date range for some deposits identified across the site.



Plate 36: Examples of green bottle glass dating to the 17th-/18th-century

Potential: some further work is required to assess the variety and forms of glass bottles in the assemblage, as well as more precise dating for some of the excavated deposits.

6.6.11 Ironwork

Quantification: a small number of metal objects were recovered from the excavation, all of which were in very poor and corroded condition. Nevertheless, the intended function of most of the objects could be determined with confidence, and thus no x-radiography was regarded as necessary at this stage in the project. The assemblage includes a highly corroded modern bucket with chain fragments, a large nail, and a chisel/file.

The assessment was based on the visual inspection of all individual objects; an outline database was created using Microsoft Excel. Data were recorded in a standardised format, noting provenance, type of object, material, period. The database will comprise the archive record.

Potential: the assemblage of metalwork has only limited potential for further work, but a minimal record should be completed of each object. It is proposed that this be done in a time-economical manner, by means of digital photography with a prominently displayed scale and brief written records. An outline report will be prepared for archival purposes, and a brief illustrated note prepared for the final publication. Recommendations will be made, after discussions with National Museums Liverpool, for the safe and appropriate disposal of some of the material; it is not thought that any of metalwork is of sufficient archaeological importance to warrant conservation or further analytical work.

6.6.12 Non-Ferrous Metalwork

Quantification: the small assemblage of non-ferrous metalwork comprised a plain copper buckle, and an illegible copper coin. Though conservation may aid in identification of the coin, it is likely to be post-17th century in date and therefore it is not deemed of significant value to merit conservation.

Potential: whilst adding to the dating evidence and providing some further indication of activities undertaken across the site during the post-medieval period, the non-ferrous objects are of limited significance, and have no potential for further analytical work.

6.6.13 Leather

Quantification: a total of 19 leather shoe and boot fragments were recovered from the site, eight of which were retrieved from the backfill (**065**) of a well. These include a complete and well-preserved example of a Balmoral-style worker's boot, fitted with hobnails, of a probable mid-19th-century date (Plate 37).

Potential: following consultation with appropriate specialists it is recommended that the best and most complete examples from this unusually well-preserved collection of workers' boots merit cleaning, conservation and further analysis. Other fragments of leather should be recorded and then discarded.



Plate 37: A Balmoral-style worker's boot dating to the mid-19th-century

6.6.14 Palaeo-environmental Remains

Only one sample was taken on-site, from the base of deposit **061**; a rubbish pit containing black cinder/clinker and charcoal. This pit contained some of the earliest and most complete pottery vessels from the entire site, and it is recommended that this material is sent off for radiocarbon dating to help date the pit deposit which may provide a *terminus post-quem* for the site.

7. *Curation and Conservation*

7.1 *Recipient Museum*

The finds, the paper archive and the electronic archive will be deposited with the National Museums Liverpool. Contact details are:

National Museums Liverpool
127 Dale Street
Liverpool L2 2JH

7.2 *Conservation*

Most of the assemblage is well-preserved and in good condition, and thus the conservation requirement is low. The Balmoral-style worker's boot is the only artefact that merits conservation work.

7.3 *Storage*

The complete project archive, which will include written records, plans, digital plans and photographs, artefacts and ecofacts, will be prepared following the guidelines set out in *Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites* (UKIC 1984, Conservation Guidelines 3) prior to deposition.

For long-term storage of the digital data, CDs will be used, the content including the reports, plans, scanned images and digital photographs. Each CD will be fully indexed and accompanied by the relevant metadata for provenance. The digital record should ideally be duplicated as a paper record for long-term archiving, including printouts of photographs and survey plots, labelled and summarised.

All dry and stable finds will be packed according to the museum's specifications, in either acid-free cardboard boxes, or in airtight plastic boxes for unstable material. The artefactual assemblage is predominantly stable, but should be packed carefully with bubble wrap protecting the bags to minimise movement and abrasion in the boxes.

7.4 *Packaging*

The assemblage is currently well-packaged and will require no further packaging. Box lists derived from the site database have been compiled and will be updated when the identification of objects is complete. The paper records will be presented in either ring binders or in acid-free storage, fully indexed, and with the contents labelled.

7.5 *Discard Policy*

A discard policy will be prepared, in consultation with the National Museums Liverpool. Material of no discernible long-term archaeological potential will be discarded, with the museum's agreement.

8. *Statement of Potential*

8.1 *Introduction*

The archaeological investigation undertaken on the Shakespeare North Playhouse site has provided a valuable opportunity to investigate a relatively large site in the heart of historic core of Prescott, and the assessment of the individual elements of the project archive shows that it has potential to contribute to research agendas at a regional level. In particular, the site produced a very significant assemblage of post-medieval pottery.

Overall, the results of the 2018 excavation are of significance and can be regarded as being of regional importance. Data pertinent to all of the original research themes was recovered, although in some cases no firm conclusions can be drawn.

The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the strategy set out in the original Written Scheme of Investigation, in order to address the aims put forward in that document (*Appendix 4*). Assessment of the stratigraphic, artefactual and environmental data generated by the fieldwork is primarily concerned with the potential of the data to address these fieldwork aims (*Section 2* above), and to formulate new questions and research aims that can be addressed during the analytical phase of the post-excavation programme.

8.2 *Principal Potential*

8.2.1 *Overview*

The present section reviews the success of the fieldwork and post-excavation assessment in providing data to address the original research aims. Assessment of the primary stratigraphic records has established a relatively simple sequence of activity on the site from the 16th/17th century to the 20th century.

Assessment of the artefactual assemblages recovered from the site has highlighted those elements that have the greatest potential to advance archaeological knowledge, and which require further detailed analysis leading to the production of a full and detailed archive report and an appropriate level of publication.

8.2.2 *Stratigraphy*

The stratigraphic data will provide the framework within which the other analyses can take place. The archaeological stratigraphy is fairly simple but has the potential for further, more in-depth description and discussion. The greatest potential for analysis lies in further interpretation and dating the sequence of structures and archaeological deposits, and confirming their phasing.

The stratigraphy will need to be revisited once the finds assemblages have been analysed, in order to incorporate any new evidence and to test and revise the stratigraphic interpretations developed at assessment.

8.2.3 *Artefactual Data*

Elements of the artefactual assemblage recovered from the site have some potential for further analysis, especially the pottery, which furnishes important information on the production of pottery in Prescott and the wider region during the post-medieval period and has considerable potential to make a significant contribution to the regional corpus. Whilst an initial form and fabric series of the post medieval pottery was drawn up following excavations in Prescott in the 1980s, the present assemblage has considerable potential to expand and enhance this existing record. In terms of national and regional research priorities, it is the assemblage of pottery that holds the greatest potential for further research.

8.3 *National Research Priorities*

In 1991, the English Heritage document, *Exploring Our Past*, included a strategy for dealing with the problems and opportunities which would be encountered during the following decade (English Heritage 1991b). Many of the ideas first raised in this document were developed further in a draft *Research Agenda* which outlined a series of research priorities (English Heritage 1997). The subsequent Historic England *Research Strategy* documents are *Exploring our Past Implementation Plan* (2003), *Discovering the Past, Shaping the Future* (2005), and *The National Heritage Protection Plan* (2011), although these are, in effect, strategies for Historic England itself. The draft *Research Agenda* is no longer considered current, although the following research objectives remain pertinent:

- the study of Processes of Change (PC);
- Themes (T);
- Landscapes (L);
- Methodological and technical development (MTD).

Those perceived as being of relevance to the Shakespeare North Playhouse site are listed below and supplementary comments have been integrated.

Processes of Change (PC): PC7, transition from medieval to post-medieval traditions (c AD 1300-1700): the excavation has the potential to determine the level of continuity of occupation and activity during this period and answer some of the issues surrounding such change, particularly using the ceramic assemblage, once this has been closely dated.

PC8, The Industrial Revolution (c 1700-1850): the development of the local pottery manufacturing provides a context for industries of this date.

MTD12, fieldwork recording techniques: the techniques used during the archaeological investigation will be critically reviewed subsequent to the results of the analysis being known.

MTD13, refining archaeological chronologies through scientific dating techniques: radiocarbon dating will contribute to an understanding of regional and possibly national chronologies.

8.4 Regional Research Priorities

The publication of the *Archaeological Research Framework for North West England* (NWARF; Brennan 2006; 2007) has provided a region-specific agenda that includes several research topics that are relevant to the study of the archaeological remains excavated at the Shakespeare North Playhouse site.

The excavated remains pertaining to post-medieval settlement and industry has the potential to contribute significantly to various research initiatives, ranging from household, to local and regional scales. The most relevant initiatives in the NWARF are laid out in *Chapter 6: Post-Medieval Agenda* in relation to urban settlement:

In addition, the artefacts recovered from the excavation hold importance in their own right, and especially the ceramic materials:

- *Initiative 6.1:* ‘The available data set should be greatly enlarged. Stratified artefact sequences from both small towns and rural settlements need to be collected, in order to establish the character of ceramic use throughout the region and to create the basis for socio-economic interpretation’;
- *Initiative 6.2:* ‘Unpublished ceramic groups, especially those from areas with no previous evidence should be published as a priority. The relevant grey literature should be made generally available’;
- *Initiative 6.36:* ‘improve the regional knowledge of ceramic vessel form and fabric type chronologies’;
- *Initiative 7.37:* ‘Regional study of late 18th-to 20th-century pottery production sites should identify urban factories and rural workshops, to tie products to source with identifiable typologies and to examine differences in technology, organisation and marketing between the large factories and smaller rural potteries’.

The manufacture of clay products is one of the fundamental areas of industrial activity, and particularly in an 18th- and 19th-century context, as ceramic vessels, clay tobacco pipes and ceramic building materials ‘comprise the bulk of material culture surviving as indicators of past activity’ (Newman and McNeil 2007, 151). However, the transition from the medieval ceramic traditions to the finer wares of the post-medieval period is under-represented in the archaeological record for the North West. The assemblage of post-medieval pottery from the Shakespeare North site can contribute to a consideration of the range and sources of pottery available, and will provide a useful comparator to material recently excavated in urban contexts, for example in Rainford, Liverpool and Manchester. The material may also offers an opportunity to understand trading patterns between Prescot and large urban settlements in the region, especially Liverpool, which is likely, for instance, to have been the intended market for the sugar moulds recovered from the excavation.

9. Updated Project Design

9.1 Aims and Objectives of the Programme of Analysis

This section follows the guidance of MoRPHE regarding the formulation of updated research aims (Historic England 2015). The original aims for the project remain valid (*Section 2 above*), but can be updated with new aims and objectives derived from the statement of potential set out in *Section 8*.

The updated research aims will be focussed on a consideration of the development of the site from the 16th/17th century to the 20th century. Particular emphasis will be placed on elucidating evidence for changes, both spatial and chronological, in the supply and manufacture of pottery.

Updated Research Aim 1: what are the occupation sequences of the site?

- *Objective 1.1:* what are the main periods of occupation on the site as shown by detailed stratigraphic analysis of the primary records, and is there any firm evidence for pre-post-medieval activity on the site?
- *Objective 1.2:* is it possible to refine the phasing of the site further through the identification and dating of stratigraphic sub-phases, and to attribute all contexts to these periods?
- *Objective 1.3:* what is the dating evidence for each of the refined periods and sub-phases of activity on the site?

Updated Research Aim 2: how did the site develop through the post-medieval period?

- *Objective 2.1:* can the date at which post-medieval activity commenced be established in detail?
- *Objective 2.2:* is it possible to characterise the nature of occupation and industrial activity (pottery manufacturing and quarrying) on the site throughout the post-medieval period?
- *Objective 2.3:* to what extent do distribution patterns of artefactual and ecofactual material change during the course of the post-medieval period?
- *Objective 2.4:* is there any evidence that alterations to the layout of the site or changing patterns of artefact and ecofact deposition reflect changes in the character, status and function of the site through time?

Updated Research Aim 3: what can be elucidated of post-medieval ceramic traditions and changes in the form and fabric of dark-glazed earthenwares and other wares?

- *Objective 3.1:* is it possible to devise a form and fabric series for the assemblage of dark-glazed earthenware, and identify any development in the range of vessel forms between the 17th and 19th centuries?

- *Objective 3.2:* can close date ranges be attributed to specific forms of dark-glazed earthenware vessels?
- *Objective 3.3:* do the locally produced dark-glazed earthenwares have any distinctive characteristics that will enable their identification in pottery assemblages recovered from excavations elsewhere in the region, thereby contributing to a better understanding of trading patterns?
- *Objective 3.4:* is there any firm evidence to demonstrate that tin-glazed earthenware and mottled ware vessels were produced locally, or were these fabrics produced elsewhere in the region (*eg* Liverpool)?
- *Objective 3.5:* is there firm evidence to demonstrate that slipware vessels with the distinctive and unusual decoration were produced locally, or were these fabrics produced elsewhere in the region?

Updated Research Aim 4: can the kiln furniture, wasters and ceramic building materials inform an understanding of the kiln technology employed?

- *Objective 4.1:* do the fragments of kiln furniture and fabric provide any evidence for the form and operational parameters of the kiln?
- *Objective 4.2* is it possible to elucidate a range of saggar forms amongst the recovered material?

Updated Research Aim 5: how successful has the project been in terms of the archaeological methodologies employed?

- *Objective 5.1:* how does site visibility, in terms of the nature of the remains, archaeological survival and research methodologies, affect the understanding of the townscape?
- *Objective 5.2:* how successful was the methodological approach and what can be learnt for future projects in this area?
- *Objective 5.3:* what questions arise from this research?

9.2 *Presentation of Results*

In accordance with the guidelines provided in *MAP2* and *MoRPHE* (English Heritage 1991; Historic England 2015), it is proposed that the results of the project should be presented as follows:

- *Project archive:* the completion of the project will result in an integrated project archive, which it is envisaged will be deposited with National Museums Liverpool;

- *Publication:* appropriate dissemination of the results obtained from the analytical phase of the project will be required. As a minimum, a paper will be prepared for publication in an appropriate academic journal(s). It is proposed that an article presenting the results of the analysis of the dataset will be prepared for publication in *Post Medieval Archaeology*, or *Medieval Ceramics*, enabling dissemination to a national (or even international) audience. The information could also be disseminated at a local / regional level via publication in the *Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society*.

10. Method Statement

10.1 Programme Structure

The post-excavation programme, designed to fulfil the research aims outlined in *Section 9*, will be divided into the following stages:

- full cataloguing of any data representatively sampled;
- analysis;
- synthesis;
- preparation of draft text and illustrative material;
- publication;
- archive deposition.

