



# Canon Green Court, Salford, Greater Manchester Archaeological Evaluation, Strip, Map and Record, and Watching Brief Report

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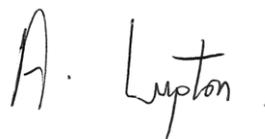
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Prepared by: Andrew McGuire, Supervisor  
Checked by: Stephen Rowland, Project Manager  
Edited by: Stephen Rowland, Project Manager  
Approved for Issue by: Alan Lupton, Operations Manager  
Signature:



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**OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford  
OX2 0ES

t. +44 (0)1865 263 800

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridge  
CB23 8SG

t. +44 (0)1223 850 500

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane Mills  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster  
LA1 1QD

t. +44 (0)1524 880 250

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

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**Canon Green Court, Salford, Greater Manchester**  
***Archaeological Evaluation, Strip, Map and Record, and***  
***Watching Brief Report***

*Written by Andrew McGuire*

*With illustrations by Mark Tidmarsh*

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## Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Willmott Dixon Construction Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation on land at Canon Green Court, Salford, Greater Manchester (centred on NGR SJ 83130 99020; Planning reference: 18/71538/FUL ). The work was informed by a desk-based assessment, which indicated that the development area had previously been occupied by early nineteenth-century housing, and by a Public Baths dating to the late nineteenth century.

The programme of archaeological works, undertaken in February and March 2019, initially comprised a programme of watching brief to monitor the removal of a large heap of demolition debris. That was followed by archaeological evaluation, with five trenches targeting the remains of the former bathhouse and housing. On the basis of the results obtained, and in consultation with Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, strip, map and record investigation was undertaken in two areas where there was good preservation of archaeological remains.

Although the works were somewhat restricted by the presence of asbestos in parts of the former bathhouse, by differing levels associated with the terracing of the site, and hampered by a period of intensely bad weather, it was possible to make a good record and further an understanding of the remains. The first phase of activity comprised the brick-built remains of early nineteenth-century domestic structures and a possibly contemporary brick-lined well. These structures seem to have been associated with the domestic properties along Green Bank and Green Bank Court, which were subsequently demolished in the late nineteenth century to enable the construction of the public baths.

The remains of the bathhouse, which could be recognised due to their alignment, were superimposed over the earlier structures, generally cutting across them rather than removing them entirely. The exposed elements of the bathhouse would appear to comprise ancillary areas, with any pools lying to the south and/or west, partially beyond the limit of development impact, and partially within an area that could not be accessed safely.

## Acknowledgements

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The fieldwork was directed by Andrew McGuire and Anne Templeton, who were supported by Jonny Milton, James Hodgson, Emma Fishwick and Stephen Morgan. Survey and digitisation were carried out by Andrew McGuire, Stephen Morgan and Mark Tidmarsh. The finds were examined by Christine Howard Davis. The project was managed for Oxford Archaeology by Stephen Rowland.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) North was commissioned by Willmott Dixon Construction Limited to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation on land at Canon Green Court, Salford, Greater Manchester (centred on NGR SJ 83130 99020). This was informed by a desk-based assessment which identified several non-designated heritage assets of potential regional and/or local significance (OA North 2018a). These assets included the below-ground remains of early nineteenth-century housing, and a former public baths dating to the late nineteenth-century.

1.1.2 The work was undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (planning reference: 18/71538/FUL). Planning permission was sought to redevelop two extant apartment buildings (Westminster House and Canon Green Court) within the site area, and to construct a new tower block on land between Canon Green Drive and Blackfriars Road. Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), which provides archaeological advice to Salford City Council, recommended that a programme of archaeological investigation of the site was merited in advance of development. Salford City Council thus attached a series of conditions to planning approval. One of these conditions (Condition 6) aimed to secure archaeological interests, and reads:

With the exception of the approved refurbishment works to Westminster House and Canon Green Court, no development shall take place, including any works of excavation or demolition, until a programme of archaeological works in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The development shall not be occupied until the programme of archaeological works has been completed in accordance with the approved WSI. The WSI shall cover the following:

(a) A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording to include:

- targeted field evaluation trenching
- (depending upon the evaluation results) a strip map and record exercise
- targeted open area excavation

(b) 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.

(c) Provision for publication and dissemination of the analysis and report on the site investigation.

(d) Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds and records of the site investigation.

(e) Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.

Reason: To protect the significance of any archaeological remains on the site in accordance with Policy CH5 of the city of Salford Unitary Development Plan and the National Planning Policy Framework.

1.1.3 In response to those conditions, OA North compiled a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; OA North 2018b) for an archaeological evaluation across the proposed development site. The document was approved by GMAAS, who agreed the scope of subsequent works by email. This report outlines how OA implemented the specified requirements.

## 1.2 Location, topography and geology

1.2.1 The study area lies 1.3km to the north-west of the centre of Manchester, within the historic township of Salford (Fig 1). The development area is defined to the north-east by Blackfriars Road, which connects Broughton Bridge with Blackfriars Bridge and traverses a meander (occupied by Salford) in the River Irwell. The site occupies a block of land defined by West King Street, St Stephen Street, and Blackfriars Road. It is bisected by the mid- twentieth-century Canon Green Drive, which replaced streets laid out in the early nineteenth-century (including Ravald Street and Broughton Street; OA North 2018a).

1.2.2 **Topography:** the Manchester conurbation lies within an undulating lowland basin, which is bounded by the Pennine uplands to the east and to the north. The region comprises the Mersey river valley, with the Rivers Irwell, Medlock, and Irk representing the principal watercourses (Countryside Commission 1998, 125). The site area is situated within a bend in the River Irwell c 500m to the north of Salford City Centre.

1.2.3 The natural topography of the area has been heavily masked by modern development, although archive sources and cartographic evidence allow some reconstruction of the natural landscape to be made. A map of the area by William Green (1794) shows a high river terrace named 'Shaw Brows'; this extended from the western part of the bend in the River Irwell and, taking in the site area, along the northern part of the present Blackfriars Road. An empty plot shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1845, between Briggs and Canon Streets to the south-west of Richmond Hill (on Richmond Street) shows there to be a steep slope which was presumably a barrier to early development.

1.2.4 **Geology:** the solid geology of the area comprises Carboniferous sedimentary material and 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). The natural soils of the area are wet, acidic and sandy, characteristic of damp low-lying riverside heathland (Cranfield University 2018).

### 1.3 Archaeological and historical background

- 1.3.1 The desk-based assessment (OA North 2018a) should be consulted for a full appraisal of the archaeological and historical background of the site, which is otherwise summarised in the following paragraphs. The Site remained undeveloped farmland in the late eighteenth century when it is shown on Green's (1794) map of Manchester as fields. Pigot's map of 1809, Johnson's map of 1820, and Swire's map of 1824 show that streets have been laid out and blocks of terraced housing built. Banks and Co's map of 1831 illustrates a mixture of terraced and back-to-back workers housing on Raval Street and back-to-back housing to the north and south of Green Bank. Beyond this central area of Raval Street and Green Bank (which corresponds largely with the houses demolished in the 1870s), the houses seem mainly to have been larger terraces with rear yards. Some areas with larger buildings and yards seem to indicate small workshops and industrial areas with infill of houses around them.
- 1.3.2 The Site Area lies adjacent to Blackfriars Road, which was constructed in the 1870s to replace Broughton Road, formerly the main road between Salford and Broughton, which crossed the Irwell at Broughton Bridge and Blackfriars Bridge. When Blackfriars Road was built, between Broughton Bridge and Exchange Station, several areas of terraced housing/back-to-back cottages and other buildings were demolished along its proposed route, including within the Site Area, where a public baths was opened in 1880, fronting onto the new Blackfriars Road. Several streets of terraced housing which survived demolition in the late nineteenth-century were demolished in the 1950s, prior to the development of the presently extant buildings on the site.

