UNITED REFORMED CHURCH RELOCATION SITE, SCHOOL BROW, BURY, GREATER MANCHESTER

Archaeological Evaluation

Oxford Archaeology North

April 2006

Waterman CPM

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SUMMARY

Following approval of proposals by Thornfield Properties PLC for the relocation of the Bury United Reformed Church (URC) to a site on School Brow, Bury (NGR SD 8050 1095), the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester recommended that, in order satisfy Condition 10 of the planning consent, the site be subject to a programme of evaluation prior to development to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains. Accordingly, Waterman CPM produced a specification for an archaeological evaluation and, following submission of costs and a project design, Oxford Archaeology North were commissioned to undertake the work.

A previous desk-based assessment, undertaken by Waterman CPM in 2005, indicated that there were no known archaeological sites of great antiquity within the bounds of the development area, although several archaeological remains have been identified in the vicinity, such as Early Bronze Age collared urns and a barrow, located to the south-west. The site appears not to have been developed until the early nineteenth century, when the construction of rows of houses built along the Parson's Lane and School Brow street frontages took place. By the end of the twentieth century, these buildings were demolished and replaced by the current car-parking area.

The evaluation, carried out between 19th and 20th April 2006, included the excavation of two trenches, placed, as closely as the positions of modern services and a landscaped traffic island would allow, within the footprint of the new church building. The evaluation demonstrated that structural remains survive *in situ* within the southern part of the study area, close to the Parson's Lane street frontage. The earliest occupation phase was represented by an early nineteenth century east/west aligned stone wall. This was abutted along its northern edge by two short brick walls with associated flagged and cobble floor surfaces, that possibly dated to the later nineteenth century. Other remains encountered comprised a sloping cobbled surface representing an alleyway that ran from School Brow behind the rear of the houses known to have stood on Parson's Lane.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The evaluation was directed by Sean McPhillips, assisted by Ged Callaghan. The report and the finds summary was written by Sean McPhillips and the illustrations were prepared by Mark Tidmarsh. The report was edited by Stephen Rowland, who was also responsible for project management.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 Following approval of proposals (Planning Application 45026) by Thornfield Properties PLC for the relocation of the Bury United Reformed Church (URC) to a 0.12 ha site on School Brow, Bury (NGR SD 8050 1095; Fig 1), the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester recommended that the site be subject to a programme of evaluation in order to satisfy Condition 10 of the planning consent. It was envisaged that the results of the evaluation would determine whether any further archaeological investigation would be required. Accordingly, Waterman CPM (WCPM) produced a specification (*Appendix 1*) for an archaeological evaluation, which was approved by the Greater Manchester Assistant County Archaeologist. Following submission of costs and a project design (*Appendix 2*), Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) were commissioned to undertake the work. The evaluation, carried out between 19th and 20th April 2006, included the excavation of two trenches, placed within the environs of the footprint of the proposed building. All fieldwork was monitored by representatives of WCPM and Waterman Environmental (WE).

1.2 SITE LOCATION , GEOLOGY, AND TOPOGRAPHY

1.2.1 The site lies some 0.5km north-east of Bury town centre, centred on NGR SD 8050 1095. The current land use is of a council carpark, occupying an area bounded by Parson's Lane and School Brow to the south and south-west respectively and, to the north, by Peel Way (the A56 (Fig 1)).

1.2.2 The site is located on Lower Coal Measure sandstone, with overlying glacial clays and gravels forming the predominant drift geology. The site slopes gently downwards from approximately 97m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) in the north-eastern corner, to approximately 93m AOD along the southern edge of the site (WCPM 2005). The results of a recent geotechnical investigation undertaken by WE indicated that, beneath the 100mm thick tarmac surface of the carpark, there was between 2m and 6m of made-ground on site, before the natural drift geology was encountered (WE 2005).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 The fieldwork undertaken followed the method statement detailed in the approved project design (*Appendix 2*), and was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures provided by the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and their code of conduct. The presence of live services and of a landscaped traffic island meant that it was not possible to place the evaluation trenches where initially planned, although every effort was made to place the trenches as close as possible to their originally proposed locations, within the footprint of the church building (Fig 2).

2.2 EVALUATION TRENCHING

2.2.1 Each trench measured 6m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated down to the uppermost archaeological deposits by a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket operating under archaeological supervision. The same machine was then used to carefully define the extent of any surviving walls, foundations and other remains, after which all excavation was undertaken manually. The base and sides of each trench were hand-cleaned and recorded in an appropriate manner.

2.2.2 All information was recorded stratigraphically on OA North *pro-forma* recording sheets with accompanying plans and sections drawn at an appropriate scale. A photographic record, both of individual contexts and overall site shots from standard view points, was undertaken with digital and 35mm cameras on archivable black-and-white print film as well as colour transparency; all frames included a visible, graduated metric scale.

2.2.3 The precise location of the trenches, and the position of all archaeological structures encountered, was surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a pen computer data logger. This process generated scaled plans and sections within AutoCAD, which were then subject to manual survey enhancement. The drawings were generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale, and all information was tied in to Ordnance Datum.

2.3 FINDS

2.3.1 All finds recovered were bagged and recorded by context number, processed and stored according to current standard practice based on UKIC (1998) guidelines. The finds have been analysed by an OA North in-house specialist, and are discussed in *Section 4.3*. A summary finds catalogue is presented in *Appendix 4*.

