

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

16 WELLINGTON ROAD SOUTH

For Universal Aids

Matthew Williams MA MCIfA

L~P:ARCHÆOLOGY

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

16 WELLINGTON ROAD SOUTH

Client: Universal Aids

Local Authority: Stockport MBC

NGR: 389345, 390180

Planning App: DC052773

Author: M Williams

Doc Ref: LPI534M-WBR-v1.1

Date: November 15

Site Code: I534M

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A trading name of L - P : Heritage LLP

The Pump House| Coton Hill| Shrewsbury, SY1 2DP | +44 [0]1743 361552 | marches@lparchaeology.com

www.lparchaeology.com

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was carried out during demolition and groundworks at 16 Wellington Road South, Stockport. The work revealed a large deposit of demolition rubble in the south of the site which is interpreted as the remains of the mill building which stood in the south part of the site until c.1910. No in situ remains of the building were recorded although foundations may remain below the current level.

Two areas of cobbles were recorded which were part of the mill yard. The cobbles in the centre of the site showed an area of repair which may indicate the location of an early weighing machine. Within the cobbles in the north of the site was a hollow brick wall which may have been part of a small building associated with a later weighing machine.

Finds from the mill rubble were both industrial and domestic and correlate with the chronology of the mill.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This report details the results of an archaeological Watching Brief carried out at 16 Wellington Road South, hereafter referred to as 'the site' (FIGURE 1). The local authority is Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC).
- 1.2. The fieldwork was carried out by Pascal Eloy of L – P : Archaeology between 11th and 25th June 2015.
- 1.3. The site is located in at 16 Wellington Road South, Stockport, SK3 0EJ (FIGURE 1). The NGR is 389345, 390180.
- 1.4. The site code allocated by L – P : Archaeology is 1534M.
- 1.5. The work was carried out in accordance with the specification prepared by Matthew Williams of L – P : Archaeology (WILLIAMS 2015).

2. Site Background

2.1.PLANNING

2.1.1. Planning consent was been granted for demolition of an existing carpet warehouse/shop and the construction of a car park in its place. The application reference is DC052773.

2.2.GEOLOGY

2.2.1. The superficial geology is Devensian Till. The bedrock is Cheshire pebble beds formation (BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY 2015).

2.3.TOPOGRAPHY

2.3.1. The site is level at approximately 56m AOD (FIGURE 1).

2.4.ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

2.4.1. The site is adjacent to Wellington Mill. The mill was built in 1828 as a seven storey mill and two storey engine house. Further buildings were added and the first detailed cartographic evidence is Plant's survey of 1842. The mill was sold in 1892 to two machine brokers who swiftly sold it on to Ward and Co. hat manufacturing company. It was around this time that the cotton mill building (in the west of the site) was demolished; the building is shown on the 1895 OS map but not the 1910 OS map. It remained a hat factory until the mid 1930s when it was separated into units for various small businesses. It is now partially converted to dwellings and houses the Stockport Hat Museum. It is the only remaining local example of a 'fireproof mill'.

2.5.SITE CONDITIONS

2.5.1. The site was a disused carpet warehouse/shop. This was demolished during the watching brief.

3. Aims and Objectives

3.1. The general aims of the watching brief are:

- ◆ To determine the presence or absence of archaeological deposits or remains.
- ◆ To record the character, date, location and preservation of any archaeological remains on the site.
- ◆ To record the nature and extent of any previous damage to archaeological remains on the site.

3.2. The specific aims of the monitoring are:

- ◆ To identify and record any remains of the cotton mill that may be present in the west of the site.

4. Methodology

4.1. For a full description of the archaeological methodology please refer to the Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by L – P : Archaeology (WILLIAMS 2015). There was no deviation from the methodology described.

4.2. The building was demolished between 11th and 23rd June. The slab and lower deposits were removed between 23rd and 25th June. Site visits were carried out on 11th, 17th and 22nd - 25th June.