## 2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The main aims of the archaeological investigations were:

- i To undertake a watching brief in order to determine the presence of archaeological remains during specific preparatory groundworks;
- ii to undertake a programme of intrusive investigation in order to determine the presence, character, date, and extent of any buried archaeological remains;
- iii to inform any further archaeological mitigation ahead of the development groundworks;
- iv to expose and undertake targeted investigation of significant archaeological remains within the development footprint;
- v to compile an archival record of any archaeological remains observed within the development area.

### 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 **Watching Brief:** this phase of works took place in February 2019 during preparatory groundworks ahead of any archaeological excavations. These preparatory works included:

- the removal of large heap of demolition debris (up to 4-5m high) across much of the north, east and central extent of the development site; and
- the removal of surface material up to a depth of 0.5m in order to consolidate an area ahead of the installation of a site compound and associated facilities within the western part of the site.

2.2.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered, groundworks were halted and the remains were cleaned and recorded using standard methodologies (*Section 2.3*). The results of these findings are included within *Appendix A* and *Section 3.4*.

2.2.3 **Evaluation:** this phase of works, undertaken in February and March 2019, comprised the excavation of five evaluation trenches, targeted across the footprint of buildings depicted on historic mapping (Fig 3). The positions of the five trenches essentially followed the dimensions and layout of the three trenches set out in the WSI (OA North 2018b), except that, due to the site constraints, the two proposed L-shaped trenches were broken up into straight lengths. The five trenches were as follows:

- *Trench 1:* measured 20 x 2m and was aligned approximately north/south across the site of former housing and commercial properties;
- *Trench 2:* measured 7 x 2m was and aligned approximately east/west from the north-west corner of Trench 5. Trench 4 targeted the site of former housing, commercial properties and the public baths. Due to terracing, it could not be excavated to its full proposed length of 15m;

- **Trench 3:** measured 15 x 2m and was aligned west-north-west/east-south-east. This trench formed an extension off the south-west corner of Trench 2 and targeted the site of former housing and the public baths;
- **Trench 4:** measured 14 x 2m and was aligned north-north-east/south-south-west across the site of former housing and the public baths. This trench was shortened from 18m to accommodate a bund at its southern extent;
- **Trench 5:** measured 21 x 2m and was aligned north-west/south-east across the site of former houses and commercial properties. This trench was shortened from 25m due to the presence of live underground services at its eastern extent.

2.2.4 **Strip, Map and Record Investigation:** based upon the results observed within evaluation Trenches 2 and 4, and after consultation with Norman Redhead of GMAAS, a programme of more detailed excavation was immediately undertaken. The expanded areas lay either side of Trench 4 in an attempt to ascertain the full extent of the remains revealed by that trench, and comprised:

- **Area A:** measured 9.5m x 7.5m and incorporated evaluation Trench 4. The area covered the eastern extent of the public baths and late eighteenth-/early nineteenth-century buildings.
- **Area B:** measured approximately 16m x 10m and lay between Trenches 2 and 4. The area was excavated in order to ascertain the character of remains observed after ground reduction works within the central and northern half of the development area. The excavation area targeted the north-east quadrant of the nineteenth-century public baths.

2.2.5 **General Methodologies:** excavation by an 8- or 26-tonne mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket was undertaken under the direct supervision of the archaeology site director. Deposits were excavated in 0.1m spits until significant archaeological remains were identified, or natural deposits encountered. Spoil from the excavations was stored adjacent to the excavation and backfilled upon completion of the archaeological works. Where any trenches were excavated beyond a depth of 1m below the surrounding substrate (specifically Trench 3), any identifiable features were photographed and subsequently backfilled to a safe working depth.

2.2.6 All archaeological features and deposits were subsequently hand-cleaned and recorded in order to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date. Features and deposits were recorded stratigraphically on *pro-forma* context sheets, using a system adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage. Similar object record and photographic record *pro-formas* were also used. This information is accompanied by a pictorial record (including plans, sections and digital photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts were cross-referenced on *pro-forma* record sheets using sequential numbering.

2.2.7 A full and detailed photographic record of individual contexts was maintained throughout. Photography was undertaken using an 18 mega-pixel digital camera with a visible, graduated metric scale included in each frame. Photographic records were maintained on special photographic *pro-forma* sheets.

- 2.2.8 The precise location of the working areas and any archaeological features was surveyed using a portable dGPS and data logger. The subsequent scaled plans were generated within ArcGIS and CAD were and subjected to manual survey enhancement, where appropriate. The drawings were generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale. Any sections were manually drafted as appropriate at a scale of 1:10.
- 2.2.9 ***Finds policy:*** whilst observations were recorded on the presence and nature of unstratified finds, most were structural fixtures and fittings, these were not routinely collected. Nor, due to the risk of asbestos in parts of the site, was mechanically excavated soil searched for such remains. A small number of stratified finds were recovered during the works, and were processed and examined at the OA North office in Lancaster.

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Introduction and presentation of results

3.1.1 The results of the archaeological investigations are presented below and include a stratigraphic description of any areas containing archaeological remains. The full details of all trenches with dimensions and depths of all deposits can be found in *Appendix A*. The results from Evaluation Trench 4 have been integrated with Strip, Map and Record Area A (*Section 3.6*).

### 3.2 General soils and ground conditions

3.2.1 The general soil sequence over much of the development area comprised natural clay geology overlain by as much as 3m of mixed overburden. In places, it was observed that these deposits were sealed by a layer of topsoil.

3.2.2 Ground conditions throughout the evaluation were generally good, with no permeating groundwater. That rapidly changed during the Strip, Map and Record investigation, where very poor weather conditions caused flooding in Area B and limited expansion of the investigation area to the west. Asbestos containing materials (ACM's) were also encountered in Area B and these partially inhibited excavations during mitigation. Archaeological features, where present, were easy to identify against the underlying natural geology.

### 3.3 General distribution of archaeological deposits

3.3.1 Archaeological features were present across much of the proposed development area. These features were broadly identified in three areas:

- *West*: elements of nineteenth-century structures observed during the watching brief on the site compound;
- *East*: elements of late nineteenth-century/early twentieth-century structures and a road surface observed within evaluation Trench 5;
- *Central*: the partial footprint of the former public baths and earlier housing observed within evaluation Trenches 2 and 4, and subsequently areas A and B.

### 3.4 Watching Brief

3.4.1 Several structures built of handmade brick were recorded where exposed by the shallow groundworks for the compound in the western part of the development site (Plate 1; Fig 3). All shared the same alignment, and would appear to relate to a terrace of houses that fronted onto Broughton Street, with their rear yards bounded by Ravald Court (Bancks and Co 1831). North-north-east-aligned wall **1006** traversed the full 17m length of the western part of the watching brief area, and was likely to represent the base of the rear wall of the main block of the terrace. Towards the centre of the wall, a 4m-long section extended from it at a right-angle, before returning to the north-east, just before the corresponding limit of excavation. The latter would appear to represent an internal division within the terrace

3.4.2 Some 1.5m to the south east of wall **1006** was a row of three rectangular structures (**1002-1004**) that were evenly spaced, c 3m apart. They measuring approximately 1m x 1.45m, with up to four course of brickwork visible. The short walls were composed of a single row of stretchers, whilst the longer walls each comprised two skins of headers, none of which seemed to be bonded with mortar. At their western edges, and partially extending into their enclosed area, the structures were each connected to a drain that was itself connected to a north/south 'header' drain, 2m to the east. The features were filled with a dark organic deposit which, due to the likelihood that these represented the bases of sanitation features, was not closely examined.