2.4 ARCHIVE

2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 2*) and with the current UKIC (1990) and English Heritage (1991) guidelines. The paper and digital archive will be deposited with the Greater Manchester County Record Office within six months of completion of the project, while a copy of this report will be submitted to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER). The finds, where appropriate, will be deposited with Greater Manchester Museums Services.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1.1 ***Introduction:*** a summary historical and archaeological background of Bury is presented in order to place the results obtained from the archaeological evaluation into a wider context. Whilst considerable archaeological remains of varying dates have been identified in Bury (WCPM 2005), the prehistoric, Roman and medieval periods of the town's history are largely omitted here as they are of little direct consequence to the present study area. The historical and archaeological background has been compiled largely from secondary sources, although the sequence of available historic maps has also been examined.

3.1.2 ***Pre-modern Bury:*** the earliest known human activity within Bury dates to the Bronze Age and comprises a pair of collared urns and an associated dagger from Bury Grammar School and another collared urn to the south of St Mary's church, both sites to the south-west of the current development area (WCPM 2005). Medieval Bury is first mentioned in a charter of 1189 and St Mary's church, although substantially rebuilt in the nineteenth century, dates from the twelfth century (*ibid*). Bury's market, first mentioned in 1440, is likely to have been the focus of settlement, but excavations have demonstrated the presence of medieval iron working at the northern end of Butcher Lane, just to the south of the present development area (*ibid*).

3.1.3 ***Post-medieval Bury***: it seems likely that, until the turn of the nineteenth century, the proposed development area was agricultural land on the urban periphery. In total, four post-medieval sites recorded on the Historic Environment Record (HER) lie close to the development area, although none lie within the boundary of the site itself (*ibid*). These four sites comprise a short section of the town ditch, which was observed during groundworks south of The Rock (HER 3581.1.0); the site of a former seventeenth century rectory (HER 334.1.0), just to the south-west of the present development site; Bury Grammar School, which dates from the seventeenth century, again, just to the south-west (HER 360.1.0); and the site of the Rochdale Road Bus Station, which was built as a tram depot in 1906-7, but demolished in 1996 (HER 358.1.0). In addition, St Paul's Church and five other listed buildings are located around the site, the closest of which is the nineteenth century rectory constructed within the grounds of the former grammar school, close to the Church of St Mary.

3.1.4 The earliest cartographic depiction of the area is the Derby Estate Plan, which dates between 1780 and 1785. This suggests that the development site, which lies north of the principal thoroughfares, was undeveloped agricultural land at this time. Benson's Map of the Town of Bury (1845) (Plate 2) indicates the growing importance of industry to the town. This map clearly illustrates the development area, and the similarity between the shape of the present development area and the corresponding area of land on Benson's map is striking. The map shows the presence of a terrace of buildings along the entirety of the Parson's Lane street frontage. The line of these buildings then

turns sharply to the north-west, following the angle of the property boundary which, today is reflected by the alignment of School Brow and which, in 1845, appears not to have been a formal road. The northern part of the plot would appear to be either rough ground or gardens, while the blankness of the central area may suggest the presence of a communal yard for the Parson's Lane terrace.

3.1.5 During the second half of the nineteenth century, Bury saw large-scale urban and industrial development. By the publication of the second edition 6":1 mile Ordnance Survey (OS) map in 1910, there were at least a dozen textile mills (mostly cotton but also including wool and cotton waste) and two large iron foundries to the south and east of the development area. Despite this, little change appears to have taken place within the site during the intervening 65 years. The Parson's Lane and School Brow (now a formal street) terraces remain the same, with about three or four houses along those parts of the terraces that fall within the development area. The depiction of a steep slope down to the north is likely to explain the lack of development along the northern site boundary, while a single building with several associated smaller structures lies at the top of this slope, probably just outside of the western limit of the present development site. It would appear that the most north-westerly of the School Brow buildings were demolished as part of a large-scale post-War slum clearance scheme, but that the remaining buildings on the site were demolished as late as the 1990s, when the present carpark was instated.

4. RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 This section presents the results obtained from the programme of archaeological evaluation. In total, two evaluation trenches, each measuring 6m by 1.8m, were excavated (Fig 2). The results obtained from the evaluation of each trench are presented below.

4.2 THE TRENCHES

4.2.1 ***Trench 1:*** this roughly east/west aligned trench (Fig 3) was placed across the southern edge of the carpark, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.9m (92.16 AOD). The trench contained several stone and brick walls (Plate 1), some of which can be related to features depicted along Parson's Lane on historic mapping; natural deposits were not encountered within the trench area. All the structures in the trench were sealed by 0.55m thick deposit of dense demolition material (***107***) comprising crushed brick, glass and slate, sealed by hardcore levelling for the carpark tarmac surface. The demolition material probably derived from the destruction of the Parson's Lane properties during the late twentieth century.

4.2.2 An east/west aligned stone wall (***100***), located along the southern edge of the trench at a depth of 0.8m below the carpark tarmac surface, represented the earliest structure encountered on the site. The wall survived to one course and was constructed from limestone ashlar blocks (each measuring approximately $0.34m^2$), bonded with moderately compacted, sandy-lime mortar, typical of the early nineteenth century. Although the full thickness of the wall could not be determined within the confines of the existing trench, its position corresponded with the northern exterior wall of the Parson's Lane terrace, as shown on Benson's map of 1845 (Plate 2).

4.2.3 Wall ***100*** was butted at right angles along its northern edge by the upper courses of two brick walls (***101*** and ***102***) set 1.7m apart, and extending 1.4m across the trench. Each wall was 0.4m wide and constructed from frogged machine-cut bricks married with dark grey cement mortar. The walls were butted on each side by a flagstone surface (***103***), with each flagstone measuring on average 0.85m long and 0.37m wide. It would seem that walls ***101*** and ***102*** represent a small, late nineteenth century rearward extension, possibly for a toilet or privy. Several sherds of twentieth century pottery and a door knob were recovered above the floor surface, suggesting continued use of the structure well into the twentieth century.