5. Results

5.1.THE WAREHOUSE/SHOP

5.1.1. The shop was probably built between 1907 and 1910 (WILLIAMS 2013). It was constructed from brick with a steel roof frame (PLATE 1) which was clearly visible during demolition. The north wall was built up against the Garrick Theatre. There was no evidence that older brickwork, for example mill brickwork, had been incorporated or reused in the shop structure.

5.1.2. The base of the building was a concrete slab 200mm thick (01).

5.2.MAKE UP DEPOSITS

5.2.1. Below the concrete slab were various make up deposits with a total thickness of 700mm. These comprised deposits of burnt coal and ash with inclusions of glass and slag (02), mid brown loam with brick fragments (03) and pink brown ash and clinker with coal fragments (04).

5.2.2. Below the make up deposits in the south was a loose grey rubble deposit (05) comprising broken bricks and mortar with occasional glass, metal and ceramic. To the north was a loose dark brown/black sandy silt (07) with ash, clinker, gravel and coal inclusions. The interface between the two deposits was quite diffuse and the stratigraphic relationship was unclear although it was on the approximate alignment of the north wall of the mill building shown on historic maps (FIGURE 3). This suggests that (05) represents the demolished remains of the mill building and (07) is make up for the warehouse. Deposit (05) was reduced to c.54.80m AOD and was not not fully excavated; deposit (07) had a maximum depth of 0.50m. No wall was visible between (05) and (07).

5.3.COBbled SURFACES

5.3.1. Below (07) were two areas of cobbling which were the remains of the cobbled yard of the mill building (FIGURE 2). Near the centre of the site was an area approximately 3.5m by 4.5m (08) with part of a concrete drainage channel (09) running lengthways down the middle of the yard (PLATE 2). The channel contained a loose iron rod. On the north side was a small drain with a cast iron

cover (10).

- 5.3.2. On the north side of (09) was an area of compact black silt and rubble (15) measuring 1.2m by 700m; the cobbles on the west side of (15) were not well laid (as opposed to the neat alignments in the rest of the surface) which suggests it is an area of repair (PLATE 2). This may have been the position of the weighing machine, which is shown in this general location in the 1843 plan (FIGURE 3). It is not shown on subsequent maps. The weighing machine would have comprised a metal plate on which the cart would be positioned.
- 5.3.3. At the north end of the site, at the entrance, was another area of cobbling (12) measuring 3.50m by 4.10m. Set within the cobbles was a linear brick structure (13) parallel to the street frontage consisting of two rows of bricks with a void between (PLATE 3). It is in the location of the south east wall of a small square building first shown on the 1895 OS map (FIGURE 3). This map also shows the weighing machine in the north of the yard and this building may house the operator and part of the weighing mechanism. The void may have housed part of the machine linking the metal plate to a dial in the square building.
- 5.3.4. The yard surface was about 1.20m below street level. The cobbles (12) sloped gently down from this level to the yard (compare PLATE 2 and PLATE 3 – the line of the concrete floor of the warehouse is visible at the top of the exposed brickwork in PLATE 2 and is level with the cobbles and wall remains in PLATE 3). Below the cobbles was a base layer of compact dark brown black silt (14) with occasional gravel and coal fragments.
- 5.3.5. No other areas of cobbling had survived.

6. Finds

- 6.1. Finds were recovered from context (02) (make up layer above the mill demolition and yard deposits and below the concrete slab of the later warehouse) and context (05) (mill demolition deposit). A catalogue is shown in table 1.
- 6.2. Finds from (02) date broadly to the late 19th and early 20th centuries and are non industrial.
- 6.3. Finds from (05) date to the mid 19th century. The bottle neck and large rim sherd are clearly industrial whereas the porcelain is domestic. All the finds would have occurred in a mill building and support the interpretation of layer (05) as demolished mill remains.