*Plate 1: Watching brief area. Looking south-east*

### 3.5 Evaluation

- 3.5.1 *Trenches 1 and 3*: were excavated up to a maximum depth of 2m, or down to natural deposits, whichever occurred first. Both trenches were devoid of any archaeological features (Plates 1 and 2).



Plate 2: Trench 1. Looking north with 1x1m and 1x2m scales



Plate 3: Trench 3. Looking east

3.5.2 **Trench 2** revealed brick wall **201**, which was c 0.7m in width, with a single brick buttress projecting from its western face (Fig 4; Plate 4). The wall followed a slightly oblique north/south alignment and comprised four courses of hand-made brick, with an additional two courses of machine-made frogged brick bonded to the eastern face with cement mortar.



*Plate 4: Trench 2, Wall 201. Looking east with a 1m scale*

3.5.3 **Trench 5** was largely dominated by an extensive surface (**501**) of granite setts (Fig 4; Plate 5). This surface, which was exposed for a length of 12.5m and survived to a width of 2m, seemed to extend from the south-west before turning slightly and continuing approximately east/west, although that curvature may have been an artefact of preservation. The western side was partially sealed by a deposit of crushed brick rubble, which also sealed the natural clay in the local area. Both rubble and clay had been cut for the foundation trench for the eastern corner of a wall (**502**). The surviving footing, which was three stretchers wide, comprised several courses of wire-cut bricks with a very dark, soily bonding material. Lapping against the wall and sealing the rubble deposits was a layer of concrete.



Plate 5: Trench 5, Surface 501. Looking east with 2x2m scales



Plate 6: Trench 5, wall 502, facing west, 1m scale

### 3.6 Strip, Map and Record Investigation

- 3.6.1 **Area A:** this open area revealed a variety of structures, including early nineteenth-century brick walls, brick surfaces, and late nineteenth/early twentieth-century walls. The character and fabric of the physical remains supported the cartographic evidence, highlighting two distinct phases of construction.



Plate 7: Area A. Looking North

- 3.6.2 *Early nineteenth century:* these remains were largely located within the central and western half of the investigation area and formed three distinct structural groups. Each of these had been built on an east/west alignment into shallow cuts into the natural geology and constructed from handmade bricks, which, where evidence was present, were bonded with lime mortar. The largest and most northerly of these structures measured approximately 5.8m east/west by 4.5m, but would clearly have continued to the north and west. The southern wall, **404**, was well preserved, and was generally 0.25m wide, comprising alternating courses of headers and two skins of stretchers. The south-east corner was bolstered with the addition of an extra skin of brickwork for a length of c 0.6m on each of the outer wall faces. To the north of wall **404**, the exposed elements comprised several cells (of which six cells, in two banks of three, were distinct and fairly to fully complete). Each of the cells was of similar size, measuring 2m long by 1.3m wide, and was defined by walls that survived to heights of up to four courses.
- 3.6.3 The three cells of the southern row were near-complete, being defined to the north by a 3m length of wall (**427**) that was 0.7m thick and would originally have extended much further to the west. The outer faces comprised alternating courses of headers and stretchers, whilst the inner core was of crudely cut half bricks. To its south, the cells were divided by 0.4m-wide brick walls (**428-429**) that were three skins thick, with two-to-three courses surviving, again apparently of alternating headers and stretchers, but seemingly with little in the way of mortar bonding. A similar wall, **430**, bounded

the eastern edge of the easternmost cell, and was the only one to have been bonded into the southern wall. None was bonded to wall **427**, although it is possible that in each case they may originally have been bonded higher up the coursing. Nothing survived of a corresponding wall bounding the western cell, although its position was marked by the straight edge of clinker deposit **410** to the west, and by that of brick floor **405** to the east. Each of the cells to the east also contained a brick floor (from west to east, **415** and **414**). Floor **414** had been laid as stretchers parallel with the axis of the cell, as had the eastern part of floor **415**. The western part largely comprised half bricks set at an acute angle (perhaps due to repair associated with the insertion of a drainage feature with a large rectangular stone slab at the base), whilst floor **405** was completely made of half bricks. In the north-west corner of floor **414**, a 0.45m-square void may again have related to a drainage feature.

- 3.6.4 The row of three cells to the north of wall **427** were less well-preserved, having been disturbed by later construction. They contained no floors or other internal features, although the walls between the cells survived, one of which, **417**, was bonded into wall **427**.



*Plate 8: Area A, northern structure. Looking South with a 1m scale*

- 3.6.5 A second rectangular structure, of handmade brick bonded with a lime-based mortar, was partially exposed within the south-western corner of Area A. It measured 4.2m east/west by 2.8m, continuing beyond the south-western limit of excavation. It was defined by wall **403=413**, which survived to two courses of bricks. These had generally been laid as two skins of staggered stretchers, but at roughly 1m intervals pairs of stretchers had been set at right-angles to project slightly into the interior of the structure, presumably as the base of some sort of support for internal fixtures. Within the building were two phases of brick flooring (Fig 5; Plate 9). The earlier, **402**, comprised handmade bricks set as east/west rows of stretchers. This was overlain by

floor **401**, largely composed of half bricks and with the occasional north/south-aligned stretcher. It was covered by a thick, black silty deposit, indicative of standing water.



*Plate 9: Area A, southern structure. Looking west with a 1m scale*

- 3.6.6 A third structure, **420**, was located along the eastern extent of the excavation (Fig 5) and comprised a small, 0.90m-square arrangement of hand-made brick walls, bonded with lime-based mortar. The internal space was occupied by dark grey soil **425** and the whole structure was cut across by later activity.
- 3.6.7 *Late nineteenth/early twentieth century*: the remains of later buildings were represented by an L-shaped arrangement of brick walls (**408**; Fig 5) that cut across the earlier structures on distinctive, slightly oblique north/south and east/west alignments and extended across, and beyond, the limits of investigation. The footing courses, with a width of four skins of stretchers, seemed to utilise reused handmade bricks, whilst the upper courses were constructed using machine-made or frogged brick and bonded with a dark grey cement-like mortar.
- 3.6.8 **Area B**: was placed approximately 2m west of Area A and measured 16m x 10m (Fig 2). The excavation primarily targeted the remains of the former bathhouse following identification of traces of the structure (wall **201**) in evaluation Trench 2. Investigation revealed numerous structures, which, on the basis of character and fabric, could be assigned to two broad phases of activity pertaining to the early nineteenth and late nineteenth century.
- 3.6.9 *Early nineteenth century*: this phase is essentially represented by brick-built well **603**, observed in the south-eastern part Area B (Fig 6; Plate 10). The well was approximately 1.6m in diameter and constructed using hand-made bricks. The internal space was

backfilled with a mixed deposit and the western extent had been partially dismantled and overlain by walls associated with the later bathhouse.



*Plate 10: Brick Well in Area B. Looking south with a 1m scale*

3.6.10 *Late nineteenth century*: The majority of structures identified within Area B were thought to relate to the later nineteenth-century bathhouse. Unfortunately, due to poor weather conditions and the presence of asbestos-containing materials, the structures within this area could only be partially cleaned prior to recording. This has subsequently impacted upon further interpretation regarding the function of those structures where additional details may have provided further insight or additional phasing information.