10.2 Management, Monitoring and Review

Task 1: management and monitoring tasks have been built into the project. These tasks will include project monitoring, advice and co-ordination, problem solving, and conducting meetings with project staff and all interested external parties.

Reviews of the project will include both the specialists / external consultants and the Salford Archaeology staff who are undertaking the analysis, and will provide an opportunity for all involved to present and receive information, to discuss the research aims, and permit an exchange of ideas. All external specialists will be consulted following editing and prior to publication of their reports. In addition, there will be regular project review meetings at appropriate intervals throughout the preparation of the report.

10.3 Stratigraphy, Analysis and Synthesis

Task 2: the stratigraphic data will need to be studied in greater detail in order to refine the provisional phasing. More detailed analysis will be undertaken on the excavated structural remains. Existing matrices will require assimilation into one overall matrix for the excavated area, showing the amended periods and sub-phasing.

Once the data have been analysed and a stratigraphic narrative completed, it will be possible to prepare phase plans. Such phase plans are a prerequisite for specialist analysis of the relevant artefact assemblages. Analysis and synthesis of the results of specialist analysis of some classes of finds, and especially the pottery, will, however, contribute to the site phasing.

The site will be considered in relation to other known archaeological sites in the area and in relation to its regional context. This will involve an element of library-based research and cartographic regression analysis.

10.4 Processing and Transport of Artefact Assemblage

Task 3: at an early stage in the analytical programme, arrangements will be made to transport all relevant assemblages to the appropriate specialists to facilitate analysis and reporting of the material. Conversely, on the completion of this work, material will need to be received from the specialist, and checked against database records.

10.5 Digital Data in the Analysis Phase

Task 4: at the start of the fieldwork in 2017, a basic Microsoft *Excel* database was set up to record finds and archaeological contexts, along with a CAD environment, in which all plans and sections could be placed to produce a composite view of the site.

Digital photographs: links to digital photographs will be embedded within the database where appropriate.

CAD Drawings: the majority of the fieldwork plans have been digitised to aid this assessment. However, in order that a detailed analytical text of the stratigraphic information can be produced, phase drawings, sections and other relevant illustrations, as required, will be drafted. These will provide detailed information on the periods and sub-phases of the site, and will indicate stratigraphically related groups. The draft text and phase drawings will form the basis both of the summary information to be supplied to specialists and of the stratigraphic section of the final published report.

10.6 Post-medieval Pottery

Tasks 5: all the post-medieval pottery recovered from the site will be classified by form and, where possible, fabric and quantified by weight and sherd count, detailed catalogues produced by means of the production of a database, and illustrated form and fabric series will be prepared for publication. Comparative material will be studied and a full bibliography will be compiled. Material for illustration will be selected and catalogued.

Further study of the pottery, with detailed identification of the forms and fabrics, will be crucial to refining the dating of the post-medieval occupational sequence.

The pottery should be fully quantified by form and fabric, and by sherd count, weight and equivalent vessel estimate (EVE), and then entered onto the database. The data should include such general information as vessel class, burning and sherd joins. Where possible, vessels should be reconstructed to enable their form to be recorded. All the major ceramic forms from stratified contexts should be photographed, catalogued and published by context.

Discussion will be based around the significance of the assemblage as a whole to the interpretation of the site, and its implications locally and regionally. Assemblages will be compared to those from recovered from previous excavations in Prescott and other sites in the region, including Rainford, Liverpool and Manchester.

10.7 Other Materials

Task 6: The results of these analyses should be integrated into the stratigraphic text. A full and accessible report, including a catalogue, will be included in the publication. The assemblages of other finds (including the clay tobacco pipes, vessel glass, leather, ceramic building material and the miscellaneous finds) will be incorporated into the revised contextual and phasing information, and the data will be added to the database. The artefacts will be used as additional dating evidence where this is possible. Each category of artefact will be summarised within the publication and illustrated as necessary. A discard policy will then be agreed with National Museums Liverpool.

10.8 Samples

Task 7: an attempt will be made to obtain high-precision (most probably AMS) radiocarbon dates from samples taken from the base of pit **061**, which contained some of the earliest and most complete pottery vessels from the entire site. A radiocarbon date may provide absolute dating of the pottery group from this pit.

10.9 Conservation

Task 8: Very few of the artefacts to be retained require conservation. The only specialist treatment necessitated is the cleaning of the leather boots by a conservator. The long-term storage requirements for archaeological materials and archives are set out in documents compiled by Walker (1990) and the Museums and Galleries Commission (MGC) (1992).

On completion of the full post-excavation analysis, a discard policy will be formulated. This will be enacted in full consultation with National Museums Liverpool staff, and will cover all of the artefacts.

10.10 Integration of Datasets and Synthesis

Task 9: the information gathered from the analysis of the finds will be reviewed and integrated into the stratigraphic narrative. This will allow re-interpretation of the site using a thematic approach.

10.11 Illustrations

Task 10: during each part of the analytical programme, a selection will be made of appropriate material for illustration. This will include general plans and sections, phase plans, and illustrations of artefacts, as appropriate. In addition, publication-quality, high-resolution digital photographs will be taken of a representative sample of the key ceramic vessel types.

10.12 Production of Text and Publication

Task 11: following the completion of the analysis of the stratigraphic and artefactual evidence, an archive report will be produced. The results of the programme of archaeological works will also be synthesised and prepared for publication in a suitable academic vehicle, such as inclusion as an article(s) in national journals such as *Post Medieval Archaeology*, or *Medieval Ceramics*, together with a synthetic article for the *Merseyside Archaeological Society Journal*.

As specialist reports are received, information of relevance to the interpretation of the stratigraphic sequence will be integrated into the text. The report will be subject to internal revision, and will be submitted to all specialists after editing for their comments. It is also likely that some revision of the specialist reports will be required.

10.13 Archive Deposition

Task 12: Salford Archaeology undertakes to liaise throughout the project with National Museums Liverpool to meet its deposition policies. On completion of the analysis, a discard policy will be implemented (*Section 7.5*). On submission of the completed text for publication, the archive will be updated as necessary and the National Museums Liverpool will be contacted to obtain the latest information on its deposition arrangements. Material in files and boxes will be checked, and indices and box lists will be compiled and appended.

The digital archive will be checked and indexed, and hard copies made of the data, if required by the recipient museum. The digital data will be accompanied by metadata, which will explain origin and accuracy.

11. Presentation of Results

11.1 Introduction

Following the analysis and interpretation of the data, the results should be placed in the public domain, in accordance with best practice. Given the importance of the material, it is anticipated that dissemination will consist of a full archive report, and synthesis as an article for publication in at least one academic journal.

The academic article will focus on providing a comprehensive account of the pottery assemblage recovered from the excavation, including a detailed and illustrated form series, and will place the conclusions drawn in a local and regional context through comparison with material recovered from other excavations in Prescott and other urban centres such as Rainford, Liverpool and Manchester.

11.2 Final Archive Report

It is proposed that an archive report is produced, formatted for limited distribution in paper copy to local libraries, the Merseyside Record Office, and the Merseyside Historic Environment Record, in addition to its deposition with the site archive. This will include details of structural and stratigraphic elements of the site and associated activity, and analytical reports on the finds.

11.2.1 Archive Report Structure

A provisional breakdown of the contents of the proposed archive report is provided below. In advance of completion of the full post-excavation analysis, this synopsis can only be regarded as a draft, although it is anticipated that the archive report will work to the following general headings and content:

Summary and Acknowledgements

1 Introduction

Site location

Circumstances of project

2 Archaeological Background

Documentary evidence

Historical background

Previous excavations

3 Results of the Archaeological Excavations

Outline of the archaeological works

Description of the development of the site

4 The finds

Detailed report on the pottery assemblage and other materials by category, with a discussion on the significance of the overall assemblage

5 *General Discussion*

Interpretation of the site, describing the results of the archaeological excavations and what they show about the conditions and changes through space and time within the study area

Bibliography

12. Resources and Management

12.1 Project Team

The team consists of internal Salford Archaeology staff and external consultants (Table 5). The project will be managed by Ian Miller.

Name	Organisation	Tasks
Ian Miller	Salford Archaeology	Project management; production of publication text and editing
Mandy Burns	Salford Archaeology	Stratigraphic analysis; production of publication text
Sam Rowe	Salford Archaeology	Ceramic petrology analysis and report
Richard Ker	Salford Archaeology	Illustration
Magdalen Faulds	Salford Archaeology	Archive
Lorraine McVinnie	Salford Archaeology	Archive
Dr Rob Philpott	Independent consultant	Consultation during the analysis of the post-medieval pottery
Jeff Speakman	Museum of Liverpool	Consultation during the analysis of the post-medieval pottery
Rebecca Shaw	Northampton Boot and Shoe Museum	Consultation during the analysis of the leather boots
Karen Barker	Independent consultant	Conservation

Table 5: Proposed project team

12.2 Management Structure

Salford Archaeology operates a project management system. The team is headed by the Project Manager, who assumes ultimate responsibility for the implementation and execution of the Project Design and the achievement of performance targets, be they academic, budgetary, or scheduling.

The Project Manager may delegate specific aspects of the project to other key staff, who both supervise others and have a direct input into the compilation of the report. They may also undertake direct liaison with external consultants and specialists who are contributing to the publication report, and National Museums Liverpool as the recipient of the project archive. The Project Manager will define and control the scope and form of the post-excavation programme.

Communication between all concerned in the post-excavation programme is of paramount importance and it is essential that the specialists involved liaise closely in order that comparable data are obtained. To this end, regular meetings and reviews are envisaged between all project staff and between particular groups of specialists. All information will be disseminated at regular intervals, thus ensuring that everyone is aware of current progress, strategy and thinking.

Salford Archaeology would also be able to provide updates on the progress of the work at regular intervals during the course of the project. To this end, a small advisory group would be convened as appropriate. Ideally, membership would comprise representatives from Knowsley Council and the Salford Archaeology project team.

Salford Archaeology places importance on the effective management of projects in order to deliver best value to our clients. An element of managerial time will be dedicated to on-going quality assurance and internal monitoring.

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Acknowledgements

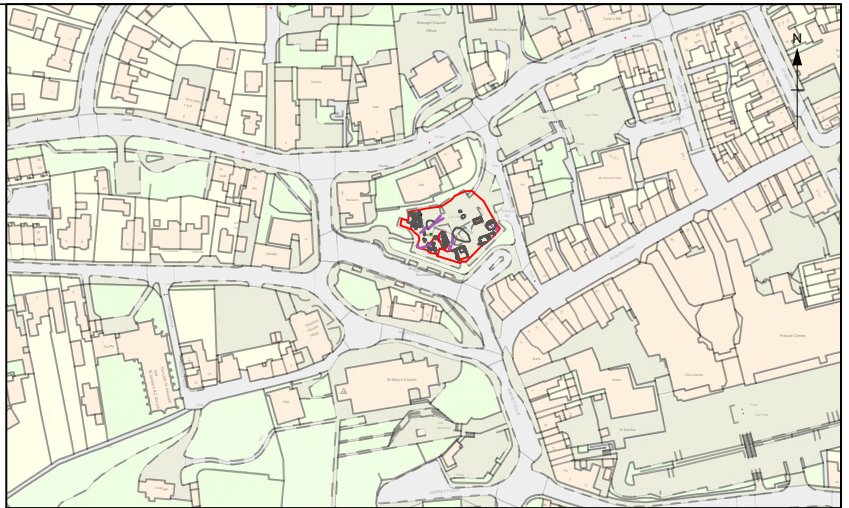
Salford Archaeology would like to thank Knowsley Council for commissioning and supporting the programme of archaeological works. Salford Archaeology is also grateful to Doug Moir of the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service for his support and guidance. Particular thanks are expressed to Dr Rob Philpott for sharing his extensive knowledge of the local area and post-medieval ceramic traditions in the North West.

The fieldwork was directed by Mandy Burns, assisted by Katie Harvey, Rob Haworth and Andy Coutts. The site survey was completed by Richard Ker.

The report was compiled by Ian Miller, Mandy Burns and Sam Rowe, and Sarah Mottershead and Richard Ker produced the illustrations. Adam Thompson was responsible for project management.

Appendix 1: Figures

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Site boundary superimposed on modern mapping, showing principal features uncovered during the archaeological excavation
- Figure 3: Site boundary and principal features uncovered during the archaeological excavation superimposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1852
- Figure 4: Site boundary and principal features uncovered during the archaeological excavation superimposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1892
- Figure 5: Site boundary and principal features uncovered during the archaeological excavation superimposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1922
- Figure 6: Site boundary and principal features uncovered during the archaeological excavation superimposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1956
- Figure 7: Plan of the archaeological features excavated
- Figure 8: Plan of structure **064**
- Figure 9: Section of structure **064**
- Figure 10: South-facing elevation of wall **042** and wall **044**