4.2.4 Investigation within the central area of the trench indicated that flagstone surface ***103*** had been laid on top of dark brown humic silty-clay deposit ***105***, which measured less than 100mm in thickness and contained frequent clinker lumps and fuel ash waste, resembling a dump of rake-out from a fire. Deposit ***105*** in turn overlay a layer of orange-brown silty-clay (***106***) containing

frequent gravel inclusions. Clay ***106*** was probably deposited as part of a levelling episode prior to the installation of the flagstone floor.

4.2.5 A cobbled surface (***104***) located along the western edge of the trench and butting part of surface ***103***, probably represented an entrance to the rear of the building. The exposed surface was observed across an area of 1.5m^2 and comprised well-sorted tightly-packed lines of worn, rounded cobbles, that each measured on average 0.08m by 0.05m (Plate 3).

4.2.6 ***Trench 2:*** this north-east/south-west aligned trench was placed towards the centre of the carpark, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m below the modern ground level. Below a thick deposit of demolition rubble (***111***) comprising brick, mortar and slate (Plate 5), a cobbled road surface (***108***; Plate 4) was observed across the entire trench, gently sloping down at an angle from a depth of 0.60m below the tarmac at the western end of the trench, to 0.92m at the eastern end. The surface comprised small round and sub-rounded cobbles each measuring between 70mm to 90mm along the western edge of the trench and gradually becoming larger down the slope until they measured between 140mm and 190mm at the eastern end of the trench. These cobbles were set into a fine bedding layer of sand and ground clinker. This surface seemingly extended from School Brow and formed an alleyway behind the properties along Parson's Lane.

4.2.7 A 2m^2 sondage was excavated into the central area of surface ***108*** to determine the nature of the underlying deposits (Plate 6). Within the sondage and directly below the bedding layer for surface ***108***, a 0.2m thick band of orange/yellow gravel (***112***) possibly representing the putative remains of a yard surface or a track, was observed. Gravel ***112*** in turn sealed ***110***, a deposit of mixed silty-clay, which was exposed for a thickness of 1m, but continued below the limit of safe investigation. Both ***110*** and ***112*** were cut by the insertion of an east/west aligned ceramic drain ***109***, which was encountered at a depth of 1.6m below the carpark tarmac. The mixed clay fill surrounding the pipe contained pottery that dated to the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, although this material may be residual. The absence of later material within the drain cut may suggest that cobble surface ***108***, which appears not to have been cut by the drain, was possibly installed during the nineteenth century, but this date cannot be considered definitive. No other occupation layers or natural sub-soils were encountered in Trench 2.

4.3 FINDS

4.3.1 In total, 19 artefacts were retrieved during the archaeological evaluation (*Appendix 4*). The material largely comprised pottery fragments (14), with smaller numbers of iron (4), and glass (1) objects. Of the 19 fragments, four were recovered from stratified contexts, such as gravel layer ***106*** in Trench 1 and levelling episode ***110*** in Trench 2, whilst the rest were collected from demolition deposits across both trenches. All artefacts appeared to fall into a date range between the eighteenth to twentieth centuries, with the pottery fragments providing the most reliable dating evidence. Whilst the non-ceramic

finds, where they are datable, corroborate the pottery evidence, they have little other relevance for the results.

4.3.2 ***Pottery:*** in general terms, the pottery was in good, unabraded condition, and included several fragments from single vessels, indicative of contemporary dumping. It could be seen that only one fragment of tableware (from gravel layer ***106***) definitively dates to the eighteenth century, with larger quantities dating to the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The eighteenth century fragment comprised a thin-walled brown-glazed red earthenware cup. The later types include a thick-walled dark-glazed red earthenware jar, an industrial slipware plate fragment, an English brown stoneware jug and glazed white earthenware plates (from layer ***110***). One of the white earthenware dinner plate sherds was decorated with a blue transfer with a Broseley pattern.

4.3.3 ***Metalwork:*** the metalwork was in poor condition with many of the objects showing varying degrees of surface erosion and dense corrosion products. All the objects can be dated broadly to the nineteenth and twentieth century. Of the four objects, only one iron nail derived from a stratified context above cobble surface ***108*** in Trench 2. The rest of the objects were represented by an iron and copper alloy socketed multi-facetted Victorian-style door knob, an iron sash window latch, and a threaded iron ring/washer that were recovered from demolition deposit ***107*** in Trench 1.

4.3.4 ***Glass***: a single fragment of grooved window glass was recovered from deposit ***111*** below surface ***108***. The fragment can be ascribed a date of the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth century.

4.3.5 ***Conclusion:*** the finds are of interest as a small post-medieval assemblage from urban deposits. However, since the majority of the finds were from unstratified deposits, their value is limited.

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5. DISCUSSION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 The programme of evaluation trenching has revealed that buried remains of moderate archaeological significance and originating from around the turn of the nineteenth century survive within the proposed development area. The evaluation did not, however, contact the natural geology within the trenches. Excavation ceased at a safe depth, within dumped deposits beneath nineteenth century cobbled roadway ***108***. It is uncertain why such thick layers of made-ground were deposited prior to the construction of the post-medieval buildings, but it is possible that the state of the ground was such that considerable consolidation was required. It may not be coincidental that the large tract of land to the north-west of Parson's Lane has remained undeveloped until very recently.