*Plate 11: Area B Bathhouse structures. Looking north.*

3.6.11 The remains of the bathhouse lay on a slightly oblique north/south alignment and comprised a mixture of (possibly reused) handmade bricks and machine-made bricks, bonded by cement-based mortar (Fig 6; Plate 11). In places, the structural remains were substantial, surviving to heights of up to a dozen courses, with the lowest resting on a wider footing seated directly into cuts into the natural geology. The northern, exterior wall was particularly robust and well made, with a thickness of five skins of stretchers. Internally, the walls were generally of three skins of stretchers, laid in English garden wall bond. Together with several fixtures and fittings, these largely formed the footings for what appeared to be a series of small rooms arranged in two north/south-aligned rows (**605-612**).

3.6.12 Only a very small part of what might have been a pool (**604**) was exposed at the south-western limit of excavation (beyond which site topography and safety considerations precluded any further expansion). The area was substantially masked by overburden, but it was possible to discern that at least one of the walls that defined the area had been faced with white glazed tiles. To its east lay the remains of what appeared to have been a large duct that contained metal pipes (**601**; Plate 12). It was some 1.2m wide, with a base of stone slabs. The roof of the duct was incomplete, but there was sufficient surviving brickwork in the side walls to suggest that it may have been some 0.6m tall, and would have had a vaulted roof. Evidence for the duct was visible for some 10m from the southern limit of excavation, at which point it formed a junction, one part passing west beyond the corresponding limit of investigation, the other, **602** (some 0.5m in diameter) entering room **610**, to the east.



*Plate 12: The remains of a large vaulted-roofed duct at the southern end of Area B. 2m scale*

3.6.13 A thinner duct may have separated the western row of rooms from the east. The overall structure was some 0.9m wide, with side walls the width of a single header,

and a c 0.4m-gap between. A narrow wall, comprising a single skin of stretchers, and a vestigial brick surface, were identified abutting the exterior face of the bathhouse's western wall and corresponding end of the northern wall (Plate 13). These had been built on the surface of the natural geology, and were thus raised somewhat above the base of the footings for the bathhouse in their deep foundation cuts.



*Plate 13: The remains of a brick floor (foreground), with the substantial remains of the bathhouse's northern wall in the background*

### 3.7 Finds summary

- 3.7.1 A small number of artefacts were recovered during the investigation. All five were of copper alloy and comprised two small pieces of cutlery, a pre-decimal one penny coin, and two buttons. The coin is probably dated 1920 or 1930, but the other items are less closely datable. The items of cutlery were recovered from the backfill of well **603**, the rest being found in overburden deposit **600** in Area B.

Small copper-alloy pastry fork, typified by its small size and the asymmetric arrangement of tines necessitated by its intended one-handed use. It is in poor condition with detail obscured by corrosion products.

L: 125mm; W: 18mm; Th: c 3mm

CGC19, **603**

Small copper-alloy fork or teaspoon handle. It is in poor condition with detail obscured by corrosion products.

L: 67mm; W: 16mm; Th: c 3mm

CGC19, **603**

Poorly preserved coin. One penny. George V (reg 1910 – 36). Possibly dated 1920 or 1930, but too badly corroded for certainty.

CGC19, **600**

Poorly preserved button. Flat plain round button with wire loop to rear. Too badly corroded for any detail.

Diam: 15mm; Th: 4mm

CGC19, **600**

Poorly preserved button. Round, stamped four-hole button. Too badly corroded for any maker's name to be visible.

Diam: 18mm; Th: 3mm

CGC19, **600**

## 4 DISCUSSION

### 4.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 4.1.1 In general, each phase of field investigation was conducted successfully; the reasonably well-preserved remains of nineteenth- and twentieth-century structures were present at fairly shallow depths and were clearly identifiable against the surrounding deposits. The nineteenth-century housing and the late nineteenth-century bathhouse were observed within three of the five evaluation trenches, whilst the excavation of Areas A and B permitted more extensive investigation of those structures, adding additional detail to an interpretation of their form and function.
- 4.1.2 There were several constraints to the investigation, including potentially live services and significant variations in site topography. Whilst those influenced, and at times restricted the position and size of the investigation areas, these issues had little impact upon the nature and condition of the remains. More deleterious was the presence of potentially hazardous asbestos containing materials (ACM's) in the deposits surrounding Area B. The risks were fully mitigated during excavation but this meant that some aspects of hand cleaning were subsequently impacted. This, alongside poor weather conditions during the recording of the site, meant that very little detail was established about the fabric and function of the majority of the structures therein.

### 4.2 Aims and Objectives

- 4.2.1 The main aims of the archaeological investigations are set out in *Section 2.1*. The developing programme of work (from watching brief and trial-trench evaluation to more targeted strip, map and record areas) has permitted each of those aims to be addressed and the archaeological remains exposed to be investigated, recorded, and understood to varying degrees.

### 4.3 Interpretation

- 4.3.1 **Phase 1: Earlier nineteenth century:** remains that can be attributed to the earlier nineteenth century were identified in both strip, map and sample Areas A and B, as well as during the watching brief within the western part of the site. The earliest that can be correlated with cartographic sources is the more northerly 'cellular' structure, identified within Area A. Successive historical maps show the development of the area from largely open land in the late eighteenth century, to a densely occupied townscape in the mid-nineteenth century. Regressing the remains excavated with a specific terrace on the earliest maps is not particularly easy but, in any case, the buildings excavated cannot be any earlier than 1794, for they are not shown on William Green's map of 1787-94, which instead depicts gardens and a few isolated buildings, albeit superimposed by a grid of what seem to be proposed street lines.
- 4.3.2 Notwithstanding issues of accuracy, by comparing distinctive elements of the townscape, it is possible to suggest that terraces on either side of the east/west route of the street labelled as 'Green Bank' on later maps were depicted on Pigot's map of 1808, Johnson's map of 1820, and Swire's map of 1824. The terraces on those maps are merely hatched in, and it is not until 1831, with the publication of Bancks and Co's map, that individual properties are shown (Fig 7).

- 4.3.3 That map, and also the largely similar Ordnance Survey 1:1056 town plan (OS 1851) show six pairs of back-to-back houses between Green Bank, and the cul-de-sac of Green Bank Court to the south (Fig 8). Each house measures about 4m square, but superimposing the survey data onto the historic mapping suggests that the cellular structure excavated relates to elements of several of those houses, rather than a single, complete entity. It would seem that east/west-aligned wall **427** represented the back-wall division between the properties fronting Green Bank and Green Bank Court, respectively. This would make sense, given its greater width. Conversely, the front walls of the properties do not appear to have been so substantial. There was no evidence for the front wall on Green Bank, despite the fact that the corresponding area seems to have been encompassed by Area A. On the Green Bank Court side, the front wall may be represented by **403**. In turn, that would imply that surfaces **401** and **402** represented the brick paving of Green Bank Court, and, indeed, associated wall **411** does correlate with a structure depicted on the 1831 map (Banks and Co). The dividing walls between neighbouring properties would appear to be represented by walls **428/407** and **430**, leaving walls **417**, **429**, and **404** as internal features. Since the spaces so defined would have been too small for realistic occupation as individual rooms, that would suggest that these were internal supports for flooring. Such an interpretation draws into question the date and role of internal brick surfaces **405**, **414**, and **415**. Lying at a level only 0.4m below that of nearby exterior surfaces **401** and **402**, these are unlikely to be floors for cellars. If they are original, they may just represent semi-basements, perhaps for storage, with a boarded floor above. Alternatively, it is possible that they represent later surfacing that had been inserted to replace a timber floor. Such an interpretation might be supported by their rather variable construction.
- 4.3.4 Other than that it follows the prevailing alignment of the earlier nineteenth-century townscape, square structure **420** is rather harder to correlate with any specific features in the historic mapping. It may have related to a small internal feature, or perhaps a drain associated with the entrance to a ginnel shown on the OS 1851 map (Fig 8).
- 4.3.5 To the west, the remains identified during the compound watching brief are a little later in date, as they would appear to relate to structures first shown on the east side of Broughton Street in 1831 (Bancks and co). Compared to the back-to-backs, these are better appointed, appearing somewhat wider (c 5m) and twice as long, being further extended with outshuts or outbuildings that partially occupy rear yards that back onto Raval Court. The 1851 OS map shows entrance steps, or possibly cellar lights on Broughton Street, and a strong degree of conformity to these buildings, which is mirrored by the findings from the watching brief. It seems likely that those represent the rear wall of the terrace and a series of sanitation features that clearly lie within the range of outbuildings associated with each house. In contrast with the very rudimentary drainage that seems to be evidenced within the back-to-backs, each of the sanitation features was connected to a shallow drain that seems to have lain along the western edge of Raval Court.
- 4.3.6 The third feature thought likely to date to the earlier activity on the site, well **603** in strip, map and record Area B, is harder to equate with any historic mapping. For example, the nearest pump shown on the 1851 OS map is some 20m to the south-east, in Burgess court. Rather, regression would suggest that well **603** lies within Green