Context	Material	Size (mm)	Form	Notes
(02)	D. brown stoneware	150 high x 63 base	Complete bottle	stamped'LOV...LOVAT/NOTTS/LANGLEY MILL'. Spout on lip of neck.
(02)	D. brown stoneware	88 high (broken) x 63 across	Bottle neck and shoulder	
(02)	P. brown glazed stoneware	80 high (broken) x 75 across	Bottle base	Stamped 'DOULTON/LAMBETH'
(02)	Glass	205 high (broken) x 60 across	Bottle body	'MANCHESTER' and 'FEGILDER' written vertically on opposite sides
(02)	Glass	105 high (broken) x 60 across	Codd bottle body and neck	Rim of neck broken and ball missing. 'JOHN GRUNDY STOCKPORT'.
(05)	Glass	135 high (broken) x 105. Neck is 75 across	Neck of large bottle	Inside of neck rim has been deliberately 'touched up' as part of the manufacturing process
(05)	M. brown stoneware	130 high x 90 across (both broken)	Bottle neck and shoulder	
(05)	Ceramic	280 x 120	Large rim sherd	Part of large bowl, rim shape suggests original diameter of c. 50cm. Thick pale yellow glaze interior.
(05)	Porcelain	Various – up to 60	Six body sherds of cups or jars	Five sherds have blue stripe decoration and one has purple stripe decoration

Table 1- Finds

7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1. An archaeological watching brief was carried out at 16 Wellington Road South during the demolition of a warehouse/shop and removal of concrete slab. The aim of the work was to identify and record any remains that may be associated with the mill and yard that previously stood on the site.
- 7.2. A substantial deposit of demolition material was recorded in the south of the site which is interpreted as the remains of the mill building. No extant walls were seen, although the rubble was only reduced to c.54.80m AOD and it is possible that wall stubs, foundations or floor surfaces remain.
- 7.3. To the north was a dark layer which is interpreted as a make up deposit for the warehouse. It sealed two areas of cobbles which were clearly remains of the yard shown on historic maps of the mill. There was an area of repair in the southern cobbles which roughly correlates with the location of the weighing machine shown on the 1851 Ordnance Survey map. A brick wall with a central void was recorded in the area of northern cobbles. The wall correlates with a small building associated with the relocated weighing machine shown in the 1895 Os map. There were no remains of the weighing machines.
- 7.4. The majority of the cobbles had been removed; there were no other other situ remains recorded.

8. Archive

8.1. The paper archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x Drawing Register
- ◆ 3 x Drawing Film
- ◆ 3 x Photographic Register
- ◆ 24 x Black and white photographs and negatives
- ◆ 1 x Context Register
- ◆ 15 x Context sheets
- ◆ 6 x Watching Brief record sheets

8.2. The finds archive consists of:

- ◆ 1 x box artefacts as described in Section 6 (all materials).