5.1.2 Collectively, the physical and material remains have demonstrated that at least two phases were represented across the site. Phase 1 represents the late eighteenth to mid-nineteenth century during the probable construction of the properties along Parson's Lane and School Brow as shown on Benson's 1845 Town map of Bury. Phase 2 pertains to the period from the mid-nineteenth century including the extension of the building identified within Trench 1 and the demolition of the properties during the twentieth century, to the present day tarmac carpark.

5.2 RESULTS

5.2.1 ***Phase 1***: whilst it is possible that sherds of pottery dating to the late eighteenth century represent activity on the site prior to the construction of the properties in the early nineteenth century, the low pottery sherd count suggests that there was no occupation or dumping and, despite its unabraded state, it is possible that the pottery may have been imported within the made ground. The other stratified finds would support the interpretation that the earliest occupation of the site is represented by the excavated structural remains of wall ***100***, likely to equate with buildings shown on Benson's map (1845). The finds would also suggest that the use of these buildings was domestic rather than industrial.

5.2.2 The alignment of stone wall ***100*** in Trench 1 almost certainly represents the northern exterior wall of one such building along Parson's Lane. Its position bears an almost identical alignment to the standing properties in the adjacent plot to the north-east, and is probably of contemporary construction. The depth of stone wall ***100***, recorded at 2.2m below the modern road level along Parson's Lane, may indicate the location of a cellar within the building foundation. However, if this is the case, the subsequent demolition prior to the instatement of the modern carpark must have been extremely thorough. Furthermore, were wall ***100*** to represent the rear wall of a cellar, to produce the current ground levels, much of the demolition debris from the surrounding buildings would have been removed from the site, which, given the thickness

of the overlying demolition deposits upon which the current carpark is constructed, seems unlikely.

5.2.3 The maps suggest that the buildings erected on School Brow were slightly different in character to those of Parson's Lane, but neither the cartographic nor the archaeological evidence is sufficiently refined to establish a detailed chronology. In such an instance, it is tempting to suggest that, given the effort in preparing the site prior to its development, the two terraces are essentially contemporary in origin. It is, therefore, tempting to attribute any surfaces relating to access to the properties to this first, early nineteenth century, phase of activity. Gravel surface ***112***, in Trench 2, is likely to represent the initial communal yard surface for the terraces, which became formalised as cobbled surface ***108***.

5.2.4 ***Phase 2***: it seems more than likely that the majority of Phase 1 features continued in use in Phase 2. The building in Trench 1 was developed in the later nineteenth century with the insertion of a probable privy attached to the rear of the building, represented by walls ***101*** and ***102***. The position of this privy and the associated flag surfaces makes it highly improbable that wall ***100*** was part of a cellar. Although artefactual evidence is sparse, it is sufficient to suggest that the structures remained in domestic use into the twentieth century, although they may have been abandoned for some time before their demolition towards the end of that century.

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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT DESIGN

UNITED REFORMED CHURCH RELOCATION SITE, SCHOOL BROW, BURY,

GREATER MANCHESTER

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION:

PROJECT DESIGN

Oxford Archaeology North

April 2006

Waterman CPM

Planning Application:
Grid Reference: SD 8050 1095
OA North Tender No: L9689

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1.1 Waterman CPM (hereafter the 'client') has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit costs and a design for a programme of archaeological investigation to be undertaken in advance of the relocation of the Bury United Reformed Church (URC) to a site on School Brow, Bury, Greater Manchester (NGR SD 8050 1095), in accordance with the WCPM specification dated 20th March 2006 and approved by Greater Manchester Archaeological Service. The proposed development comprises the construction of a new church building covering an area 18.4m north/south by 22.4m east/west within the centre of the site, which currently covers a 0.12ha area of tarmac-covered carpark. The following document outlines the methodology for an archaeological evaluation to be undertaken within the proposed development area, and for the production of a report.

1.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

1.2.1 There are no known archaeological sites within the bounds of the development area, but a desk-based assessment undertaken by the Client on a site close to the present development area identified a number of archaeological remains within the vicinity. These include Early Bronze Age collared urns and a dagger from a possible ploughed-out barrow located on the site of the seventeenth century former Buy Grammar School, 100m to the south-west of the present development site. The site lies outside of the area of the medieval town of Bury and appears not to have been developed until around the first half of the nineteenth century, when rows of houses were built along the School Brow and Parson's Lane street frontages. Save for one or two smaller structures, the land to the rear of these properties appears not to have been extensively developed and, it is likely that the central area of the site, which will be the focus of the present evaluation, was used for yards and gardens. The buildings on the site were demolished and cleared at the end of the Second World War, before being replace by the current carparking area: it is possible that the thick deposits of made ground identified during recent geotechnical works on the site arise from demolition debris relating to this activity.

1.3 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY NORTH

1.3.1 Oxford Archaeology North has considerable experience of sites of all periods, having undertaken a great number of small and large scale projects throughout Northern England during the past 24 years. Evaluations, desk-based assessments, watching briefs and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables.

1.3.2 OA North has the professional expertise and resources to undertake the project detailed below to a high level of quality and efficiency. OA North is an Institute of Field Archaeologists **(IFA) registered organisation, registration number 17**, and all its members of staff operate subject to the IFA Code of Conduct.

2. OBJECTIVES

2.1 The following programme has been designed as an appropriate response to the development in order to assess the subsoil deposits within the development area to determine and, where necessary, record the presence, extent, nature, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits that may be threatened by the proposed development. To this end, the following programme of archaeological work has been designed. The results will provide information as to whether further mitigation works are required prior to, or during, ground works associated with the development. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:

2.2 ***Archaeological Evaluation**:* prior to the construction of church, to implement a programme of trial trenching within the centre of the carparking area, which represents part of the area to be occupied by the new building.