Street, straddling the boundary between the road and the pavement. Three possibilities present themselves. The well could pre-date the development of the area, relating to a nearby building shown on Green's map of 1787-94; alternatively, rather than a well, it could be a drain, or manhole, associated with the drainage of Green Bank. Finally, it could have been associated with the bathhouse, which did utilise some reused handmade brick in its construction.

- 4.3.7 **Phase 2: the late nineteenth-century public baths:** extensive remains of the brick foundations of the late nineteenth-century public baths, opened in 1880 and depicted on historic mapping from 1891 onwards (OA North 2018a; Fig 9), were found in Area B and Trench 2. Of the original fabric, the most readily identifiable feature was what appeared to be the remains of a large duct that may well have been associated with the distribution of hot water, and possibly hot air, to various parts of the complex. The 1891 OS 1:500 town plan shows that the bathhouse was equipped with a chimney at its southern end, and it is probable that this was associated with a boiler, to which duct **601** could have been connected.
- 4.3.8 It is not clear how the bathhouse was organised internally nor, indeed, exactly how it functioned. Although indoor recreational swimming pools did exist in the nineteenth century, they seem to have been closely associated with clubs and more affluent areas. Rather, both before and after the 1846 and 1847 *Public Baths and Wash-houses Acts*, most such installations were devised for hygiene rather than leisure (Sheard 2000, 67), and it might be misleading to imagine something on the lines of the opulent magnificence of Manchester's Victoria Baths (opened 1906). The Poplar Baths, built in 1852 on East London's East India Dock Road, might be a closer comparator, for it was built with the whole urban population in mind (Wikipedia - Poplar Baths 2019). Moreover, people were not just washing their bodies; not unusually, the Poplar Baths had a laundry equipped with 48 wooden wash tubs, drying equipment, and ironing rooms (the latter a critical element of delousing, rather than merely presenting a comely appearance). A similar situation may have been the case at Canon Green.
- 4.3.9 The description of the Poplar Baths provides some indication of the bathing facilities contained within such installations. It contained 48 slipper baths (ie, akin to those in use for domestic bathing today), which were divided according to class and gender. Half were for second-class men, and 12 more for first-class men (*ibid*). Women, who presumably are not just the fairer, but clearly the naturally cleaner sex, had to make do with just six per class. It could be imagined that the areas for each sex and class were segregated, but the degree of privacy between each tub is less apparent. There were also steam and shower baths. Even before being rebuilt in the 1930s, Poplar seems to have had a pool, and the same was the case at other documented public paths. For example, each of the five bathhouses in Glasgow in 1896 had separate male and female swimming 'ponds', c 35 bath tubs, and between 44 and 78 laundry tubs (Sheard 2000, 78). It does seem that the Canon Green baths would also have had at least one, and probably two such 'ponds', for a contemporary article in the *Salford Weekly News* recorded (with some disapproval with regard to the men's immodest swim attire) that the opening was marked with a swimming gala (Frankland 1982, 11). Given the journalist's rather sanctimonious attitude, it is probably safe to assume that

there was room in the pool for such an event, rather than being a euphemistic side-swipe at a co-ordinated mass dip in the slipper baths.

- 4.3.10 Only traces of what may have been a pool were identified within the western half of the structure, although it is possible that the white tiles observed could have related to one of several, more sanitary, rooms that might be expected in the public bath. Indeed, very similar plain tiles line the changing cubicles beside the pools in the Victoria Baths.
- 4.3.11 Despite the foregoing, it was not possible to ascertain the function of rooms that appear to be represented by the majority of remains in Area B. However, as these lay in the area of the main entrance on Blackfriars road, it seems likely that these were ancillary areas, perhaps an entrance foyer, ticket office, and changing rooms.
- 4.3.12 **Phase 3: early twentieth-century structures:** to the east of the bathhouse, wall **408** (Area A), a brick surface on the edge of Area B, and the structures in Trench 5, can be equated with elements of large structures built between the surveys for the 1894 and 1907 OS maps. Although those are thought to relate to possible industrial or warehousing activities, nothing was preserved in the archaeological record to elucidate their function.

#### 4.4 Significance

- 4.4.1 The programme of archaeological works undertaken at Canon Green Court has highlighted that archaeological remains pertaining to nineteenth-century domestic structures and the late nineteenth-century bath house survive on site, albeit in varying states of preservation. This, particularly the fact that there are few surviving internal components, does limit the significance of the findings, but also their potential for any analysis or publication. Nonetheless, the results of this programme of archaeological works contribute to the growing body of archaeological data relevant to the social development of Salford during the industrial revolution.

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## APPENDIX A TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Trench 1						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench was devoid of any archaeological features.					Length (m)	16.50
					Width (m)	2.00
					Max depth (m)	0.50
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
<b>100</b>	Layer	-	0.40	Hardcore	-	C21
<b>101</b>	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 2						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench contained the western wall of the late 19th century bathhouse.					Length (m)	5.40
					Width (m)	2.00
					Max depth (m)	0.92
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
<b>200</b>	Layer	-	0.40	Hardcore	-	C21
<b>201</b>	Structure	0.66	0.50	Brick wall	-	C19/20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>202</b>	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Trench 3						
General description					Orientation	E-W
Trench was devoid of any archaeological features. Excavated in 5.00m segments down to 2.00m.					Length (m)	15.00
					Width (m)	2.00
					Max depth (m)	2.00
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
<b>300</b>	Layer	-	200	Made ground (mixed)	-	C20 <sup>th</sup>

Trench 4						
General description					Orientation	N-S
Trench contained 20 <sup>th</sup> century bath house extension and early 19 <sup>th</sup> century outbuildings.					Length (m)	13.42
					Width (m)	2.00
					Max depth (m)	0.70
Context No	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date
<b>400</b>	Layer	-	<2.00	Demo rubble	-	-
<b>401</b>	Surface	2.00	0.11	Brick floor	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>402</b>	Surface	2.00	-	Brick floor	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>403</b>	Structure	0.12	-	Brick wall	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>404</b>	Structure	0.25	-	Brick wall (cont within Area A)	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>405</b>	Surface	1.20	-	Brick floor	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>406</b>	Structure	0.25	-	Brick wall	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>407</b>	Structure	0.36	-	Brick wall	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>

<b>408</b>	Structure	0.50	0.30	Brick wall	-	C19/20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>409</b>	Surface	2.00	-	Concrete floor	-	C20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>410</b>	Layer	-	-	Clinker deposit	-	C19/20 <sup>th</sup>

