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Academy,
Briscoe Lane,
Newton Heath,
Manchester**

**Archaeological
Evaluation**



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Laing O'Rourke

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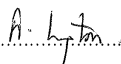
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Prepared by: Sarah Mottershead
Position: Project Supervisor
Date: March 2015

Checked by: Ian Miller
Position: Senior Project Manager
Date: April 2015

Signed 

Approved by: Alan Lupton
Position: Operations Manager
Date: April 2015

Signed 

Oxford Archaeology North

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

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk
e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

Oxford Archaeology Ltd (2015)

Janus House
Osney Mead
Oxford
OX2 0EA
t: (0044) 01865 263800
f: (0044) 01865 793496

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SUMMARY

Laing O'Rourke has been commissioned by Manchester City Council to deliver proposals to increase the capacity of Briscoe Lane Academy in Newton Heath, Manchester (centred on NGR 387724 400035). The proposed development will augment the school site with the addition of a new single-storey classroom block, which will necessitate considerable earth-moving works with a potential to have a negative impact on any buried archaeological remains.

The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted by a desk-based assessment produced by Atkins Heritage in 2014, which showed that the site had been developed initially during the post-medieval period, with intensive industrial development occurring in the nineteenth century. In particular, a farmhouse known as Cheetham Fold may have occupied at least part of the study area since the sixteenth century, whilst nineteenth-century development included the construction of a textile printing works and a cotton mill. In the light of the conclusions drawn from the desk-based assessment, the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service recommended that a programme of intrusive archaeological investigation of the site was merited in advance of development, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, Paragraph 128.

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Laing O'Rourke Ltd to carry out the required scheme of works. This comprised the mechanical excavation of five trenches within the study area. The evaluation uncovered two short sections of wall foundation and levelling material that was perhaps for an internal floor in the central southern part of the study area, adjacent to Briscoe Lane, that may have been associated with a former farm building and/or the early nineteenth-century printing works. Stone-capped brick drains observed in three of the trenches may also have been associated with the printing works or the later cotton mill. The mill was not cellared, and appeared to have been completely cleared to sub-floor level, and the area then levelled with demolition rubble before being landscaped. The deep construction trench for a modern sewer will also have destroyed any buried archaeological remains across part of the site. Elements of the former reservoirs associated with the printing works and cotton mill may be present in the study area, but these lay beyond the area investigated by the evaluation trenches. However, earth-moving works required as part of the removal of Japanese knotweed from this part of the site revealed twentieth-century infill of no archaeological interest.

The results obtained from the evaluation trench demonstrate that there is little potential for significant archaeological remains to survive *in-situ*. It is thus unlikely that any earth-moving works associated with the proposed development would have a negative impact on the buried archaeological resource, and it is considered unlikely that any further intrusive investigation of the site is merited.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Laing O'Rourke Ltd for commissioning and supporting the project, and particularly Janet Saville and Neil R Davies for their support. Thanks are also expressed to Norman Redhead of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, for his advice and guidance.

The excavation was undertaken by Graham Mottershead and Sarah Mottershead. The report was written by Sarah Mottershead, and the illustrations were prepared by Mark Tidmarsh. The report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Laing O'Rourke has been commissioned by Manchester City Council to deliver proposals to increase the capacity of Briscoe Lane Academy in Newton Heath from a 1.5 form entry (FE) to a 3 FE school. The proposed development will augment the school site with the addition of a new single-storey classroom block located in the south-west corner of the site, which will necessitate considerable earth-moving works with a potential to have a negative impact on any buried archaeological remains.
- 1.1.2 The Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), which provides archaeological advice to Manchester City Council, recommended that a programme of intrusive archaeological investigation of the site is merited in advance of development, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, Paragraph 128.
- 1.1.3 Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by Laing O'Rourke to carry out the required scheme of works. This was undertaken in March 2015 in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation, devised by OA North and approved by GMAAS (*Appendix 1*), which allowed for the mechanical excavation of five trenches within the study area.

1.2 SITE LOCATION

- 1.2.1 The site (centred on NGR 387724 400035) lies on the north side of Briscoe Lane in the Newton Heath area of Manchester (Fig 1). It comprises an area in the south-western corner of the grounds of Briscoe Lane Academy, and is bounded to the south-east by Briscoe Lane, to the south-west by Hallam Street, and to the north-west and north-east by the school grounds and associated car park (Plate 1).
- 1.2.2 The area mainly comprises a relatively level grassed area with sparse trees and a small area of tarmac hard-standing in its north-western corner. The area is surrounded by a metal fence with an access gate off Hallam Street to the north-west.
- 1.2.3 The superficial geology comprises boulder clay overlying Permo-Triassic Sherwood Sandstones.



