



*Illustration by Alice Aulich*

# **Birley Fields, Hulme, Manchester**

Greater Manchester

**Community Excavation**



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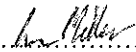
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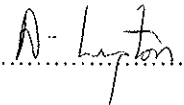
**Prepared by:** Caroline Raynor  
**Position:** Project Officer  
**Date:** May 2011

Chris Wild  
Project Officer

**Prepared by:** Ian Miller  
**Position:** Senior Project Manager  
**Date:** June 2011

Signed...  .....

**Approved by:** Alan Lupton  
**Position:** Operations Manager  
**Date:** June 2011

Signed...  .....

**Oxford Archaeology North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane Mills  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1GF  
t: (0044) 01524 541000  
f: (0044) 01524 848606

w: [www.oxfordarch.co.uk](http://www.oxfordarch.co.uk)  
e: [info@oxfordarch.co.uk](mailto:info@oxfordarch.co.uk)

**© Oxford Archaeology Ltd (2012)**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford  
OX2 0EA

t: (0044) 01865 263800  
f: (0044) 01865 793496

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## SUMMARY

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Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) has obtained planning consent from Manchester City Council for a proposed redevelopment of a plot of land known as Birley Fields, situated in the Hulme area of Manchester (centred on NGR SJ 8370 9665). An archaeological desk-based assessment of the site carried out in 2011 traced the development of the site from the late eighteenth century to the present day, and concluded that there was some potential for buried archaeological remains of local significance. In particular, it was considered possible that the remains of a post-medieval farmstead, two mid-nineteenth-century churches, and associated workers' dwellings may survive beneath the modern ground surface. This was corroborated to some extent by the results obtained from a geophysical survey of the site carried out subsequently, which identified some anomalies that were interpreted as possibly representing some archaeological remains (University of Salford 2012).

Following on from the desk-based assessment, the County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester, who provides planning advice to Manchester City Council, recommended that a programme of intrusive investigation was undertaken in advance of the development of the site. MMU used this opportunity to facilitate a community-led archaeological excavation, and commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to provide the required supervision.

Three separate areas were targeted for archaeological excavation, and included the sites of a post-medieval farmstead, known as Jackson's Farm, two mid-nineteenth-century churches, and associated housing. Excavation of two of the targeted areas (Trenches 1 and 3) demonstrated conclusively that any buried remains of Jackson's Farm and the Catholic Apostolic Church on Stretford Road had been destroyed entirely during clearance work in the 1960s and further remediation works carried out in the 1980s. Excavation of Trench 2, however, revealed the well-preserved foundations of the Holy Trinity Church, specifically the area around the western tower, and the foundations of a pair of terraced dwellings and their associated cellars which fronted onto Dale Street.

The excavation elicited considerable interest amongst local residents, and a large number of people from the local community were actively involved in the fieldwork. In total, 180 local volunteers participated in the excavation, with an estimated additional 400 people, including several school parties, visiting the site to view the excavated remains and to talk with the archaeologists.

The excavation has provided a detailed archaeological record of the buried remains across the site to mitigate their potential damage or destruction as part of the proposed redevelopment of the site. This record should largely satisfy the requirements of the archaeological condition attached to planning consent for redevelopment. However, it is recommended that the results obtained from the excavation are disseminated in an appropriate manner. It is proposed that a summary of the excavation is offered to *Current Archaeology* for publication. In addition, a small exhibition will be prepared by MMU in their Special Collections, which will disseminate the results of the excavation to the local community.

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Dr Faye Simpson and Adrian Robinson for commissioning and facilitating the project on behalf of Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU). Thanks are also due to Norman Redhead, the County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester, for his support and advice. OA North would also like to thank all the volunteers and members of the local community who gave their time, information and memories of the area so freely in order to make the excavation of Holy Trinity Church possible. In particular, Abby Baldwin, Sheila Baldwin, Geoff Barker, Dennis Barrett, Carol Blenkinsop, Edna Brennan, Jared Brighthouse, Jean Caffrey, Dave Callacher, Adele Caldwell, Connor Caldwell, Kyle Caldwell, John Caldwell, Julian Carty, Clive Cheshire, Kate Cook, Bob Davies, William Davies, Lee Desborough, Liam O'Donnell, Katie Duthie, Tvelatz Ellers, Damien Ennis, Jean Fildes, Alan Finch, Andrew Garrow, Michael Garrow, Gaynor Geoghegan, Nyall Geoghegan, Frank Gilbert, Louise Gilbert, Sarah Gillibrand, Vicky Gillibrand, Buster Gillibrand, David Goodfellow, Robert Goodfellow, Zoe Goswyn, Ashley Grant, Danielle Grant, Morag Grant, Rita Ann Harcup, Margaret Hardiman, Joe Hartley, Ashley Hern, James Hodgson, Aimee Jackson, Anthony Jackson, Linda Jackson, Sophie Jackson, Simon Jackson, Judith Kathrens, Joel Kinge, Craig Lawson, Vicki Le Queienec, David Lacey, Edward Lomas, Jackah Severn Long, Ana Lucas, John Lynch, Tatiana Malamba, D and G Mallitt, Richard Marley, Linda McArthur, Dennis McArthur, Mark McNulty, Claire Miller, Anne Mines, Shaun Mines, Kieran Moran, Lynda Moran, Elaine Morgan, Paula Moorhouse, Kath Morris, Annie Muse, David Oatley, Gillian Oatley, Dorothy Parker, Lyndsay Parry, Neal Parry, Rachel Parry, Janet Phillips, Sita Postill, Andrew Powell, Lee Price, Yunzuo Rai, Jayne Rimmer, Robinson, Colin Rowan, Stephanie Salmon, Duncan Sayer, Rick Sayer, Jack and Mary Severn, Mike O'Shea, Tina Skiffington, Iris Skipworth, Lynne Skipworth, Edward Smith, Alison Stefani, Emily Stefani, Hannah Stefani, Paul Stefani, Moira Suringar, Margaret Squires, Tom Squires, Danielle Strodomsky, Matt Symonds, Michael Tennant, Yvonne Tez, Luke Tyler, Phil Unsworth, Carole Urbaniac, Nick Wallbank with Delilah and Amelia Wallbank, Ruth Walker, Tina Webster, Lewis Weir, Matt Weir, Margaret Wells, Jim Whittle, Jake Williams, Hugh Williamson and Chris Woodcock are thanked for their support.

Thanks are also expressed to the students and staff of Pendleton College, Salford and Manchester Boys Grammar School, and Manchester and Oldham Sixth Form College for their contribution to the excavations. Special thanks are due to Edna Brennan, Anthony Wallace Cross, Bryan Dalton, Roger Hart, Francis Moores, Katherine Morris, Harry Nihill, Dorothy Skinner and Norman Taylor, who all contributed to the Birley Fields Oral History project by sharing their memories of Hulme from 1930 till the present day. In addition, OA North is grateful to Bryan Dalton, Jean Fildes, Annie Harrison, Dorothy Skinner, Ruth Walker and Norman Taylor, who contributed to the project archive by providing documentary evidence in the form of books, original articles and personal photographs and memorabilia relating to Hulme and the excavation area.

Further thanks are due to the artists Alice Aulich, Anne Lister and Amy Rose, from the Manchester School of Art, who recorded elements of the on-site excavation activities. Thanks are also expressed to the Manchester School of Art staff and students who educated and entertained with their on-site clay and artefacts creative workshops. OA North is also grateful to members of the South Manchester Archaeological Research Team (SMART) who participated in the excavation.

The archaeological excavation was directed by Caroline Raynor, assisted by Phil Cooke, David Maron, Graham Mottershead, Lewis Stitt and Chris Wild. The report was compiled by Caroline Raynor, Chris Wild and Ian Miller, and the finds were examined by Christine Howard-Davis. The survey was carried out by Lewis Stitt and Chris Wild, who also undertook all high-level photography. The survey data was manipulated in a CAD system by Graham Mottershead, and the final illustrations were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management. The project was funded entirely by MMU.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) has obtained planning consent from Manchester City Council for an extension to the university campus, which involves the redevelopment of a plot of land known as Birley Fields in the Hulme area of Manchester (Fig 1). In order to inform the planning process, MMU commissioned Dr Peter Arrowsmith to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of the site. This traced the development of the site from the late eighteenth century to the present day, and concluded that there was some potential for buried archaeological remains of local significance. In particular, it was considered possible that the remains of a post-medieval farmstead, two mid-nineteenth-century churches, and associated workers' dwellings might survive beneath the modern ground surface. Moreover, it was considered probable that any development of the site would have an archaeological impact on buried remains, involving their damage or destruction as a result of ground-reduction works. Whilst these remains were not considered to be of sufficient archaeological significance to merit preservation *in-situ*, it was concluded that a detailed archaeological record would be required to mitigate their ultimate destruction (Arrowsmith 2011).
- 1.1.2 Following on from the desk-based assessment, the County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester, who provides planning advice to Manchester City Council, recommended that a programme of further investigation was undertaken in advance of the development of the site. The scope and extent of an appropriate scheme of works was outlined in a Written Scheme of Investigation (*Appendix 1*), which was devised by MMU in consultation with the County Archaeologist. In the first instance, a geophysical survey of the site was carried out, which identified some anomalies that were interpreted as possible archaeological remains (University of Salford 2012).
- 1.1.3 The Written Scheme of Investigation allowed for the excavation of three targeted areas within the study area (Fig 1). Trench 1 was focused on the site of a post-medieval farmstead, known as Jackson's Farm, and terraced housing that occupied the same site from the late nineteenth century. Trench 2, placed between Stretford Road and Bonsall Street, was intended to investigate the site of the mid-nineteenth-century Holy Trinity Church, and associated workers' housing along Dale Street. Trench 3 lay in the north-eastern part of the study area, and examined the footprint of the Catholic Apostolic Church on Stretford Road.
- 1.1.4 Excavation of Trench 1 and Trench 3 demonstrated conclusively that demolition in the 1960s, and land remediation works carried out in the 1980s, had entirely destroyed all buried archaeological remains. Excavation of Trench 2, however, revealed the well-preserved foundations of the western part of Holy Trinity Church, together with cellars associated with two nineteenth-century houses situated on the southern side of Dale Street.



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## 2. METHODOLOGY

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### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 The fieldwork undertaken followed the method statement detailed in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (*Appendix 1*), and was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures provided by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), and their code of conduct.

### 2.2 EXCAVATION

2.2.1 The uppermost levels were excavated by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Compacted rubble overburden was removed using a toothed digging bucket where necessary. The same machine was then used to define carefully the extent of any surviving walls, foundations and other remains, after which all excavations were undertaken manually.

2.2.2 All information was recorded stratigraphically with accompanying documentation (plans and sections where relevant and both digital and black and white print photographs, both of individual contexts and overall site shots from standard view points). Photographic records were maintained on special photographic *pro-forma* sheets.

### 2.3 FINDS

2.3.1 ***Artefactual procedures:*** all finds recovered during the excavations were lifted, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid for Finds* (1998). Recovery and sampling programmes were in accordance with best practice (current IfA guidelines) and subject to expert advice.

2.3.2 ***Environmental procedures:*** no environmental samples were obtained during the course of this excavation.

### 2.4 ARCHIVE

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IfA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The digital archive will be deposited with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record on completion of the project, with a synthesis (in the form of an index to the archive and the report) deposited with the Greater Manchester SMR. The material archive will be retained by MMU, with a selected sample of the artefacts included in a temporary display in the university's Special Collections.

## 3. BACKGROUND

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 An understanding of the archaeological and historical background of a site provides the local context within which the buried remains can be assessed archaeologically. The following section provides an outline of the natural setting of the study area, and summarises the historical development of Hulme, although the early periods of the area's history are largely omitted, as they are of little direct consequence to the present study. The historical background has been drawn largely from the desk-based assessment of the site compiled by Dr Peter Arrowsmith during the initial stage of the project (Arrowsmith 2011).

### 3.2 LOCATION

- 3.2.1 The study area (centred SJ 8370 9665) lies approximately 1km to the south of Manchester city centre (Fig 1). It is bounded to the north by Stretford Road, to the west by Royce Road/Old Birley Street (formerly Upper Jackson Street), and by George Parr Road and Ormsgill Street (formerly Warde Street and Dunham Street) on the south-west. The eastern boundary of the site follows Princess Road, but also includes an area on the east side of that road (Plate 1).
- 3.2.2 The site lies at a height of 33-5m above Ordnance Datum. It is presently open land, used as an informal thoroughfare between Stretford New Road and Bonsall Street.



Plate 1: Recent aerial view of the study area, showing the position of the excavated areas

### 3.3 TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 3.3.1 Topographically, the Manchester Conurbation as a region is within an undulating lowland basin, which is bounded by the Pennine uplands to the east and to the north. The region as a whole comprises the Mersey river valley, whilst the rivers Irwell, Medlock, and Irk represent the principal watercourses in Manchester (Countryside Commission 1998, 125).
- 3.3.2 The solid geology of the area comprises Carboniferous sedimentary material and a series of Permo-Triassic rocks, consisting mainly of New Red Sandstone. The overlying drift incorporates Pleistocene boulder clays of glacial origin, and sands, gravels, and clays of fluvial/lacustrine origin (Hall *et al* 1995, 8).

### 3.4 HISTORICAL BACKGROUND: DEVELOPMENT OF HULME

- 3.4.1 The following background is drawn largely from the research carried out during the compilation of the desk-based assessment of the study area (Arrowsmith 2011). This has been enhanced with information gleaned during the course of the excavation via further research and contributions made by the local community in the form of original photographs and other primary documentation.
- 3.4.2 During the first half of the nineteenth century, Hulme began a transformation from a rural area on the southern fringe of Manchester into a thriving suburb. By the end of the century, Hulme had become a densely populated residential district, characterised by streets of terraced housing and associated community buildings. The initial focus of this development, evident on early nineteenth-century mapping, was along the south side of Chester Road, the main westward route out of Manchester. Between 1831 and 1841, however, the population of Hulme almost trebled, rising from 9624 to 26,982. In 1838, Hulme was incorporated into the new municipal borough of Manchester, which also included Ardwick and Chorlton-on-Medlock. The population of Hulme doubled in the following decade and, by 1871, had reached a peak of 74,731 (Makepeace 1995, 43).
- 3.4.3 Banks' map of 1831 shows that the line of Stretford Road, which forms the northern boundary of the study area, had been laid out in preparation for the planned development of the area (Plate 2). The Ordnance Survey map of 1851 (surveyed in 1845) shows this road to have been constructed, and a grid-iron of streets extended into the study area. These included Upper Jackson Street, which formed the western boundary of the study area, Patchett Street, Dunham Street, Stamford Street, Collins Street, Vine Street and Upper Medlock, which all lay at a right angle to Stretford Road. Running parallel to Stretford Road were Dale Street, Naylor Street, Phillips Street and, further to the south, Warde Street, Thomas Street, Moulton Street, Caroline Street and Booth Street. By this period, this grid-iron was only partly built upon, with development being concentrated along and close to Stretford Road, and with a second focus in the area to the south of Warde Street. The buildings of Jackson's Farm were evidently still standing during this period (Plate 3).



Plate 2: Extract from Banks & Co's map of 1831

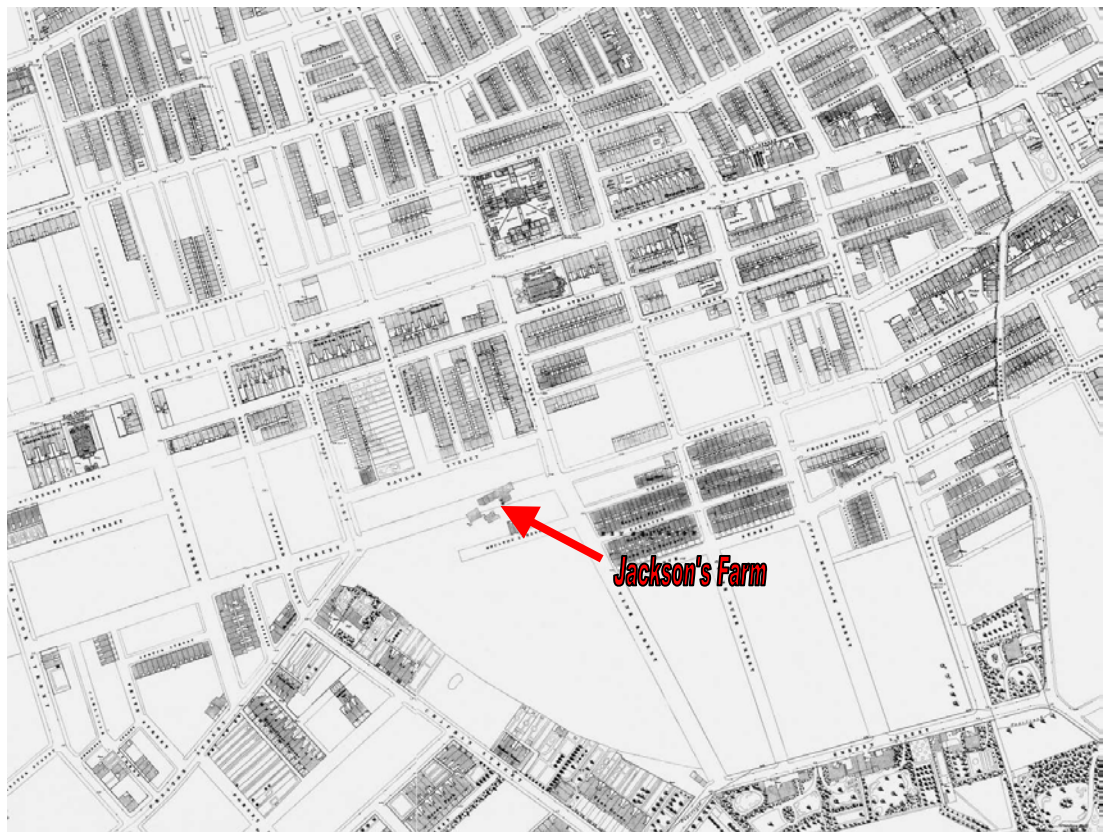


Plate 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1851

3.4.4 The extent of development in the study area captured by the Ordnance Survey in 1845 was evidently a very recent phenomenon, as earlier mapping published by the Ordnance Survey in 1840-44 at a scale of 1 inch to 1 mile only shows the rows of houses known as Dunham Terrace and Stamford Terrace on Stretford Road and, to the rear of these, housing between Dunham Street and Vine Street. Properties on Vine Street, Dunham Street and Dale Street are listed in the 1841 census (Hulme 1841 Census, Enumeration District 31), whilst houses along Stretford Road are listed in successive trade directories from 1841 to 1845 (Table 1). This data shows the majority of the residents to have been employed as craftsmen or professionals.