2.3 ***Report and Archive:*** a written report will assess the significance of the data generated by this programme within a local and regional context. It will present the results of the evaluation and would make an assessment of the archaeological potential of the area, and any recommendations for further work.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 EVALUATION

3.1.1 The programme of trial trenching will establish the presence or absence of any previously unsuspected archaeological deposits and, if established, will then test their date, nature, depth and quality of preservation. In this way, it will adequately sample the threatened available area.

3.1.2 ***Trench configuration:*** the evaluation will comprise the excavation of two trial trenches, each measuring 6m by 1.8m and placed, as closely as possible and where underground services allow, within those locations indicated by the client. The trenches will initially be dug to a maximum depth of 1.2m and any requirement for deeper excavation may require recosting. It is assumed that the plan of the proposed trench locations has been approved by Greater Manchester Archaeological Service.

3.1.3 ***Methodology:*** the topsoil and any modern overburden will be removed in 0.2m thick spits by machine (fitted with a toothless ditching bucket) under archaeological supervision to the surface of the first significant archaeological deposit or to the level of the natural drift geology. This deposit will be cleaned by hand, using either hoes, shovel scraping, and/or trowels depending on the subsoil conditions, and inspected for archaeological features. All features of archaeological interest must be investigated and recorded unless otherwise agreed by GMAS. The trenches will not initially be excavated deeper than 1.20m to accommodate health and safety constraints. Should it prove that made ground on the site exceeds 1.2m in depth, the client and GMAS will be consulted as to the necessity for deeper excavation within the bounds of the proposed development. If deeper excavation is required, with constant monitoring, it should be possible to continue machine excavation to any requisite depth beyond 1.2m, provided that no member of staff entered the trench and that a safe distance was maintained by all site staff. Should, at any time, the fieldwork director determine that the nature of the substrate is not sufficiently cohesive to support the trench sides during the machine excavation or, that it will be necessary for an archaeologist to enter a trench greater than 1.2m in depth, it will be necessary to step out the trenches to a width commensurate with their depth. Again, the Client would be consulted before any stepping was undertaken. Any requirement for deeper excavation and commensurate stepping may involve recosting as an agreed variation, as may any delays incurred while trying to contact the client.

3.1.4 All trenches will be excavated in a stratigraphical manner, whether by machine or by hand. Trenches will be located by use of GPS equipment, which is accurate to +/- 0.25m, or Total Station. Altitude information will be established with respect to Ordnance Survey Datum.

3.1.5 Any investigation of intact archaeological deposits will be exclusively manual. Selected pits and postholes will normally only be half-sectioned, linear features will be subject to no more than a 10% sample, and extensive layers will, where possible, be sampled by partial rather than complete removal. It is hoped that in terms of the vertical stratigraphy, maximum information retrieval will be achieved through the examination of sections of cut features. All excavation, whether by machine or by hand, will be undertaken with a view to avoiding damage to any archaeological features, which appear worthy of preservation *in situ*.

3.1.6 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system, adapted from that used by Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections, colour slides and monochrome contacts) to identify and illustrate individual features. Primary records will be available for inspection at all times. One long section of each trench will be drawn during the course of the fieldwork, and the locations of all features and layers will be tied into OS datum.

3.1.7 Results of all field investigations will be recorded on *pro-forma* trench and or context sheets, as appropriate. The site archive will include both a photographic record and accurate large scale plans and sections at an appropriate scale (1:50, 1:20 and 1:10). All artefacts and ecofacts will be recorded using the same system, and will be handled and stored according to standard practice (following current Institute of Field Archaeologists guidelines) in order to minimise deterioration.

3.1.8 ***Reinstatement:*** it is understood that there will be a basic requirement for reinstatement of the ground. The trenches will be backfilled so that the topsoil is laid on the top, and the ground will be roughly graded with the machine. Arrangement and undertaking of the reinstatement of tarmac within the area of the trenches, will be costed s a variation. The exact extent of this reinstatement will be dependent upon the necessity for stepping-out of the trenches. Should there be a requirement by the client other than that stated this will involve recosting for an agreed variation.

3.1.9 ***Fencing/hoarding requirements:*** following consultation with the client, it is understood that there will be a requirement for HERAS fencing for the site to be protected from public access. The cost of this HERAS fencing has been included within the costing document as a contingency on a weekly basis. It is assumed that there will be no requirement for fencing following backfilling of the trenches and during the reinstatement of the tarmac surface.

3.1.10 ***Environmental Sampling:*** environmental samples (bulk samples of 30 litres volume, to be sub-sampled at a later stage) will be collected from stratified undisturbed deposits and will particularly target negative features (gullies, pits and ditches). Any assessment of the environmental potential of the site would be undertaken through the examination of suitable deposits by the in-house palaeoecological specialist, who will examine the potential for further analysis.

3.1.11 The assessment would include soil pollen analysis and the retrieval of charred plant macrofossils and land molluscs from former dry-land palaeosols and cut features. In addition, the samples would be assessed for plant macrofossils, insect, molluscs and pollen from waterlogged deposits.

3.1.12 The costs for the palaeoecological assessment are defined as a contingency and will only be called into effect if good deposits are identified and will be subject to the agreement of GMAS and the Client.

3.1.13 ***Faunal remains:*** if there is found to be the potential for discovery of bones of fish and small mammals, a sieving programme will be carried out. These will be assessed as appropriate by OA North's specialist in faunal remains, and subject to the results, there may be a requirement for more detailed analysis. A contingency has been included for the assessment of such faunal remains for analysis.