Plate 1: Recent aerial view across the study area (red boundary)

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 EVALUATION TRENCHING

- 2.1.1 Five trenches were excavated across the study area (Figs 2 and 3). Trench 1 was located across ancillary buildings shown on the historic mapping and the edges of two reservoirs. Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were located across the footprint of a cotton mill shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1848. Trench 5 was located across the site of post-medieval buildings associated with Cheetham Fold and a late eighteenth-/early nineteenth-century textile-printing works.
- 2.1.2 Excavation of the modern ground surface was undertaken by a tracked excavator using a toothless ditching bucket to the top of the first significant archaeological level. The work was supervised closely by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Thereafter, all archaeological deposits were cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date. The trenches were recorded following the methodology set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (*Appendix 1*).

2.2 ARCHIVE

- 2.2.1 A full archive of the work has been prepared to a professional standard in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The archive will be deposited with the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester on completion of the project. In addition, a copy of the report will be forwarded to the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER).

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 An understanding of the historical background of a site provides the local context within which any buried remains can be assessed archaeologically. The following section has been drawn largely from the desk-based study that was carried out by Atkins Heritage (2014), coupled with some further interrogation of primary sources.

3.2 THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SITE

3.2.1 Newton Heath was a rural settlement prior to the nineteenth century, although had developed a thriving cottage-based textile industry that stemmed from Huguenots. Emigrating from the Low Countries and subsequently France to the Manchester area to escape political persecution in the sixteenth century, these migrants brought linen weaving and bleaching skills to the area. The production of cloth in the area was carried out in existing cottages and farms, which were remodelled to accommodate the expanding industry with the addition of workshops. It is possible that Cheetham Fold, the earliest building within the present study area, dates to this period; the fold is mentioned in the sixteenth century as being land held by Isabel, widow of Robert Chetham (Atkins Heritage 2014, 10).

3.2.2 By the late eighteenth, textile-finishing works had begun to be established in the area as part of the industrial expansion of Manchester. The first bleachworks in the area had been established by 1772, as an account written in that year refers to 'a farmhouse and bleachworks occupied by Mr Travis' at Cheetham Fold (Crofton 1904, 19).

3.2.3 According to John Graham, the farmhouse at Cheetham Fold in Newton Heath was remodelled for use as a textile printing works in *c* 1810 by Abraham Briscoe & Brothers, who 'put a few tables up in the stables and hay loft [and] did a good business in woollen shawls' (Graham 1846, 365). They built a new shop subsequently with 62 tables 'going at once in full work. After the woollens went down he gave up printing and built a cotton mill, and let a part of the print works to his son George and his son in law. They carried on a short time but gave up. It was now let to Richard Prince & Brothers who carried on for 12 months and gave up. Let to Mark Gradwell for a short time who gave up. It is attached to a cotton mill' (*ibid*).

3.2.4 Cheetham Fold is shown, although not annotated, on William Johnson's plan of the parish of Manchester (Plate 2). This depicts two buildings situated on either side of Back Lane (known subsequently as Briscoe Lane, presumably after Abraham Briscoe). It seems possible that the farmhouse was the building on the south side of the road, with the printing shop on the north side of the road, as this structure was developed subsequently as the cotton mill, as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Plate 3).