1841	1843	1845
	<b>Stretford Road</b> William Dewsbury, builder John Humble, joiner Elijah Stanley, boot maker Richard Henry Speake, greengrocer William Booth Butcher	<b>Stretford Road</b> 65 William Dewsbury, builder 67 John Humble, grocer & tea dealer 69 Eliza Stanley, boot maker 71 William Haywood, earthenware dealer 73 John Wade butcher
	<b>Holy Trinity Church</b>	<b>Apostolic Church</b> 75 Joseph Sigley, tailor 77 John Hayes, furniture broker 79 John Smith, cooper & sieve maker 81 William Stock, linen draper 85 William Mather, shopkeeper 87 George Gatesby, linen draper 89 William Booth, butcher 91 Eden Clarke, ironmonger 97 Alan Simpson, stay maker 99 James Horner, corn & flour dealer 101 Sarah Child, fruiterer 103 George Hastings, boot maker 105 James Wylde, chemist & druggist 107 Jane Webster, confectioner
	<b>Stamford Terrace:</b> John Symes, warehouseman James Crawford Johnson, salesman Edwin Karpeck, salesman George Hulme, salesman Henry Swinscoe, tobacconist Edwin Horsfall, butcher 149 Edward Crump, agent 151 Mrs Mary Travis	<b>Stamford Terrace:</b> 117 John Symes, salesman 119 Mr James Johnson 121 Edward Karkeak, salesman 123 George Hulme, salesman 127 Henry Swinscoe, tobacconist & clerk of Holy Trinity Church 129 Joseph Cheetham, tinplate worker 131 Edwin Horsfall, butcher
<b>Dunham Terrace:</b> Richard Nichols, calico printer John Roberts, joiner Richard Evans, corn factor William Anderson, manufacturer Robert Blackburn, timber merchant	<b>Dunham Terrace:</b> 153 David Long, banker's clerk 155 Hugh Francis Hewlings, bookkeeper 157 Mr Robert Penny 159 John Hudson, manufacturer 161 John Potter, banker's clerk 163 Robert Blackburn, joiner	<b>Dunham Terrace:</b> 135 Edward Crump, agent 137 Henry Travis, architect 139 William Thompson, manufacturer 143 Robert Penny, accountant 143 George S Penny, surgeon 145 not listed 147 John Potter, banker's clerk 149 Robert Blackburn, joiner & butcher

Table 1: Occupants of properties within the study area listed in trade directories of 1841-5

- 3.4.5 By the late 1880s, the study area and its environs were developed completely with a grid-iron of streets, dominated by terraced housing (Plate 4). These dwellings took the form of through-houses with small individual rear yards containing privies, seemingly representing a considerable improvement on the back-to-back housing stock in Manchester's central districts that was erected to house the new industrial workforce in the early nineteenth century.

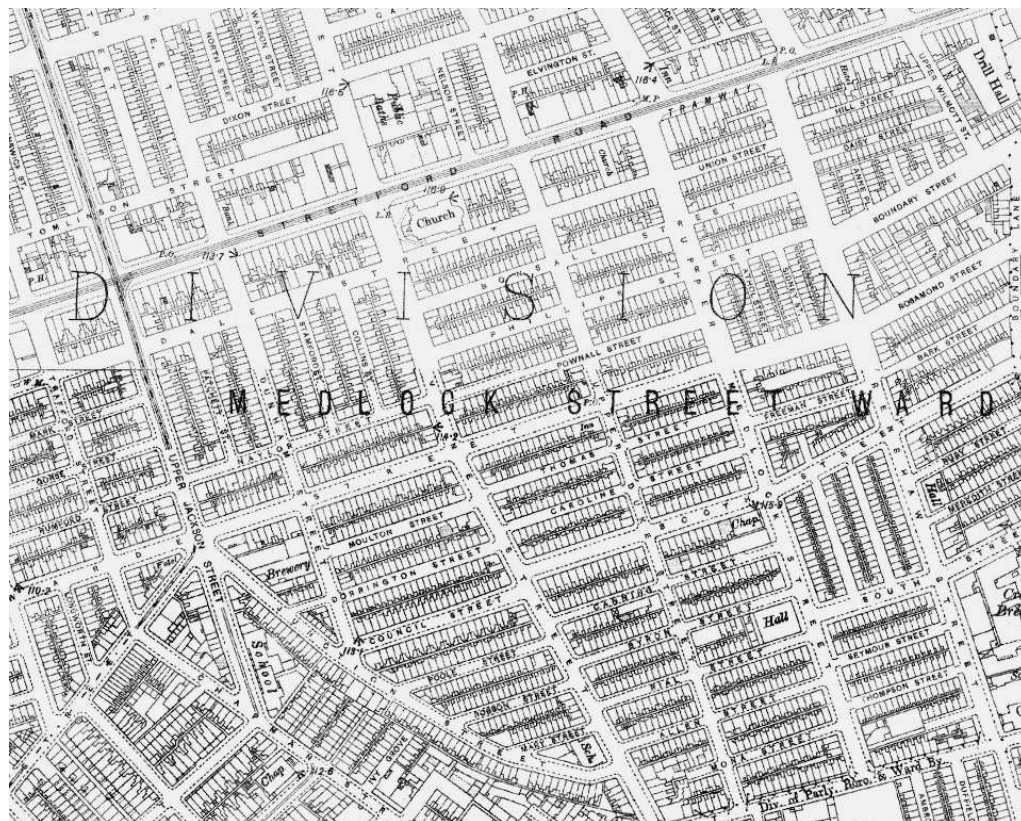


Plate 4: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1896

- 3.4.6 Many of the houses appear to have incorporated cellars, as large-scale Ordnance Survey mapping shows light-wells on many of the front elevations and, in some cases, a raised doorway accessed via steps. This is corroborated by surviving historical photographs of the area, which depict cellar windows along numerous streets in the area. It remains uncertain, however, whether this indicates that the cellars were intended as individual dwellings, as had been commonplace in Manchester's earlier residential districts that developed in the central areas of the town (Miller *et al* 2010).
- 3.4.7 The emerging residential suburb of Hulme was served by places of worship at an early date, in the wake of a widespread movement in England to build new churches as a 'national thank-offering' following the defeat of Napoleon in 1815 (Port 2006). There was also a need to provide an adequate number of places of worship for the growing populations in industrial cities, and an Act of Parliament was passed in 1818 to provide £1 million for the construction of new churches under the direction of the Church Building Commission. The first Anglican church to be built in Hulme was St George's, which was erected on Chester Road in 1828. This was a 'Commissioners' church', built with money that had been set aside by the Act of Parliament in 1818.

- 3.4.8 The second Anglican church in Hulme was Holy Trinity, situated on Stretford Road to the east of Dunham Terrace. Holy Trinity was built in the early 1840s, and was paid for by a private benefactress, Miss Eleanora Atherton, who donated £6737 for the cost of the building and a further £4000 as an endowment (Dobbs 1978, 162). Miss Atherton was the heir to the Byrom family of Manchester, local merchants and landowners, whose most famous member was John Byrom, and lived at the family's residence of Kersal Cell in Salford (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 220). The foundation stone of the church was laid on 2nd December 1841 and the building was completed in 1843, a date recorded on an inscription around the arch of its inner west door: 'Eleanora Atherton Fundatrix A D MDCCCXLIII' (Eleanora Atherton foundress 1843; Hudson 1914). The church was consecrated on 20th July of that year (Wyke 1996-7, 320).
- 3.4.9 Holy Trinity was designed by the notable architect George Gilbert Scott (1811-78), who at that date was working in partnership with William Bonython Moffatt, a former apprentice. Scott was one of the most prolific architects of nineteenth-century Britain, whose later works included the Albert Memorial in London. In recognition of his fine work, Scott was awarded the RIBA's Royal Gold Medal in 1859. His earlier works, carried out in the 1830s and 1840s during his partnership with Moffatt, included numerous workhouse and church commissions, as well as the Martyrs' Memorial in Oxford. Scott's churches of this period were typically built in an Early English style and to a general pattern. Scott himself later wrote that 'Everything I did at that time fell into the wholesale form' (Cole 1980, 17-20). Holy Trinity corresponded to that pattern, as shown in an early illustration (Plate 5), and later photographs of the exterior and interior (Plate 6).



Plate 5: Engraving of Stretford Road and Holy Trinity Church in c 1843. Houses on Dale Street are also just visible to the right



*Plate 6: A view of the interior of Holy Trinity Church in the early twentieth century*

3.4.10 The church incorporated a west tower, nave, side aisles below a clerestory, short transepts, and a chancel reduced to little more than an apse. A porch on the north side of the nave provided access from Stretford Road (Plate 5). There was also a small vestry on the south side of the apse where in, 1907-8, a larger extension was built, containing new vestries and a parish room. The fittings in the church included a wooden communion table dated 1663, believed to have been moved from Kersal Cell, and a brass cross, donated by Mamie Dickens, in memory of her father the novelist Charles Dickens, who died in the same year as Miss Atherton (Hudson 1914).



- 3.4.11 Holy Trinity occupied a plot directly opposite another public building, the workhouse of the Chorlton upon Medlock Union. The Union was created in 1837, following the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834, and served a group of 12 townships on the south and south-west sides of Manchester (<http://www.workhouses.org.uk>). The workhouse is thought to have been built about 1840 and was seemingly opened between 1841 and 1843 (Farrer and Brownbill 1911, 355; Pigot and Slater 1841 and 1843). Although relatively modest in scale, it followed the typical arrangement of the time in having segregated male and female accommodation in opposite wings of a central range, flanked by separate yards dividing the ages and sexes. The workhouse was relatively short-lived. It proved too small for the growing local population, and was replaced in 1854-5 by a much larger building erected on a greenfield site at Nell Lane in Withington (<http://www.workhouses.org.uk>). In 1858-60 most of the site of the workhouse in Hulme was redeveloped as a public baths and wash house, designed in an Italianate style by the architect Thomas Worthington (Makepeace 1995, 49; Pass 1988, 80-3), and known locally as the Leaf Street Baths.
- 3.4.12 A second place of worship, the Catholic Apostolic Church, was also built on Stretford Road during the mid-nineteenth century. The Catholic Apostolic movement was founded in the 1830s, and drew members from other Christian denominations united in a belief in the imminence of the Second Coming. The church was sometimes also known as the Irvingites, after the Reverend Edward Irving, an earlier espouser of this belief (Flegg 1992).
- 3.4.13 The Catholic Apostolic Church on Stretford Road seems to have been built in 1844, when it is first listed in a trade directory (Pigot and Slater 1843). As originally built, the church comprised a narrow nave of four bays with an annexe, possibly a porch, at the north end and a chancel at the south, set within a yard extending from Stretford Road to Dale Street. The church was described in 1867 as ‘one of the smallest examples of ecclesiastical architecture in the city’, the roof and ‘highest pinnacle’ of which were lower than the neighbouring properties; it was also reported to be stone-built. This building was dismantled in 1867 and replaced within three months by a new church which covered all the yard. About a quarter or a fifth of the new church comprised the sanctuary, described as ‘a large tiled space’ in which steps led up to the altar (Anon 1867, 76).
- 3.4.14 Photographic evidence shows that the new church presented a gabled facade to Stretford Road, lit by an upper window with Decorative tracery. The sides were lit by pairs of small Early English windows (Manchester Local Studies and Archives m26908). On the west was a single-storey extension, which on the mapping evidence was added between 1905 and 1916 over a site occupied previously by housing. This structure survived well into the 1950s, although by it had ceased to function as a church by that date, and was used as a dinner hall for children who received subsidised or free school meals (Anthony Wallace Cross, *pers comm*).

- 3.4.15 In addition to housing and the two churches, the area also contained numerous public houses. The Golden Eagle, locally known as the Nudger (Dorothy Skinner *pers comm*), stood on a site between Stamford Terrace and the Holy Trinity Church on Stretford Road, and is documented in licensing records from 1866 onwards. The Roebuck Inn on the corner of Dale Street and Dunham Street is recorded from 1852, the Manchester Arms on the corner of Naylor Street and Dunham Street from 1855, the Britannia Inn on the corner of Upper Jackson Street and Naylor Street from 1861, and the Rob Roy Inn on the corner of Vine Street and Naylor Street from 1853. The Old Standard and Swan Inn, both situated on Vine Street, are recorded from 1847 and 1853 respectively. All of these pubs closed in 1966 with the exception of the Golden Eagle, which finally closed in 1976 (Potts 1983 and 1997).
- 3.4.16 In the 1840s the north-east of the study area contained a timber yard and a coal yard, both of which had been built over with housing by the 1880s. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, some houses on Stretford Road appear to have been replaced with larger premises, presumably with a commercial function. Photographs show that along both Stretford Road and Upper Medlock Street the ground floors of the houses were converted into shops (Manchester Local Studies and Archives, Local Image Collection).
- 3.4.17 Hulme suffered considerable damage from German air-raids during the Second World War. The first bombs fell on Hulme in August 1940, with one landing in the middle of the road at the corner of Scott and Henry Street, where it hit and ignited a gas main. The most devastating attacks, however, were on 22nd and 23rd December of that year, when large areas of Manchester were destroyed. Holy Trinity Church was one of the buildings that was damaged, although it remained in use until 1953, when it was finally demolished (Murphy 1986, 14).
- 3.4.18 Large-scale clearance took place in Hulme in the 1960s, mainly as a result of the damage caused by wartime air-raids. The rows of terraced housing were replaced by new developments, such as the Crescents to the west of Birley Fields. This area saw major clearance ahead of redevelopment in 1966, although these buildings were in turn demolished in the 1990s, when the greater part of Hulme was redeveloped (Cooper 2002, 93-4).

### 3.5 ASPECTS OF HOUSING CONDITIONS IN MANCHESTER

- 3.5.1 The rapid industrialisation of Manchester from the last quarter of the eighteenth century was accompanied with an explosion in the population; a local census in 1774 estimated a total of 22,481 inhabitants within the township of Manchester, whilst the census of 1801 recorded over 70,000 people (Lloyd-Jones and Lewis 1993). Between 1831 and 1841, the population of Hulme almost trebled, rising from 9624 to 26,982. The population doubled again in the following decade and, by 1871, had reached a peak of 74,731 (Makepeace 1995, 43).
- 3.5.2 The earliest dwellings for the new breed of factory worker in Manchester were erected with little legislative control. The Manchester Police Commissioners had sought to apply a rudimentary form of building regulations as early as 1792, including a requirement to provide party walls between properties. However, in the absence of any practical way of enforcement, the regulations were largely ignored (Hylton 2003, 152). Most of the workers' houses built during this period were erected without any form of water supply or sanitation; at best, an open drain from an ashpit privy might have been installed down the middle of the street or court (Parkinson-Bailey 2000, 35).
- 3.5.3 There are several contemporary descriptions of Manchester's nineteenth-century housing stock, including that provided by Dr J Farriar in the proceedings of the Board of Health in 1805, who noted that 'the number of damp and very ill-ventilated cellars inhabited in many parts of the town is a most extensive and prominent evil...'. Farriar goes on to describe the average Manchester workers' dwelling as consisting of 'two rooms, the first of which is used as a kitchen, and though frequently noxious by its dampness and closeness, is generally preferable to the back room. The latter has only one small window, which, through on a level with the outer ground, is near the roof of the cellar' (quoted in Aspin 1995, 130).
- 3.5.4 A major step forward in housing improvement was provided by the Manchester Borough Police Act of 1844, whereby all new houses were to be provided with a properly built privy, and all existing houses were to have one installed. The important effect of this Act was that it effectively outlawed the building of back-to-back houses, and none were built in Manchester after this date (Lloyd-Jones and Lewis 1993). Unlike earlier legislation, the 1844 Act was enforced by a dedicated committee, which investigated some 9,400 dwellings in the first year alone, and by 1850 over one third of Manchester's dwellings had been 'reconditioned' (Hylton 2003, 153).
- 3.5.5 Further legislation introduced in 1853 had sought to address specifically the problems of cellar dwellings. However, organised opposition from the property owners, united as the Home Owners' Guardian Association, ensured that action against this class of dwelling was largely ineffectual (*op cit*, 154). Renewed efforts commenced in 1867 with the introduction of the Manchester Waterworks and Improvement Act, which specified the minimum requirements for room sizes and window areas in dwellings, and also required that every new house had a yard at the rear, which had to be at least 70 square feet (6.50 square metres).

- 3.5.6 The Act also required a minimum street width of 30' (9.14m), or 36' (10.97m) where buildings were two storeys, and 45' (13.71m) for buildings of three storeys or more. The enforcement of these new regulations were facilitated by a Medical Officer of Health, introduced by Manchester Council in 1868 as part of the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Act of that year. However, the Act only dealt with single houses, providing for the gradual improvement or demolition of sub-standard housing, and for the building and maintenance of improved dwellings (Parkinson-Bailey 2000). In 1875, the Artisans' and Labourers' Dwellings Improvement Act was introduced to provide the mechanism of slum clearance, although no major slum clearance was carried out until the 1880s.
- 3.5.7 In 1901, Manchester City Council bought 238 acres of land at Blackley with a view to erecting affordable housing and addressing the problem of sub-standard dwellings. Nearly 25,000 sub-standard houses were demolished during the following 18 years, and back-to-back housing was 'virtually eliminated by 1913' (Hylton 2003, 184).

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## 4. FIELDWORK RESULTS

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### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

- 4.1.1 The archaeological fieldwork comprised the excavation of three targeted areas, Trenches 1, 2 and 3 (Figs 2 and 3). These were targeted on the sites of Jackson's Farm, a post-medieval farmstead (possibly with medieval origins), an area of nineteenth-century terraced housing, the site of Holy Trinity Church, and the footprint of the Catholic Apostolic Church.
- 4.1.2 Excavation of two of the targeted areas (Trenches 1 and 3) demonstrated conclusively that any buried remains of Jackson's Farm and the Catholic Apostolic Church on Stretford Road had been destroyed entirely during remediation works carried out in the 1980s. Excavation of Trench 2, however, revealed the foundations of the Holy Trinity Church, specifically the area around the western tower, and a pair of terraced dwellings and their associated cellars which fronted onto Dale Street.