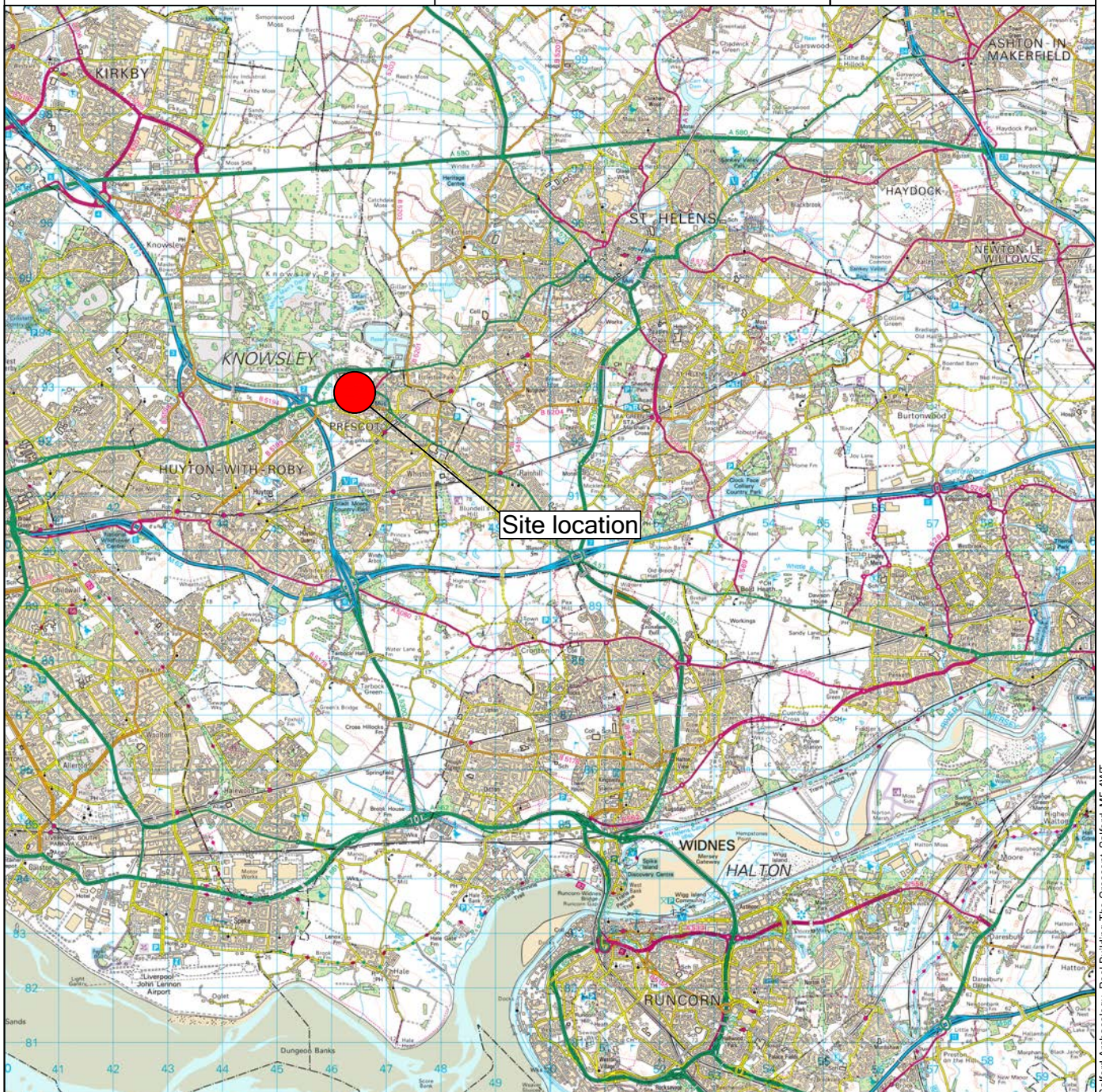


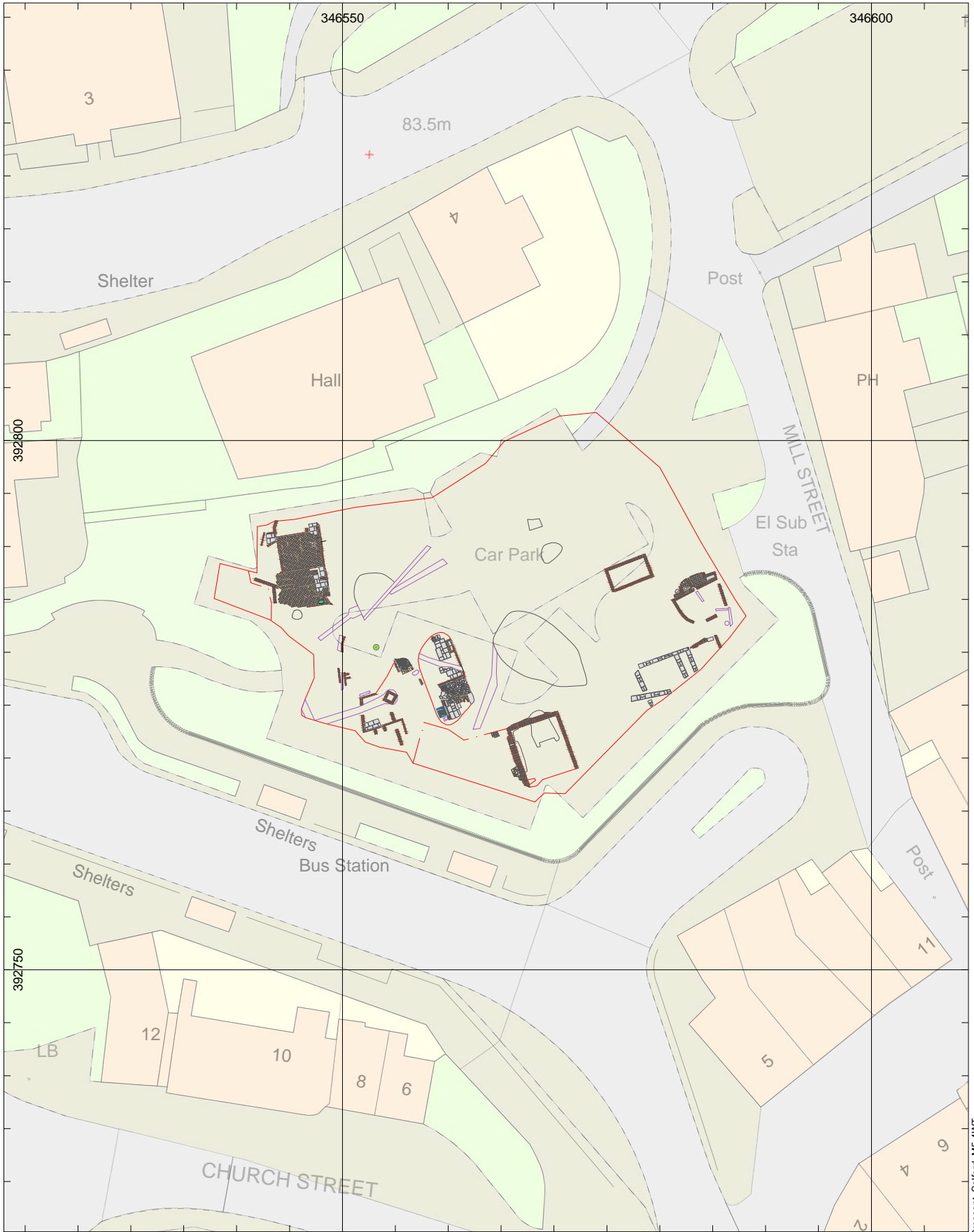
Shakespeare North, Prescot

Site location



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Shakespeare North, Prescott

Site boundary super imposed on the modern Ordnance Survey map



Key:

Site boundary

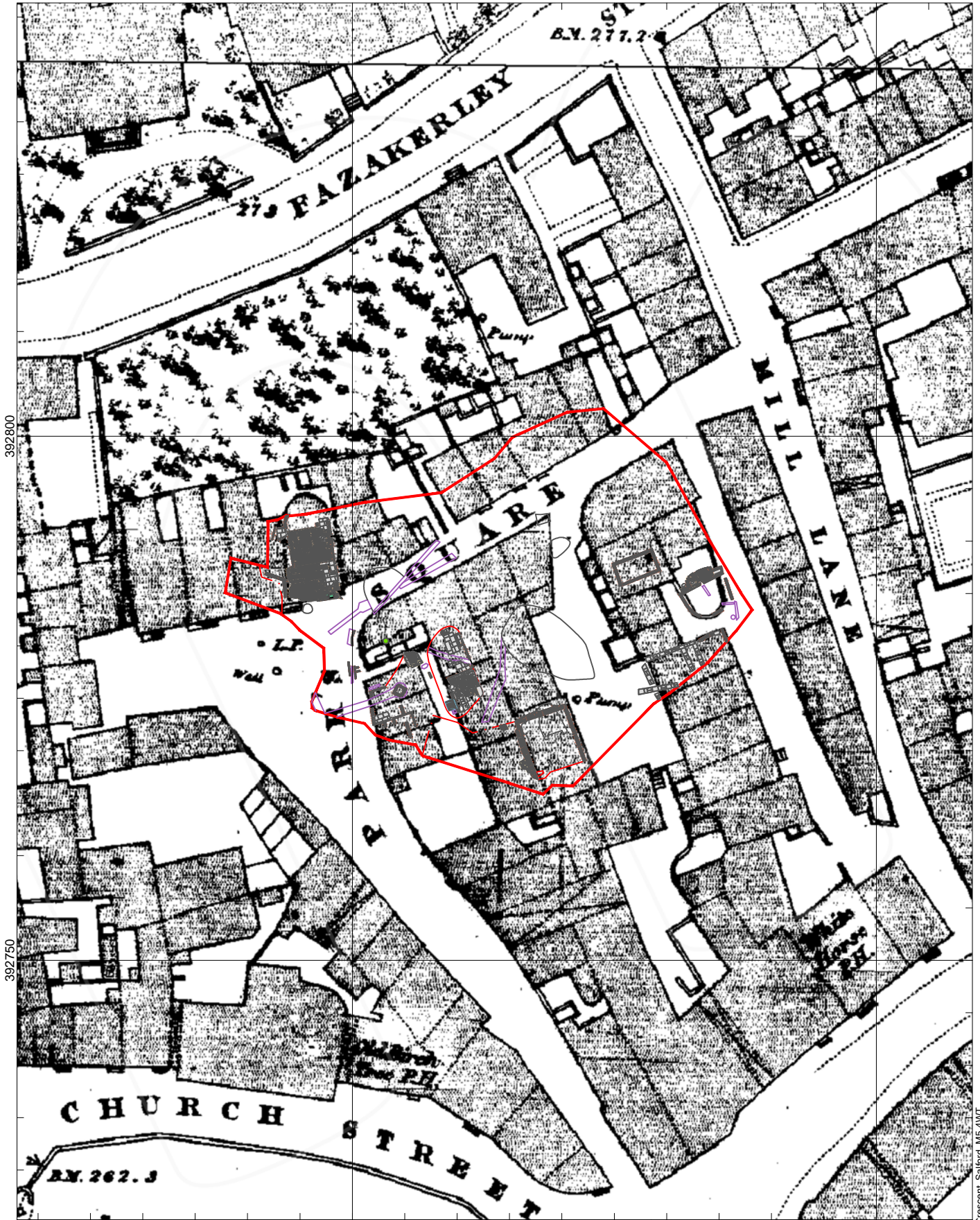


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0 20 m



Scale at A4 1:500



392800

392750

Shakespeare North, Prescott

Site boundary super imposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1852



Key:

Site boundary

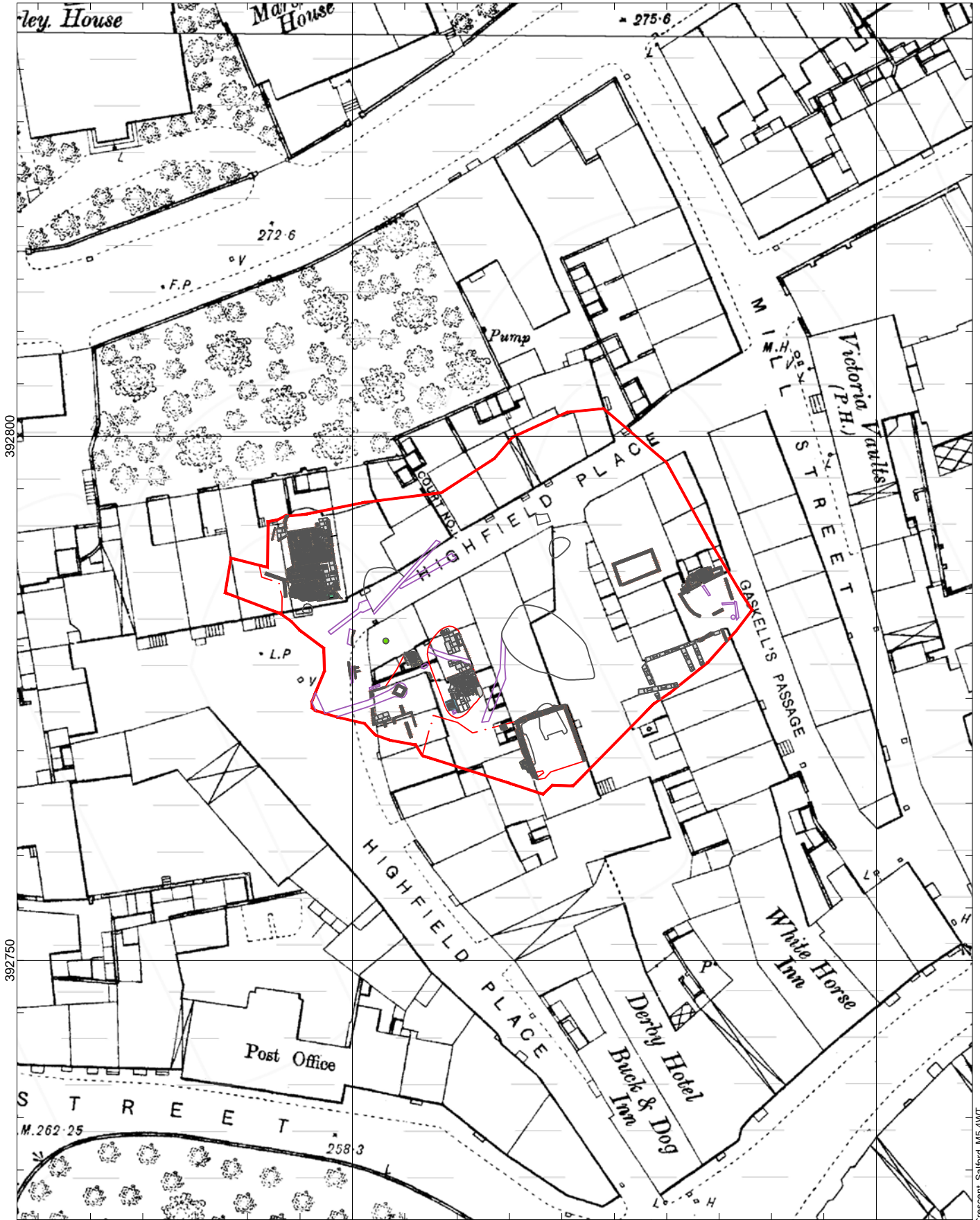


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0 20 m



Scale at A4 1:500



Shakespeare North, Prescott

Site boundary super imposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1892



Key:

Site boundary



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0 20 m



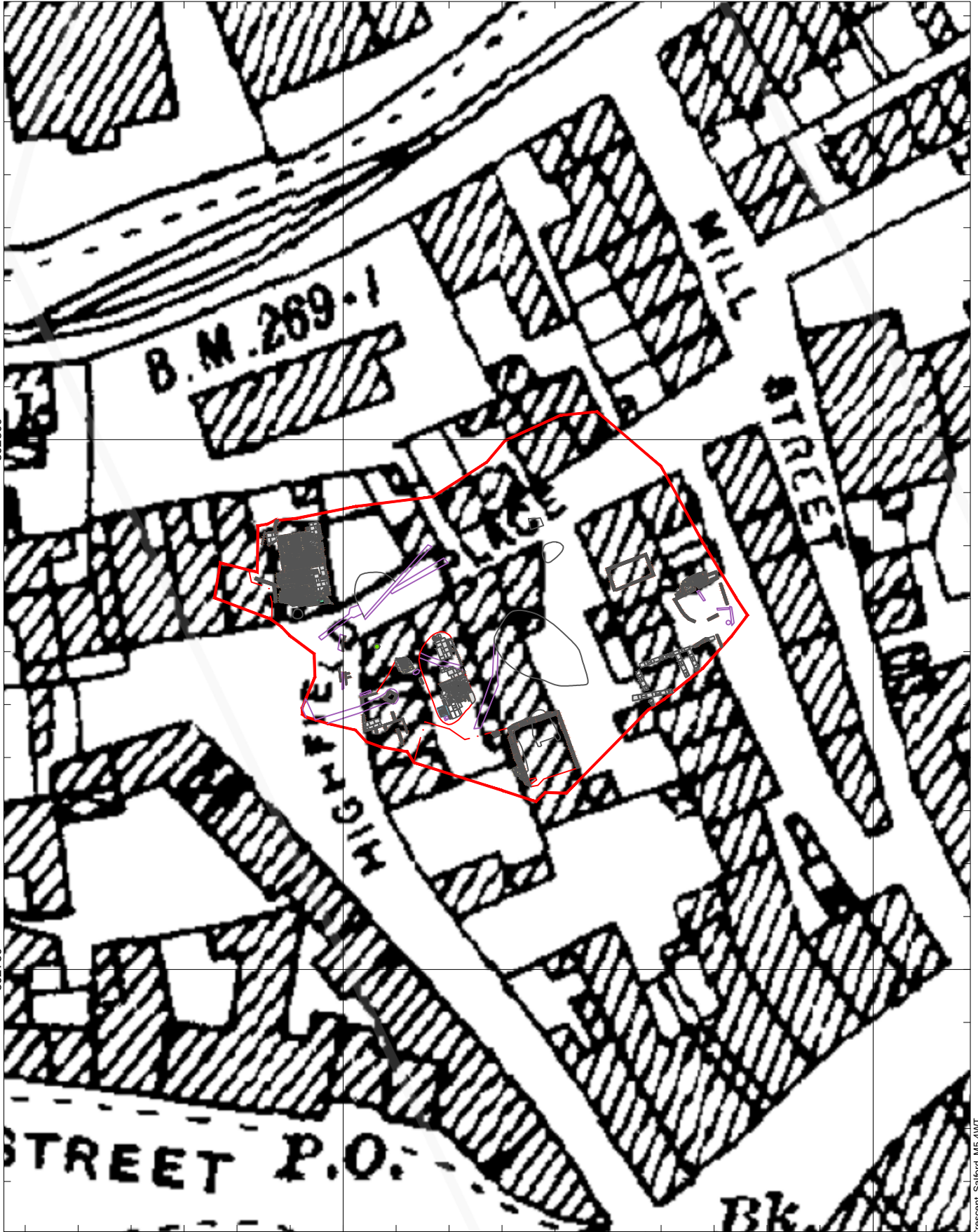
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346550

346600

392800

392750




Shakespeare North, Prescott

Site boundary super imposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1922



Key:

 Site boundary

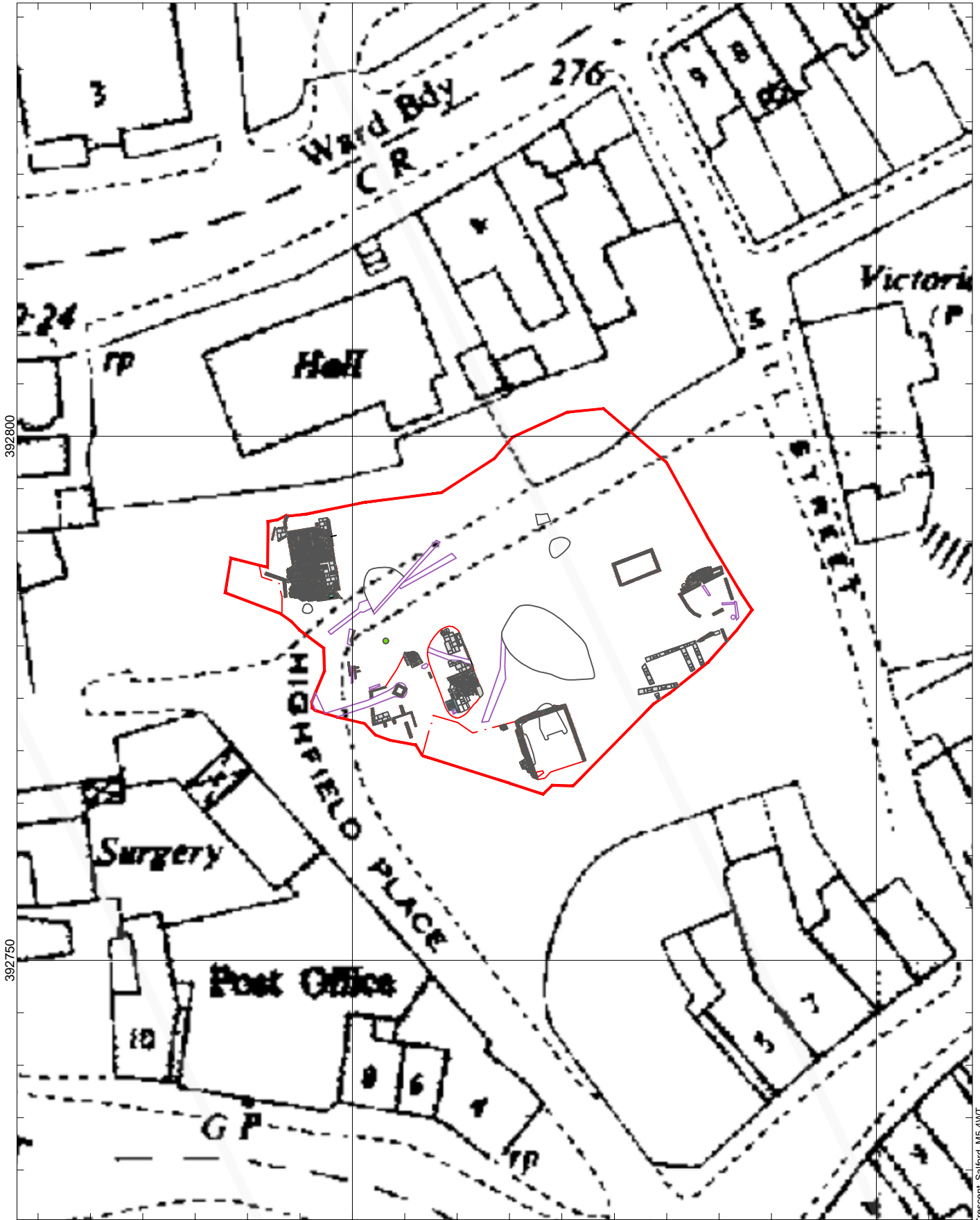


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0 20 m



Scale at A4 1:500



392800

392750

Shakespeare North, Prescott

Site boundary super imposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1956



Key:

Site boundary

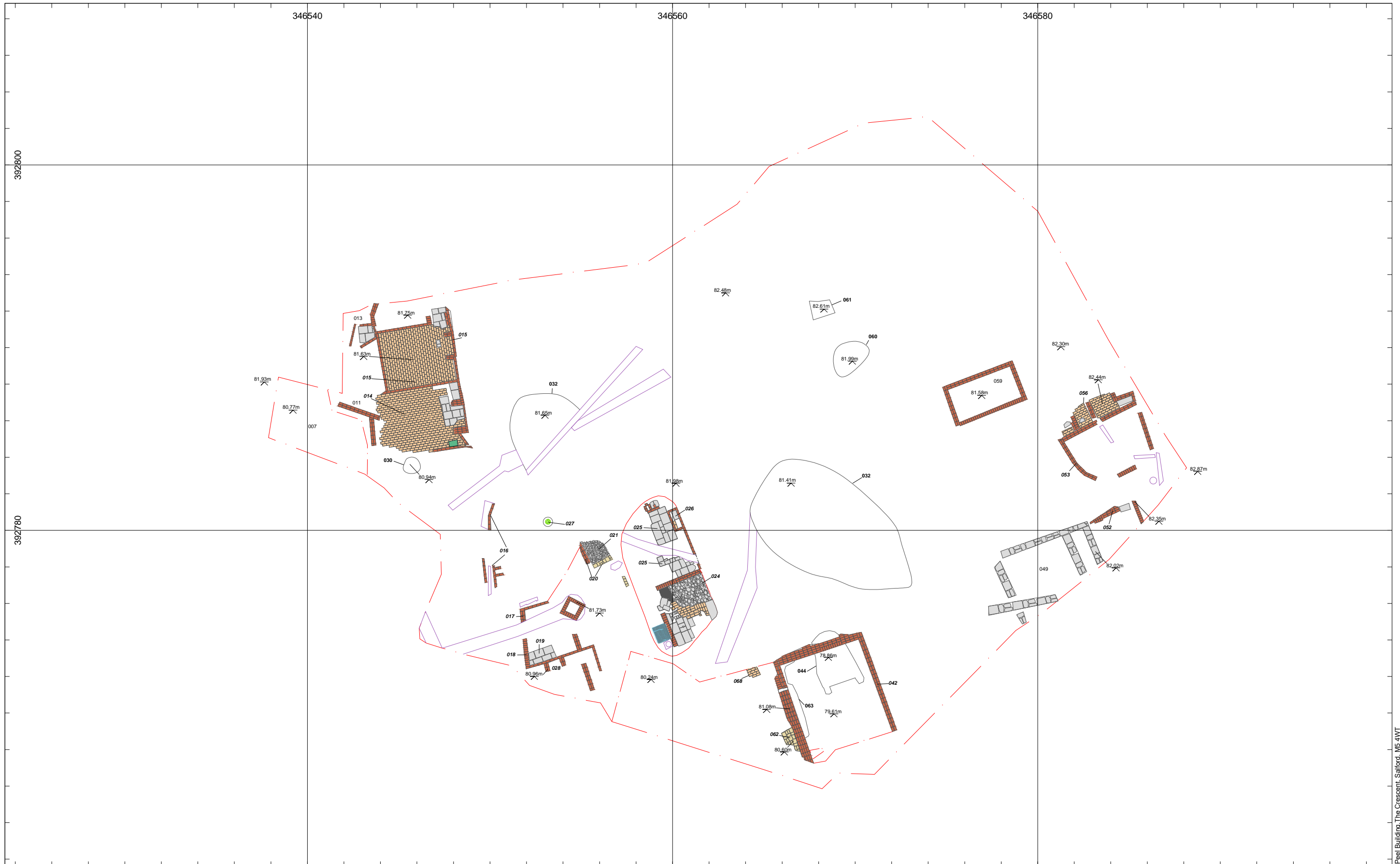


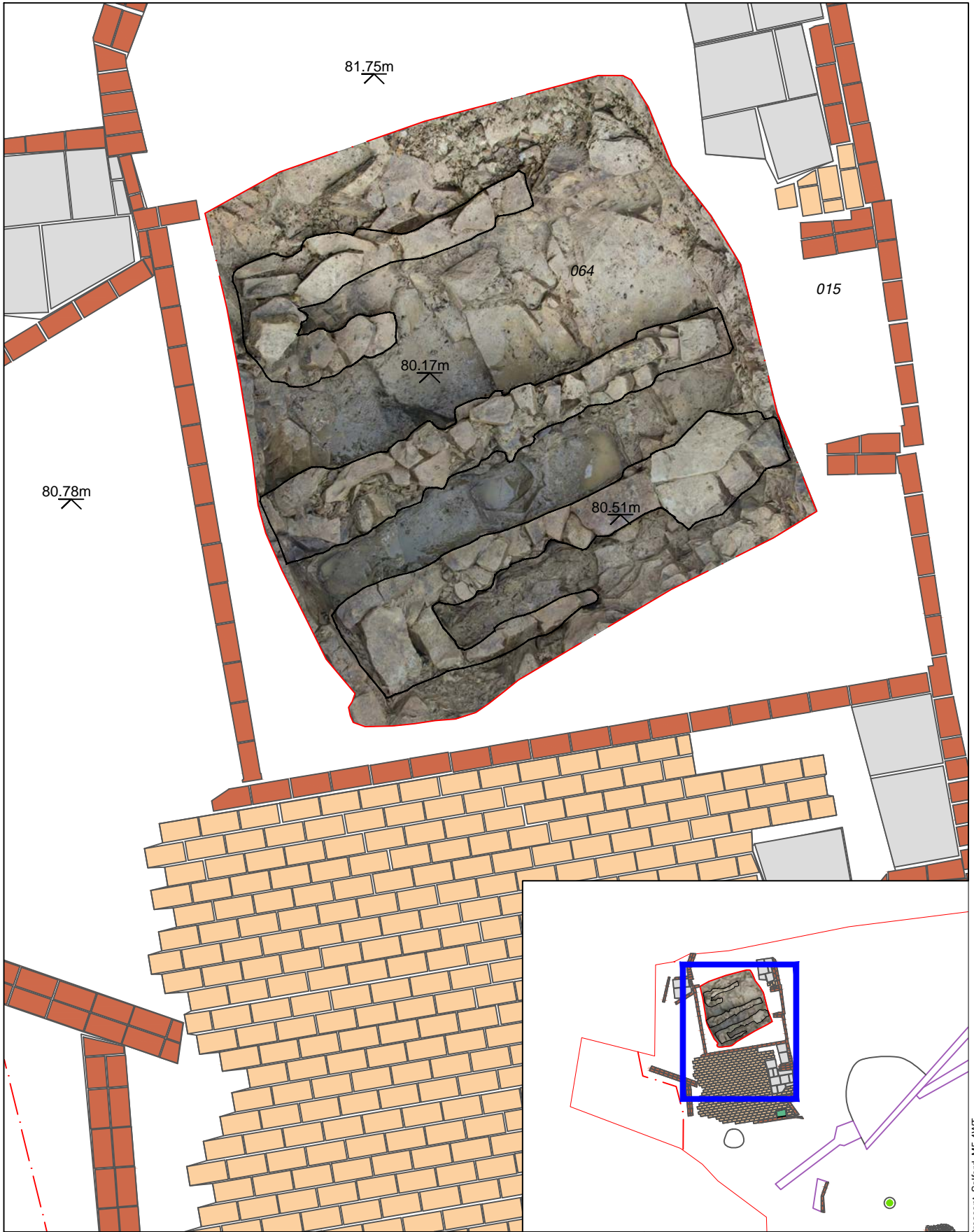
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0 20 m