8.3. The archive is to be deposited at Stockport Museum, 30/31 Market Place, Stockport SK1 1ES. Tel: 0161 218460.

SOURCES CONSULTED

BIBLIOGRAPHIC

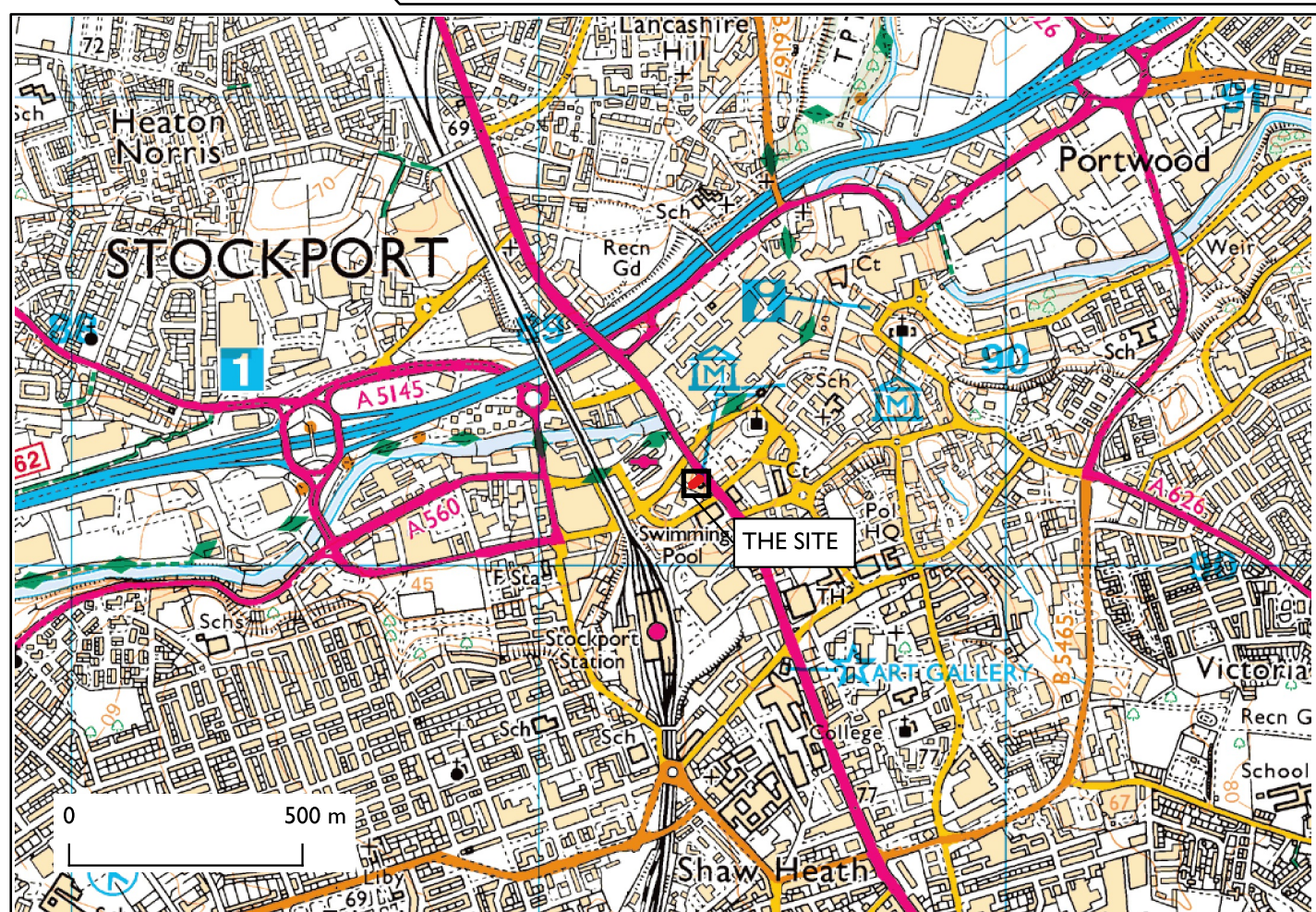
BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, 2015. 'Onshore GeoIndex'. www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex.

WILLIAMS, M., 2013. *Heritage Statement for land at 16 Wellington Road South*. L - P : Archaeology.

WILLIAMS, M., 2015. *Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief 16 Wellington Road South*. L - P : Archaeology.