### 4.2 TRENCH 1: JACKSON'S FARM

- 4.2.1 Trench 1 was located on the western side of Archway, within the southern part of the development area (Fig 1). The trench was stripped of topsoil (**100**) and subsoil (**101**) using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil were stored separately to ease reinstatement. The trench was then excavated to a depth of approximately 0.5m.
- 4.2.2 An indurated layer of demolition rubble (**102**) was encountered immediately beneath layer **101**. This comprised a mixture of heavily compacted crushed brick, rebar, concrete and other demolition detritus, almost certainly representing levelling and remediation work carried out during the second half of the twentieth century. Local sources indicated that the clearance work commenced in 1964, with further remediation work being done within the area of Birley Fields in the 1990s.
- 4.2.3 The fragmentary remains of two small brick-built structures (**103**) were identified within the trench. Both structures were rectangular, each measuring just over 1m long, and comprised a single course of hand-made brick walls. It is likely that these represented the remains of a toilet or outhouse associated with the later nineteenth-century terraced houses. No physical remains of Jackson's Farm were uncovered.
- 4.2.4 Brick structures **103** had been cut into a layer of yellowish-brown silty clay (**104**). This almost certainly represented the natural drift geology.



*Plate 7: Mechanical stripping of Trench 1*



*Plate 8: Fragmentary remains of probable outshut 103 exposed in Trench 1*

### 4.3 TRENCH 2: HOLY TRINITY CHURCH AND DALE STREET HOUSES

4.3.1 Trench 2 was intended to investigate the site of Holy Trinity Church, and former houses on the south side of Dale Street (Figs 2 and 3). Due to logistical restrictions (specifically trees, live services and the presence of Japanese knotweed) it was not possible to expose the entire footprint of the church completely. The archaeological investigation was thus focused on the western and southern limits of the church, which comprised its perimeter wall, the tower and associated basement, and the entrance to the church accessible at the southern side from Dale Street (Fig 4). In addition, sections of Vine Street and Dale Street were exposed, including the cobbled roads and associated pavements (Plate 9).



*Plate 9: General view of the excavated remains of Holy Trinity Church in Trench 2*

- 4.3.2 **Holy Trinity Church:** the earliest structures identified within Trench 2 were the levelled foundations of Holy Trinity Church (10), and specifically the tower (Plate 10). The tower was constructed in the perpendicular style, and marked by clasping buttresses, visible in the footprint as L-shaped brick projections on all four corners. The foundations were constructed of hand-made red brick, bonded with a buff coloured sandy lime mortar.
- 4.3.3 The tower measured 7.85 x 7.75m externally, with brick-built buttresses at all corners, each measuring 1.5 x 1.5m. The internal basement measuring 4.0 x 3.9m (Plate 10). The arrangement of the brick courses and depth of the foundations around the clasping buttresses varied from corner to corner; the north-west and south-east corners of the tower both have a stepped toe in the foundation course, whilst the south-west corner did not. It was not possible to examine the north-east corner of the tower fully, as it was crossed by a modern high-pressure gas main, the construction of which had evidently destroyed the foundations for the northern side of the church tower (Plate 10).



Plate 10: The foundations for the tower of Holy Trinity Church, looking south-west

- 4.3.4 The buttresses at each corner of the tower contained a hollow circular aperture (Plate 10), and careful investigation proved that each aperture had served a different purpose. It was not possible to determine if each corner had a door allowing access from the ground-floor level, as this evidence had been destroyed when the church was demolished in 1953.
- 4.3.5 The circular aperture in the north-west corner of the tower had a diameter of 1.2m, and had been backfilled with demolition rubble (30) that comprised fragments of brick and pale yellow sandstone. The eastern side incorporated a large, wedge-shaped sandstone block of sandstone (Plate 11). The function of this keystone is not entirely clear, although it may have formed the counterweight for commemorative stone within the tower.





Plate 11: The excavated foundations for the north-west corner of the tower

- 4.3.6 The central circular aperture in the north-eastern corner of the tower similarly contained a mixed deposit of rubble (29), which also included sections of lead and fragments of stained glass from the church windows. Excavation of rubble 29 to a depth of approximately 0.9m revealed the remains of an *in-situ* stone spiral staircase and the vestiges of a timber door (Plate 12).



Plate 12: The excavated foundations for the north-east corner of the tower

- 4.3.7 The remains of the spiral stair comprised six wedge-shaped pale yellow sandstone treads, arranged around a central stone newel post (Plate 12). Each tread measured 0.6m long, and was 0.25m at the outer edge of the stair, narrowing to 0.12m around the central newel. The base of the staircase was not exposed, although the upper part of a badly decayed timber door was revealed as well as the edge of a doorway picked out with yellow ashlar sandstone jambstone and embrasure. This was the only aperture in which evidence of a staircase was found, and it thus seems likely that the tower was fitted with only one staircase that provided access to the basement and to the peal of eight bells, which is reputed to have been housed in the tower.
- 4.3.8 The central circular aperture in the south-eastern corner of the tower had also been partly destroyed by construction trench **35**. Filled by an homogeneous deposit of crushed brick and sandstone rubble (**26**), this part of the tower was excavated to a depth of 0.5m, although no features of note were observed.
- 4.3.9 The central circular aperture in the south-western corner of the tower was backfilled with densely packed rubble (**31**), which comprised whole and half bricks and fragments of stone. A narrow angled chute, measuring 0.7m long and 0.4m wide, was built into the south-western side of the aperture (Plate 13). The component bricks were all stained heavily with coal dust, implying that the feature had been a coal chute. At the base of the aperture was a narrow doorway with yellow sandstone jambstone with embrasure and lintel (Plate 14), but without a timber door, further suggesting that this part of the tower had been used to allow the delivery of coal into the basement, presumably to fuel a boiler to heat the church.



Plate 13: The coal chute in the south-east corner of the tower



*Plate 14: Doorway with stone embrasure at south-west corner of tower basement*

- 4.3.10 The basement of the tower was a roughly square room (angled at the corners), measuring 4.0 x 3.9m (Fig 5). It was filled with a thick deposit (*15*) of demolition rubble, comprising bricks and large fragments of sandstone. Several large pieces of architectural stone were also retrieved from rubble *15*, including a hexagonal stone column base, several sills and lintels, and a well-carved stone face, all of which would have once formed key ornamental elements of the church. Only the western and southern walls of the basement, together with a fragment of the eastern wall, were undamaged by construction trench *35*. The angle of return of the walls in the three surviving corners had been softened by the addition of wedge-shaped sandstone quoins.
- 4.3.11 Each internal elevation of the basement incorporated a projecting string course of sandstone, situated three courses below the ground-floor level of the tower. This may have originally been the point from which a brick-vaulted ceiling was sprung, although the physical evidence for a brick-vaulted ceiling was limited to a single course of bricks on the north-western side of the basement.
- 4.3.12 The western (east-facing) wall of the basement was characterised by a three-course thick, inverted segmental brick relieving arch (Plate 14). This feature appears to have been located directly beneath the principal entrance to the church (gained via the west-facing wall of the tower, off Vine Street), and served to strengthen the basement wall (Plate 15).
- 4.3.13 The south elevation of the basement retained a brick-block aperture and corresponding two-course brick stepped pedestal beneath it. The shape and location of the blocked aperture, with its single course of brick headers forming a slight arch, suggests that it was associated with the under-floor heating system which was located in the tower basement. It is likely that this had housed some element of the boiler system. The depth and full extent of the blocked aperture was not determined due to live services.



Plate 15: Inverted segmental relieving arch in the east-facing (western) wall of the basement

- 4.3.14 The floor of the basement comprised hand-made bricks set in an irregular bond, probably reflecting localised repairs. The walls and the floor were all stained locally with soot, further indicating the presence of a coal-fired boiler. Indeed, the basement floor was devoid of evidence for any fixtures or fittings.
- 4.3.15 Located to the east of the basement were two small brick cells (**13** and **14**). Both structures may have been associated with under-floor heating, as well as providing support for a probable sprung floor. Structure **13** was located to the east of the tower and south-east of structure **14**. The full extent of this element of the church was not uncovered as it extended beyond the limit of excavation. Also constructed of brick, this roughly rectangular structure butted against a brick column base at its south-eastern limit.
- 4.3.16 Structure **14** was constructed of hand-made bricks, and comprised a narrow rectangular chamber, orientated north/south on its long axis, which measured 1.5m long by 0.82m wide. The chamber was filled with demolition debris (**25**). Numerous pieces of patterned Minton floor tile were recovered from this deposit (*Section 5.2, below*). The chamber was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.2m, but no base or floor surface was discovered. It is likely that the base of the chamber was located at the same depth as the tower basement, and that the two cells might be linked by a duct that would have acted as a conduit to move heat from the basement boiler into the main body of the church.
- 4.3.17 Extending away from the tower to the south and returning to the east were the remains of the exterior brick wall, which formed part of the main body of the church (Plate 16). This area had been disturbed by numerous construction cuts for modern services. As with the rest of the structure, the wall was constructed of hand-made bricks, with the thickness and depth of courses and bond type varying along the length of the wall. The eastern limit of the wall was not uncovered, as it continued beyond the limit of excavation.



Plate 16: The foundations of the church wall, situated between Dale Street and the tower

- 4.3.18 The remains of the churchyard wall that enclosed the church and its grounds were identified on the western and southern sides of the church (Plate 16). The foundations of the perimeter wall were, like the rest of the structures associated with the Holy Trinity Church, constructed of hand-made bricks and bonded with a buff coloured, sandy lime mortar. The depth of the foundations varied from section to section. At the south-west return, the wall had foundations that were only a single course deep. However, at the south-east limit the nature of construction changed and became much more substantial with the wall foundations continuing to a depth of seven courses.
- 4.3.19 This area was associated with potential site of a water pump which is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851 (Fig 2). A sondage provided evidence A semi-circular cut (34), filled with bluish-grey plastic clay 33 to a depth of 0.9m, was exposed during the excavation. Corresponding with this cut was a segmented brick relieving arch, built into the 06, the foundations of the church perimeter wall. The recess beneath the wall was filled with a 0.4m thick layer of homogeneous loose slag-like material 1 (40), but no firm evidence for a pump was identified. Excavations in this area were incomplete due to a live electrical service running on a north-west/south-east orientation directly to the east of the feature.
- 4.3.20 An historical photograph of the church boundary wall indicates that its fabric was originally clad in rusticated yellow sandstone, although none of this remained *in-situ*.

4.3.21 **Dale Street:** mechanical stripping of Trench 2 revealed that the surface of Dale Street survived intact immediately below the modern ground surface. The stripping also exposed the well-preserved foundations of the northern wall of terraced houses along the southern side of Dale Street. The trench was expanded to the south subsequently to investigate and record the footprint of two properties, which both incorporated cellars (Plate 17).



Plate 17: The excavated remains of Dale Street and two domestic cellars on its southern side

4.3.22 The surface of Dale Street comprised an even well made surface of rectangular granite setts (**04**), all orientated north/south and bedded onto a layer of clinker and tar, which also aided the consolidation of the road surface. The surface exhibited a slight camber across the centre to encourage effective drainage. Dale Street was bounded to the north and south by a line of large rectangular kerb stones and the remains of a flagstone pavement. Only the flagstone surface associated with the domestic cellars survives within this area. The boundary between the junction of Dale Street **04** and Vine Street **05** was clearly marked by the presence of larger granite setts, which incrementally increased in size with the largest setts orientated north/south against the smaller setts of making the junction clearly visible.

4.3.23 On the northern side of Dale Street, associated with the secondary, south-facing entrance to the church, was a narrow sloping path of cobbles (**08**). This entrance from Dale Street is not clearly marked on any of the historic maps, although it is indicated as a break in the exterior church yard boundary wall **06** on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1851 and 1891. As this entrance corresponds roughly with the location of the coal chute which was identified within the south-western corner of the tower, it is possible that this entrance was designed specifically as a trades access only, with the clergy and congregation using the main west-facing entrance accessed via Vine Street.

- 4.3.24 Excavation to the south of Dale Street revealed the well-preserved remains of two cellars (Fig 6; Plate 18), each measuring 13'3" x 12' (4.04 x 3.66m). Both were of similar construction, comprising a front wall of full-brick thickness, constructed in four-stretcher English Garden Wall bond using a pale lime-based mortar. Transverse partition walls were keyed into this front wall, but were of only single-skin thickness, and had a single-skin return, forming the back wall of each cellar, which was only half the size of the ground floor above (Fig 6).
- 4.3.25 It is unclear why cellars were only incorporated in the front part of the building, but natural orangey clay deposits were established to the rear, demonstrating that original cellars were not simply infilled. Both cellars had 2'3" (0.68m) wide stairwell at the western end of the rear wall (Plate 18), affording access into the rear room of the ground floor above (Fig 6). The stairs were formed of single-skin brick risers, with 2" (0.05m) thick sandstone flag tread, which projected to form a slight nose to each step (Plate 19).



*Plate 18: The excavated remains of the two cellars on the southern side of Dale Street*



*Plate 19: The steps affording access to the western cellar*

- 4.3.26 A further doorway in the north-western corner of both cellars was of a similar width (Plate 20), and afforded access into a small 4' x 3'6" (1.22 x 0.96m) chamber (Plate 21). The walls of each chamber were of single-skin thickness, with the western wall was tied into the wall face of the cellars, whilst the east wall butted the external face of the cellar. Both differed in their floor construction; the western example had a floor comprising broken bricks, whilst that to the east was of similar construction on either side of a central row of flagstones (Plate 22). All side-walls were slightly sooted, and it appears that both were used latterly as coal stores. Indeed, to the east of the cellars, a broken paving slab in a corresponding position above the adjacent cellar retained part of a circular aperture (Plate 23), which almost certainly represented a hole for pouring coal from Dale Street into the store below.
- 4.3.27 To the west of each of these chambers, the front wall housed a 3' (0.91m) wide centrally placed window (Fig 6). The western window was far better preserved (Plate 24), although both retained evidence for a flagstone sill (Plate 25). Both appeared to have been remodelled significantly, with the brick bonded in a black sooty mortar, which appeared contemporary with the insertion of a single-skin brick framing for a shallow pavement light. These were only 9" (0.23m) deep from the front wall of building, suggesting that the crown of the window was positioned above street level, the narrow pavement light allowing light to penetrate further down the window into the cellar.





*Plate 20: The steps affording access to the western cellar*



*Plate 21: The steps affording access to the western cellar*

4.3.28 The eastern partition wall of each cellar, separating it from the adjacent dwelling, housed a narrow fireplace, only 4' (1.22m) wide internally, and offset towards the rear of each cellar (Fig 6). Each chimney breast was formed by two brick piers, each of full-brick thickness (Plate 26), keyed into the wall to the rear, and projecting 16" (0.41m) into the room (Fig 6). The face of the fireplace would have been open below the lintel of the hearth, above which it would have comprised a single skin, carried on the lintel, and keyed into the cheeks of the fireplace. The hearths were remodelled subsequently, almost certainly to house range-type appliances. Both retained single skin 1' (0.30m) wide, hollow piers against the southern cheek of the original aperture (Plates 26 and 27), and these would have supported the side of the range.



*Plate 22: Detail of the flagstone floor in the eastern chamber*



*Plate 23: Circular aperture cut into the paving slab, probably representing a coal hole*



*Plate 24: The window in the western cellar*



*Plate 25: The remains of a flagstone sill in the eastern cellar window*

4.3.29 Infilling the space between the chimney breast and the rear wall within each cellar, was a poorly constructed brick base (Plate 26). Each was only 20" (0.51m) wide, projecting 2'6" (0.76m) into the room, and represented a stand for a 'copper' boiler, in all reality almost certainly of iron construction. Both retained part of a cement capping and part of the circular shape of the large bowl it housed (Plate 27). That in the eastern cellar overlay the original southern cheek of the fireplace, and the diameter of that in the western cellar suggested that it did the same, demonstrating that the wall inserted inside the original hearth also formed its southern extent at this time.

4.3.30 Both cellars retained well-preserved sandstone flag floors (Plate 26), almost certainly sourced from the large quarries in the Pennine foothills to the north of Manchester, most notably within Rossendale. Each comprised rows of irregular-sized rectangular flagstones, varying in size from 22 x 11" (0.54 x 0.28m) to 3' x 2'6" (0.91 x 0.76m). This reflects the typical use of offcut flagstones for domestic use, and it is likely that the thickness of the stones also varied considerably. Each cellar contained a central 12" x 12" (0.30m) ceramic drain capping (Plate 26), demonstrating that the floor was at least partially re-laid during the insertion of main drainage, in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. Fragments of water pipe recovered from the excavation, and a gas pipe exposed within the section beneath the flagstone pavement (Plate 21), also demonstrate the continual improvement of the properties. Two large concrete bases relating to plastic drains represent renewal of the Dale Street storm drains following demolition of the houses.



*Plate 26: View across the excavated cellars, showing 'copper' boiler bases*



*Plate 27: Detail of 'copper' boiler base*

#### 4.4 TRENCH 3: CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC CHURCH

- 4.4.1 Trench 3 was located on the eastern side of the Bonsall Street Bridge and separated from Trenches 1 and 2 by the Parkway dual carriageway. Two exploratory trenches were excavated in order to clarify whether there were any *in-situ* foundations of the Catholic Apostolic Church, prior to the stripping of the entire area. No *in-situ* foundations or remains associated with the church were identified, whilst the depth of the rubble infill indicated that this area had been heavily disturbed during the construction of both the cutting for the Parkway dual carriageway, and the later construction of Bonsall Street Bridge and Stretford New Road Bridge.
- 4.4.2 The first exploratory trench was excavated at the northern limit of the area, was orientated east/west, and measured 12 x 4m. This trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 3.5m, with the sides being stepped and battered as the excavation proceeded (Plates 28 and 29).
- 4.4.3 A 0.2m thick layer of topsoil and mixed material (**105**) was removed to reveal a substantial layer of loosely compacted mixed rubble (**106**), which was excavated to a depth of 3.5m. The mixed rubble comprised concrete, crushed red brick, a substantial amount of rebar, floor tile and also several decorated sandstone ashlar blocks, recognisable as being the fragmentary remains of the church. It is likely that the rubble infill represents several redevelopments after the late 1960s.
- 4.4.4 Beneath the rubble two natural deposits were identified. At the western side of the trench at a depth of 2.8m was a deposit of natural light brown clay. At the eastern side of the trench, at a depth of 3.5m, deposits of river gravels were identified. Both of these deposits clearly represented the natural geology. No finds, aside from the fragments of masonry within the rubble overburden, was uncovered within this area. The masonry was retained and photographed before the backfilling process took place.
- 4.4.5 The same sequence of deposits was exposed in the second exploratory trench, which was placed along the western side of the area. No remains of archaeological interest survived within the trench.



Plate 28: General view of the demolition rubble and natural deposits exposed in Trench 3



Plate 29: General view of the demolition rubble and natural deposits exposed in Trench 3

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## 5. THE FINDS

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### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 A considerable number of artefacts were originally collected in the course of the investigation, but most proved to be of recent date, for example recent glass bottles, fragments of 'Lego', electrical fittings etc, and whilst their presence adds to evidence for dating the various archaeological deposits, further detailed study was not warranted. This report, therefore concentrates on those finds which contribute to our knowledge of the internal appearance of Holy Trinity, Hulme, founded in *c* 1843.