3.1.14 ***Human Remains****:* any human remains uncovered will be left *in situ*, covered and protected. No further investigation will continue beyond that required to establish the date and character of the burial. GMAS and the local Coroner will be informed immediately. If removal is essential, the exhumation of any funerary remains will require the provision of a burial license from the Department of Constitutional Affairs, under section 25 of the Burial Act of 1857. An application will be made by OA North for the study area on discovery of any such remains and the removal will be carried out with due care and sensitivity under the environmental health regulations. The cost of removal or treatment will be agreed with the client and costed as a variation.

3.1.15 ***Treatment of finds:*** all finds will be exposed, lifted, cleaned, conserved, marked, bagged and boxed in accordance with the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) *First Aid For Finds*, 1998 (new edition) and the recipient museum's guidelines. Metal finds from stratified deposits will be x-rayed. The cost of conservation has been included as a contingency, which will be agreed with the client.

3.1.16 All identified finds and artefacts will be retained, although certain classes of building material can sometimes be discarded after recording if an appropriate sample is retained on advice from the recipient museum's archive curator. A metal detector will be used to scan spoil heaps for non-ferrous metal artefacts.

3.1.17 ***Treasure:*** 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. Where removal cannot take place on the same working day as discovery, suitable security will be employed to protect the finds from theft.

3.1.18 ***Contingency plan:*** a contingency costing may also be employed for unseen delays caused by prolonged periods of bad weather, vandalism, discovery of unforeseen complex deposits and/or artefacts which require specialist removal, use of shoring to excavate important features close to the excavation sections etc. This has been included in the Costings document (previously provided) and would be charged in agreement with the client.

3.1.19 The evaluation will provide a predictive model of surviving archaeological remains detailing zones of relative importance against known development proposals. In this way, an impact assessment will also be provided. In the unlikely event of this project design being an insufficient basis for the treatment of the archaeological remains on site, a more specific strategy will be designed in consultation with GMAS and the Client.

3.2 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

3.2.1 ***Report:*** one bound and one unbound copy of the final report will be submitted to the client within two months of completion of fieldwork. Should the client require a draft report, an interim statement can be provided on request, within three weeks of the completion of each stage of the programme of work. Digital and paper copies of the report will be submitted to the Greater Manchester SMR, as required. The report will include:

- a site location plan related to the national grid
- a front cover to include the planning application number and the NGR
- the dates on which each phase of the programme of work was undertaken
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results
- an explanation to any agreed variations to the brief, including any justification for any analyses not undertaken
- a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained
- plans and sections at an appropriate scale showing the location and position of deposits and finds located during the watching brief and excavation, as well as sites identified during the desk-based assessment
- monochrome and colour photographs as appropriate
- a list, and dates, for any finds recovered along with a description and interpretation of the deposits identified

- a description of any environmental or other specialist work undertaken and the results obtained

- a summary of the impact of the development on any archaeological remains and, where possible, a model of potential archaeological deposits within as-yet unexplored areas of the development site

- a copy of the WCPM specification and of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design

- the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.

3.2.2 This report will be in the same basic format as this project design; a copy of the report can be provided in .pdf format on CD, if required. Recommendations concerning any subsequent mitigation strategies and/or further archaeological work following the results of the field evaluation will be provided in a separate communication.

3.2.3 ***Confidentiality:*** all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

3.2.4 ***Archive:*** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The project archive will include summary processing and analysis of all features, finds, or palaeoenvironmental data recovered during fieldwork, which will be catalogued by context.

3.2.5 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is essential and archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Greater Manchester SMR (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects with the appropriate Record Office.

3.2.6 All artefacts will be processed to MAP2 standards and will be assessed by our in-house finds specialists. The deposition and disposal of any artefacts recovered in the evaluation will be agreed with the legal owner and an appropriate recipient museum. Discussion regarding the museum's requirement for the transfer and storage of finds will be conducted prior to the commencement of the project, and GMAS will be notified of the arrangements made.

3.2.7 ***Publication***: A brief summary report of fieldwork, to appear in the Council for British Archaeology North West *Archaeology North West* will be produced, even when the fieldwork encountered no archaeological deposits. This will be sent to the editor of Archaeology North West in accordance with the standard format for summary reporting, and in time for it to appear within a calendar year of the completion of fieldwork.

4. HEALTH AND SAFETY

4.1 OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Unit Safety policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers (1997). A written risk assessment will be undertaken in advance of project commencement and copies will be made available on request to all interested parties.

4.2 Full regard will, of course, be given to all constraints (services etc) during the fieldwork as well as to all Health and Safety considerations. **Information regarding services within the study area have been received and will be used during the course of the evaluation.**

5. PROJECT MONITORING

5.1 Whilst the work is undertaken, full liaison, as appropriate, will be maintained with the client, so that they can keep GMAS fully informed of the work and its results, and will be notified a week in advance of the commencement of the fieldwork. After submission, any proposed changes to the project design will be agreed with GMAS in consultation with the client. Fieldwork will be monitored by GMAS on behalf of the developer.

6. WORK TIMETABLE

6.1 EVALUATION TRENCHING

6.1.1 Approximately two days will be required to complete this element.

6.1.2 OA North can execute projects at very short notice once an official order/confirmation has been received from the client. A team could mobilise with one to two weeks notice (to allow the necessary arrangements to be made to commence the task).

6.2 REPORT

6.2.1 Where possible, copies of the report, as outlined in *Section 3.2.1*, will be issued to the client and other relevant parties within two weeks of the completion of fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed prior to the commencement of fieldwork. If, for any reason, it is not possible to meet the two week deadline, an interim report will be issued.