FIGURES

FIGURE I // Site Location - General



PROJECT // 1534M - 16 Wellington Road South, Stockport

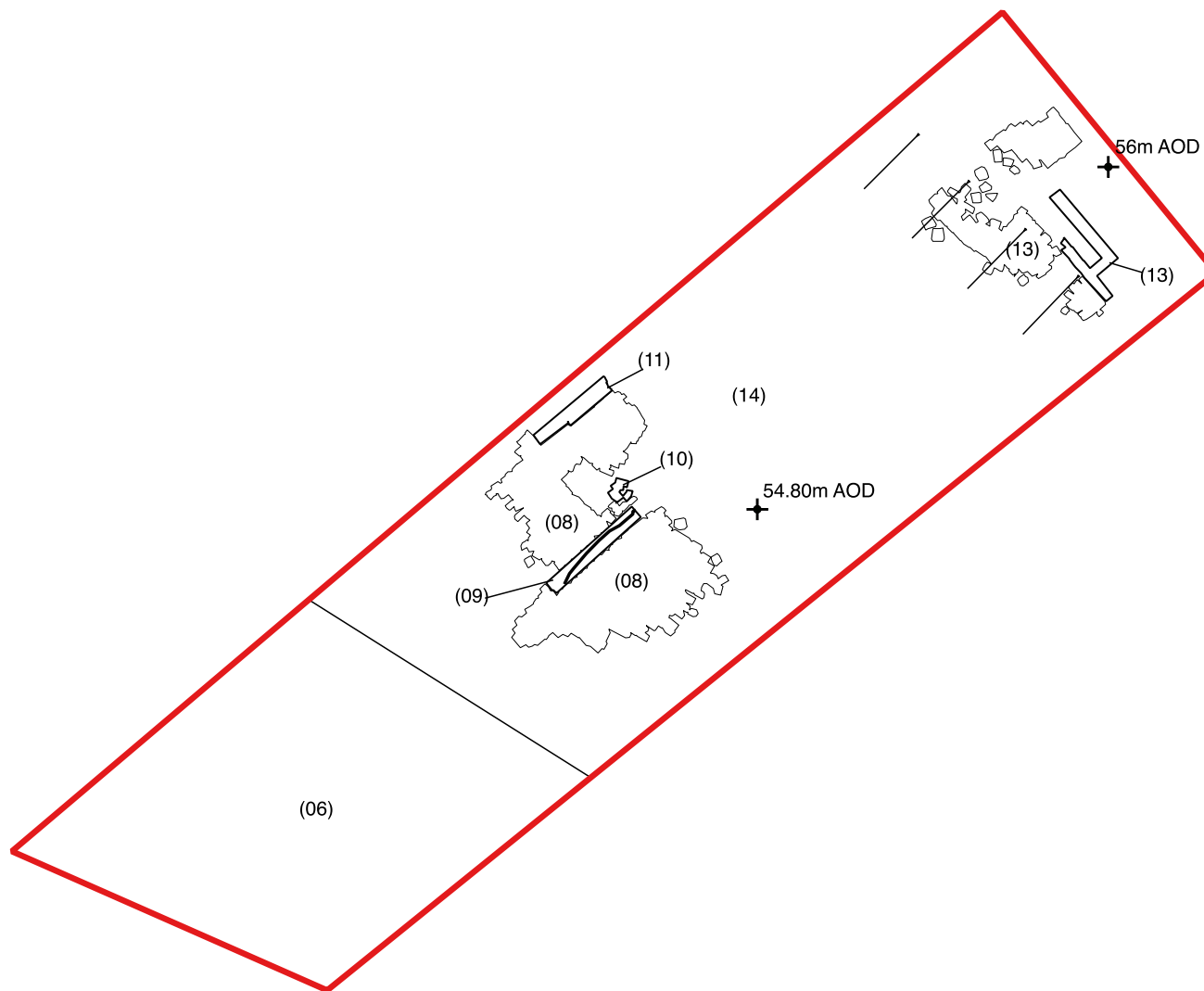
DESCRIPTION // Site Location

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FIGURE 