### 5.2 TILES

5.2.1 Plain and decorated floor tile fragments were recovered from demolition rubble **25**, **26**, and **32** in Trench 2. No complete tiles survive, but most fragments bear elements of the maker's name, making it certain that most of the tiles were made by Minton, Hollins & Co, founded in *c* 1845 as a subsidiary of Minton & Co, specialising in the production of tiles, and thus it seems likely that the surviving tiles are elements of the original flooring. Plain tiles, all made by Minton, Hollin & Co, comprised a narrow rectangular tile in plain dark grey/black (tile type 95R) and a small yellow square (tile type 82R), which together would have formed a grid-like frame, and a larger square red tile (type not known). There were also decorated 'encaustic' tiles in fine red and grey fabrics (Plate 30) with designs reflecting the fashionable gothic revival style of the mid-nineteenth century (van Lemmon nd). Presumably the square grid of grey/black tiles with yellow intersections, would have been filled by the larger decorated tiles, or a pattern of alternating plain and decorated ones. The decorated 'encaustic' tiles, bear the stamp 'Minton & Co' rather than 'Minton, Hollins & Co', and could thus be marginally earlier. The Minton family was extremely active in the production of encaustic tiles for church floors from the 1840s, working closely with the architect Pugin, until his death in 1851 (Fisher 2006). The decorated tiles are certainly thicker, in a rougher fabric, and have distinctive groups of four small registration holes in their corners. Whilst it is suggested that these tiles derive from the original floor scheme, it must be noted that one of the contexts from which tile was recovered (**26**) also produced a one shilling coin of Elizabeth II, dated 1960.

5.2.2 Other ceramic tile, from a deposit of demolition rubble (**12**) adjacent to the south side of the church foundations, seems to be plain and relatively thin roofing tile, found alongside fragments of Welsh slate. Although this could derive from the church, it could equally derive from other buildings in the site. Other, probably more recent, wall tile came from the rubble fill (**28**) of the western cellar, and seems unlikely to be associated with the church.



Plate 30: Floor tiles from context 26

### 5.3 CLAY TOBACCO PIPE

- 5.3.1 Two adjoining fragments of clay tobacco pipe, comprising the pipe bowl and a proportion of the stem, were recovered from demolition rubble 12. The pipe commemorates the Manchester Ship Canal, with a rigged ship on one side (Plate 31), and a portrait of Daniel Adamson, a prominent campaigner for the canal, on the other. Adamson resigned from the project in 1887, shortly after the first sod was cut, and so presumably the pipe pre-dates his resignation.



Plate 31: Fragments of clay tobacco pipe recovered from demolition rubble



## 5.4 GLASS

- 5.4.1 Fragments of leaded glass lights came from rubble **29**, backfilled into north-east corner of the church tower (Plate 32), and other fragments of lead came were from the fill (**26**) of the of the south-west corner of the tower. It seems reasonable to assume that the fragments from rubble **29** reflect an element of the church glazing scheme, and suggest a panel bounded by a frame of dark blue ovals set in a dark green rectangle, and separated by smaller panels of yellow and orange glass. Again, whilst the glass undoubtedly comes from Holy Trinity, the contexts were very disturbed, with an Irish 1d coin of 1948 from demolition rubble **29**.



*Plate 32: Leaded light from demolition rubble 29*

## 5.5 STONE

- 5.5.1 The most impressive find from the site is a carved stone head, recovered from the basement of the tower, and without doubt from the fabric of the church (Plates 33 and 34). Its lack of weathering suggests that it is an internal feature rather than external. It depicts a female with long straightish hair, apparently wearing a soft, beret-like cap or hat. The asymmetrical design, with the head seeming to peer round to one side, suggests that rather than a corbel from the nave (in the available photos these seem plain) it decorated the springer of an arch, perhaps the chancel arch. It can only be assumed that it is entirely contemporary with the church, its strong, but distinctly workmanlike, execution suggesting that it was carved locally. The carving lacks any symbolic element that might identify it with a particular saint, or other religious personage, and although entirely speculative, it might be suggested that it in fact depicts the church's benefactress, Eleanor Atherton.



Plate 33: Carved stone head recovered from demolition material



Plate 34: Carved stone head recovered from demolition material

5.5.2 In addition, there were a further 13 fragments of dressed building stone, including architectural detail. Most are simply dressed blocks, but the group included moulded blocks, perhaps from a string course, and angular blocks, perhaps from steps. A single, relatively small octagonal column base is unlikely to have supported any of the columns separating nave and aisles, which appear, from surviving photographs to have been somewhat larger, and comprised four smaller abutting columns. Nothing in the surviving photographs can provide a definitive origin for this piece, but the organ loft, at the west end is apparently supported by plain multi-angular columns. It is not clear from the photographs whether the columns themselves were wood or stone, and their bases are not visible, but the surviving column base would be of an appropriate size.

## 5.6 OTHER FINDS

5.6.1 Pottery recovered from demolition rubble **03**, **12**, **23**, **25**, **26** and **28** is all of recent date, except for one fragment of slip-decorated redware from context **3**, which is probably of early nineteenth-century date, but could possibly be yet earlier. Three coins, all pennies, recovered from the backfill (**27**) of one of the cellars date to 1917, 1927, and 1947 respectively, and a coin of Elizabeth II (date not visible) comes from clinker **09**.

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## 6. DISCUSSION

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### 6.1 INTRODUCTION

- 6.1.1 The programme of archaeological investigation has provided a valuable opportunity to investigate the physical remains of the initial development and urbanisation of Hulme from the mid-nineteenth century. Writing in 1849, Angus Reach noted that Hulme was ‘a new district. Very few ago, a great portion of the space now filled with humble but comfortable streets was open fields...the people of Hulme live in better built houses...and consequently take more pleasure and pride in their dwellings’ (Reach 1972). The excavation has enabled some of Reach’s observations to be tested.
- 6.1.2 In particular, the excavation has facilitated a detailed examination of two cellars beneath the terraced housing that characterised Hulme’s urban landscape. The excavation has also enabled an examination of the buried foundations of part of a mid-nineteenth-century church, which is an area of research that has hitherto received little archaeological attention (Newman and McNeil 2007, 147).
- 6.1.3 The excavation had some potential to inform several of the initiatives for archaeological research of the industrial and modern periods stated in the current *Archaeological Research Framework for North West England* (Newman and McNeil 2007; McNeil and Newman 2007). In particular:
- *Initiative 7.6*: ‘A study of the development of workers’ housing in Greater Manchester and East Lancashire should be undertaken to examine the development of different housing types...’ (McNeil and Newman 2007, 139);
  - *Initiative 7.7*: ‘Study the material culture of industrial workers’ households...’ (*ibid*);
  - *Initiative 7.12*: ‘Study the development of the agrarian landscape in those parts of the region that have previously attracted little attention’ (*op cit*, 142);
  - *Initiative 7.24*: ‘Need to excavate urban cellars to examine life below stairs in the middle class house and cellar dwellings and workshops in working class houses (*op cit*, 146-7);
  - *Initiative 7.41*: ‘The retention of later period artefacts and their routine analysis as part of all archaeological excavation projects’ (*op cit*, 156).
- 6.1.4 The following section discusses the phased development of the site, based on the results of the archaeological investigation. This is coupled with relevant documentary and cartographic evidence, upon which the broad dating ascribed to each of the identified phases has been largely derived.

## 6.2 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

- 6.2.1 Most of the churches in the North West were established during the nineteenth century, and this is perhaps especially the case in the urban centres across Greater Manchester. However, despite the importance of churches to the communities that they supported, and their contribution to local townscapes, their fabric has received little attention from archaeologists, either in relation to demolished or extant buildings (Newman and McNeil 2007, 147).
- 6.2.2 Holy Trinity was designed by George Gilbert Scott, who has been acknowledged as one of the most prolific architect of his age, and the leading protagonist of the Gothic Revival (Cole 1980). He designed some 800 buildings across England, which included churches, schools, hospitals, workhouses, asylums and vicarages, and was responsible for the restoration of 18 of the 26 English medieval cathedrals. Amongst the earliest examples of churches designed by Scott are St Giles' Church in Camberwell (1841-4), St Mary's Church in Hanwell, Middlesex (1841), Holy Trinity Church in Hartshill, Stoke on Trent (1842), and Holy Trinity Church in Halstead, Essex (1843-4). Holy Trinity Church in Hulme (1841-3) falls amongst this group of Scott's early churches. It is of note that Holy Trinity in Hulme was the first of several churches designed by Scott in the North West. Other examples include Christ Church in Denton (1844-54), St Mark's in Antrobus, Cheshire (1847-8), St Mark's in Scarisbrick (1848-53), St Stephen's in Liverpool (1850-2), and St Mary's in Halton (1851-3).
- 6.2.3 It is perhaps also of note that a London-based firm of architects was appointed to design Holy Trinity, suggesting that financial considerations did not override a desire for a church of high quality. The choice of a London architect is certainly in contrast to the majority of other churches of the period in Manchester, including St George's (1826-8), St Mark's (1850-2), and St John the Baptist (1856-8), all in Hulme, and All Souls (1840-2) and St Peter's (1859) in Ancoats, all of which were designed by Manchester-based architects. The architects' original drawings for many of these churches survive within the archives of the Incorporated Church Building Society, although there are no known plans of Holy Trinity, elevating the importance of the plan generated from the excavation.
- 6.2.4 The most significant artefact recovered from the excavation was the carved stone head. Whilst it is tempting to suggest that it is an effigy of a patron, and particularly Eleanora Atherton, firm evidence is lacking, although confirmation could provide an objective for future academic research. Other artefacts of interest recovered from the excavation include several examples of encaustic floor tiles manufactured by Minton, Hollins & Co (*Section 5.2.1 above*). Formed in *c* 1845, this firm was at the forefront of a large newly developing market as suppliers of durable decorative finishes for walls and floors in churches, public buildings, grand palaces and simple domestic houses. Herbert Minton, the principal partner in the firm, was well noted for his generous donations of tiles to churches and parsonages during the period 1844-58. The majority of these were in Staffordshire, where Minton is known to have presented tiles to 46 churches, although he also donated floor tiles to churches in other areas (Edwards 1859).

### 6.3 DALE STREET HOUSES

- 6.3.1 The remains of the houses fronting Dale Street provide further evidence of the quality of preservation of former nineteenth-century workers' housing across the city, and represented a worthwhile extension to the original programme of excavation. Historic nineteenth- and early twentieth-century mapping depict the buildings in a similar way to most dwellings within the area, but excavation generally reveals subtle differences between almost all the structures encountered (*eg* OA North 2011). Those on Dale Street were no exception, representing uncommon single-roomed cellars, constructed only underneath the front part of the house.
- 6.3.2 The documentary sources suggest that the Dale Street houses may slightly predate Holy Trinity on the opposite side of the road, although the church had almost certainly been planned by this time. The houses appear to have been of relatively high status, placed on a wide thoroughfare in an aspiring new suburb of the rapidly expanding town. These were not tightly-packed back-to-backs designed to house the mass influx of poor migrant workers, but more affluent skilled workers' accommodation, with families renting an entire house, rather than just a room or a bed. That said, lodgers were almost certainly an economic necessity during many periods. Nevertheless, the houses on Dale Street do appear to conform to the requirements for new housing specified in the Manchester Borough Police Act of 1844 (*Section 3.5.4 above*).
- 6.3.3 This more affluent environment is reflected in the construction of the cellars. The basic fabric is similar to that found across the region, with single-skin partition walls representing a continuation of a local tradition seen throughout Manchester and Salford (*eg* OA North 2011), rather than an attempt by property developers to cut corners and increase profit. Indeed, the fireplaces within each cellar were smaller than those in back-to-back houses of a similar date excavated in the notoriously poor area of Angel Meadow (*ibid*). However, the fact that the cellars only occupy half of the space available below the building above suggests that space was not at a premium in the new suburb of Hulme. Within the inner industrial suburbs, such as Ancoats, every available parcel of land was being developed at this date to accommodate the working classes (Miller and Wild 2007).
- 6.3.4 The cellars were significantly remodelled subsequently, but the original layout appears, in many respects, to reflect similar-sized properties that contained two-room cellars in poorer areas. Access into the cellar can clearly be identified from within the ground floor of the house, via a straight stair, almost certainly placed below the staircase to the upper floors from ground level. Whilst it is possible that this was accessed from a hallway, it is perhaps more plausible that access was directly from the rear room, frequently utilised as the kitchen. The doorway in the front elevation functioned latterly as an entrance into a coal store, but this represents a remodelling of an earlier feature. Had the feature been intended as a coal chute within the original build it would have been smaller, would have had a battered rear wall to aid the fall of the coal, and would probably have been placed at the same end of the room as the fireplace, rather than below the steps leading up from the pavement to the ground floor. The fact that only the left wall of each feature was keyed into the

front wall of the cellar suggests strongly that the right wall was a later addition. It would also have been impractical to include a window in the front wall without framing for a pavement-light, as the majority would have been below ground level, and would have served only to allow water ingress. It is therefore probable that the doorway at the western end of each front wall afforded access to a stairwell, rising to street level beyond a centrally-placed window, which allowed light from the stairwell into the cellar. This was a typical form of cellar entry, and has been observed in archaeological excavations of workers' housing in several parts of Manchester (eg OA North 2011). A photograph of nearby houses taken in the early twentieth century shows a similar arrangement of cellar entry below raised ground floors. The depth of the Dale Street cellars below street level is also consistent with a raised ground-floor level.

- 6.3.5 Cellars with two entrances are somewhat unusual, but this, combined with the small size of the fireplace, suggests that the cellars may have been used as workshops, with access from the street for goods, or possibly clients, and internal access from the tenant's dwelling above. It is unlikely that the houses contained garret workshops on the upper floor by this date, and there appears to be no evidence in the available documentary evidence for the use of the properties as shops, but it is not improbable that work was also being undertaken within the house above the cellar.
- 6.3.6 The use of the cellars as workshops appears to have lapsed around the turn of the twentieth century. The ensuing remodelling incorporated the infilling of the stairwell, and the associated creation of a coal store and pavement-light for the window. This was undertaken using a black sooty mortar within the walls, typical of the period from 1880-1920, when cement-based mortars became used almost exclusively. The bricks were similar to those within the original walls, being hand-made, and although possibly re-used, this would suggest a date earlier within the range above, as machine-made bricks became more common in the early twentieth century.
- 6.3.7 The role of both cellars appears to have changed from workshop to scullery/wash house. The 'copper' boilers probably date from this alteration, suggesting that the use of cement within the capping may have been original, dating from the very late nineteenth, or early twentieth centuries. The drainage beneath the floor would have been essential for a wash house cut into natural clay, and it is likely that the present drains relate to the same episode of remodelling. Many early nineteenth-century workers' dwellings did incorporate original drainage below floor level, and this has been observed in many instances across the city (eg OA North 2011). However, this has been confined to un-cellaried properties; the infrastructure of deep sewers required for such low-lying drains was not economically viable during construction, and was not undertaken by local authorities until the health crises of the mid-to late nineteenth century forced the political will-power to take appropriate legislative action after around 1880.

## 6.4 COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

6.4.1 The archaeological excavation elicited considerable interest amongst local residents, and a large number of people from the Hulme community were actively involved in the fieldwork. In total, 180 local volunteers participated in the excavation, with an estimated additional 400 people (including several school parties) visiting the site to view the excavated remains and to talk with the archaeologists. This also enabled a large body of oral evidence for the development of the area to be collated, which has been incorporated with the project archive.



*Plate 35: Volunteers exposed the remains of Dale Street*





*Plate 36: Local volunteers and members of SMART*



*Plate 37: Volunteers from Pendleton College*



*Plate 38: Site visit from a local primary school*



*Plate 39: Local residents excavating the foundations of Holy Trinity Church*

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## 7. CURATION AND CONSERVATION

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### 7.1 ARCHIVE

- 7.1.1 The digital archive will be deposited with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record. The paper archive and finds will be transferred to MMU Special Collections, where a selection of the finds, including the carved stone head, will be conserved. Most of the finds recovered from the excavation, however, are of little or no archaeological or historical interest, and merit discard. However, it is anticipated that some of these finds will be utilised for project work by the Arts department at MMU.

### 7.2 CONSERVATION

- 7.2.1 There are no conservation requirements.

### 7.3 STORAGE

- 7.3.1 The complete project archive, which will include written records, plans, colour photographs, will be prepared for long-term storage following the guidelines set out in *Environmental standards for the permanent storage of excavated material from archaeological sites* (UKIC 1984, Conservation Guidelines 3), and *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (Walker 1990).

### 7.4 DISSEMINATION

- 7.4.1 The complete results obtained from the archaeological investigation at Birley Fields are incorporated in this final excavation report. In addition to MMU, copies of the report will be forwarded to the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, Manchester City Council Planning Department, and the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.
- 7.4.2 In order to disseminate the results obtained from the archaeological investigation to a wider audience, a summary of the excavation should be prepared for publication in *Current Archaeology*; the editor has expressed a keen interest in receiving an illustrated text for consideration. In addition, a small exhibition will be prepared for MMU Special Collections, which will disseminate the results of the excavation to the local community. A video documentary of the excavation, compiled by Anne Lister from the Manchester School of Art during the course of the excavation, has also been posted on-line at <https://vimeo.com/41919693>

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## APPENDIX 1: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

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**Manchester  
Metropolitan  
University**

# **Birley Fields, Hulme Written Scheme of Investigation**

**December 2011**

**Manchester Metropolitan University  
Dr Faye Simpson**

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## INTRODUCTION

This report presents a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for the archaeological works at the site of Birley Fields, Hulme, Manchester. It outlines distinct phases of an archaeological programme of works ahead of development of the proposed Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), Birley Fields Campus. This WSI has been prepared by Dr. Faye Simpson, Lecture in Archaeology and History at MMU, for Manchester Metropolitan University.

Three specific areas of archaeological interest have been identified within the brown field site of Birley Fields. These areas were highlighted in the planning consent and based on a desk-based assessment carried out by Dr. Peter Arrowsmith (2010) they include, Jackson's Farm (south west corner of the site), Holy Trinity Church (centre north) and the Catholic Apostolic Church (north east). It is worth noting that the whole site, from the second quarter of the 19th century, was developed with workers' housing, which later covered the Jackson's Farm area. Cartographic evidence suggests that there was no further development on the areas of the churches following their demolition. The range of workers' housing and the development of the urbanisation of this part of Hulme is also of research interest.

The location of the site, its history, potential archaeological remains and its planned development would lend this site to a community based archaeological and historical project that could be incorporated within the planning proposals. This would provide an ideal platform to create community interest in the local history of the Hulme area.