Scale at A4 1:500





Shakespeare North, Prescott

Plan showing rock cut feature 064 beneath the floor of room 015 situated in the north west corner of the site

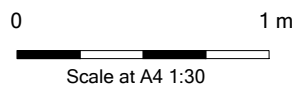


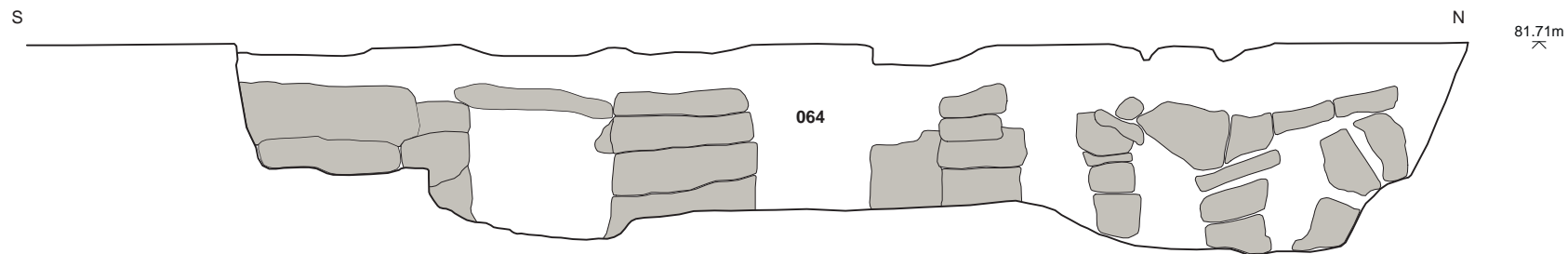
Key:

Sondage

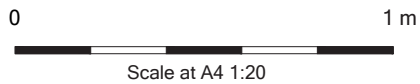


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East facing profile through rock-cut feature 064



Key:

-  Bedrock
-  Stone wall

W

E

81.08m
X

042

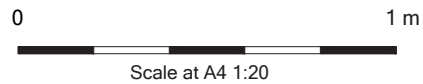
044

Bedrock

Bedrock






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South facing elevation of wall 042 and well 044



Key:

-  Bedrock
-  Brick wall
-  Water line

Appendix 2: Context List

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY		CONTEXT REGISTER
Site: Shakespeare Northern Playhouse		
Site code: SNP17/18		
Context number	Area	Context Description
001	Recess to west	Modern kerbstones forming edge of the car park
002	“	Very light brown gravel below 001 levelling layer
003	“	Black gravel/grit below 002 levelling layer
004	“	White limestone gravel below 003 levelling layer
005	“	Concrete against south section of recess below 004
006	“	Fractured natural bedrock grey/yellow
007	“	Natural bedrock, various depths
008	“	Demolition rubble layer – mostly across site
009	“	Brown/pink concrete below modern concrete in places
010	“	Concrete base/foundations of wall 011
011	“	Brick wall on top of 010
012	House floors area	Sandstone block in north wall of 015 (Room 2)
013	“	Possible external feature west of 015 (Room 2)
014	“	Room 1 of house
015	“	Room 2 north of Room 1
016	House cellar area	Brick and ceramic drain to rear of houses, south-west corner
017	“	North-east walls of cellar furthest north
018	“	South-west of cellar furthest north
019	“	Stone-flagged floor of cellar furthest north
020	“	L-shaped stone and brick wall
021	“	Stone floor associated with wall 020
022	“	Stone-flagged floor
023	Floors	Brick floor surface east of floor 022
024	“	Pebble/cobble path
025	“	Stone-flagged floor north of path 024
026	“	Rectangular brick feature possible fireplace within 025
027	Lower pit area/Quarry	Timber post
028	Cellars	Fireplace within cellar Room 2 to south
029	Floor	‘Staffordshire blue’ brick floor surface
030	Fire pit	Small possible fire pit/health south of Rooms 1 and 2
031	Quarry	Black silty deposit at base of L-pit slot/quarry
032	Rock-cut feature/Quarry	L-pit slot revealed rock-cut feature. Quarry
033	“	Upper fill of 032

Context number	Area	Context Description
034	“	Fill of 032 below 033
035	“	Fill of 032 below 034
036	“	Fill of 032 below 035 redeposited natural stone
037	Upper pit/quarry	Large pit to north of 032 part of quarry
038	Rock-cut feature/quarry	Dark brown plough soil at south edge of 032 below 020/021
039	“	Dark brown deposit below 036
040	“	Possible same as 031
041	S/middle	Possible pit found below floors east of cellars
042	Cellar 3	Cellar 3 with rock-cut well
043	“	Fill of Cellar 3
044	“	Rock-cut well in Cellar 3
045	Well	Fill of well on north side of Cellar 3 north wall
046	Plough soil area	Black/brown/red mix with silty sand coal, cinder, charcoal, stone, clay, pottery, clay pipe, glass at south-east corner of plough soil area
047	“	Clayey silt, dark brown, contains all of the above plus fragments of brick
048	“	Mixed redeposited material centre of plough soil area
049	Stone building	Rectangular stone building east of Cellar 3
050	“	Mid-grey, sandy clay below north of 049
051		Very dark brown/grey silty sand with medium, clay content, infrequent frags of stone less than 1cm, bottom fill below 049 , above bedrock
052	“	Brick wall/layer at north east corner of 049
053	Waster pit	Brick-built toilet block
054	“	Cache of kiln dump waste
055	“	Black cinder covering brick floors 056
056	“	Brick floors and wall north of ‘wasters’ area
057	“	Fill of wall 052 cut redeposited natural contains pottery
058	“	Fill of 052 demolition rubble with pottery etc.
059	“	H/M brick rectangular building
060	“	Pit containing black/brown clayey sand with some pottery. (Monitoring well)
061	“	Black cinder rubbish pit north of 060 in redeposited natural.
062	Cellar 3	Small stone wall on western side of Cellar 3 exterior
063	“	Cut in bedrock floor of Cellar 3 associated with the western wall foundations
064	NW corner	Unidentified rock-cut feature in north-west corner found below Rooms 1 and 2

Appendix 3: Photograph Register

SALFORD ARCHAEOLOGY			PHOTO REGISTER
Site: Shakespeare Northern Playhouse			
Site Code: SNP17/18			
Photo No	Area	Description	Direction
5622	Recess	Recess at west end showing bedrock	W
5623	“	Recess at west end showing bedrock + north + east-facing sections	W
5624	“	Recess at west end showing bedrock + east + south-facing sections	W
5625	“	Recess at west end showing bedrock + east + south-facing sections	W
5626	011	Bedrock in recess + modern wall 011	E
5627	011	Bedrock in recess + modern wall 011	E
5628	011	Bedrock in recess + modern wall 011	E
5629	“	Recess showing blackened bedrock	W
5630	“	Possible hearth in bedrock	N
5631	“	Possible hearth in bedrock	N
5632	“	Possible hearth in bedrock	E
5633	Floors	Hearth and brick floors	N
5634	“	Hearth and brick floors	N
4535	“	Hearth and brick floors	N
4536	“	Floors and recess	W
4537	“	Floors and recess	W
5638	“	Floors and recess	W
5639	“	Floors and recess	W
5640	“	Room 1	W
5641	“	Room 1	W
5642	“	Room 1 east features/wall	E
5643	“	Room 1 east features/wall	E
5644	“	Room 1 general shot	SE
5645	“	Room 1 possible fireplace	E
5646	“	Room 1 possible fireplace	E
5647	“	South-east corner of Room 1	SE
5648	“	South-east corner of Room 1	E
5649	“	Room 2	E
5650	“	Room 2	E
5651	“	Room 2 possible fireplace	E
5652	“	Room 2 possible fireplace	E
5653	“	Feature north-east corner of Room 2	N
5654	“	Feature north-east corner of Room 2	N
5655	“	Room 2 possible fireplace	E
5656	“	Room 2 possible fireplace	E
5657	“	Room 1 and Room 2	N

Photo No	Area	Description	Direction
5658	“	Room 1 and Room 2	NNW
5659	“	Room 1 and Room 2	NW
5660	“	Room 1 and Room 2	S
5661	“	Room 1 and Room 2	SW
5662	Floors	Room 1 and Room 2	SE
5663	“	Features west of Room 2	W
5664	“	Features west of Room 2	N
5665	/	Deleted	/
5666	“	Features west of Room 2	N
5667	“	Room 2 possible threshold	E
5668	“	Room 2 possible threshold	E
5669	“	Room 2 possible threshold	N
5670	“	Room 2 possible threshold	N
5671	SW corner	Rear yard drains	SW
5672	“	Rear yard drains	S
5673	016	Drain 016	S
5674		Whole strip east of recess	N
5675		Whole strip east of recess	N
5676		Whole strip east of recess	NNW
5677	016	Drain 016	NNW
5678	Cellars	Cellars	SE
5679	“	Cellars	SE
5680	“	Cellars back room	E
5681	“	North wall of cellars and drain	SE
5682	“	North wall of cellars and drain	SE
5683	“	Back room floor and bedrock	SE
5684	“	Back room floor and bedrock	SE
5685	“	Back room floor and bedrock	W
5686	“	Back room floor and bedrock	SW
5687	“	Cellar front room	SW
5688	“	Cellar front room showing fireplace	NW
5689	“	Front room fireplace	NW
5690	“	Front room fireplace	E
5691	“	Front room possible staircase	E
5692	“	Cellars general shot	SW
5693	Quarry	L-shaped stone wall 020 and floor 021	W
5694	“	L-shaped stone wall 020 and floor 021	W
5695	“	L-shaped stone wall 020 and floor 021	S
5696	“	L-shaped stone wall 020 and floor 021	S
5697	“	L-shaped stone wall and timber post	W
5698	027	Timber post 027	W
5699	027	Timber post	W
5700	027	Timber post	SW
5701	027	Timber post	SW
5702	Quarry	Quarry (upper) cut into redeposited natural	NE

Photo No	Area	Description	Direction
5703	“	Quarry (upper) cut into redeposited natural	SE
5704	“	Quarry (upper) cut into redeposited natural	SW
5705	General	West half of site partly excavated	NW
5706	General	West half of site partly excavated	NW
5707	“	West half of site partly excavated	NW
5708	Hearth?	Fully excavated possible hearth	N
5709	“	Fully excavated possible hearth	E
5710	Staff	Us sheltering from rain	/
5711	“	Us sheltering from rain	/
5712	NW corner	Rock-cut feature 064 appearing	N
5713	064	Rock-cut feature 064 appearing	NW
5714	064	Rock-cut feature 064 appearing	W
5715	064	Rock-cut feature 064 appearing	SW
5716	064	West side of 064 partly excavated	W
5717	064	Rock-cut feature 064 almost excavated	SW
5718	064	Rock-cut feature 064 almost excavated	W
5719	064	Rock-cut feature 064 almost excavated	NW
5720	064	Rock-cut feature 064 almost excavated	W
5721	064	Rock-cut feature 064 almost excavated	W
5722	Quarry	Quarry (Upper) West-facing section (Top)	E
5723	“	Quarry (Upper) West-facing section (Top)	E
5724	“	Quarry (Upper) West-facing section (Top)	E
5725	“	Quarry (Upper) West-facing section (Top)	E
2726	“	Quarry (Upper) West-facing section (Top)	E
2727	“	Quarry (Upper) West-facing section (Top)	E
2728	“	Quarry (Upper) West-facing section (Top)	E
2729	“	Quarry (Upper) West-facing section (Top)	E
2730	“	Quarry (Upper) West-facing section (Top)	E
2731	“	Quarry (Upper) West-facing section (Top)	E
5732	“	South-facing section between upper and lower	N
5733	“	South-facing section between upper and lower	N
5734	“	General south-west corner	S
5735	“	General south-west corner	S
5736	NW corner	Rock-cut feature 064	SW
5737	064	Rock-cut feature 064	SW
5738	Floors	Floors and path	S
5739	Cellars	Working shot	S
5740	“	Working shot	SW
5741	“	Working shot	SW
5742	Quarry + NW corner	General – quarry, north-west corner	W
5743	Quarry	General – under excavation	W
5744	West half	General working shot	W

Photo No	Area	Description	Direction
5745	NW corner + Cellars	Working shot	SE
5746	064	Rock-cut feature. Detailed shot post-ex with scale	W
5747	064	Rock-cut feature. Detailed shot post-ex with scale	W
5748	064	Rock-cut feature. Detailed shot post-ex with scale	W
5749	064	Rock-cut feature. Detailed shot post-ex with scale	W
5750	064	Rock-cut feature. Detailed shot post-ex	NW
5751	064	Rock-cut feature. Detailed shot post-ex	SW
5752	064	Rock-cut feature. Detailed shot post-ex	SW
5753	064	Rock-cut feature. Detailed shot post-ex	SW
5754	064	Rock-cut feature. Detailed shot post-ex	S
5755	064	Rock-cut feature. Detailed shot post-ex	S
5756	Section	Quarry	N
5757	“	Quarry	N
5758	“	Quarry	N
5759	“	Quarry	N
5760	NW corner	Rock-cut feature 064 showing depth below modern	N
5761	Staff + 064	Staff with 064	W
5762	/	Deleted	
5763	064 for 3D model	5763 looking south then clockwise	
5790	064 for 3D model	All way round	
5791	Quarry	Slot through quarry – part excavation	N
5792	“	Slot through quarry – part excavation	N
5793	Quarry	Rock-cut features in quarry	W
5794	“	Rock-cut features in quarry	NW
5795	“	Rock-cut features in quarry	NW
5796	“	Rock-cut features in quarry	W
5797	Section	Quarry slot and section part-excavation	S
5798	“	Quarry slot and section part-excavation	S
5799	“	Quarry slot and section part-excavation	SE
5800	Section V2 Photo scan	North end of section V2 quarry	E
5801	“	North end of section V2 quarry	E
5802	“	North end of section V2 quarry	E
5803	“	North end of section V2 quarry	E
5804	“	North end of section V2 quarry	E
5805	“	South end of section V2 large pit	E
5806	Large pit	Slot through quarry part-excavation	N