2 // Site plan



Scale 1:150 @ A4

0 10 m



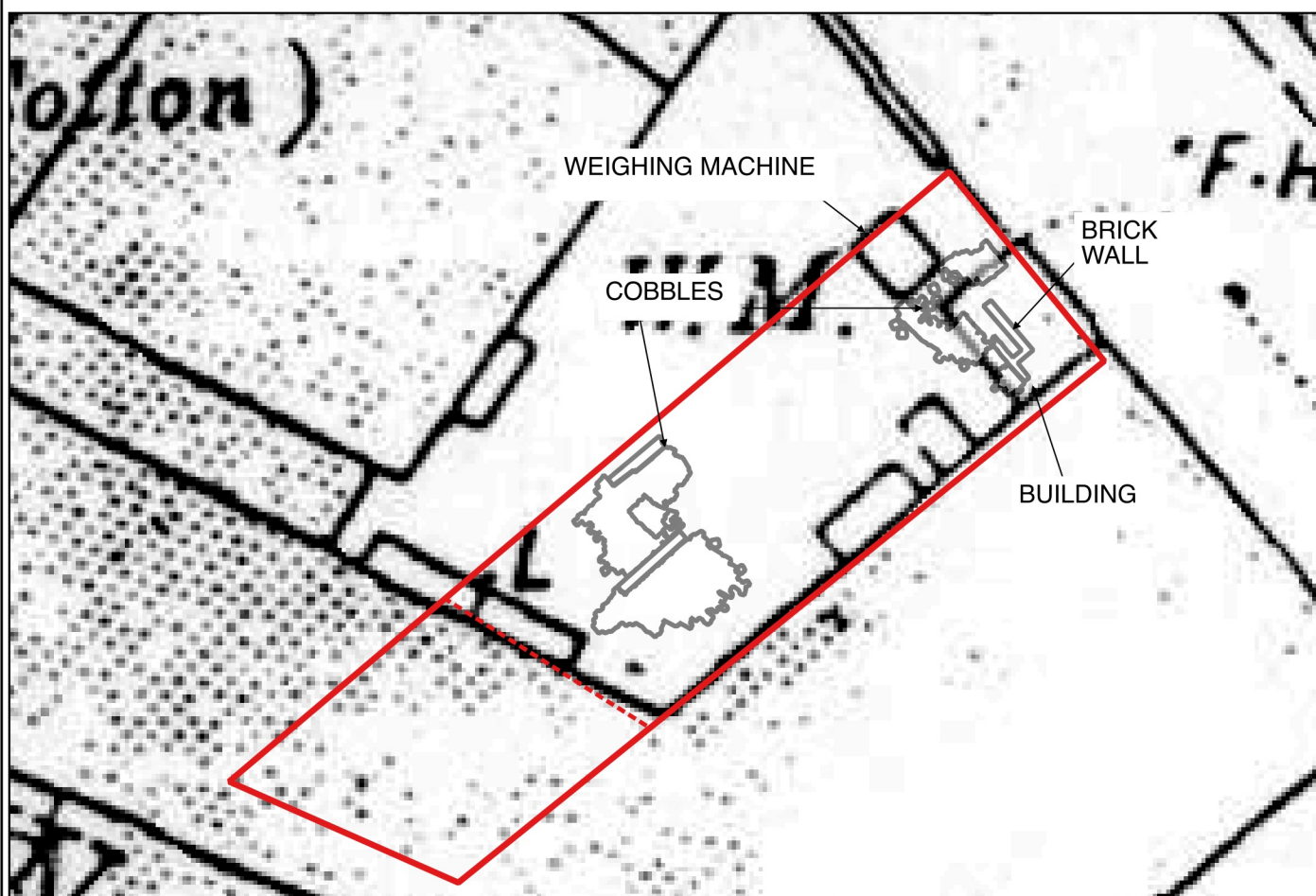
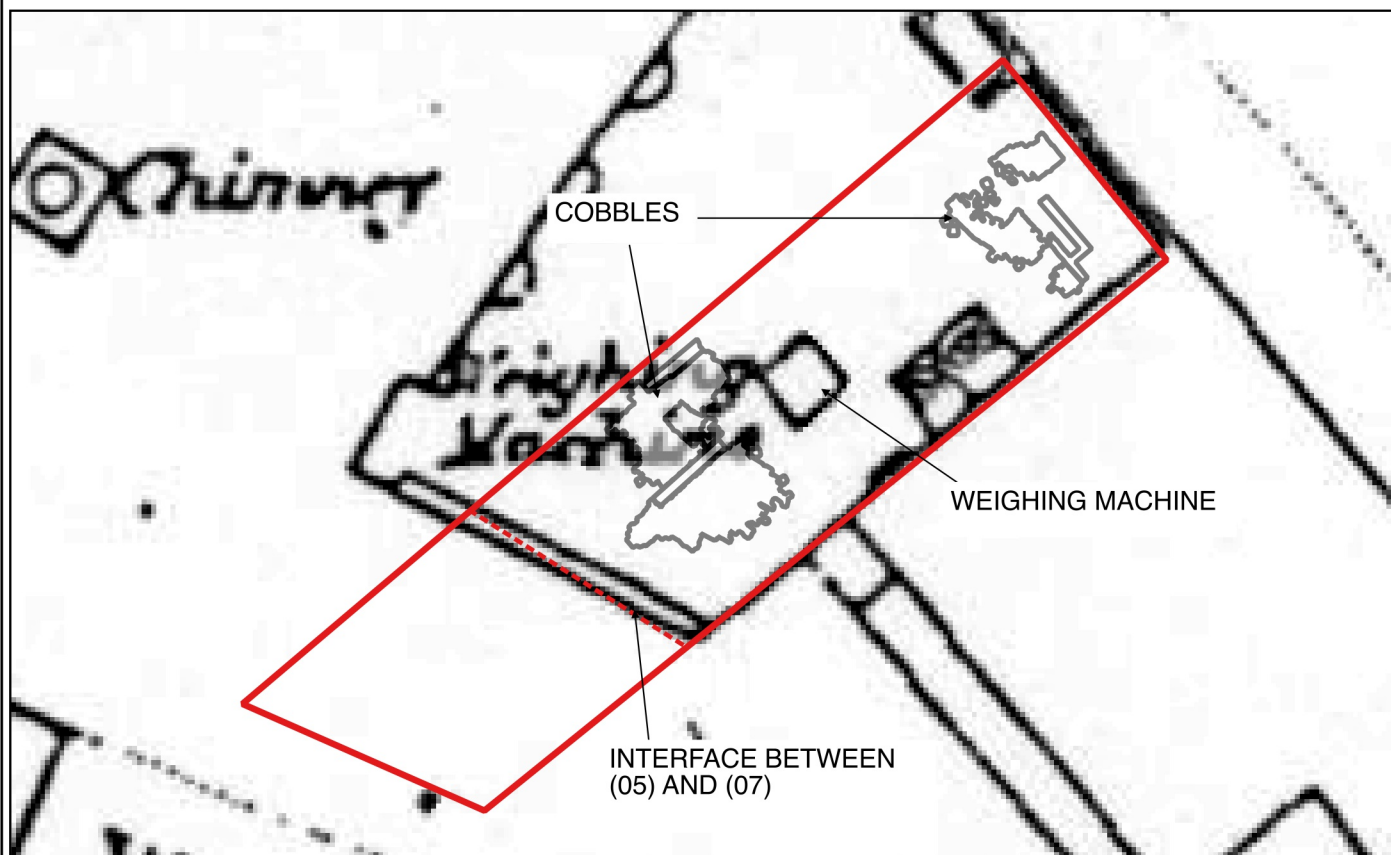
PROJECT // I534M - I6 Wellington Road South, Stockport