## 1. BACKGROUND

Manchester Metropolitan University proposes to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation, community engagement and dissemination centred around the known archaeological site of Birley Fields, Hulme, Manchester to better inform a scheme of building works and development of the site which is due to commence in May 2012.

The site consists of six vacant brown field plots, grassed over with a number of trees mainly around the perimeters and bounded in part by bunds. The six plots are intersected by a grid iron of roadways. The site sits in an area bounded by high levels of population in the form of permanent residences and student accommodation in an area that could be viewed as being deprived financially and socially.

There are three main focal points of archaeological interest, Jackson's Farm, Holy Trinity Church and the Catholic Apostolic Church, which have been identified in the recent Desk-Based Assessment by Arrowsmith (2010) and stated as part of the work required for PPS15. There have been no previous archaeological investigations on site.

The situation and the nature of the archaeological remains means that this site is ideally located to involve the local community in the undertaking of heritage based activities, including in the historical research, geophysical archaeological survey and selective intrusive community excavation.

The project aims to undertake the following components:

- Geophysical survey of the three core areas
- Community Excavation (where appropriate) of three core areas
- Local school and community group visits to the site during the project
- Production of a technical report.
- Dissemination: Public presentation/ exhibition of the project.

### 1.1. Site Description

The Birley Fields site (centred SJ 8370 9665) lies approximately 1km to the south of Manchester city centre. To the north it is bounded by Stretford Road, to the west by Royce Road/Old Birley Street (formerly Upper Jackson Street), and by George Parr Road and Ormsgill Street (formerly Warde Street and Dunham Street) on the south-west. The eastern boundary of the site follows Princess Road, but also includes an area on the east side of that road and, running to this, the Bonsall Street Bridge over Princess Road (**Figure 1**). The site lies at a height of 33-35m AOD. On the north of the Site, the plot between Stretford Road and Bonsall Street shows variations in the ground level, falling by approximately 1m in the western third of this plot, while at the eastern end a landscaped mound rises by approximately 1-1.5m.

## **1.2. Geology and Taphonomy**

The solid geology of the site comprises of Sherwood sandstone and the superficial geology of the site as comprising part of an east-west band of glacial sands and gravel. The southern extremity of the site and the northern edge (along Stretford Road) is Boulder Clay. (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk>).

## **2. PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK**

### **2.1. Prehistory**

There are no known prehistoric finds in or near the immediate vicinity of the Birley Fields site, however the site lies around 1km to the south east of the Roman Fort at Castlefields.

### **2.2. Medieval**

There is no known medieval finds in or near the immediate vicinity of Birley Fields, however there is potential that this was medieval farmland.

### **2.2. Post-Medieval**

A Desk-Based Assessment prepared by Arrowsmith (2010) detailed the history of the site from the post-medieval and early 20th century history.

Yates's survey of the settlements shows Hulme Farm and Jackson's Farm which are also named on Johnson's map of 1818-9. Jackson's Farm was more centrally placed within the township of Hulme and was situated on an east-west trackway at the end of Jackson's Lane which ran southward from Chester Road. The site of Jackson's Farm lies within the site, at SJ 8368 9661. It remained standing until the mid 19th century and is shown on OS mapping of 1848 (**Figure 3**). At this date it comprises an irregular farmhouse and two buildings to the north, the larger probably a barn. A fourth building is shown on Bancks's map of 1831 to the west of the farmhouse (**Figure 2**). It is not known when a farm was first established here but potentially this site might be of medieval origin.

At the time of Bancks's survey the remainder of the site was given over to fields. In the fields to the north and south were large ponds, possibly former marl pits dug through the sands and gravels to the underlying clay.

The first half of the 19th century saw Hulme develop into a suburb of the expanding Manchester, and became characterized by grid iron streets of terraced housing. This development, as seen from the map regression, appeared to start sometime after 1831 and by the survey of the OS 1845 map several terraces had been erected in the northern sector of the site, Jackson's Farm, however, still appears on the latter map.

Further development followed and by the time of OS mapping in the late 1880s the site and its surroundings became densely covered with a pattern of streets and buildings, predominantly of terraced housing. These dwellings took the form of through-houses with small individual rear yards containing privies, the largest houses appearing along the main roadway, Stretford Road.

Two other significant buildings appear on the site during the 1840's, Holy Trinity Church on Stretford Road (centred SJ 8373 9679) and the Catholic Apostolic Church in the north eastern corner of the site (centred SJ 8383 9683) (**Figure 4**).

Holy Trinity Church (**Figure 4**) was designed by George Gilbert Scott and built in 1843, in the early English style. Its interior arrangements are visible on the large-scale maps of 1844, this indicates a external west tower and a porch to the north side. The church was damaged by an air raid in WWII and subsequently demolished in 1953.

The Catholic Apostolic church dates from around the 1840's, but was dismantled in 1867 and replaced by a new church (**Figure 4**)

### 3. STATUS AND CONTEXT

The site, at present, is a brown field site that is the subject of the proposed Manchester Metropolitan University, Birley Fields Campus.

#### 3.1. Principals and Context

The archaeological resource of an area can encompass a range of remains, including below ground remains, earthworks, and standing buildings and other structures. Some such remains may have statutory protection such as scheduled monument. The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (March 2010) states that:

*“England is renowned for the richness of its archaeological heritage: a tangible – and often highly evocative – link with our prehistoric and historic past, and a unique source of information that has the potential to transform our understanding of the lives of our ancestors and how they adapted to and changed their environment”*

*“Such remains often form significant features in our surroundings, but are also valuable as a resource for research, education, leisure, tourism and regeneration, and for their influence on perceptions of identity and spirit of place. However, they are also a finite, irreplaceable and fragile resource and are vulnerable to a wide range of human activities and natural processes.”*

As a result it is the **responsibility** of those concerned with the proposed survey of Birley Fields that all works are conducted with specific thought for the physical remains of the site, as to protect the remains for future generations, but also to share the information gathered from the proposed works with the academic and wider communities.

The Department for Culture, Media and Sport state that:

*“any archaeological excavation or other intrusive investigation should be: based upon a detailed research design (drawing on relevant research frameworks); resourced to permit completion of all outstanding requirements, including recording; and implemented by appropriately skilled and experienced archaeologists with a satisfactory record of the completion and publication of projects”*

*“that the archive generated by any archaeological excavation or other intrusive investigation is offered to a local museum or other public depository; and that the design, planning and execution of works are undertaken by people with appropriate professional and craft qualifications, skills and experience.”*

All fieldwork and associated publication within this project will be conducted by professional archaeological staff at Manchester Metropolitan University, assisted by the



Centre of Applied Archaeology and volunteers from the local community who would be directly supervised by MMU and project staff.

### **3.2. Planning Conditions**

In accordance with PPS5 policy HE12 and as specified by Section 25 of the Planning Consent archaeological investigation is required in order

*“To record and advance the understanding of the significance of any buried archaeological remains for archival and research purposes.”*

Furthermore it stipulates that

*“No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation has been completed in accordance with the approved WSI.”*

It is stated this work should include:

1. *A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording to include: an archaeological evaluation (where merited by the evaluation results) targeted excavation and recording*
2. *A programme for post investigation assessment to include:*
  - *analysis of the site investigation records and finds*
  - *production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented.*
3. *Provision for community engagement, publication, interpretation and dissemination in relation to the site’s history and archaeology.*
4. *Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds and records of the site investigation.*
5. *Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.*

## **4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

### **4.1. General Objectives**

The archaeological investigation is intended to investigate the survival of possible below ground remains of the three key areas within the site as highlighted by the desk-based assessment. This will also incorporate a small element of the later housing developments.

The archaeological investigation will also be used as a vehicle for community engagement in the project and development of the site. The provision of a programme of participatory and non-participatory events and a volunteer training for members of the community will aim to have a significant impact on the community's heritage values and provide a lasting legacy for the future engagement. This project will provide transferable skills training and wider social capital linking in with employability and regeneration agendas for the Hulme area.

### **4.2. Project Objectives**

- To undertake archaeological investigation (including geophysical survey and archaeological excavation of selective parts of the Birley Fields site).
- To train community volunteers from the Hulme area in archaeological investigation.
- Identify an area of archaeological resources in area.
- To encourage local members of the Hulme and wider community to engage and learn about their heritage through active participation.
- To allow local primary, secondary and higher educational establishments an opportunity to be engaged in a heritage project within their area.
- Encourage educational establishments to incorporate local heritage learning within their curriculum.
- Build links with local educational professionals to generate resources for the future.
- Establish that heritage education does not just include schools.
- Encourage individuals to undertake personal research into the heritage of their area.
- Promote the University within area.

### 4.3. Research Agendas:

The Desk Based Assessment (2010) identified the potential for the archaeological remains of residential housing at Birley Fields, suggesting that there could be a variation in the type and nature of workers housing over the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. This is an area of research that has been overlooked in recent years and has far too often been excavated through, therefore losing important social historical and archaeological evidence. The excavation of **Area 1** provides a unique opportunity to investigate this variation and place it in context of the areas development and industry.

Within the context the church sites (**Areas 2 and 3**) at Birley Fields the Research framework for the North-West Identifies that the 'knowledge of churches of all periods is recognised as under-researched' (2005: 5). It highlight the importance of investigating these churches in the research agenda of the project, and further comments that:

*"The profile of research into church archaeology needs to be raised in the Region to emphasise its importance and to ensure that there is an appropriate and consistent archaeological response to proposed changes to historic places of worship, their sites and environs across all denominations."*

Therefore, the research objectives and questions reflect those identified in the Archaeological Research Framework for the North-West England: Research Agenda and Strategy, and the Desk Based Assessment and Planning Conditions for the site:

1. Determine the survival and extent of remaining archaeological deposits.
2. Identify the nature and presence of remaining archaeological deposits.
3. Understand the type and variation in the workers housing.
4. Investigate the potential presence of medieval and early post medieval remains.
5. Investigate the historic fabric of churches and their context.
6. Understand the development of religious buildings and their social reliance in the development of Birley Fields as a community.
7. To assess the extent and effect of bomb damage on the Birley Fields area.

## 5. METHODOLOGY

### 5.1. Background

As specified in the planning consent for Birley Fields, MMU is required to, in compliance with PPS15 and Section 106 of the planning process, investigate the potential archaeological features that will be affected by the development. This highlights the requirement to involve the community in this process. In order to meet these specifications 4 stages of work will be required.

1. Geophysical Survey of the three core areas.
2. Community Excavation (where appropriate) of three core areas.
3. Interpretation (Post Excavation): Conservation, analysis of archaeological findings and results.
4. Dissemination: Public presentation/ exhibition of the project.

The three core areas of the site for investigation are (See Figure 1):

- Jackson's Farm (Area 1)
- Holy Trinity Church (Area 2)
- The Catholic Apostolic Church (Area 3)

The history of the site indicated that previous demolished workers housing might overlay Jackson's farm area. Map regression indicates that no development of these areas took place before or after their demolition, therefore indicating high potential for archaeological remains.

Hulme has a mix of local residents and students, this, along with the type of development proposed for Birley Fields, lends itself ideally to an archaeological project with community involvement. It is believed that a geophysical survey and community excavation would be a good vehicle to facilitate community involvement. Furthermore, research has proven that archaeological projects that are inclusive, engaging and encourage proactive involvement have social, economic and educational benefits (Simpson 2009). These projects also provide transferable skills training for volunteers to aid employability and support back to work schemes.

**5.2. Geophysical Survey:** A geophysical survey of *three* core areas will aim to inform stage two (intrusive investigation). This stage will involve significant community engagement, including training local volunteers, schools, and MMU students in non-intrusive archaeological survey techniques. This will be undertaken by Centre

for Applied Archaeology in compliance with Institute of Archaeologists (IfA) standards. This will not only act as a participatory learning activity but also as a tool for communicating the overarching development project and part of the MMU's ongoing commitment to community engagement.

- 5.3. Community Excavation:** Intrusive archaeological investigation of 3 core areas of the site (informed by stage 1). It suggested that evaluation trenches will not be required as detailed map data is available for site. It is proposed this work would involve a three trench large-scale open area excavation of three areas, taking place in 2-3 phases managed and supervised by specialist archaeological staff, which will be open to member of the community.

**Trench 1:** Jackson's farm (**Figure 1 and 2**): A potential medieval farmstead overlaid by later post medieval terrace housing. This site is also where the majority of the initial development will occur for the campus building; therefore it is paramount that this is complete by May 2012.

**Trench 2 and Three 3:** Holy Trinity Church (2) and Catholic Apostolic Church (3) (**Figure 1 and 3**): Potential student accommodation development. Second phase of community excavation, with the option of being done by commercial archaeologists with a lesser community involvement but with open access for tours and information boards, dependent of time constraints

- 5.3.1. Excavation Methodology:** Uppermost levels of overburden/demolition material will be removed using a mechanical excavator of appropriate power, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to the top of the first significant archaeological level, the work will be supervised by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Thereafter structural remains will be cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date. Spoil from the excavation will be either removed from site, or stockpiled in a single location at a safe distance from the excavation area. If the excavation is to proceed below a depth of 1.2m, then the trenches will be widened sufficiently to allow the sides to be stepped in.
- 5.3.2. Recording:** All information identified during the course of the archaeological investigation will be recorded stratigraphically. Contexts will be recorded using *pro-forma* sheets based, and details will be incorporated into a Harris matrix. This will be accompanied by sufficient pictorial record including plans, sections and photographs to identify and illustrate features. Similar object record and photographic record *pro-formas* will be used. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced

from *pro-forma* record sheets using sequential numbering. The precise location of all archaeological structures encountered will be surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a pen computer data logger. This process will generate scaled plans within AutoCAD, which will then be subject to manual survey enhancement. The drawings will be generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale, but can be output at any scale required. Sections will be manually drafted as appropriate at a scale of 1:10. All information will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.

**5.3.3. Finds Policy:** Finds recovery and sampling will be in accordance with IFA best practice and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC). Samples will also be collected (were appropriate) for technological, pedological and chronological analysis. A range of materials recovered from the excavation will be set aside for re-use and display. In addition to artefacts larger objects could be stored on site following appropriate level of recording.

*Human remains* are not expected to be present, but if they are found they will, if possible, be left *in situ* covered and protected. If removal is necessary, then the relevant Ministry of Justice permission will be sought, and the removal of such remains will be carried out with due care and sensitivity as required by the *Burials Act 1857*

*Treasure Act:* 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.

**5.4. Post Excavation:** Following the excavation and investigation of the site the following tasks will be complete:

- Checking of drawn and written records during/on completion of fieldwork
- Production of a stratigraphic matrix of the archaeological deposits and features
- Cataloguing of photographic material
- Cleaning, marking, bagging and labelling of finds according to the individual deposits from which they were recovered. Any finds requiring specialist treatment and conservation will be sent to an

appropriate Conservation Laboratory. Finds will be identified and dated by appropriate specialists;

- Assessment of all artefacts, biological samples and soils recovered from the site. Consideration will be given to possible investigative procedures such as pottery residue analysis and glass composition
- Assessment of any technological residues recovered will be undertaken.

### **5.5. Staffing**

The project will be directed and project managed by qualified archaeologists employed by Manchester Metropolitan University including Dr. Faye Simpson (Lecturer in Archaeology and History) and Dr. Ben. Edwards (Lecturer in Heritage and History, both of who have directed numerous commercial and community excavations both nationally and internationally, including Oakington Anglo-Saxon Cemetery (2011- ), Shoreditch Park (2004-6), Bruce Castle (2006). Dr. F. Simpson, a former Finds Liaison Officer for the PAS in Cumbria and Lancashire, has a specialist knowledge in finds identification and conservation. Dr Ben Edwards has specialist expertise in landscape archaeology and geophysical survey techniques.

These staff members will work under the overarching control of the capital projects team who are managing the Birley Fields Development Project. When required external support will be sought. This will included the contracting in of an external archaeological team for the on site archaeological investigation.

A *Heritage Lottery Fund* grant has been applied for with support from community members for more extensive community engagement.

### **5.5. Safety and Access**

All relevant health and Safety legislation, CDM, COSHH regulations and codes of practice will be respected. A risk assessment will be produced by MMU prior to the commencement of any onsite works.

Site procedures shall be in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Health and Safety Manual of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME).

A daily signing in and out book will be maintained during the duration of the works. The Institute of Field Archaeology (IFA) code of conduct will be applied at all times.

### **5.6. Post Excavation Report**

Upon completion of the archaeological investigation a MMU appointed qualified project manager will produce a written report detailing the results of the above programme of archaeological work.

## **5.7. Archiving**

The initial result of the archaeological investigation will be the site archive, which will be prepared in accordance with the Management of Archaeological Projects. The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in Greater Manchester. All drawn records to be transferred to and stored in digital format, in systems, which are easily accessible.

The integrity of the site archive will be maintained upon completion of the archaeological works with the archive ultimately being held at MMU Offices.

The minimum acceptable standard for the site archive is defined in the 'Management of Archaeological Projects 5.4' and 'Appendix 3' as well as The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) – English Heritage, 2006. It will include the comprehensive records of all materials recovered and all written, drawn, and photographic records, including a copy of all reports relating to the investigations undertaken.

A summary of the results of the archaeological works will be submitted in a technical support to Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit (Country Archaeologists), English Heritage and the Historic Environment Record.



## 6. DISEMINATION

### 6.1. Publication and Presentation

**6.1.1: *Technical Report*** of the archaeological investigation will be written by the Supervising Archaeologist from MMU and Hard copies and PDF copies will be sent to the relevant bodies (MMU, GMAU, for entry on the Historic Environment Record (HER)) within 8 weeks of completing final stage of the project. This report will include.

- Title page: site address, NGR, author/originating body, client's name/ address
- Content's.
- Non-technical summary of the findings of the fieldwork.
- Description of the archaeological background.
- Account of the historical development of the site accompanied with map regression analysis and results obtained from research.
- Description of the topography and geology of the study area.
- Description of the methodologies used during the fieldwork.
- Description of the findings of the fieldwork.
- Plans of the excavated area showing the archaeological features exposed.
- Overall phased plan with sections of the excavated archaeological features.
- Interpretation of the archaeological features exposed and their context within the surrounding landscape;
- Specialist assessment reports on the artefactual/ecofactual/industrial remains from the site (were appropriate).
- Appropriate photographs of specific archaeological features.
- Importance of the archaeological remains presentation the site in local, regional and national terms;
- Recommendations for final publication and dissemination

**6.1.2. *Popular booklet*** and traveling exhibition will also be produced this will aim to communicate the project and disseminate knowledge about the archaeology and history of the site to the wider community. It will also provide a legacy for the project.