6.3 ARCHIVE

6.3.1 The archive will be deposited within six months following submission of the report, unless otherwise instructed.

7. STAFFING

7.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Stephen Rowland** (OA North Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. The finds will be processed, studied and reported upon, either by, or under the guidance, of **Chris Howard-Davies** (OA North Finds Manager) who has extensive experience of finds from all periods, but particularly prehistoric and Roman material. All environmental sampling and assessment will be undertaken under the auspices of **Elizabeth Huckerby** (OA North Environmental Manager) who has unparalleled experience of palaeoenvironmental work in the North West and who heads an excellent team of environmental archaeologists. Any faunal remains will be studied by **Andrew Bates** (OA North Project Officer), who has a large amount of experience in undertaking the assessment and analysis of faunal assemblages of all sizes from a wide range of periods and locations. Any human remains are likely to be examined by **Ceri Boston** (OA South Project Officer). The evaluation team will be supervised by Sean McPhillips, OA North Project Officer, who will be accompanied by an assistant. All OA North Project Officers and Supervisors are experienced archaeologists capable of undertaking small-, medium- and large-scale projects in a range of urban and rural situations.

8. INSURANCE

8.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £5,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

9. REFERENCES

English Heritage, 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, second edition, London

Middleton, R, Wells, CE and Huckerby, E, 1995 *The Wetlands of North Lancashire*, North West Wetlands Survey **3**, Lancaster

SCAUM (Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers), 1997 *Health and Safety Manual*, Poole

UKIC, 1990 *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archives for Long-Term Storage*, London

UKIC, 1998 *First Aid for Finds*, London

APPENDIX 3: SUMMARY CONTEXT LIST

Context	Trench	Description
100	1	East/west aligned north exterior stone wall associated with building along Parson's Lane
101	1	North/south aligned brick wall butting ***100***
102	1	North/south aligned brick wall butting ***100***
103	1	Flagstone surface
104	1	Cobbled surface in north-west corner of trench
105	1	Dark brown silty-clay butting ***101***
106	1	Orange silty-clay with gravel inclusions below ***105***
107	1	Demolition material
108	2	Cobble surface
109	2	Ceramic land drain
110	2	Silty-clay make-up layer below ***108***
111	2	Demolition material above ***108***
112	2	Gravel surface below ***108***
113	1	Construction cut for wall ***102***

APPENDIX 4: FINDS SUMMARY

Context	Trench	Quantity	Material	Description	Date
106	1	1	Pottery	Blackware	Eighteenth century
107	1	11	Pottery	Dark-glazed red earthenware, English brown stoneware (2), glazed white earthenware (5), spool (1), unglazed red earthenware flower pot	Eighteenth to twentieth century
107	1	4	Iron	Door knob, window latch, rings (2)	Nineteenth century
108	2	1	Iron	Nail	Not datable
110	2	3	Pottery	English stoneware, glazed white earthenware (2)	Eighteenth to nineteenth century
111	2	1	Glass	Grooved window glass	Twentieth century