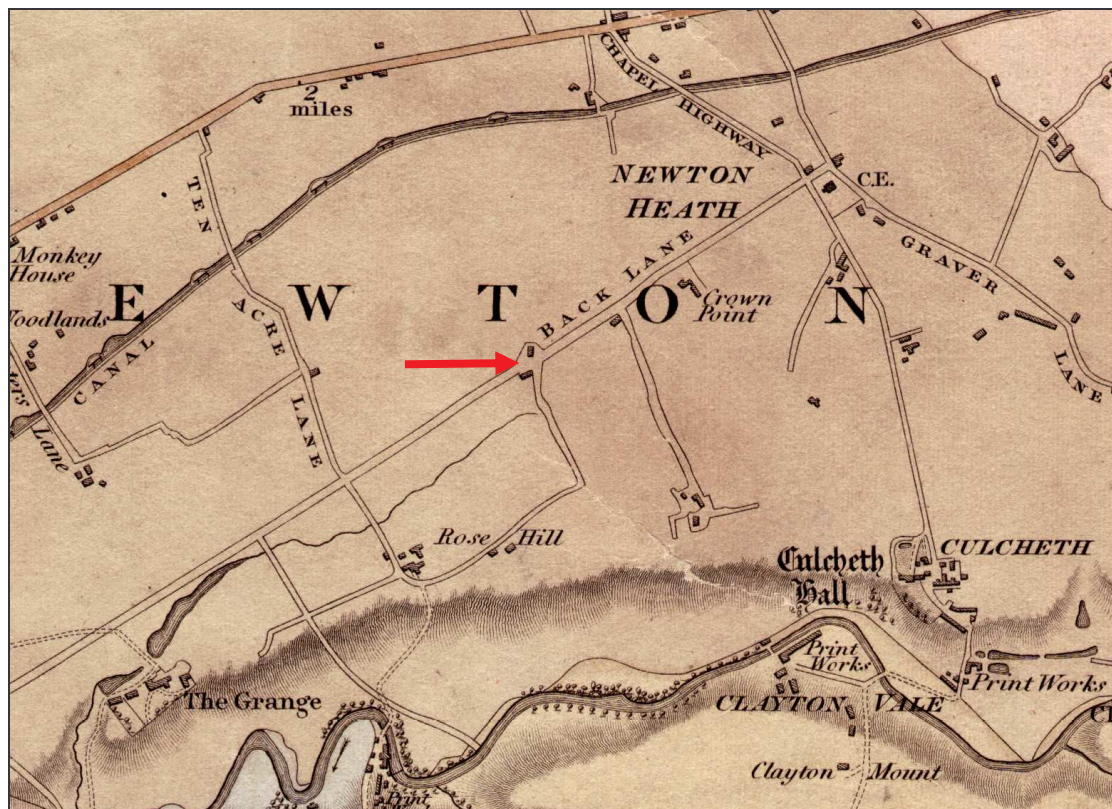


Plate 2: Extract from William Johnson's map of 1820, with arrow marking Cheetham Fold