Trench 5						
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	NW-SE
Trench contained a road surface, and the right-angled section of a 20 <sup>th</sup> century wall.					<b>Length (m)</b>	20.50
					<b>Width (m)</b>	2.00
					<b>Max depth (m)</b>	0.80
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>500</b>	Layer	-	<2.00	Demo rubble	-	LC20th
<b>501</b>	Surface	2.00	-	Road	-	C19/20th
<b>502</b>	Structure	0.36	-	Brick Wall	-	C20th
<b>503</b>	Layer	-	-	Natural	-	-

Area A							
<b>General description</b>					<b>Orientation</b>	N/a	
Excavated area incorporated Trench 2 and contained late eighteenth-/early nineteenth-century outbuildings.					<b>Length (m)</b>	9.40	
					<b>Width (m)</b>	7.30	
					<b>Max depth (m)</b>	0.20	
<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Width (m)</b>	<b>Length (m)</b>	<b>Depth (m)</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Finds</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>411</b>	Cut	0.05	-	-	Construction cut for <b>413</b>	-	-
<b>412</b>	Deposit	0.05	-	-	Fill of <b>411</b>	-	-
<b>413</b>	Structure	0.25	2.80	-	Brick wall <b>203</b>	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>414</b>	Surface	1.30	2.00	-	Brick floor	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>415</b>	Surface	1.30	2.00	-	Brick floor	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>416</b>	Cut	0.10	3.40	-	Construction cut for <b>204</b>	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>417</b>	Structure	2.50	1.90	-	Brick outbuildings	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>418</b>	Cut	0.05	0.85	-	Construction cut for <b>420</b>	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>419</b>	Deposit	0.05	0.85	-	Fill of <b>418</b>	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>420</b>	Structure	0.12	0.85	-	Brick structure	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>421</b>	Cut	0.65	9.40	-	Construction cut for <b>408</b>	-	C19/20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>422</b>	Deposit	0.65	9.40	-	Fill of <b>421</b>	-	C19/20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>423</b>	Cut	0.50	9.40	-	Lead water service	-	C19/20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>424</b>	Deposit	0.50	9.40	-	Fill of <b>424</b>	-	C19/20 <sup>th</sup>
<b>425</b>	Deposit	0.85	0.70	-	Relic soil within <b>420</b>	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>426</b>	Deposit	0.10	3.40	-	Fill of <b>416</b>	-	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>

<b>427</b>	Wall	0.70	2.80	-	Brick wall		C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>428</b>	Wall	0.50	1.80	-	Brick wall		C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>429</b>	Wall	0.50	1.80	-	Brick wall		C18/19 <sup>th</sup>
<b>430</b>	Wall	0.40	1.80	-	Brick wall		C18/19 <sup>th</sup>

Area B							
General description						Orientation	N/a
Excavation area contained late nineteenth-century bath house foundations and a late eighteenth-/nineteenth-century well.						Length (m)	16.00
						Width (m)	10.00
						Avg depth (m)	??
Context No.	Type	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date	
<b>600</b>	Layer	-	-	Overburden/demo rubble	-	-	
<b>601</b>	Structure	-	-	Vaulted brick duct	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>602</b>	Structure	-	-	Vaulted brick culvert	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>603</b>	Structure	1.9	-	Brick well	Cutlery	C18/19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>604</b>	Structure	-	-	Bathhouse pool	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>605</b>	Room	2.5	-	Bathhouse room	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>606</b>	Room	2.5	-	Bathhouse room	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>607</b>	Room	2.5	-	Bathhouse room	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>608</b>	Room	2.4	-	Bathhouse room	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>609</b>	Room	5.8	-	Bathhouse room	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>610</b>	Room	3.0	-	Bathhouse room	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>611</b>	Room	2.8	-	Bathhouse room	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>612</b>	Room	2.2	-	Bathhouse room	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>	

Watching Brief							
General description						Orientation	N/a
Excavation area below the current site compound contained potential nineteenth-century toilet blocks.						Length (m)	18.00
						Width (m)	12.00
						Avg depth (m)	-
Context No.	Type	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Findings	Date
1000	Layer	-	-	0.30	Topsoil	-	-
1001	Deposit	-	-	5.00	Overburden (mixed)	-	-
1002	Structure	1.40	1.05	-	Brick outhouse	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>
1003	Structure	1.40	1.05	-	Brick outhouse	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>
1004	Structure	1.40	1.05	-	Brick outhouse	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>
1005	Service	18.00	0.30	-	Sewage pipe	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>
1006	Structure	-	3.60	-	Exterior wall and partition	-	C19 <sup>th</sup>

**APPENDIX B****SITE SUMMARY DETAILS**

<b>Site name:</b>	Cannon Green Court, Salford, Greater Manchester
<b>Site code:</b>	CGC19
<b>Grid Reference</b>	SJ 83130 99020
<b>Type:</b>	Watching Brief, Evaluation, Strip, Map and Record Investigation
<b>Date and duration:</b>	February to March 2019 (two months)
<b>Area of Site</b>	c 0.25 ha
<b>Location of archive:</b>	The archive is currently held at OA North, Mill 3, Moor Lane Mills, Moor Lane, Lancaster, LA1 1QD, and will be deposited with Salford Museum in due course.
<b>Summary of Results:</b>	This programme of works recorded significant remains relating to early nineteenth-century domestic structures and an early nineteenth-century brick built well. These structures seem to have been associated with the domestic properties along Green Bank and Green Bank Court which were subsequently demolished in the late nineteenth century to enable the construction of the public baths. The works also established that the construction of the bathhouse and any subsequent expansion had a minimal impact on those earlier foundations.