Photo No	Area	Description	Direction
5807	Section	Large section below L-shaped wall, quarry area	E
5808	Quarry	Quarry, rock-face, south edge	SE
5809	Floors	Location of floors	SE
5810	“	Floors and path post-excavation	NE
5811	“	Floors	W
5812	“	Floors	S
5813	“	Floors, cobbles and path	SW
5814	“	Floors, cobbles and path	E
5815	“	Floors, cobbles and path	NE
5816	“	Floor to north and rock face	W
5817	“	Floor to north	N
5818	“	Floors	S
5819	“	Floors	S
5820	Drain	Stone-lined and ceramic drain	S
5821	“	Stone-lined and ceramic drain	S
5822	Quarry	Quarry slot and section	NE
5823	“	Quarry slot fully exc. To bedrock	N
5824	“	Quarry slot fully exc. To bedrock	N
5825	“	Quarry with tape measure	E
5826	“	Quarry with tape measure	E
5827	“	Quarry with tape measure	E
5828	“	Top of Quarry with tape measure	E
5829	“	Quarry with tape measure	E
5830	“	Quarry with tape measure	E
5831	“	Quarry with tape measure	E
5832	“	Quarry with tape measure	E
5833	“	Bottom of Quarry with tape measure	E
5834	“	Quarry slot, S end	S
5835	“	Quarry slot fully exc. To bedrock	S
5836	Post-hole	Possible post-hole E of Cellars 1 and 2	E
5837	Pit?	Possible small pit E Cellars 1 and 2	E
5838	Quarry	Southern quarry face with half well?	E
5839	“	Southern quarry face with half well?	SE
5840	“	Southern quarry face with half well?	E
5841	“	Southern quarry face with half well? – detail	E
5842	“	Southern quarry face with half well?	SE
5843	“	Southern quarry face with half well?	SE
5844	“	Southern quarry face with half well? – detail	W
5845	“	Southern quarry face with half well?	W
5846	“	Southern quarry face with half well?	SW
5847	“	Southern quarry face with half well? – detail	SW
5848	“	Southern quarry face with half well?	S
5849	“	Southern quarry face with half well?	S
5850	“	Southern quarry face with half well?	S
5851	Quarry	Quarry S & W rock-face	W

Photo No	Area	Description	Direction
5852	“	Quarry S & W rock-face	W
5853	“	Quarry S & W rock-face	W
5854	“	Quarry S & W rock-face	W
5855	“	Quarry partly backfilled	SW
5856	“	Quarry partly backfilled	SW
5857	“	Quarry partly backfilled	SW
5858	“	Quarry partly backfilled	SW
5859	“	Quarry partly backfilled	SW
5860	Cellar 3	Cellar 3 (with well) partly excavated	N
5861	“	Cellar 3 north and east walls	N
5862	Cellar 3	North and west walls	NNW
5863	“	North and west walls	N
5864	“	North wall and well arch exposed	NNW
5865	“	North wall, well arch, fill/cut	NNW
5866	“	North and west walls	W
5867	Staff	Well in Cellar 3	
5868	“	Nicky Gladman with machine	
5869	“	Well	
5870	Well/staff	Working shot RH & AC with well in Cellar 3	
5871	Well	Cellar 3 north wall and well	N
5872	“	Cellar 3 north wall and well	NNW
5873	“	Well from above	W
5874	“	Well from above	SE
5875	“	Well from above	SE
5876	“	Well	NE
5877	“	Well	N
5878	“	Well detail under north wall of Cellar 3	N
5879	“	Well detail under north wall of Cellar 3	N
5880	“	Well detail under north wall of Cellar 3	N
5881	“	Well detail under north wall of Cellar 3	N
5882	“	Well detail under north wall of Cellar 3	N
5883	“	Well detail under north wall of Cellar 3	N
5884	“	Well detail under north wall of Cellar 3	N
5885	“	Well detail under north wall of Cellar 3	N
5886	Cellar 3	Finds from Cellar 3 fill 043	
5887	“	Finds from Cellar 3 fill 043	
5888	C3 & well	Cellar 3 and well	NE
5889	“	Cellar 3 and well	NE
5890	“	Cellar 3 and well	NNE
5891	“	Cellar 3 east wall cut into re-dep. natural	N
5892	Cellar 3	Cellar 3	W
5893	Quarry	Dark deposit (031) appearing near bottom of quarry slot	W
5894	“	Quarry slot section shows tip-lines	?
5895	“	South edge and eastern extent of quarry	E
5896	“	SE corner and south-facing section	NW
5897	“	SE corner and south-facing section	N

Photo No	Area	Description	Direction
5898	“	SE corner and south-facing section	NW
5899	“	West edge, SE corner and middle fill	W
5900	“	Western quarry face S to N	W
5901	“	Western quarry face S to N	W
5902	“	Western quarry face S to N	W
5903	“	Western quarry face S to N	W
5904	“	Western quarry face S to N	NW
5905	“	Western quarry face S to N	NW
5906	“	Western quarry face S to N	N
5907	“	Northern edge of quarry	N
5908	“	Northern edge of quarry	NNE
5909	“	N and E of quarry	NNE
5910	“	Eastern quarry face	E
5911	“	Eastern quarry face	E
5912	Quarry	Eastern quarry face	E
5913	“	Eastern quarry face	E
5914	“	E edge and SE corner	SE
5915	“	SE corner	SE
5916	“	E edge and SE corner	E
5917	“	S section & edge of quarry	S
5918	“	S section & edge of quarry	S
5919	“	S section & edge of quarry	S
5920	“	S section & edge of quarry	S
5921	“	S section & edge of quarry	S
5922	“	SW corner	SW
5923	Q/Well?	Possible half-well in S quarry face	S
5924	“	Possible half-well in S quarry face	S
5925	“	Possible half-well in S quarry face	SE
5926	“	Possible half-well in S quarry face	SSW
5927	Quarry	Complete	W
5928	“	SE corner	N
5929	“	Complete	NNW
5930	“	Complete	N
5931	“	Complete	NE
5932	“	Complete	N
5933	“	Complete	E
5934	“	Complete	SE
5935	“	Complete	SE
5936	“	Complete	SE
5937	“	Complete	S
5938	“	Complete NW corner	W
5939	“	Complete SW corner	SW
5940	“	Complete SW corner	SW
5941	“	Complete SW corner	SW
5942	“	Complete SW corner	SSW
5943	Cellar 3	Cellar 3 and well fully cleaned	NW
5944	“	Cellar 3 and well fully cleaned	N

Photo No	Area	Description	Direction
5945	Well	Fully cleaned	N
5946	Cellar 3	Cellar 3 and well fully cleaned	NE
5947	“	Cellar 3 fill and S section	S
5948	“	Cellar 3 fill and S section	S
5949	“	Cellar 3 fill and S section	S
5950	“	W wall and assoc. cut in bedrock	N
5951	“	W wall and foundation detail	NW
5952	“	E wall and foundation detail	NE
5953	“	C3 and well fully cleaned	N
5954	“	N wall and well cut	W
5955	Well	N cut of well pre-exc.	S
5956	“	N cut of well pre-exc.	S
5957	“	Well cut partly exc.	S
5958	“	Well cut partly exc.	SSW
5959	“	Well cut partly exc.	S
5960	Well	Well cut partly exc. – detail	S
5961	“	Well cut partly exc.	S
5962	“	Well cut partly exc.	S
5963	“	Well cut partly exc.	S
5964	Cellar 3	Slot W of Cellar 3 showing modern service	SE
5965	“	Slot W of Cellar 3 showing modern service	SE
5966	“	Slot W of Cellar 3 showing N facing section	S
5967	“	Slot W of Cellar 3 showing N facing section	S
5968	“	Slot W of Cellar 3 showing N facing section	SE
5969	“	Same slot and W wall of Cellar 3	SE
5970	Well	Partly excavated	S
5971	“	Partly excavated	S
5972	“	Partly excavated	S
5973	“	Partly excavated	S
5974	“	Partly excavated	S
5975	“	Partly excavated	S
5976	“	Partly excavated	S
5977	“	Partly excavated	S
5978	Ploughsoil	Ploughsoil partly excavated	N
5979	“	Ploughsoil partly excavated	Sw
5980	“	Ploughsoil partly excavated	SW
5981	“	Ploughsoil partly excavated	SE
5982	“	Ploughsoil partly excavated	N
5983	“	Ploughsoil partly excavated	W
5984	“	Ploughsoil partly excavated	N
5985	“	Ploughsoil partly excavated	N
5986	“	Ploughsoil partly excavated	W
5987	“	Ploughsoil partly excavated	S
5988	“	Ploughsoil partly excavated	S
5989	St. Build.	Stone building fully excavated	W
5990	“	Stone building fully excavated	W
5991	“	South-facing section in slot	N

Photo No	Area	Description	Direction
5992	“	South-facing section in slot	N
5993	“	Stone building fully excavated	NE
5994	“	Stone building & slot	NE
5995	“	Stone building & slot	NW
5996	“	E end of stone building	N
5997	“	Stone building general shot	S
5998	“	Stone building general shot	S
5999	“	Stone building general shot	S
6000	“	N wall stone building	S
6001	“	Slot section detail below N wall	N
6002	“	Slot section detail below N wall	N
6003	Ploughsoil	Slot east-facing section	W
6004	“	Slot east-facing section	W
6005	“	Slot east-facing section	N
6006	“	Slot east-facing section	N
6007	“	Slot base showing bedrock	N
6008	“	Slot base showing bedrock	N
6009	Ploughsoil	Slot base showing bedrock	S
6010	“	Slot, west-facing section	E
6011	“	Slot, west-facing section	E
6012	“	Slot, S end	SSE
6013	“	Slot, S end	S
6014	Wasters	Pockets of kiln waste dump when appeared	N
6015	“	Pockets of kiln waste dump when appeared	N
6016	“	Pockets of kiln waste dump when appeared	N
6017	“	Pockets of kiln waste dump - detail	
6018	“	Pockets of kiln waste dump - detail	
6019	049/052	Stone & brick buildings along S edge fully exc.	W
6020	049/052	Stone & brick buildings along S edge fully exc.	W
6021	049/052	Brick building (052) in detail	N
6022	049/052	Stone & brick buildings along S edge fully exc.	NE
6023	049/052	N wall brick building	S
6024	049/052	Stone & brick buildings along S edge fully exc.	SSE
6025	049/052	Stone & brick buildings along S edge fully exc.	W
6026	049/052	Stone building detail	E
6027	049/052	E end of stone building	E
6028	049/052	Brick building (052) - detail	S
6029	049/052	Brick building (052) - detail	S
6030	049/052	Brick building (052) - detail	Plan
6031	049/052	Relationship between 049 and 052	SE
6032	049/052	Brick building (052) - detail	E
6033	049/052	Brick building (052) - detail	E
6034	Wasters	N wall of 053 partly exc.	W
6035	“	N wall of 053 partly exc. Shows pottery appearing	W
6036	“	N wall of 053 partly exc. Shows pottery appearing	N

Photo No	Area	Description	Direction
6037	Staff	Staff excavating pottery wasters	E
6038	Wasters	Wasters and saggar remains	
6039	“	Wasters and saggar remains	
6040	Staff	Staff sorting finds	
6041	Wasters	Waster detail fill (054)	W
6042	“	Waster detail fill (054)	W
6043	“	Waster detail fill (054)	N
6044	“	Location of kiln waste dump in SE corner	S
6045	053	053 fully excavated	W
6046	053	053 fully excavated	N
6047	053	053 fully excavated	NE
6048	053	E side of 053 and drain pipes	N
6049	053	053 fully excavated	N
6050	053	053 before slots	NW
6051	053/056	053/056 and kiln waste dump	W
6052	053/056	053 and 056	SSW
6053	053/056	053 and 056	SSE
6054	053/056	053 and 056 & trench sections	SSE
6055	053/056	053 and 056 & trench sections	SSE
6056	059	Rectangular brick-built building	W
6057	059	Rectangular brick-built building	NW
6058	059	Rectangular brick-built building	SW
6059	059	Rectangular brick-built building	E
6060	Wasters	Detail through W side of cache/ 053	N
6061	“	Detail through W side of cache/ 053	N
6062	“	Detail through W side of cache/ 053	N
6063	“	Detail through W side of cache/ 053	N
6064	Staff	Staff surveying	
6065	N/NE corner	Bedrock along N trench edge	NW
6066	060/061	Bedrock and pits 060 and 061	W
6067	060/061	Bedrock and pit 061	W
6068	060/061	Pits in bedrock 060 and 061	W
6069		Bedrock	W
6070		Bedrock, pits and test pit	SSW
6071		General shot E end of site	S
6072	E end	General shot E end of site	SE
6073	“	General shot E end of site	SE
6074	Pit 060	Pit 060 pre-exc. As it first appeared	W
6075	Pit 060	Pit 060 pre-exc. As it first appeared	E
6076	NE corner	Quarry tip lines - section	NE
6077	“	Quarry/tip lines/bedrock	N
6078	“	Quarry/tip lines/bedrock	N
6079	Pit 060	Pit 060 half-sectioned by machine	W
6080	Pit 060	Pit 060 half-sectioned by machine	N
6081	Pit 060	Pit 060 half-sectioned by machine	E
6082	Pit 060	Pit 060 fully excavated	E

Photo No	Area	Description	Direction
6083	060	E side of 060 fully excavated	E
6084	060	E side of 060 fully excavated	E
6085	060	E side of 060 fully excavated	E
6086	060/061	060 fully exc./ 061 pre-exc.	N
6119	060/061	060 and 061 fully excavated	S
6120	Pit 061	Pit 061 fully excavated	W
6121	Pit 061	Pit 061 fully excavated	NW
6122	Pit 061	Pit 061 fully excavated	N
6123	Pit 061	060 and 061 fully excavated	N
6124	Pit 061	060 and 061 fully excavated	N
6125	Pit 061	060 and 061 fully excavated	N
6126	Various	Metal finds from various features	
6127	“	Two toilets	
6128	“	Two toilets	



Salford Archaeology

Centre for Applied Archaeology

University of Salford

Shakespeare North Playhouse,
Mill Street Car Park
Prescot, Knowsley

A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Excavation

Version: 1.3

Client: Knowsley Borough Council

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescot	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescot: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



Site Location: The study area currently comprises of a tarmac covered car park. Triangular in shape it is bounded by the Prescott Bus Station to the south, to the south east, a taxi rank and turning circle, to the northwest the former Prescott Museum now known as Cockpit House, and bounded along it's eastern extent by Mill Street. The Postcode for the site is L34 5QA.

NGR: NGR 346560 392780

Planning: Currently, planning permission (15/00838/FUL) has been granted for the erection of a four storey building (including basement) to accommodate a 350 seat theatre and multi-use space with ancillary features for the teaching of theatre practices, professional and community performances, and film screenings at Mill Street, Prescott.

Project: Shakespeare North Playhouse

Prepared for: Knowsley Borough Council

Document Title: A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.