**6.1.3. *Travelling exhibition*** will be developed by History Students at MMU to communicate the findings. It may also be worth considering interpretation panels and landscaping in the area that incorporates the history of the site.

## 7. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### 7.1. Potential Outreach

As stated previously (6. Methodology) members of the local communities would, where appropriate, participate in all phases of the archaeological investigation. The numbers involved if based on half-daily sessions for each activity.

- **Geophysical Survey:** Half -day sessions for 4 days would be up to 32 individuals. One day of the survey would involve pupils from local schools when four sessions (two in the morning and two in the afternoon) would be conducted. Based on a class of 25 this would give opportunities for up to 100 pupils to participate in a local history and archaeology project.
- **Community Excavation:**
  - Phase 1: 2 Half-day sessions for up to 25 individuals. For 6 days a week for 3 week. This would provide opportunities for up to 900 local residents to actively participate in this project
  - Phase 1. Half-day for 25 individual for 10 days. This would provide opportunities for up to 250 local residents to actively participate in this project.
- **Finds Workshops:** Four school workshops for up to 25-30 children. This would provide opportunities for up to 100 children to participate in post-excavation skills and finds identification. Two community workshops for up to 10 local residents. This would provide opportunities for up to 20 local residents to participate in post-excavation skills and finds identification.

## **8. TIMETABLE**

MMU would plan to have all the geophysical survey and phase one of the community excavation complete by May 2012, pre site development. With Phase 2 of excavation complete in September 2012. The project, including write up would be due for completion in June 2013.

### **8.1. Tasks**

1. Tenders for Geophysical Survey and approval (November 2011)
2. HLF Bid (Submitted November 2011)
3. Geophysical work (January 2012).
4. Appoint Project Staff (January/ February 2012)
5. Community outreach and marketing of event: Manchester History Festival (Feb 2012)
6. Phase 1 Community Excavation and Research Project (March/ April 2012)
7. Phase 2 Community Excavation (September 2012)
8. Interpretation (October 2012 – January 2013)
9. Exhibition and outreach (January – March 2013)

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

A project manager will be appointed to control this element of the archaeological work and liaise with the planning authority and county archaeologist (archaeological curator) so that each stage of the condition will be worked through in a logical sequence.

Project designs will produced or invited through tender to define the archaeology's contractors costs and detailed methodology.

## 10. SOURCES

**Arrowsmith, P., 2010, *Birley Fields, Hulme, Manchester: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*, an unpublished report**

**Institute of Field Archaeologists.** 1994, revised 2010. *Standard and Guidance for archaeological desk-based assessment.*

**Institute of Field Archaeologists.** 1994, revised 2010. *Standard and Guidance for archaeological investigation and recording of standing buildings or structures.*

**Institute of Field Archaeologists.** 1994, revised 2010. *Standard and Guidance for field evaluation 1994, revised 2010)*

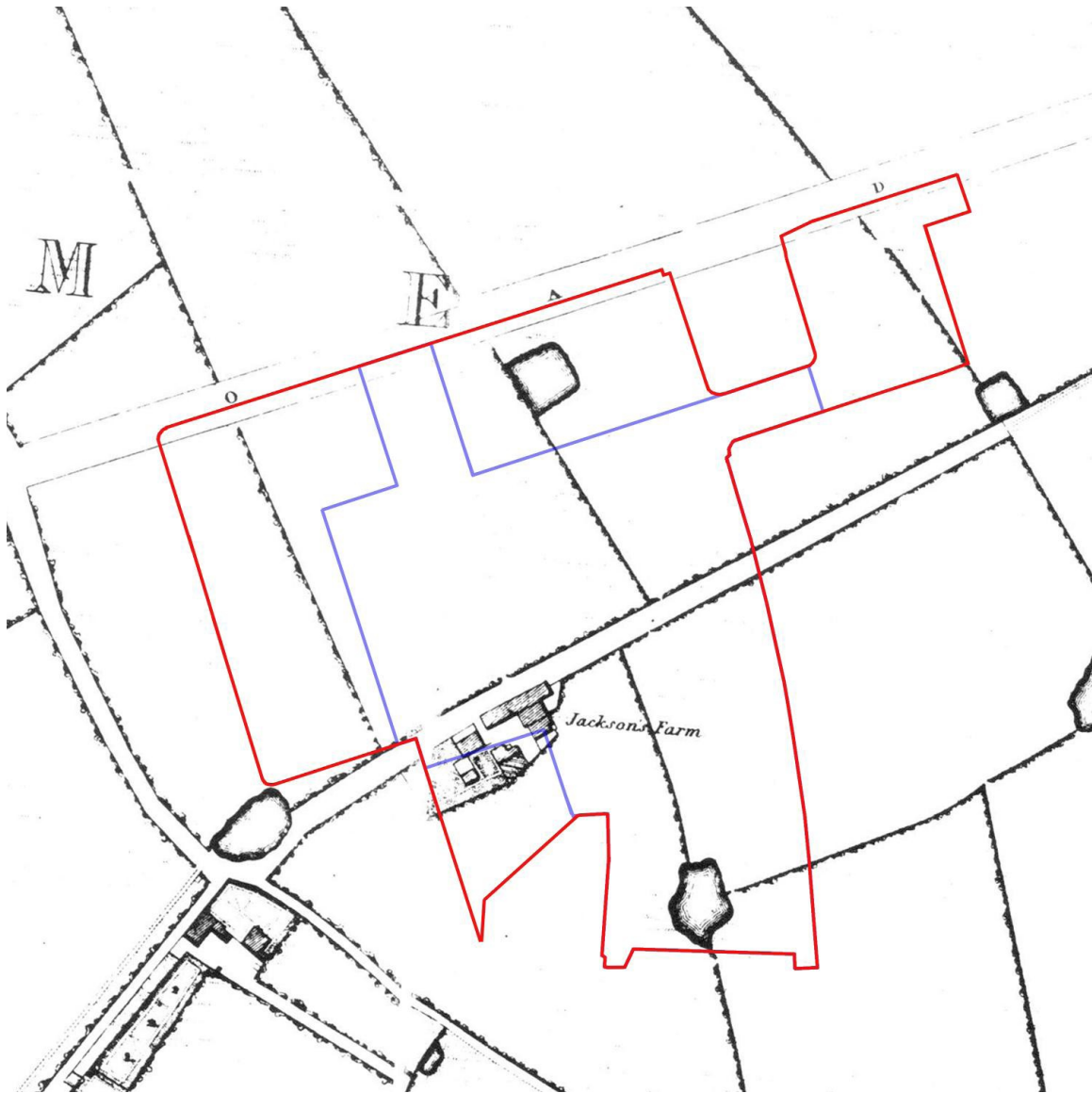
**PPS5** (Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment, March 2010)

**Brennand,** 2007, *An archaeological Research Framework for North West England* (Volume II, Association of Local Government Officers Northwest and Council for British Archaeology North West).

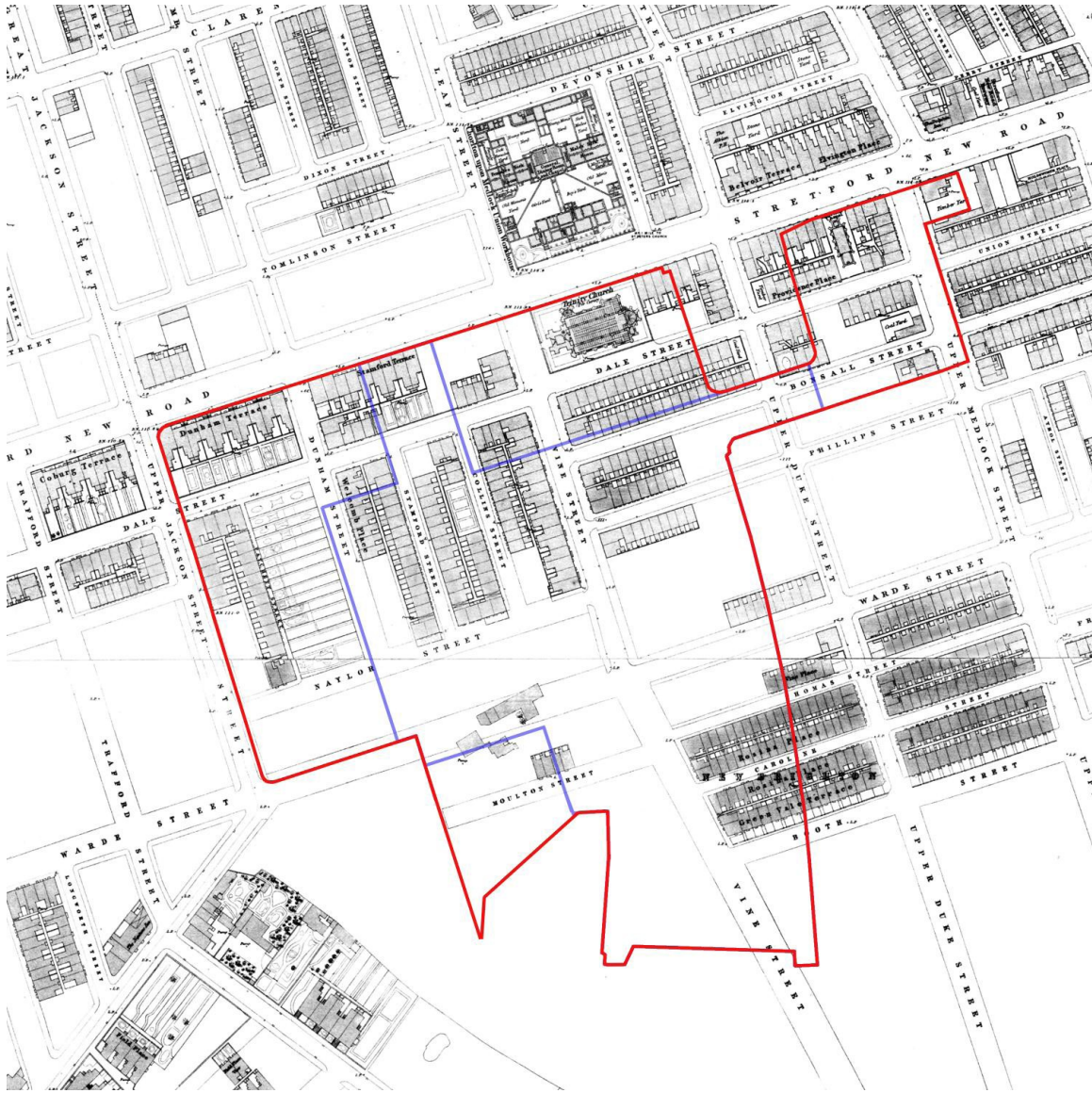
## 11. ILLUSTRATIONS



**Figure 1:** Modern Map showing the location of location of the phase of archaeological investigation at Birley Fields.



**Figure 2:** Bancks's map of Manchester 1831, with Site outlined. Scale 1:2500.



**Figure 3:** OS map 1844 and 1848, with the Site outlined, indicating presence of terrace housing, Jackson Farm, Holy Trinity Church and *Catholic Apostolic church*. Scale 1:1000.





**Figure 4:** Detail of Holy Trinity and Catholic Apostolic churches (outlined in black) based on 1844-48 OS map.

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## APPENDIX 2: ORAL TESTIMONIES

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In conjunction with the excavations conducted at Birley Fields, specifically the community excavation on the site of Holy Trinity Church, Stretford Road, a number of oral histories were recorded by Caroline Raynor of OA North. Many of the people who came to visit or volunteer on the site had a personal connection with the area. Some had lived in houses on Dale Street, Vine Street or within the locality and others had visited family here. The individuals who volunteered to make audio recordings are all individuals who lived in Hulme or whose families have strong ties with the area before the post war clearances in the 1960s. Many of them brought memorabilia, maps and black and white photographs with them, copies of which have been included within this report and form part of the permanent archive for the excavations.

### **Norman Taylor**

Interview with Norman Taylor (NT) conducted on the 8<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 by Caroline Raynor (CR). Norman came to site to bring an original hand-written copper plate ledger which contained a detailed description of the history of the Hulme area. The book had been bequeathed to him by his Great Auntie, although no one in the family knows how the book came into her possession. The book is not signed and there may be only one copy but the author is anonymous.

NT: Hello my name is Norman Taylor. I was born in Chorlton but now live in Davey Hulme. I have brought in today a book with the history of Hulme that is hand written.

CR: And where did the book come from?

NT: And the book came from my Great Auntie who died about 2 years ago aged 104.

CR: And how was she involved with the area?

NT: She was involved with Hulme from being a little girl when the Zion Church was built.

CR: And do you know who wrote the book?

NT: I don't know who wrote the book, no.

CR: Ok, and is there more than one volume of the book that you've brought today?

NT: No it's just a handwritten... it goes on for a long time. You've got to look at the book to see... there's pages of it like, you know.

CR: So you've got a handwritten ledger detailing the history of Hulme.

NT: Yes.

CR: And you have brought it along to contribute to the community project today.

NT: That's right and I've brought it along for the community project today.

CR: Well, thanks very much, it was very kind of you and it is lovely to meet you.

### **Harry Nihill**

Interview with Harry Nihill (HN) conducted on the 9<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 by Caroline Raynor (CR).

Harry Nihill is 81 years of age and was a resident of 59 Dale Street (to the east of the area currently under excavation) between 1930 and 1944. He survived the bombings in the Hulme area of Manchester during World War II and returned to the area to see the excavations being conducted by Oxford Archaeology North.

CR: Can you just state your name and where you used to live?

HN: My name is Harry Nihill and I've lived in Hulme all my life.... Hulme, *Hulme* (pronounces Hulme in local dialect).

### *Laughter*

And I lived on this site actually at number 59 Dale Street which was quite close to where the dig is taking place now.

CR: What other family members lived in the area?

HN: I lived with me Mam and me Dad [sic] and me sister. There was four of us altogether. I don't think we was here for a great long time because we moved to Mark Street which was on the other side of the road, the other side of Jackson Street. And we was bombed out from there. That were behind Hulme Library and the Town Hall. We was bombed out from there. Maybe we should have stopped at Dale Street!

CR: And can you tell us a little bit about what it was like to live in the houses? What sort of amenities did you have?

HN: The lighting was gas... it was gas light it weren't electric... it was gas light. Which most of the houses, that's what they were in that time... this is... I'm talking about the late Thirties when they still had gas and it was after the war, sometime after the war when some houses got electric fitted. But it was when televisions come out, I think that was, it opted more people I mean you couldn't work it on gas!

### *Laughter*

CR: That's very true, that's very true. Did you have running water in the house? Did you have a bathroom?

HN: Yes, yes we had running water but no bathroom.

CR: Ok

HN: We had a cellar... well me Mam used to go to the wash house which was only across the road.

CR: Was that Leaf Street Baths?

HN: Leaf Street Baths, where Leaf Street Baths was there was a wash house attached to that.

CR: Did you use Leaf Street baths as well? Did you go there for a bath?

HN: Oh well yes we used to go to the baths, yeah, have a bath.

CR: And how often did you go there?

HN: Once a week.

*Laughter*

CR: Once a week! Quite a lot of people have said once a week. And did you enjoy that experience or did you find it a bit difficult having to wash in such a public environment?

HN: No it was just a matter of being, you know having a bath sort of thing. And we knew you should have a bath but (laughter), not as often as I do now!

CR: And they had a laundry in Leaf Street Baths as well. Did you family use the laundry there or did your Mum do all the washing by hand at home?

HN: Yeah... yes, me Mam used to go there with that. She used to have an old trolley with a wicker basket on with all the dirty washing in and she used to take it down. They used to do [sic] wash it and they could dry it, you know. They had ovens there as well where they could just put the washing on a rack and push it into the heaters sort of thing. It was like a chamber, a bit of a chamber... not wide, only about eighteen inches wide with this rack on it which you used to hang all the clothing then just push it into the... where the heat was.

CR: That's interesting to know. And so when the area was bombed, what do you remember about that time? Were you still in the house when...?

HN: No, no luckily. We'd have been dead if we had been in the house. Er, we had air raid shelters built in the street.

CR: Were they on Jackson Street?

HN: No, no they was in practically every street had their own air raid shelter. They built, they built air raid shelters all over. Every street, more or less every street had air raid shelters.

CR: Ok, how many people could you fit into an air raid shelter? How many people would use your air raid shelter?

HN: Well, when they first built them they built small ones and about... me Mam and me Dad and, well me Dad used to be out with his hose pipe. He was what they called a Fire Warden, sort of thing, you know so if incendiary bombs dropped you know, nearby, they'd go and put the fire out and try and save a big fire and the house you know.

CR: So when you left Dale Street, where did you move to?

HN: We moved to Mark Street. That is where we got bombed out.

CR: Ok. And when you saw the clearances happening in the 1960s, after the war, how did you feel about the changes to the area?

HN: Well I suppose we were glad really because we had an old house and we wanted a bath and that sort of thing, you know, so...

CR: You wanted modern amenities?

HN: Yes. The houses was slums sort of thing [sic], you know. They were ready to be pulled down anyway and we wanted to get out but we was a bit careful where we wanted to go cos, you know, cos they were putting people out in Hattersley and Middleton and....

CR: Further away from the city centre?

HN: And the other side of Withenshaw, you know and all that and some... I worked in Trafford Park so I uh...

CR: You wanted to stay close to the area?

HN: Yes I wanted to stay, you know from the point of view of getting to work. Some who I worked with, they had to get three buses to get to work, you know, cos the Withenshaw wasn't very good with the bus service in them days and they was only building Woodhouse Park in the early Fifties so a lot of people moved into there and that's the problem. They had a job getting to work.

CR: Do you remember Holy Trinity Church?

HN: Yeah, I do, yeah I do. I'd never been in it, I never went in it. I've seen it and to be honest I don't think I've ever seen anybody going in it, but then again it is something that I might have forgotten, you but....

CR: And what do you think of the excavations that are going on today? Is it an interesting process for you to see people uncovering something that you can remember?

HN: Yes, oh yes it is very interesting and I do like this sort of thing you know. I do like it. I always try and squeeze in somewhere, you know, when there is something like this going on. Oh I do enjoy looking and seeing what they find. Hoping you'll find something successful!

CR: Well we hope we will be successful as well. Thank you very much for your time and thank you very much for talking to us today.

**Roger Hart**

Interview with Roger Hart (RH) conducted by Caroline Raynor (CR) on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2012. Roger lived on Vine Street for 16 years. The house occupied by Roger's family was just beyond the limit of the excavation work for the community project. Roger's family home on Vine Street was larger and better appointed than many of the other houses in area as the house was three storeys high and had four bedrooms.

RH: My name is Roger Hart, I was born in 1947, I am 64 years of age now and I lived on 24 Vine Street from birth until I was aged 16.

CR: What was it like living on Vine Street? What are your memories like? Are they pleasant memories?