DESCRIPTION // Site plan

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FIGURE 3 // Features overlying historic maps



0 10 m



PROJECT // 1534M - 16 Wellington Road South, Stockport

DESCRIPTION // TOP: 1851 OS

BOTTOM: 1895 OS

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APPENDIX I

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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OASIS ID: Iparchae1-230511

Project details

Project name	16 Wellington road South
Short description of the project	Watching brief during building demolition and slab removal in area of historic mill.
Project dates	Start: 11-06-2015 End: 25-06-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	DC052773 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Conservation Area
Current Land use	Industry and Commerce 4 - Storage and warehousing
Monument type	COBBLED SURFACE Modern
Significant Finds	BOTTLES Modern
Significant Finds	CERAMIC Modern
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	GREATER MANCHESTER STOCKPORT STOCKPORT 16 Wellington Road
Postcode	SK3 0EJ
Study area	180 Square metres
Site coordinates	SJ 893 901 53.407347096155 -2.16097340527 53 24 26 N 002 09 39 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 54.8m Max: 56m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	L - P : Archaeology
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Project brief originator	No brief
Project design originator	L - P : Archaeology
Project director/manager	Matthew Williams
Project supervisor	Matthew Williams
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Manhester Museum
Physical Contents	"Ceramics","Glass"
Digital Archive recipient	Manchester Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Manchester Museum
Paper Contents	"Stratigraphic"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Plan"

Entered by	Matthew Williams (m.williams@lparchaeology.com)
Entered on	16 November 2015

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