Document Type: Archaeological Excavation: Written Scheme of Investigation

Version: Version 1.3

Author: Adam Thompson

Position: Director

Date: October 2017

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1. Introduction

1.1 Circumstances of the Project

Knowsley Council is preparing a revised planning application for the construction of a four storey building to accommodate a 350 seat theatre and multi-use space with ancillary features for the teaching of theatre practices, professional and community performances, and film screenings at Mill Street, Prescot. The existing planning condition was granted with the following archaeological condition attached:

(15/00838/FUL)

Condition no. 8 of the planning permission states:

“No part of the development hereby approved shall commence until a programme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The programme of investigation shall include an assessment of significance and research questions; and shall include:

- (1) the programme and methodology of site investigation and recording;
- (2) the programme for post investigation assessment;
- (3) provision for analysis of the site investigation and recording;
- (4) provision for publication and dissemination of the analysis and records of the site investigation;
- (5) provision for archive deposition of the analysis and records of the site investigation;
- (6) nomination of a competent person or persons or organization to undertake the work set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.”

1.1.1 In August 2017, as part of the design process, Salford Archaeology were commissioned by Knowsley Council to undertake the archaeological excavation of the site. This Written Scheme of Investigation produced by Salford Archaeology intends to propose the requirements and methodological approaches of a programme of archaeological excavation in order to satisfy any potential archaeological condition on the development by Knowsley Borough Council as informed and recommended by their archaeological planning advisor at the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service.

1.1.2 Previous archaeological works directly relating to the site include a Desk Based Assessment conducted by Dr R.A.Philpott in March 2016 and an archaeological watching brief, conducted by Dr Philpott in January 2017.

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- 1.1.3 The Desk Based Assessment highlights the rich archaeological potential of the immediate Prescott area and is summarised in section 2. Based upon the potential of archaeological deposits surviving within the proposed development area, it is proposed that an archaeological excavation be undertaken within the footprint of the proposed development in order to mitigate any potential impact the development would have on any surviving archaeological remains.
- 1.1.4 The excavation is intended to identify as far as possible the nature, extent and significance of the archaeological resource in the proposed development area. The results obtained from the desk-based research concluded that the proposed development area has a high potential for below-ground remains of archaeological interest to survive *in-situ*, particularly those pertaining to the medieval and Post Medieval periods, which could be of high local or borough significance.
- 1.1.5 Knowsley Borough Council, informed by Mr Doug Moir at the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MAES) has recommended that further investigation of the site is merited in advance of development and this should comprise a programme of archaeological excavation across the development footprint. This advice is in line with the guidance provided by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). In particular, Paragraph 141 requires developers to record and advance understanding of heritage assets to be lost, in a manner proportionate to their importance and impact.
- 1.1.6 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an appropriate programme of intrusive investigation has been prepared by Adam Thompson, Director of Salford Archaeology at the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CfAA) on behalf of Knowsley Borough Council. The document has been prepared with the view of ongoing consultation with the Planning Archaeologist throughout the project, in his capacity of archaeological advisor to Knowsley Borough Council. Any change to the proposed WSI will be agreed between the Client, the Planning department and Salford Archaeology.

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1.2 Purpose of the Document

1.2.1 An Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is a comprehensive document detailing the requirements and methodological approaches of a programme of archaeological works. It is defined by Historic England as:

‘Where development will lead to the loss of a material part of the significance of a heritage asset, [paragraph 141 of the NPPF, see below] requires local planning authorities to ensure that developers take advantage of the opportunity to advance our understanding of the past before the asset or the relevant part is irretrievably lost. As this is the only opportunity to do this it is important that:

- 1: Any investigation is carried out to professional standards and to an appropriate level of detail proportionate to the assets likely significance, by an organisation or individual with appropriate expertise;
2. The resultant records, artefacts and samples are analysed and, where necessary, conserved;
- 3: The understanding gained is made publically available;
- 4: An archive is created, and deposited for future research.’

National Planning Policy Framework: Paragraph 141.

Department for Communities and Local Government, March 2012

Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers 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 accessible². However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.

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2. Archaeological & Historical Background

2. Archaeological Background

A summary of the archaeological potential of the development site has been produced by Mr Doug Moir (MAES) in an earlier brief and to avoid repetition and duplication it is reproduced here to provide a brief summary of the archaeological and historical context of the site. Further, more detailed information can be found within the Desk Based Assessment (Philpott 2016).

The name Prescott is derived from the Anglo-Saxon for Priest Cote, when it was the centre of an extensive Parish, but the first record of a church isn't until 1140. The right to a weekly market was granted in 1333, although it was already in existence in 1322.

It has suggested that the proposed development lies in an area to the rear of the burgage plots fronting High Street and Eccleston Street, which was used for the manufacture of pottery. At least 7 kilns were recorded in the town in 1592 (see Davey 1978 in Philpott 2016, fig.2, p. 38).

Previous archaeological investigation of the site in 1980-81 (Holgate's Site A), revealed that Post-medieval cellar construction had destroyed all street front structures, but garden deposits containing medieval pottery were recovered, as were quantities of post-medieval pottery produced in the town's 18th and 19th century potteries.

Test pitting across the town in the early 1980s (Merseyside Historic Environment Record, EME 1984) revealed surviving medieval deposits and evidence for pottery manufacture (kiln furniture and wasters) from the 18th century. In 1986 pieces of early 18th century pottery & kiln furniture (MHER, MME 6552) were found to the rear of 19-21 Eccleston Street, whilst similar finds, but of a 19th century date (MHER, MME 6551) were found to the rear of 15 Eccleston Street. A kiln is also recorded to the rear of 5 Church Street, in documents of 1576 & 1592.

Philpott's summary of the archaeological potential of the site concluded:

“The site lies in the core of the well documented medieval and post-medieval town of Prescott. Archaeological, cartographic and historical sources from the area show that the site was occupied by burgage plots which were first recorded in detail in the late 16th century but are clearly of earlier, medieval, origin. Proximity to the market place and the location between two of the early roads of the town make this archaeologically and historically an important area of the town. The site may retain surviving areas of archaeological deposits associated with the post-medieval and earlier occupation of the town.”

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



3. *Aims and Objectives*

3.1 *Academic Aims*

The principal aim of the project is to obtain sufficient information to generate a reliable predictive model of the extent, character, date, state of preservation and depth of burial of important archaeological remains (including palaeo-environmental data) within the study area and to accurately record those remains.

3.2 *Objectives*

3.2.1 The principal objectives of the archaeological investigation are:

- to record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains;
- establish whether significant Medieval and post Medieval remains are present in areas of proposed significant groundworks;
- to mitigate the impact of the proposed development through the preservation by record principle in advance of the proposed construction works;
- to make available the results of the work.

3.2.2 The site is considered to have the potential to provide information relating to a number of research initiatives identified within the NW Regional Research Framework and as such the excavation methodology will be conducted with the following research themes in mind:

Medieval Agenda:

- Initiative 5.18: The role and nature of small towns should be examined which should include below ground investigations in well preserved small towns. (*p104 vol 2*)
- Initiative 5.40: Identification and investigation of pottery kiln sites including the use of archaeomagnetic dating to identify sequences more closely and investigate the links between producers and consumers (*p113 vol 2*)

Post-medieval Agenda:

- Industries section: “The identification of products of the region’s potteries remains extremely insecure. Without basic information on regional pottery production it will remain difficult to engage in a wider study of the industry...” (*p 128 Vol 2*)

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



Industrial Agenda:

- Initiative 7.24: Need to excavate urban cellar to examine life ‘below stairs’ in the middle class house and cellar dwellings and workshops in working class houses. (p146 Vol 2)
- Initiative 7.25: Where threatened with possible redevelopment excavations are required of now undeveloped and cleared former working class areas regarded as slums (p 146 Vol 2).

3.2.3 Stages

The aims and objectives outlined above may be achieved via the following stages:

- *Excavation:* the investigation of the proposed development area via the excavation of the footprint of the development.
- *Post Excavation Assessment Stage:* An assessment report will be produced, this report will form part of the project archive. It will include a statement of the quantity and perceived quality of the data in the site archive, a statement of the archaeological potential of the data to answer the project research aims, and recommendations on the analysis (eg finds and environmental remains and any specialist samples recovered), and data storage and future curation requirements.
- *Post-excavation Analysis and Report Production:* Following agreement by the appropriate parties, the recommendations of the assessment report will be undertaken, ie. finds identification and analysis of any samples recovered (subject to agreement of cost). All site records, finds and any samples from the excavation programme outlined below will form a checked and ordered site archive as outlined in accordance with current professional guidelines.
- Following compilation of the project archive a report will be produced;
- *Archive Deposition:* the results of the excavation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990);
- *Dissemination:* as a minimum, the information will be finally disseminated through the deposition of the archive with ADS, and a final report at the Merseyside Historic Environment Record. Should the remains prove to be of regional or national significance additional discussion will be required between all parties to agree a format and resourcing for additional dissemination (eg. Journal publication).

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3

4. Method Statement

4.1 Archaeological Excavation

4.1.0 The principal aim of the archaeological excavation will be to examine the archaeological resource within the proposed area within a framework of defined research objectives, to seek a better understanding of and compile a lasting record of the archaeological resource, to analyse and interpret the results and to appropriately disseminate them. This will be achieved via the excavation of the proposed development impacted area as depicted in fig 1.

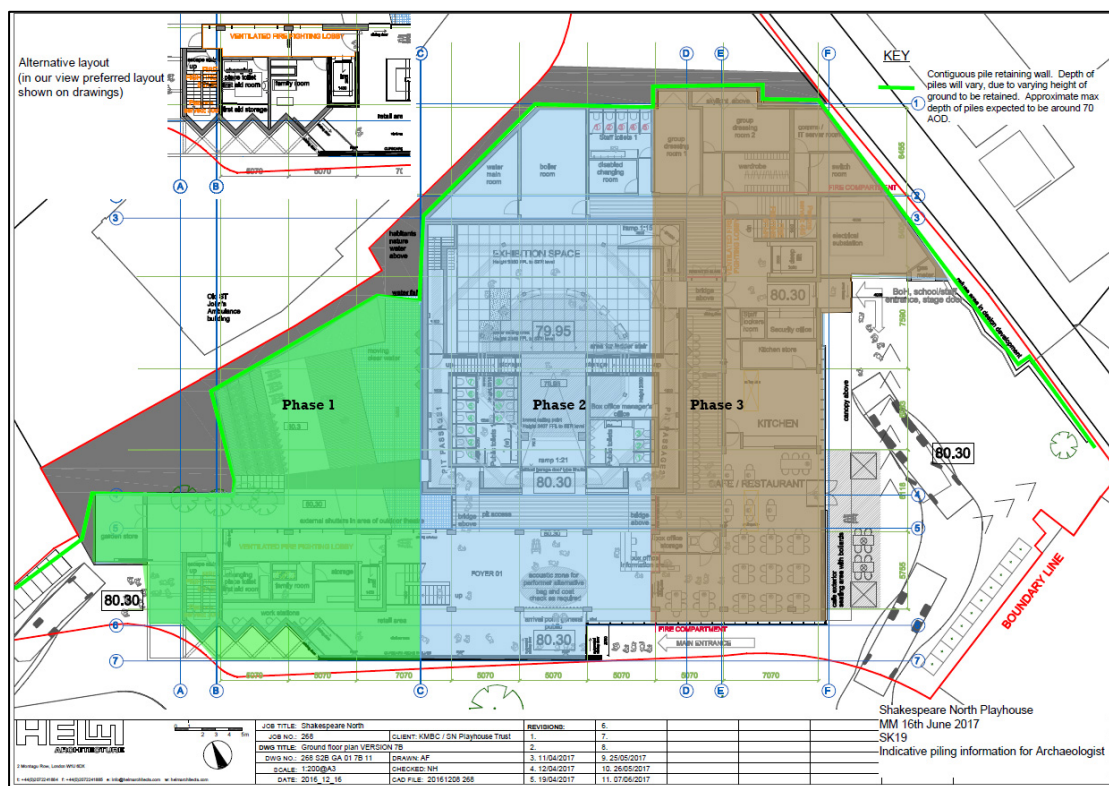


Fig 1: Proposed plot boundary with zones of archaeological activity highlighted.

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



- 4.1.1 *General Methodology*: all archaeological work shall be conducted following the CIfA *Standards and Guidance for archaeological excavation* (2014). Prior to the commencement of any excavation works, the location of the area targeted for archaeological investigation will be laid out accurately with respect to the Ordnance Survey national grid. The position of the areas will then be scanned for any live services using a cable avoidance tool.
- 4.1.2 Due to the space requirements of the site and to maintain management of associated health and safety issues, the excavations will be split into three separate phases, which will allow for (1 excavation area, 2 spoil area, 3 welfare and access/egress area during each phase). Upon completion of each phase of archaeological excavation being completed it will be backfilled with the excavated material and excavation will continue on to the next phase. These will be called Phase 1, Phase 2 and Phase 3.
- 4.1.3 The uppermost levels of overburden in each phase will be removed using a mechanical excavator of appropriate power (c 18 tons), fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to the top of the first significant archaeological level. The work will be supervised closely by the Archaeological Site Director. Spoil will be stockpiled in a spoil mound located one of the free phase areas, but at least 3m from the edge of any trench excavation. Thereafter, all excavation will be carried out using manual techniques to allow the identification and planning of archaeological features, and Salford Archaeology staff will use a metal detector to scan for objects.
- 4.1.4 The level of final development impact (depth) will be confirmed upon the final design, and the level of archaeological excavation will be dependent upon the final depth of development impact.
- 4.1.5 Archaeological pits and postholes will be subject to a 50% by volume controlled stratigraphic excavation. Linear cut features, such as ditches and gullies, will be subject to up to a maximum of 25% by volume controlled stratigraphic excavation, with the excavation concentrating on any terminals and intersections with other features which would provide important stratigraphic information. Linear features with a uniform fill will be subject to 10% excavation.
- 4.1.6 Extensive linear deposits or homogeneous spreads of material will be sample excavated by hand to a maximum of 10-20% by volume (the size of the sample to be agreed following consultation with the MEAS Planning Archaeologist). If features/deposits are revealed which need to be removed and which are suitable for machine excavation, such as large-scale dump deposits or substantial linear cut

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3

features, then they would be sample excavated to confirm their homogeneity before being removed by machine.