RH: They were very pleasant memories. It was quite a wide street compared to the streets which go off it. One thing I do remember about Vine Street is that it had quite a lot of pubs.

CR: Can you remember how many pubs there were?

RH: There were probably about eight.

CR: That is quite a lot for one street.

RH: It is, and also a couple of them already had been closed down and they were rooming house.

CR: So, boarding houses for workers?

RH: Yes, yes.

CR: How big was your house and how many people lived in your house with you?

RH: There were my mother, father and us three lads. The house I lived in was quite a large house. It had two rooms downstairs plus a back kitchen. Two bedrooms on one level, a bedroom on a lower level and an attic, so it was a fairly big house.

CR: Ok, did it have a cellar?

RH: It had a cellar which was compartmented into two rooms which were below our living room and the parlour.

CR: And did you have heating, lighting and running water in the house? Did you have an outside privy or did you have a toilet inside the house?

RH: The... when I was born, and I can still remember we had gas lights and electricity didn't come until probably the mid-fifties.

CR: Somebody said that when television became popular that is when people started demanding electricity in their house, so that they could run their televisions.

RH: Oh, well yes. I do remember electricity going in, um, into the houses. It must have been underground and then they brought the cables up outside the houses and you could see where they went into the houses.

CR: And do you remember Holy Trinity Church, which is the church we are excavating at the moment?

RH: Yes, I do remember the church and I remember it being pulled down and that was roughly the mid-fifties.

CR: Did you ever get a chance to go inside the church? Were you a member of the Sunday school or did you ever use it for any purpose?

RH: No I don't remember going inside the church because my Sunday School was Union Hall which was at the top of the Vine Street towards Endham Street.

CR: And can you remember any of the other large public buildings in the area? For example, Leaf Street Baths? Did you ever use Leaf Street Baths or do you know anybody who did?

RH: Yes, we used the Leaf Street Baths many times. We used to go to Leaf Street to swimming, from school and I remember my first free pass which gave me a pass to er, to unlimited to the baths [sic] and I also remember a swimming baths which was next to Leaf Street Baths. I don't know if that had been bombed during the war but you could see the blue tiles of the pool.

CR: Oh right, ok. And how does it make you feel today, coming here and seeing lots people excavating buildings that you remember from your childhood?

RH: Well it is really nostalgic... to see the cobbles on the road which were tarmac-d over and I do remember the tarmacing.

CR: Does it seem strange that something you remember in your lifetime is now being classed as archaeology by a group of people?

RH: It is yes. I really can't get over that! The fact that I am something of a dinosaur!

CR: Not at all, but you have added a valuable voice to our idea of a living history in the area so thank you very much for coming here today and sharing your memories with us. It has been brilliant to meet you. Thank you.

### **Anthony Wallace Cross**

Interview with Anthony Wallace Cross (AWC) conducted by Caroline Raynor (CR) on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2012. Anthony Cross was one of the few people who visited the site who remembered the church when it was still standing. He used to play in the

derelict church as a small boy but could only remember a few details of the building and its interior. He also remembered the Catholic Apostolic Church.

AWC: Hello my name is Anthony Wallace Cross, born 19<sup>th</sup> of February 1942, at 33 Mona Street in Hulme.

CR: Excellent, what has brought you here today?

AWC: To have a nosey at the archaeological site and to bring back memories of when I used to be a child in this location and see this church, derelict, but having stood there I can also see the old houses and the streets around me as they was way back when.

CR: So, you were telling me earlier that you used to play in the ruins of Holy Trinity Church.

AWC: Yes.

CR: Can you remember anything about the church? The way it looked or.... when you were playing there.

AWC: Other than the fact that it was a sort of derelict, damp, dark church building that anybody would recognise and you see on old films of old churches and dark because of the Fifties and the smoke and the coal fires. It was past its sell-by-date. The war damage had just advanced its demise.

CR: And can you remember the church when it was still in use or was it always in ruins from when you were a little boy?

AWC: It was always in ruins. I never remembered it as a church that people went into. It was just this place that was derelict and was passing and it was always there and in those days there was a lot of derelict buildings around Hulme that had suffered war damage and was always great adventure playgrounds.

CR: Yes, I am sure it was a great adventure playground if you were small. Can you remember the Catholic Apostolic Church as well, which is one of the buildings we are going to go and look for next week?

AWC: Yes, that was also... it had a very small front which was on Stretford Road.

CR: Was it made of brick or stone?

AWC: It was stone. I always recollect it was very dark and sort of, well dark and dismal like any building of its time with all the pollution on. I never had any cause to go in that one.

CR: Was it still an actual standing, functioning church when you remember it?

AWC: No, it was...I do believe it was used as a dinner hall for the school dinners.

CR: Right, ok....



AWC: At some time but I never had any reason to have school dinners. I wasn't one of the unfortunate ones who was you know...

CR: Subjected to pease pudding?

*Laughs*

AWC: It was, I think school dinners was free meals and I never had free meals.

CR: So the street that you lived on – can you describe your house and how many people lived there with you at the time that you were growing up there?

AWC: Yes, I er, the house was two bedrooms, no toilet, um no bathroom or inside toilets etc. The toilet was in the backyard with a little wooden door on it and a sloping roof. Cold!

CR: Cobwebby?

AWC: Oh! It was always cobwebby! There was always a big nail stuck in the wall and on that I think you had a choice of the Manchester Evening news cut into little squares or the Evening Chronicle. I think the Chronicle used the better quality paper!

*Laughter*

CR: Excellent, well that's always good to know. So how many people lived in your house with you.

AWC: There was four people. There was my Grandmother, my Grandfather, myself and my sister.

CR: Ok, so you didn't live with your Mum and Dad?

AWC: Unfortunately because of family problems, we ended up living with the grandparents which I think a lot of children in those days went down a similar route. When the parents marriage didn't work out it was usually the grandparents that took responsibility.

CR: So you said there were no facilities in the house for washing, so you are another person who remembers and used Leaf Street Baths. Do you remember how much it used to cost to go and have a bath in Leaf Street?

AWC: Hmm. Good question. It does escape me, but I don't think it would be more than a shilling.

CR: Somebody said they thought it was thruppence?

AWC: Well, they may be a lot older than I am then. I'm going back to 1955 when I left school and it was a question of going out, you know, dance clubs etc which was the thing once you left school at fifteen and then you was working straight away so on

the Saturday you wanted to sort of put the best suit on and prepare for the girls for the Saturday night so you made sure you was first one in on a Saturday morning, while the hot water was still running hot!

*Laughter*

CR: And how did you feel about bathing in such a public environment? It's not something we do anymore. Ablutions are a very private thing these days, so to bath in that public environment how did it make you feel?

AWC: To be quite honest with you, I think when you compare those days in Leaf Street Baths with the open gyms, I, say, go for a shower now in an open gym and everybody is there in an open shower, they're all showering down and men and women they are not together they are segregated obviously, whereas in those days at Leaf Street Baths, every bath had its own cubicle.

CR: Ok, so you were shielded off.

AWC: Oh yes, it wasn't sort of 50 bath tubs in a row or as in a communal bath. It was a sort of cubicle where there was an attendant in charge, the bath was run, the soap and so forth and that was it. You went in, changed, you took your fresh clothes with you, cos you didn't want to go in your old clothes and come out in your dirty clothes again. But yeah it was no problem.

CR: And what do you remember about the other communal or public buildings in the area? Do you remember the names of any of the shops or public houses that people used in the area?

AWC: Ah well the Radnor was one of the famous ones.

CR: And which street as that on?

AWC: It was on Radnor Street- there is a clue in the name!

CR: Ok, I don't know the names of all the streets around here sorry, I'm not a local girl.

AWC: Yes, it was the Radnor pub and it was one of the highlights of Friday-Saturday because they had "turns" on and so forth, There was another pub in Bristol Street which is not too far away from here and that was called the Bristol pub. That was the site of one of the pop stars called Karl Denver of Wimoweh fame but you're too young to even remember that.

*Laughter*

CR: I don't know who you're talking about I'm afraid, but I will go and look it up. There used to be a pub called The Golden Eagle on the corner of the road where we're excavating. Do you remember that public house at all?

AWC: The Golden Eagle? Yes, yes, yes that was also one of the locals. I mean, you must remember Hulme is reputed to have had a pub on every street.

CR: Really?

AWC: And I mean, yes, I can believe it, although I was very young at the time for a lot of them but you were aware of them. But just digressing a moment, back to the old house – it was two bedrooms with a living room, a parlour, which you basically knew the parlours were reserved for the laying out of the people of the family who has died. It was one of these things they always did in the parlour. Then you had the cellar which was where the coal was stored and also in one corner, like a room on the side, was a built-in copper boiler, this shape (mimes motion with hands), which you boil the water in with a fire which went up into the chimney stack. And also where you had the tin bath, so prior to doing it posh in the big big bath, you know you had the tin bath. Which, the water was boiled on a Saturday night or whenever and yes, you had a bath in the coal cellar. It was good, it was clean. It was poor in Hulme but essentially it was clean.

CR: So now you've come back here today to look at the excavation, how does it make you feel that archaeologists have designated somewhere that you used to live in, as being part of the archaeological record?

AWC: I think it is absolutely brilliant! The sad part is that due to modernisation this particular site at the moment, within two to three weeks will be lost forever because the architects will move in and this will become just another solid mass for another monstrosity with a concrete and glass building on it. So...

CR: It is true that some of it will disappear....

AWC: It will disappear.

CR: But we are hoping that the contribution you are making today to our oral history project and the contributions that the community are making to the archaeology and the archive, through photography and film will help to maintain memories, even if the actual structures don't survive. So, you will be able to see this in an archive somewhere. I know it is not as good as seeing the real thing, but something will survive in one format.

AWC: If this were any other country this would be preserved as an archaeological site, for people to come and see how we used to live but unfortunately... oh don't get me talking politics... quick turn it off!

*Laughter*

CR: Well thank you very much for your time, it has been fantastic talking to you and thank you for your contribution to our project, it has been brilliant.

AWC: Thank you.

**Katherine Morris**

Interview with Katherine Morris (KM) conducted on the 14<sup>th</sup> of March 2012 by Caroline Raynor (CR). Katherine Morris is 62 years of age and was a resident of 118 Junction Street between 1950 and 1964. She wanted to volunteer on the excavation as this area was important to her and the memory of her family who were all also from Hulme. The Morris family were moved out of Hulme during the clearances in 1964.

KM: Hi my name is Katherin Morris and I was born the 3<sup>rd</sup> of October 1950 which makes me sixty two this year and I've come to the dig because I read it in the evening news and I thought... I'll go there because I lived at 118 Junction Street in Hulme which was torn down in approximately 1964.

CR: So when you lived at Junction Street can you describe what sort of house it was? Was it a two up, two down or was it one of the larger terraces? Did you have a basement or a cellar? And can you tell us how many people actually lived in the house with you at the time that you were growing up there?

KM: Yes, it was basically a two up and two down. You went in the front door into what we called the "lobby". There was a door on the left with... it was like a living room. You went through another door through to, it was like a kitchen with a big black range and then you went through to the scullery. If you come back out into the lobby, in front of the front door and up the stairs, there were two bedrooms. In the house lived, me mum, my dad and six children.

CR: So there were eight of you living in a two up, two down? How did you manage that? How did you work that spatially? Were the parents in one room and all the children in another?

KM: Er well the parents were in one room with the two youngest children and we shared – topped and tailed and there were like, three big sisters, Corina slept in with me Mam and Dad and so did Jimmy and our Mike slept in a single bed with us. There was no separate rooms in those days because we didn't have the room for it.

CR: It sounds like it was very close quarters for everybody.

KM: It was, very close quarters. Yeah...

CR: And what other sorts of amenities did you have in the house? How was your kitchen laid out? Did you have running water in the kitchen? Somebody pointed out that there was a pump on Vine Street. Was there still a pump on your street as well?

KM: No, not in Junction Street. As you walked from the living room into the kitchen there was scullery with an old pot sink on four iron legs and one cold tap and that was it.

CR: Ok, so presumably you didn't have an indoor bathroom and toilet? You had an outdoor toilet – a privy at the end of the yard?

KM: Privy at the end of the yard and a tin bath on the yard wall.

CR: Presumably the bath was brought into the house for people to use?

KM: Every Sunday.

CR? Every Sunday?

KM: Every Sunday... you were de-nitted and bathed.

CR: And did you all use the same bath water...

KM: Oh yes!

CR: ... or did you constantly boil fresh water for people to use?

KM: The oldest went in first, down to the fourth one. Then the little ones went in the small bath - a small plastic bath.

CR: And did you ever use Leaf Street Baths as well?

KM: Yes, we used to get sent there about once every two weeks because Mum had to do the washing as well. So we were sent there and we got a towel and a bit of soap for thruppence... old money, not new!

CR: And was that viewed as being good value for money at the time?

KM: No it was quite a luxury to have a bath to us because we had no money. But we used to go swimming regular [sic] because we all had free passes because we could swim so that was basically your bath.

CR: Right, ok. So today you've come along and you've been volunteering on the excavation and excavating part of the foundations of Holy Trinity Church, at the corner of Vine Street and New Stretford Road (Stretford New Road). Do you remember the church when it was still standing or had it already disappeared?

KM: In 1953 I was only three so I wouldn't have remembered.

CR: Ok, what about other public buildings in the area? Can you describe what it was like to live in the community, what amenities were available to the community as a whole? The library for example that is here today.

KM: We never used the library - there was a library at school. There was always a library because I went to Gaythorne Primary when I was a child and I went to Jackson Street School. It was south Hulme but they had books there. We used to use Leaf Street Baths a lot. We used to go to the York Picture House on a Saturday morning for a tanner - sixpence in old money. And we used to actually go to the Hulme Hip (The Hulme Hippodrome). My Dad became quite a famous wrestler in the area and he knew a lot of the circus people, especially Charlie Corrolli cos we used to call him Uncle Charlie and we used to get free passes to the circus. And, I'd forgotten about the circuses. The pantomines, yeah we used to go to the pantomime and when we got older we used to go up to the BBC which was at the side of the Hulme Hip and Brian Matthews who is on Radio Two now, does the sixties programme. He used to

comper the show. And we saw all the big groups in the sixties there... other places, I can't think of other places. Ooh Bamber Street Play Centre, that was St Ignacious – that was the other side of Hulme. We used to go there twice a week and we used to pay a penny to get in. They played the 60s records and you could make models out of plaster of paris. Yeah right, like we were going to make models when there was music on! Other places in the area? Well the community was people. It was people rather than places.

CR: We are also going to go and have a look for another church in the area which is on the other side of the Millennium Bridge now – the Catholic Apostolic Church – do you remember anything about that church at all? Was that still standing when you were living here?

KM: I don't.... I've never heard of it no...

CR: It was three blocks away from the church we are excavating at the moment and it was a much smaller structure. One gentleman said he thought it was made entirely of stone and not of brick. It was a very long, narrow church that faced onto Stretford New Road.

KM: Well we never knew it as Stretford New Road. It was just Stretford Road to us. Cos you know the clinic was still there. We used to go to the clinic to the dentist and he was a butcher! And The Zion Institute was next door and that was how we knew it, the clinic. But no, I don't remember the other church but I will certainly investigate it if you are going to do another dig there.

CR: Well the dig will be starting there next week. So you seem to have fond memories of growing up in this community even though resources were quite scarce and money was also scarce. When people were asked to move out of the area when the clearances happened, what was the general feeling in the neighbourhood?

KM: We were glad to be moving because looking back, it was a slum, an absolute slum! I mean, you couldn't deny it! The buildings were falling down and a lot of the places had took hits in World War II and the foundations were quite unsafe.

CR: You mentioned roaches and vermin...in the area

KM: Oh! Cockroaches! You used to get up in the morning if you were first up going in.... you always went into the kitchen because it was warm and you used to bang your feet on the floor so the cockroaches would scatter and that was before you went in! Cos you had a maiden round so you could dry your socks, you know, so you could have clean socks every day. One pair of socks and one pair of knickers, that was your lot so.... yeah and there was mice, rats, bugs on the wall! Oh god, it was awful! I was glad to move! But the sense of community when they pulled it down went with it.... absolutely devastated it.

CR: And obviously today we are working on a community project and there is a little bit of a sense of community developing in our own little area that we are working in. How does it make you feel to come back to the site and see us excavating part of an

area that you used to live in? And we're actually classing this as archaeology and living history... how does that make you feel?

KM: I feel quite proud that I have involved myself. Archaeology is something that I have been interested but actually my archaeology... where I lived... where my Auntie Irene lived not fifty yards from where this is taking place. I only wish it could be preserved for posterity!

CR: Yes, you are not the only person who has actually wished that. So coming back, just quickly, to Vine Street and Dale Street, do you remember the names of any of the shops or buildings on Vine Street and Dale Street at all?

KM: Not so much on Vine Street but on the corner of Vine Street and Chester Road... not Chester Road, sorry, Stretford Road, if you put Stretford Road on a vertical (gestures), was the Post Office – the main post office. I know cos I used to go and get my Dads pension there. The war pension. Opposite that, on the corner of Stretford Road and Leaf Street was Granelli's Ice cream which was a biggish thing and there was a cafe attached to that and there was a coffee bar because it was the Sixties. And Woolworths, we had a Woolworths and further down on the opposite side, same side as Vine Street was Mays the Pawn Broker – very popular on a Monday... put your Dad's suit in to pawn until the weekend. And further up was Pauldens which was burnt down, burnt down to the ground in '57, '58.

CR: Was that a department store?

KM: That was a department store and it was the place to go if you wanted to get clothes on tick for Whit Week. Opposite that was a shop I had completely forgotten about. Baby Fair, it was a baby shop and that is where I bought my first daughters pram from. I actually went back to where I used to live to buy my first pram. But there were loads of shops, I mean they went all the way from one end of Stretford Road to the other and right up Chorlton Road. Used to turn right up Chorlton Road and it was shops and shops. Not local shops though cos where I was born on Denton Street, there was house you would have taken for a house if it hadn't have been for a full window, and they were selling stuff in the window. Cos I used to go for me Nanna to get a quarter of tea in a little blue wrap or two ounces of sugar. I mean, you couldn't get that today. Whether it is a good thing or a bad thing, I don't know.

CR: Life has changed, makes life a little bit different. So just to sum up now, if you could think of a word or a phrase which summarises your time living in Hulme before the clearances, how would you summarise that?

KM: Two words. Very happy!

CR: Excellent, well I am glad to hear it. Thank you very much for coming today and volunteering on site and sharing your memories with us, it has been great meeting you.

KM: And you. Thank you very much.