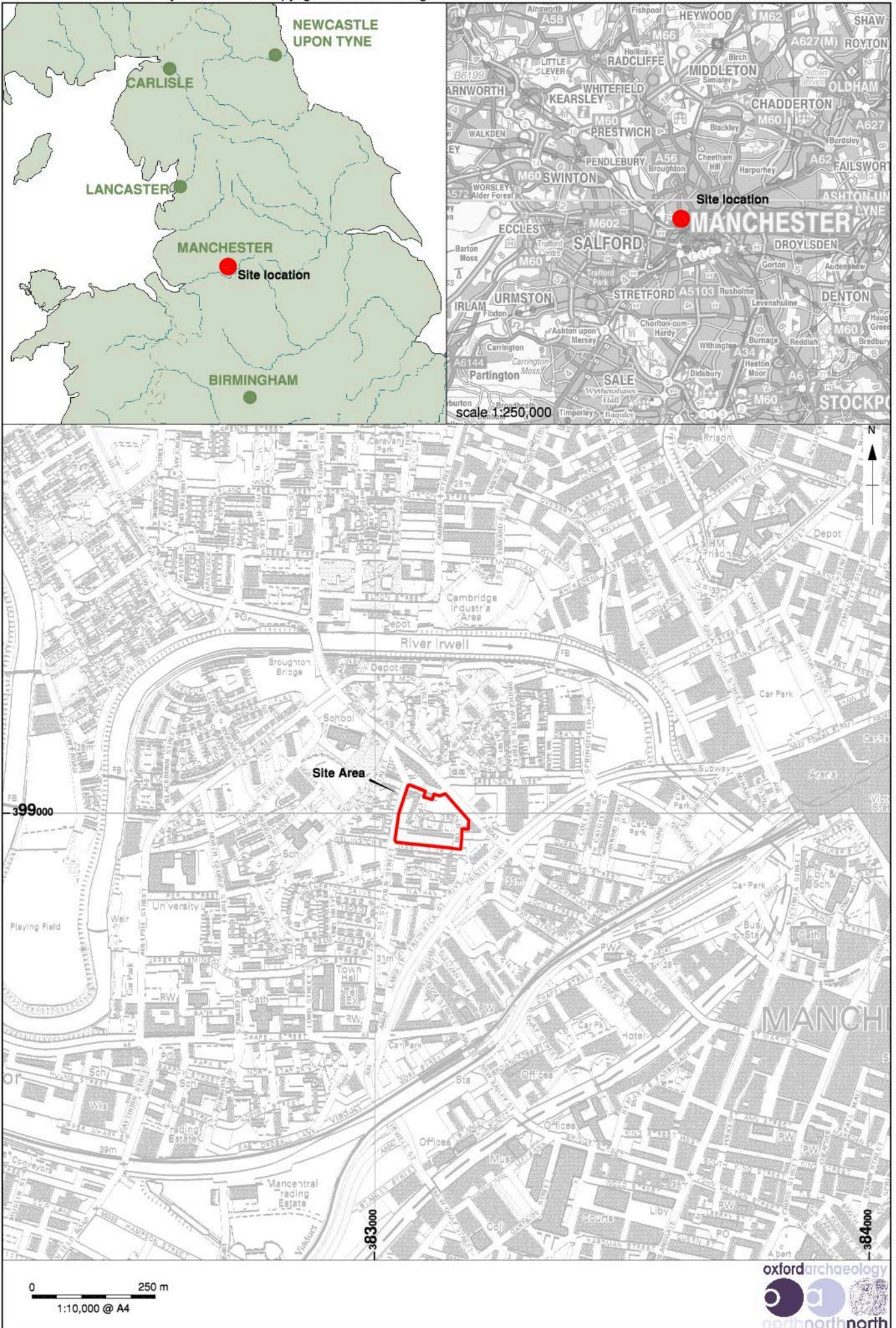


Figure 1: Site location



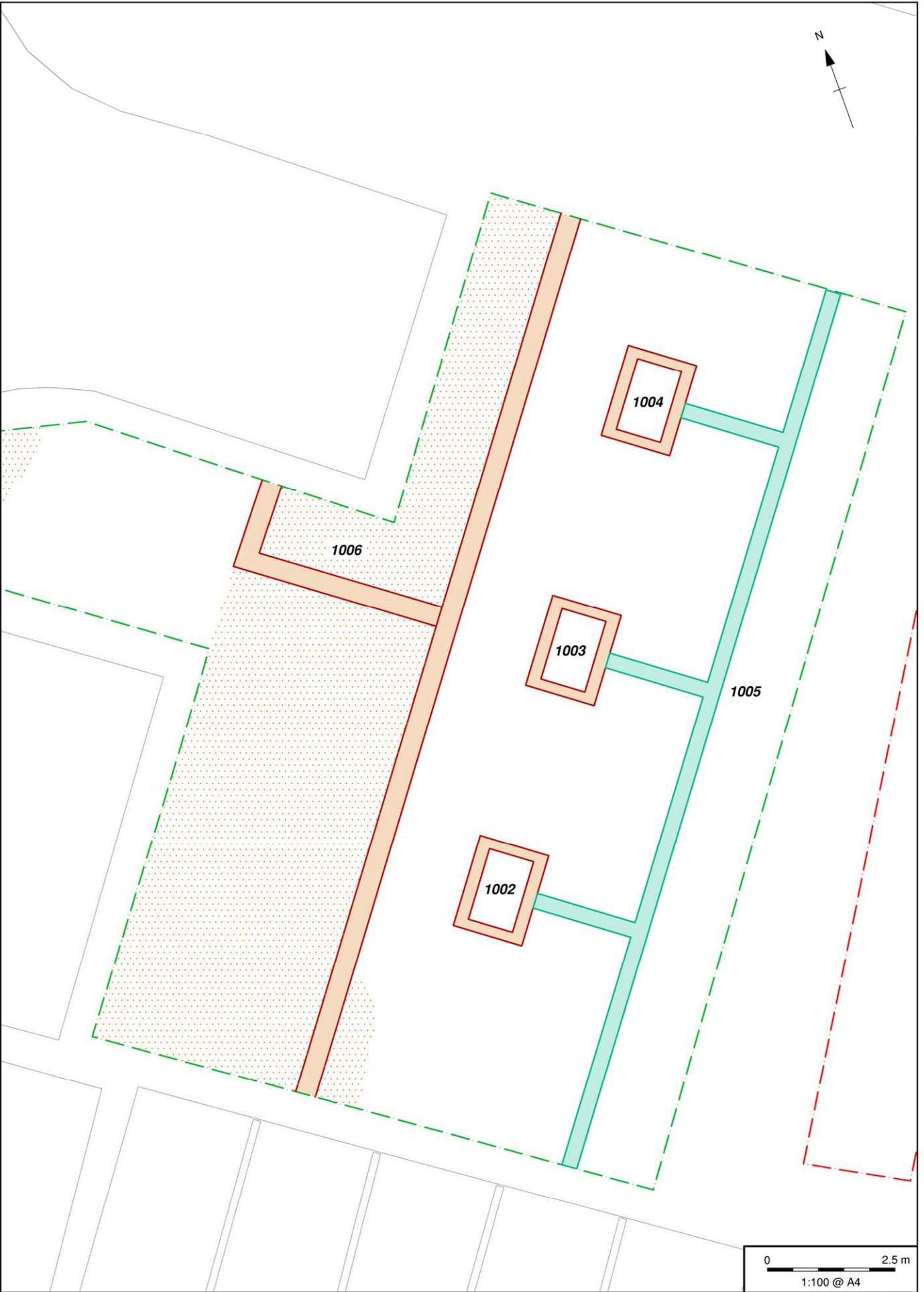
- Site Area
- Evaluation Trenches
- Strip, Map and Record Areas
- Watching Brief Areas