ILLUSTRATIONS

Figures

Plates

Figure 1: Site Location

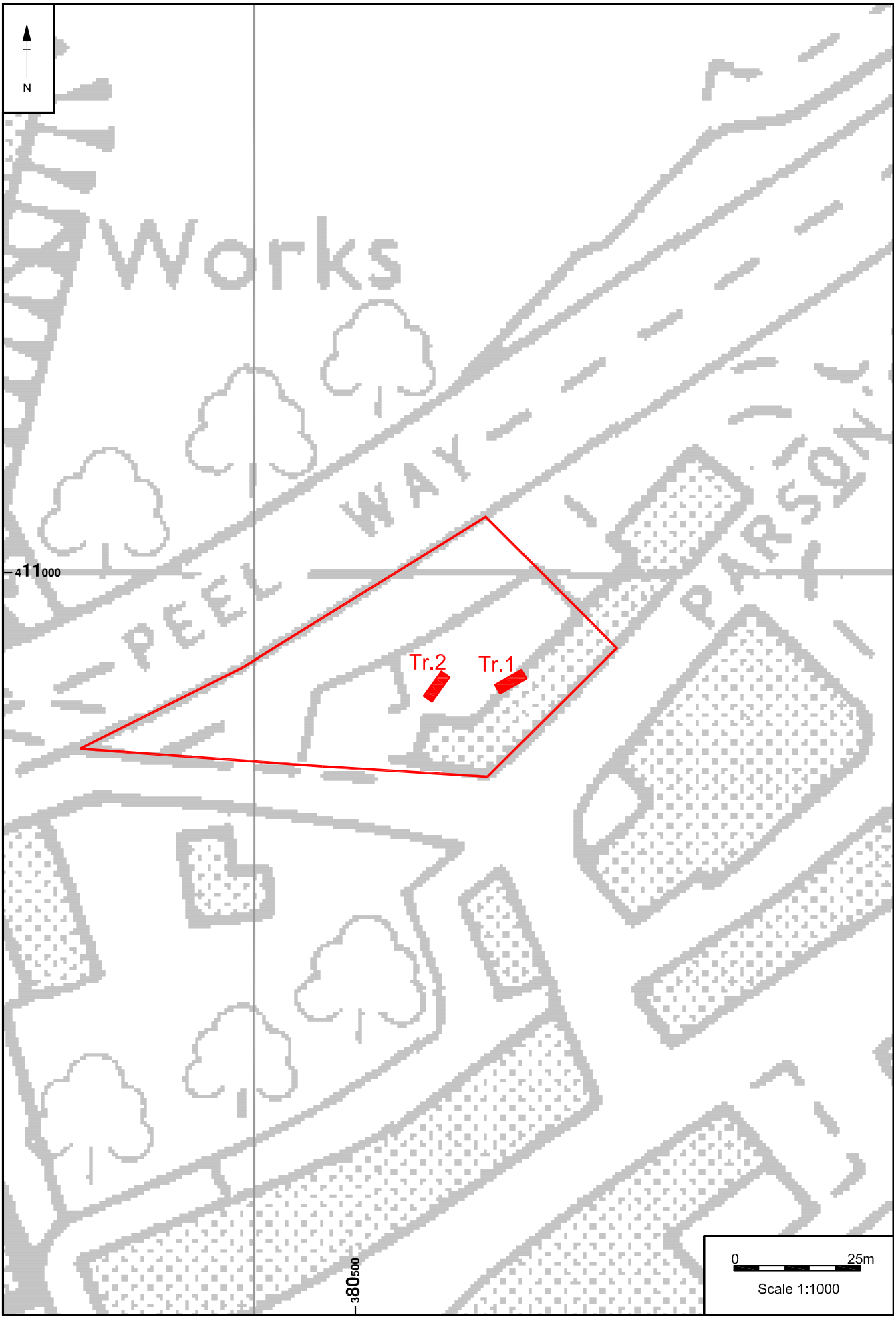

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Figure 2: Trench location plan

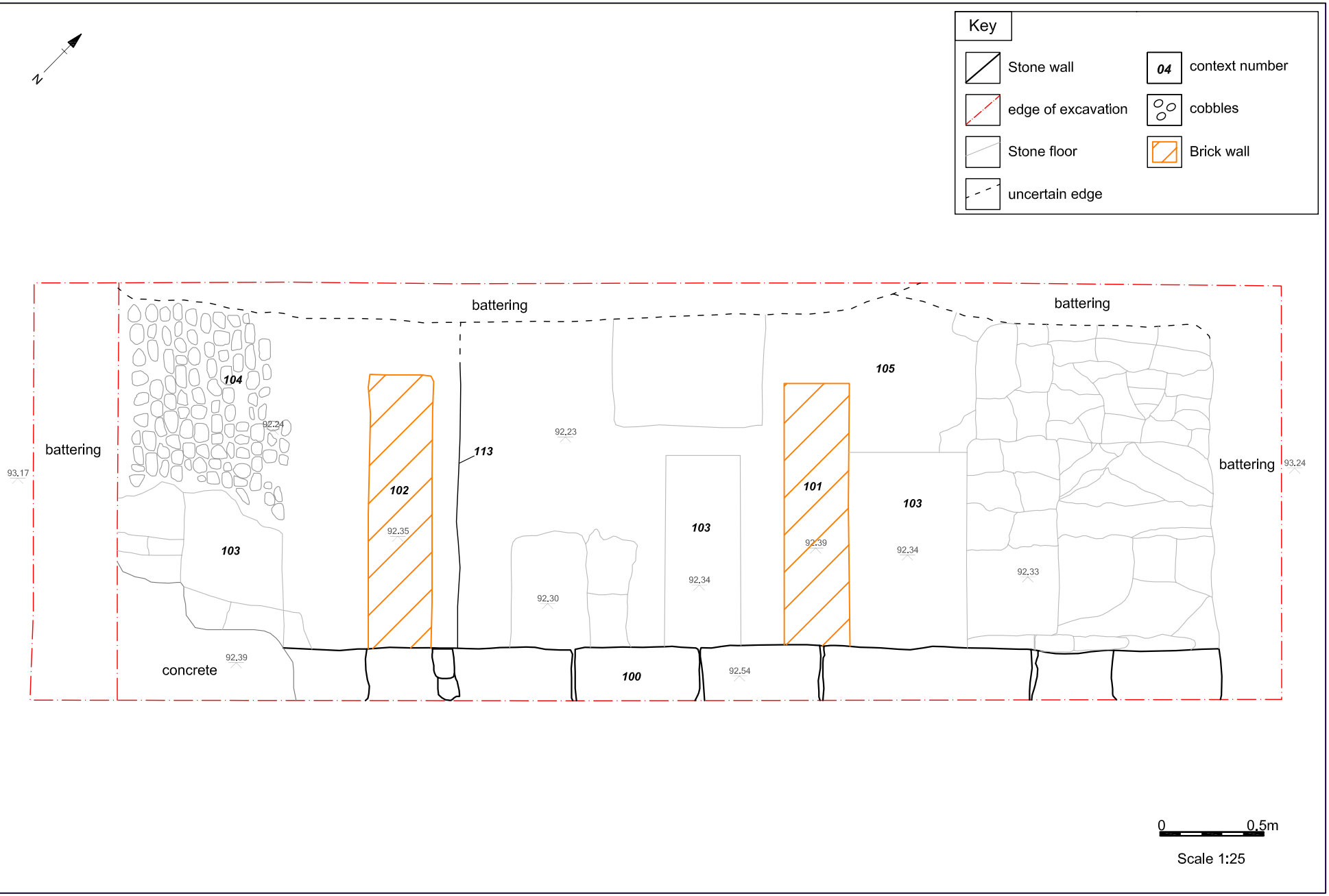

Figure 3: Detailed plan of Trench 1

Plate 1: Walls within Trench 1, looking south-west

Plate 2: Extract of Benson's Map of the Town of Bury produced in 1845, showing line of properties along Parsons Lane

Plate 3: Cobble surface ***104*** in Trench 1, looking west

Plate 4: Cobble surface ***108*** in Trench 2, looking north-east

Plate 5: North-facing section through Trench 2, showing depth of demolition material ***111*** above surface ***108***

Plate 6: Deposits within sondage below surface ***108*** in Trench 2