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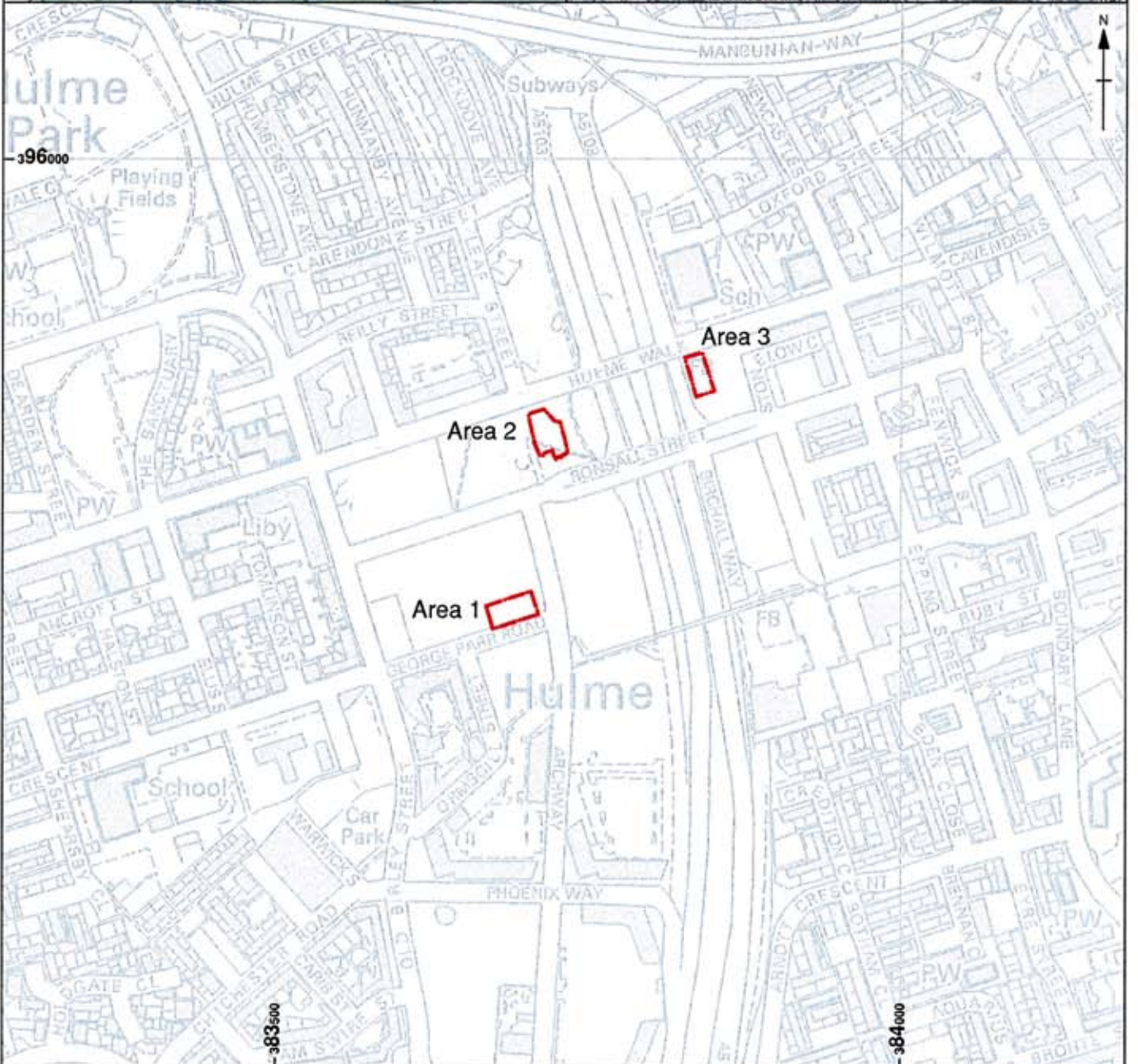
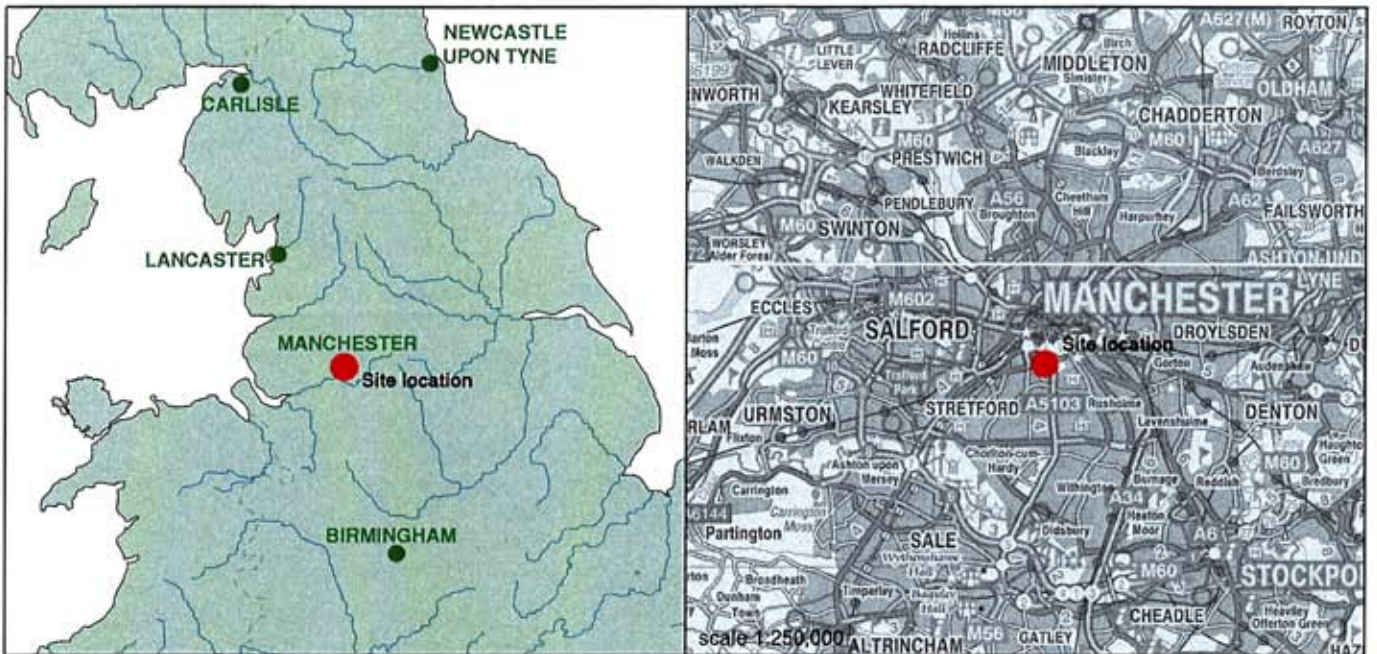
## ILLUSTRATIONS

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### FIGURES

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- Figure 2: Excavated areas superimposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851
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- Figure 4: Trench 2: Holy Trinity Church and Dale Street dwellings, superimposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1891
- Figure 5: Excavated detail of Holy Trinity Church
- Figure 6: Excavated details of cellars of 121 and 123 Dale Street





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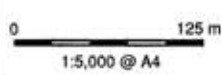


Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Excavated areas superimposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1851

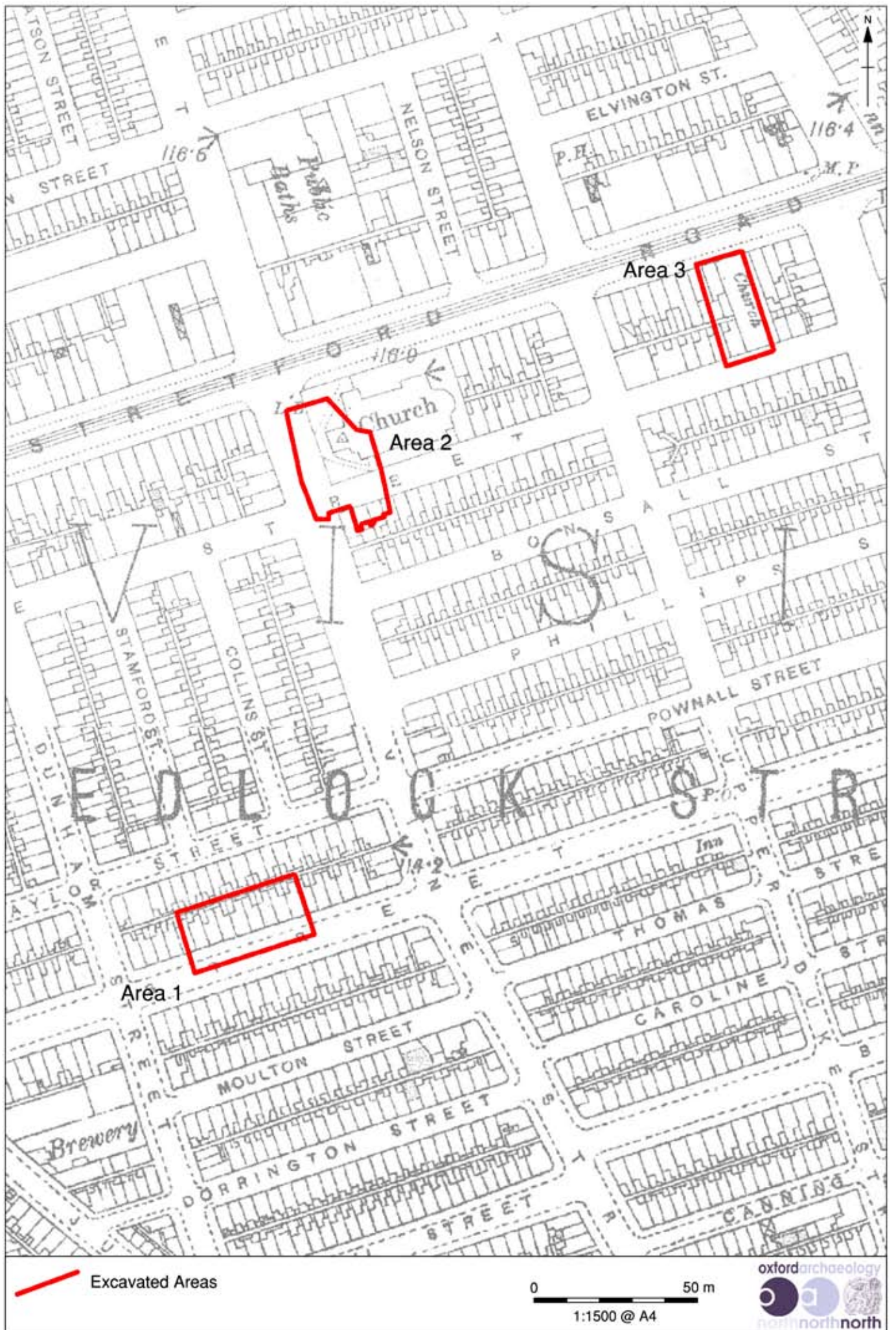


Figure 3: Excavated areas superimposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1896



Figure 4: Excavated remains of Holy Trinity Church and Dale Street dwellings in Trench 2, superimposed on the Ordnance Survey map of 1891

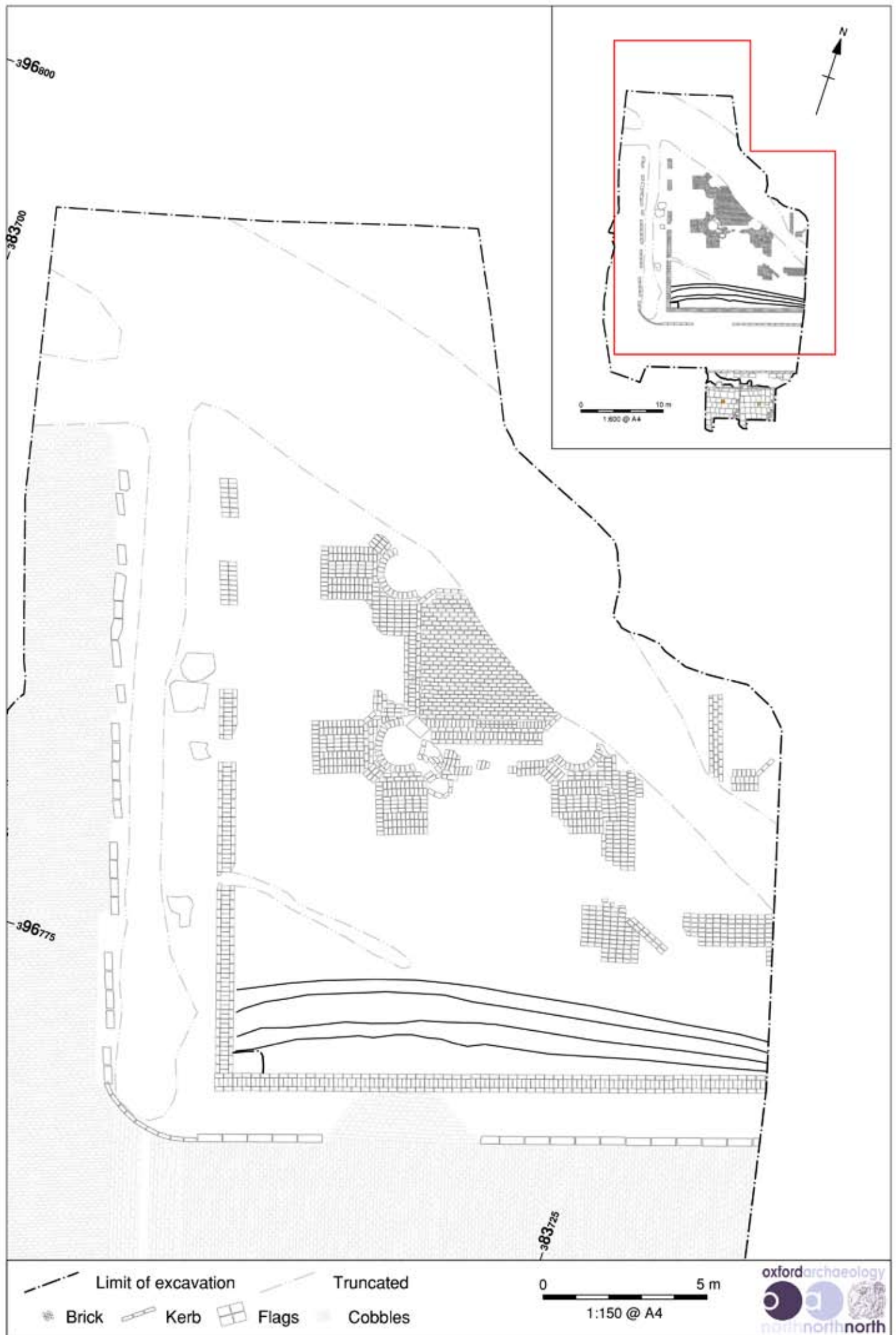


Figure 5: Excavated detail of Holy Trinity Church, Trench 2

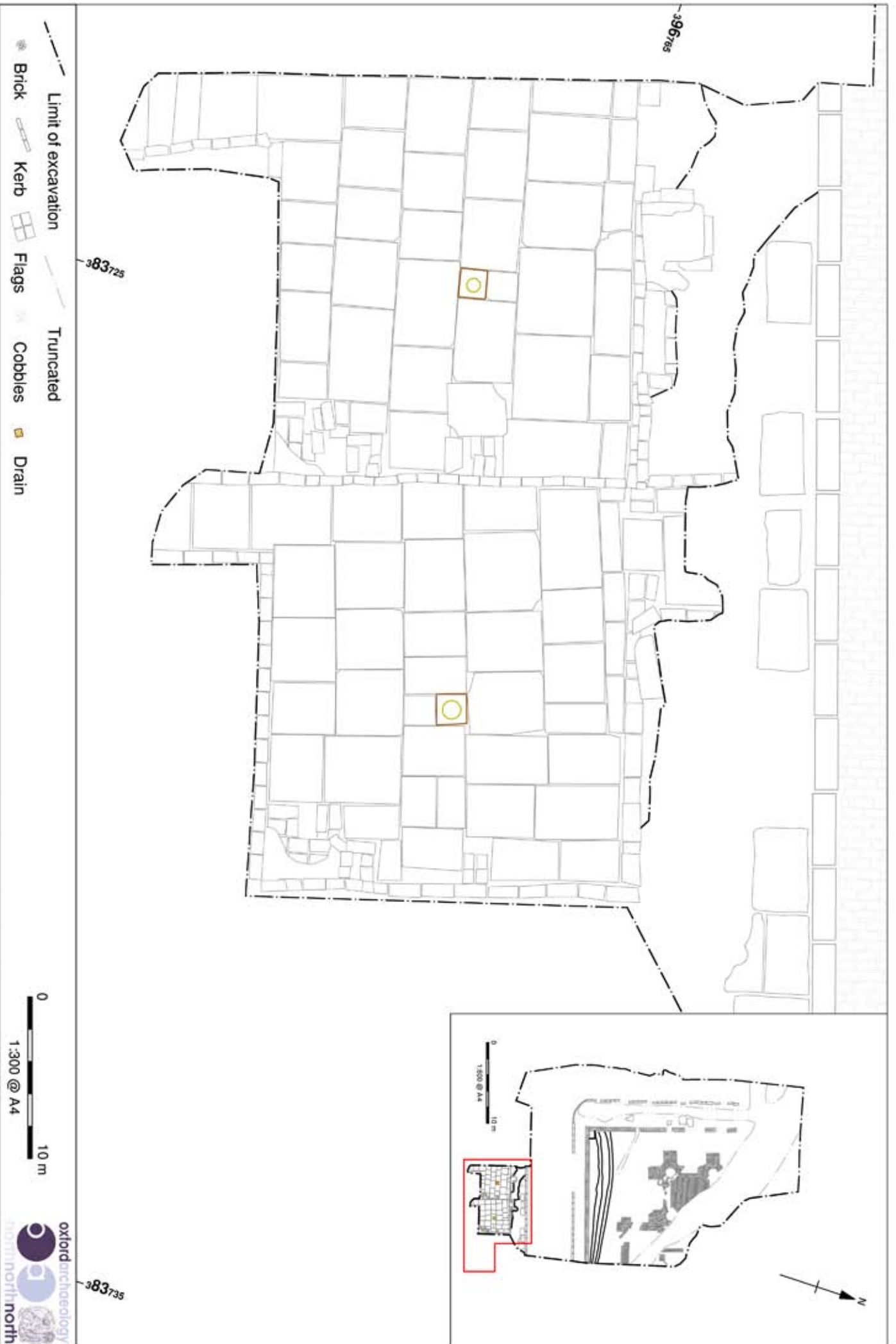


Figure 6: Excavated detail of cellars at 121 and 123 Dale Street, Trench 2