0 5 m  
1:200 @ A3



Figure 2: Evaluation trenches, strip, map and record, and watching brief areas

SR\*L11186\*MAT\*June 2019

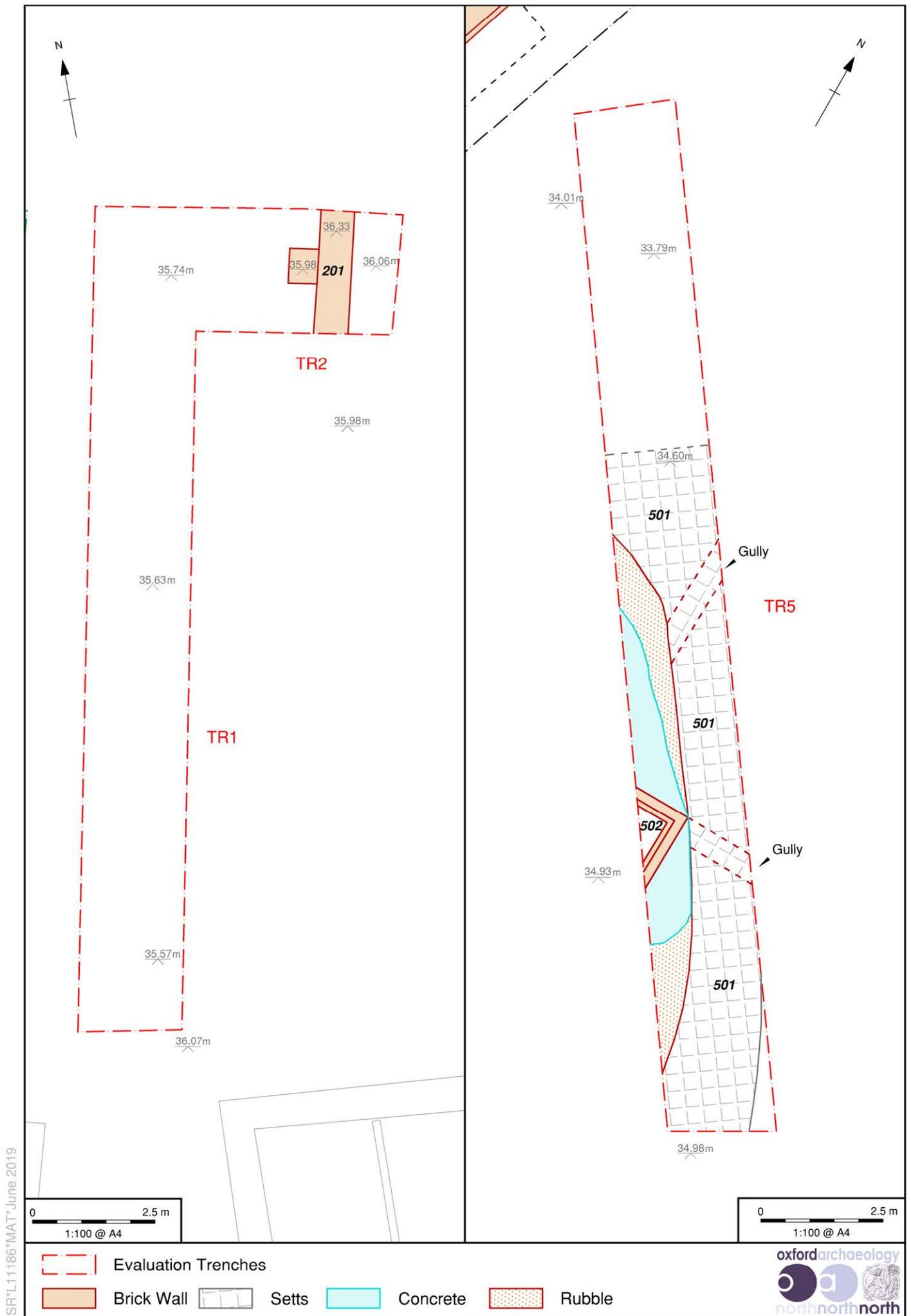


-  Watching Brief Area
-  Brick Wall
-  Drainage
-  Rubble



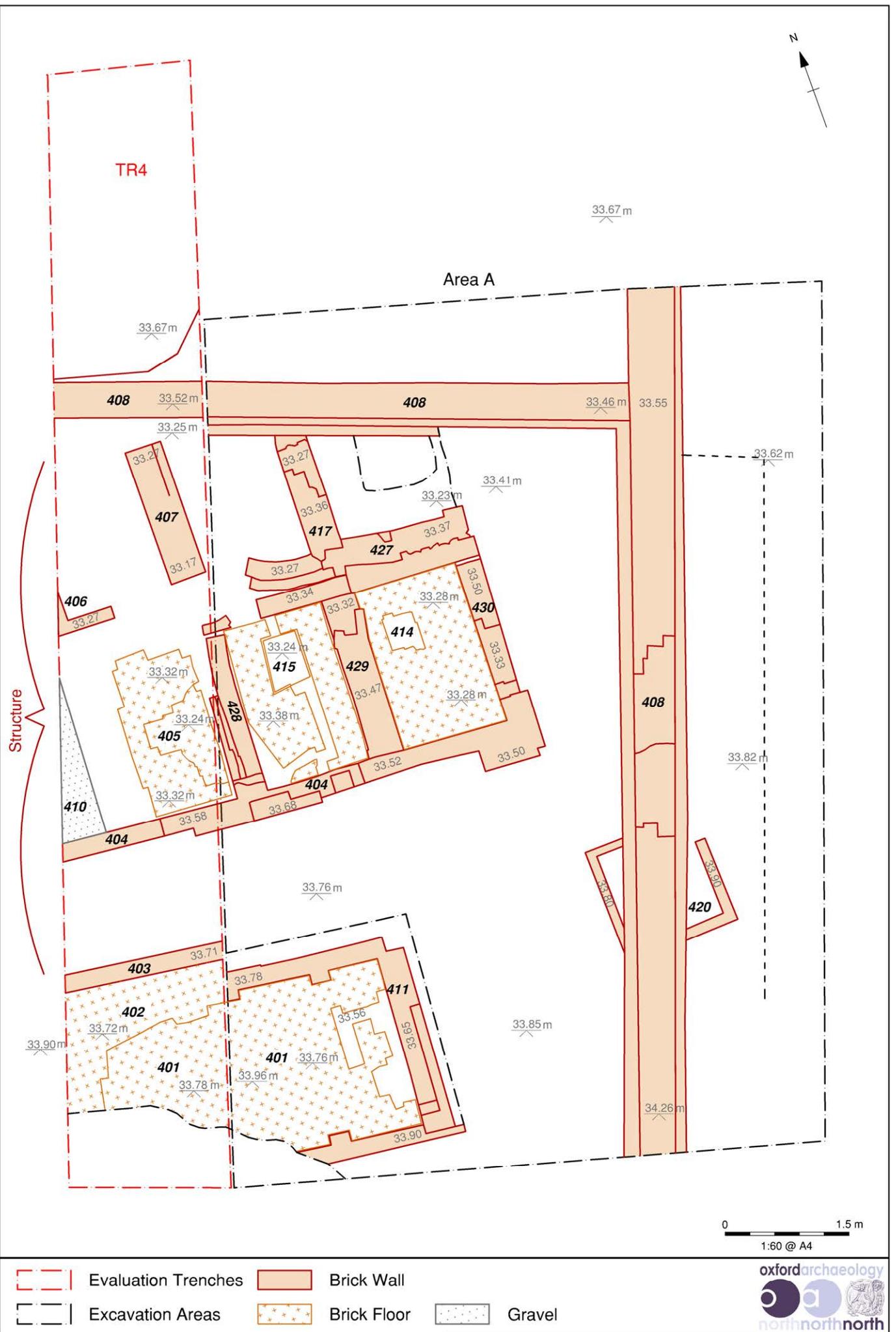
SR\*L11186\*<sup>MAT</sup>\*June 2019

Figure 3: Plan of Watching Brief Area



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Figure 4: Plans of Trenches 1, 2 and 5



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Figure 5: Plan of Area A and Trench 4





- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Site Area                   |  Brick Wall           |
|  Evaluation Trenches         |  Brick Floor          |
|  Strip, Map and Record Areas |  Watching Brief Areas |

0 5 m  
1:200 @ A3

Figure 7: Archaeological remains superimposed on Bancks and Co's map of 1831



- |   |                             |   |                      |
|---|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|
|  | Site Area                   |  | Brick Wall           |
|  | Evaluation Trenches         |  | Brick Floor          |
|  | Strip, Map and Record Areas |  | Watching Brief Areas |

0 5 m  
1:200 @ A3

Figure 8: Archaeological remains superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 1:1056 map, 1851



- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Site Area                   |  Brick Wall           |
|  Evaluation Trenches         |  Brick Floor          |
|  Strip, Map and Record Areas |  Watching Brief Areas |

0 5 m  
1:200 @ A3



Figure 9: Archaeological remains superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map, 1894



- |   |  |
|---|--|
|  Site Area                   |  Brick Wall           |
|  Evaluation Trenches         |  Brick Floor          |
|  Strip, Map and Record Areas |  Watching Brief Areas |

0 5 m  
1:200 @ A3



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Figure 10: Archaeological remains superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 1:2500 map revised 1915



**Head Office/Registered Office/  
OA South**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto:info@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1QD

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oanorth@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>

**OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
e: [oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com](mailto: oaeast@oxfordarchaeology.com)  
w: <http://oxfordarchaeology.com>



**Director:** Gill Hey, BA PhD FSA MCifA  
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