- 4.1.7 Structural remains will be excavated manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date. Any hearths and/or internal features will be 100% sample excavated to provide information on their date and function, and the extent of any associated floor surfaces will be determined. If scientific dating of hearth/kiln fabric is required, the samples will be recovered from the site and stored in an appropriate manner until an additional post excavation strategy and budget is agreed upon by all parties.
- 4.1.8 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, utilising *pro-forma* context sheets, and will be accompanied with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and digital photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features.
- 4.1.9 *Context Recording:* all contexts will be recorded using *pro-forma* sheets, and will note the character, contextual relationships, detailed description (dimensions and shape, soil components, colour, texture and consistency) of each deposit encountered. A note on the context sheet will also be made of associated finds, together with preliminary interpretation and phasing, as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers. Details will also be incorporated into a Harris matrix. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced from record sheets using sequential numbering.
- 4.1.10 *Photographic Archive:* a comprehensive photographic archive will be produced utilising a high-resolution digital camera (min 10 megapixel). Where necessary, artificial lighting will be employed to ensure that the images of the interior are of high quality. All frames, excluding general contextual views, will incorporate a graduated metric scale. A full photographic index will be produced. All photography will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England’s “*Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice (July 2015)*).
- 4.1.11 *Planning:* the precise location of all archaeological structures encountered will be surveyed either by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a pen computer data logger, or using manual techniques. This process will generate drawings at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20. Sections will be drawn through all significant cut features and levelled to Ordnance Datum. Trench sides will also be drawn in section where they contain significant information. Sections will be manually drafted as appropriate at a scale of 1:10.

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



- 4.1.12 *Human remains*: human remains are not expected to be present, but if they are found they will, if possible, be left *in-situ* covered and protected. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice and curator will be informed immediately. If disarticulated remains are encountered, these will be identified and quantified on site. If trenches are being immediately backfilled, the remains will be left in the ground. If the excavations will remain open for any length of time, disarticulated remains will be removed and boxed, for immediate reburial at an appropriate site. Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment.
- 4.1.13 Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains must be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law and the Institute for Archaeologies Paper No. 7 Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains, 2004 and the Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England’s : Guidance for Best Practice for the Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England, (Second Edition), 2017
- 4.1.14 *Finds policy*: finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (following current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists: *Standards and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Dec 2014)*, and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow these professional guidelines. All stratified finds will be collected by context or, where appropriate, individually recorded in three dimensions. Unstratified finds will only be collected where they contribute significantly to the project objectives, or are of particular intrinsic interest. A post excavation assessment report will be produced (and agreed by all parties), which may recommend further specialist analysis of artefactual material
- 4.1.15 Collection policies for structural remains and industrial residues will be in accordance with the guidance from Historic England such as, *Science for Historic Industries: Guidelines for the investigation of 17th- to 19th- century industries, 2015*. The presence of such materials within a context will always be recorded and, where they are considered to be of importance, the excavation strategy will aim to quantify their occurrence, even where comprehensive retention is not considered appropriate.

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



- 4.1.16 There will also be a programme of regular metal detecting during the excavation. This will involve experienced professional archaeologists from Salford Archaeology undertaking regular inspections of deposits and spoil using a metal detector. Any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996.
- 4.1.17 The environmental sampling strategy will be in accordance with guidelines such as Historic England's *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition) 2011*. Samples will also be collected for technological, pedological and chronological analysis as appropriate. If archaeological features are identified, bulk samples (40 litre) will be taken from contexts in sealed plastic buckets from all secure deposits. These will be assessed for charred and waterlogged plant remains and other possible biological indicators for example invertebrate remains and fish bone.
- 4.1.18 If any waterlogged deposits are identified, either from archaeological features, such as ditch fills or ponds, or natural deposits such as peat or former lake deposits, they will be sampled for pollen and other biological indicators with cores or monolith tins. If buried soils are identified, they will be sampled with kubiena tins or other suitable containers, and will then be assessed for their potential for soil micromorphology and pollen analysis.
- 4.1.19 In the event of the recovery of material which may require further scientific analysis, such as samples, it is suggested that Historic England's Science Advisor for North-West England, Dr Sue Stallibrass, be included into the post excavation assessment and analysis discussions to offer expert opinion on the nature of, and need for, any scientific and/or environmental dating/analysis.

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



5. *Health and Safety*

5.1 *Health and Safety*

5.1.1 Full regard will be given to all constraints during the course of the project. The University of Salford provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Safety Policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.

- The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974);
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999);
- The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (2015);
- The Control of Asbestos Regulations (2006);
- The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (1992);
- Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (1996);
- The Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (2002);
- The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (2002);
- The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (1981);
- Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (1998).

5.1.2 Salford Archaeology undertakes to safeguard, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of its staff and of others who may be affected by our work. This applies in particular to providing and maintaining suitable premises, and providing all reasonable safeguards and precautions against accidents. The University of Salford will also take all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of all persons not in their employment, such as volunteers, students, visitors, and members of the public (this includes trespassers).

5.1.3 Insurance: the University of Salford has professional indemnity to a value of £50,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £50,000,000 and public liability to a value of £50,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

5.1.4 Welfare: Welfare during the archaeological excavation will take the form of an OASIS cabin onsite and will be located within the phase of area which is not excavated at each stage. Parking for staff will be limited to two vehicles and kept to a minimum. Vehicles will be parked within the compounded area during the working day.

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



5.1.5 Reinstatement: Within the proposed methodology the all excavated material will be redeposited back within the excavated areas upon signoff from the Planning Archaeologist. The excavation methodology has been designed to allow for a change to this proposal, should the client require the material to be removed from site during the process.

5.2 *Other Matters*

5.2.1 *Project Monitoring:* the aims of monitoring are to ensure that the archaeological works are undertaken within the limits set by the Written Scheme of Investigation, and to the satisfaction of the MEAS Planning Archaeologist, who will be given at least five days’ notice of when work is due to commence, and will be free to visit the site by prior arrangement. The MEAS Planning Archaeologist will be informed regularly of the project’s progress, and notified at the earliest opportunity of any unexpected discoveries, especially where there may be a need to vary the project design.

5.2.2 *Contingencies:* if there are more complex or generally deeper deposits than can be anticipated from the evidence available, there may need to be a corresponding increase in costs, any such unexpected archaeological requirements would be subject to agreement with the Client and the archaeological curator. These contingency costs are in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ guidance.

5.2.3 *Working Hours:* normal working hours are between 8.00 am and 4.00 pm, Monday to Friday. It is not normal practice for the University of Salford staff to be asked to work weekends or bank holidays, and should the Client require such time to be worked during the course of a project a contract variation to cover additional costs will be necessary.

5.3 *Post-Excavation and Report Production*

5.3.1 *Report:* a draft copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted for comment to the MEAS Planning Archaeologist and the Client within six working weeks of the completion of the fieldwork. This will present the results obtained from the excavation, and will include:

- a title page detailing site address, NGR, author/originating body, client’s name and address;
- full content’s listing;
- a non-technical summary of the findings of the fieldwork;
- a description of the archaeological background and objectives of the project;
- a detailed account of the historical development of the site;
- a description of the methodologies used during the fieldwork;

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



- a description of the findings of the fieldwork;
- plans of the excavation (accurately located by means of a 12 figure NGR), where archaeological features have been identified;
- an overall phased plan with sections of the excavated archaeological features;
- interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape, including a confidence rating;
- a consideration of the importance of the archaeological remains present on the site in local, regional and national terms;
- recommendations for further archaeological investigation, as appropriate.

Both the Client and MAES will receive a digital pdf format copy of the report the client will additionally receive a printed copy. A copy of any specialist papers relating to the project will also be supplied. It is anticipated that the report will be submitted as part of the planning process, and will thus automatically be considered to be a public document that can be made available for public consultation through the Historic Environment Record.

5.3.2 *Archive*: the results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd edition, 1991*), the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and current CIfA standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive (published December 2014).

5.3.3 The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the CIfA in that organisation’s code of conduct. As part of the archiving process, the on-line OASIS (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed.

5.3.4 The integrity of the site archive will be maintained upon completion of the archaeological works. The complete archive (including all finds) should be deposited with National Museums Liverpool in accordance with their guidelines. Knowsley are seeking to agree a policy with National Museums Liverpool that includes arrangements for the display of appropriate archaeological finds in the Prescott Museum.

5.3.5 The archive will be prepared and deposited in accordance with the guidelines set out in ‘Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation’ (AAF, 2007), and the Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2014). An allowance for a storage grant to the receiving museum in accordance with their requirements has been allowed for in the project budget.

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



5.3.7 The archaeological archive will consist of the following:

- All original records created throughout the course of the project;
- All original drawings, whether created during fieldwork or post-investigation;
- Indexes to the drawings;
- Indexes to the photographic archive;
- All born digital material;
- Digital material created from written, drawn or photographed original records;
- The final project report;
- A list of contents of the archive.

5.3.8 Upon commencement of the project, National Museums Liverpool will be contacted as the destination for the final archive (Paper, digital and material culture). All archiving will conform to their required standards and will be deposited upon completion of the project.

5.3.9 *Dissemination:* as a minimum, the information will be finally disseminated through the deposition of the archive with ADS, and a final report at the Merseyside Historic Environment Record. Should the remains prove to be of regional or national significance additional discussion will be required between all parties to agree a format and resourcing for additional dissemination (eg. Journal publication: A suitable regional publication may be the Journal of the Merseyside Archaeological Society).

5.3.10 Following the completion of the fieldwork, a post excavation stage assessment report will be produced whereby all parties will meet and agree the next stages, including any, if required, specialist reports or additional dissemination activities.

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
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6. Timetable

- 6.1.1 It is crucial to the successful delivery of the project that the programme of archaeological works is dovetailed with the timetable for the other aspects of the proposed development. It is expected that archaeological excavation will take place during November/December/January period (2017/2018).
- 6.1.2 A draft assessment report will be submitted within six weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



7. Staffing Proposals

- 7.1 The project will be under the overall charge of **Adam Thompson** to whom all correspondence should be addressed. Ian has over 15 years' experience of commercial archaeology and has fulfilled a project management role since 2008. He is responsible for the overall management, strategy and delivery of the Centre for Applied Archaeology and is currently the Director at Salford Archaeology, Centre for Applied Archaeology, University of Salford. A specialist in commercially led archaeological excavation, historic building recording, community archaeology and public dissemination. He gained both his BA and MA degrees at the University of Manchester, specialising in archaeological excavation and worked within the East Midlands on developer funded archaeological projects before joining the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit where he undertook the delivery and management of a variety of commercial and community projects within Greater Manchester and throughout the northwest He was one of the cofounders of Salford Archaeology in 2008.

His role will be to ensure that the Written Scheme of Investigation is implemented within the framework of the Project Objectives. He will be responsible for all aspects of staff and resource logistics, ensuring the smooth running of the project programme.

- 7.2 The fieldwork will be directed by **Graham Mottershead MA**, who has over 20 years' experience as a field archaeologist, including extensive experience of medieval and post medieval archaeology. He has previously worked for the former Manchester University Archaeological Unit and Oxford North where he fulfilled the roles of Senior Project Officer. Most recently.
- 7.3 It is not possible to provide details of specific technicians that will be involved with the fieldwork at this stage, but all shall be suitably qualified archaeologists with proven relevant experience. It is anticipated that up to two technicians will be required for the excavation.

Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



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Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3



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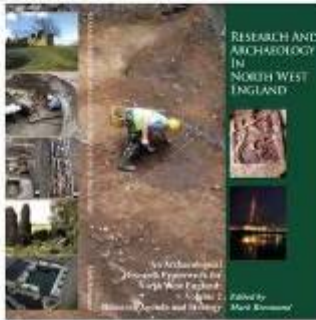
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Project	Document Title	Document Type	Author	Date	Version
Shakespeare North, Prescott	A Written Scheme of Investigation for an archaeological excavation at Mill Street car park, Prescott: Shakespeare North.	WSI	Adam Thompson (Director)	24/10/2017	1.3

CONSULTANCY



DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS



WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION



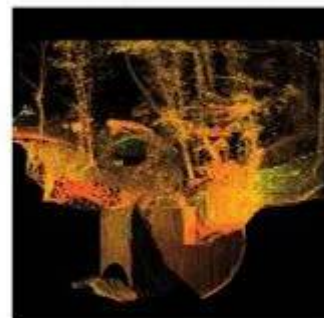
EXCAVATION



BUILDING SURVEY



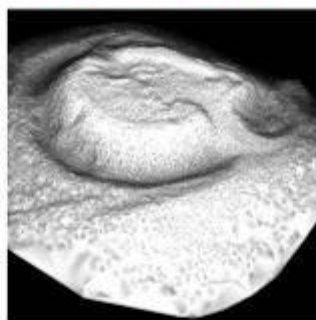
3D LASER SCANNING



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



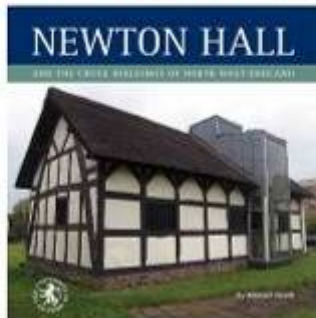
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS



WORKSHOPS & VOCATIONAL TRAINING



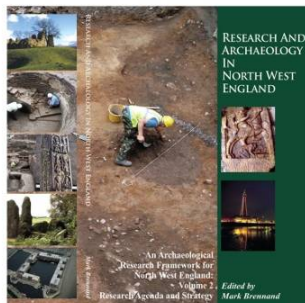
RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS



**SEMINARS, DAYSCHOOLS
CPD EVENTS**



CONSULTANCY



DESK BASED ASSESMENTS



WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION



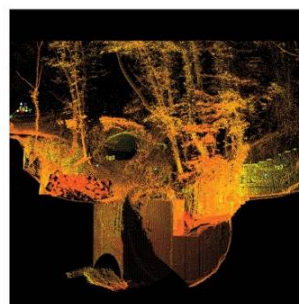
EXCAVATION



BUILDING SURVEY



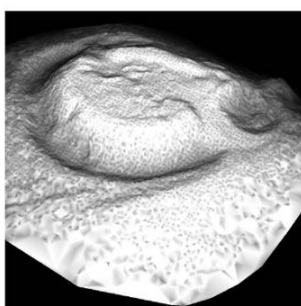
3D LASER SCANNING



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



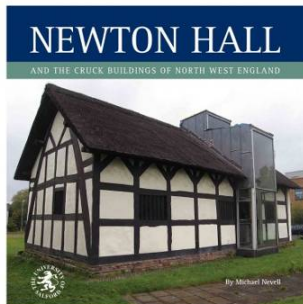
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS



WORKSHOPS & VOCATIONAL TRAINING



RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS



**SEMINARS, DAYSCHOOLS
CPD EVENTS**