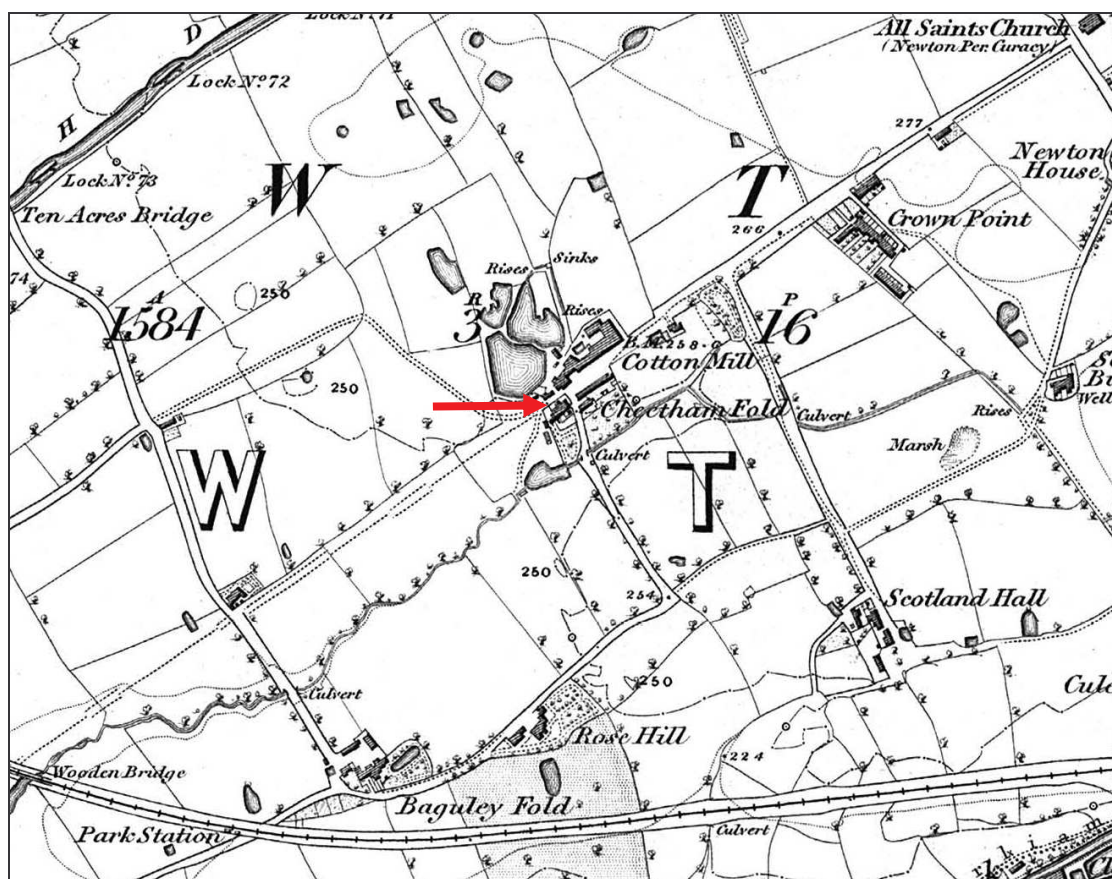


Plate 3: Extract from the Ordnance Survey map of 1848, with arrow marking Cheetham Fold

- 3.2.5 The Ordnance Survey 6":1 mile map of 1848 provides the first detailed survey of the study area (Plate 3). This depicts a complex of buildings labelled 'Cotton Mill' on the north side of Briscoe Lane. The mill appears to have been served by three reservoirs to the north and west, which may have been intended originally for the printing works. It is of note that the Ordnance Survey does not identify the site as a printing works, and whilst John Graham's study of 1846 does not give a precise date for the closure of the printing works, it does not appear in a list of English calico printers that was produced in March 1840 and reproduced in the *Textile Colourist* in 1876 (Turnbull 1951).
- 3.2.6 The Ordnance Survey map of 1848 appears to show Cheetham Fold on the south side of Briscoe Lane (Plate 3). An entry in a trade directory of this period lists Joshua Woodhead as a farmer and beer house proprietor at Cheetham Fold (Whellan 1853, 353). A range of buildings immediately to the north-east of Cheetham Fold, beyond the boundary of the present study area, is also shown on the Ordnance Survey map. This formed a row of workers' housing, which was captured on a photograph taken in c 1950 (Plate 4).



Plate 4: Workers' housing on Briscoe Lane situated opposite the present study area

- 3.2.7 The Ordnance Survey map of 1892 (Fig 3) suggests that much of the cotton mill complex had been demolished this date and that the north-eastern of the two reservoirs had been filled in, depicted on the mapping as a marshy area. The area remains the same on Ordnance Survey mapping of 1909 and 1923.
- 3.2.8 The school had been established by 1932, and two ponds shown on the historic mapping to the south-west are likely to be the vestiges of the former mill reservoirs. By this time, the remaining mill buildings had been demolished and Briscoe Lane appears to have been widened.

- 3.2.9 The reservoirs had been completely filled in by the time of the 1949-51 mapping and a nursery school and 'Central Kitchen' built in the south-western part of the area, over the site of the reservoirs and part of the mill. The western side of the area was lower than the eastern side with a slope depicted between the two halves.
- 3.2.10 The nursery and 'Central Kitchen' were demolished at some point between the early 1950s and the early 1980s, and the south-western corner of the area fenced off.

4. SUMMARY OF RESULTS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

4.1.1 The evaluation comprised the excavation of five trenches targeted on the footprint of the former printing works, cotton mill, ancillary buildings, post-medieval buildings and reservoirs, as shown on historical maps (Figs 2 and 3).

4.2 EVALUATION TRENCHING

4.2.1 **Trench 1:** this trench measured 25 x 1.8m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m. It was aligned north-east/south-west across the footprint of an ancillary building to the former printing works/cotton mill and the edge of a reservoir visible on the Ordnance Survey map of 1848 (Fig 2). The trench was overlain by 0.1m of turf (**101**) with 0.3m to 0.55m of crushed rubble levelling material (**102**) beneath. This overlay a thick deposit of clay (**106**), which clearly represented the natural geology. This was exposed at a depth of 0.4m at the north-eastern end of the trench, and 0.65m below the modern ground surface at the south-western end (Plate 5).



Plate 5: General view across Trench 1, looking south-west

- 4.2.2 At the north-eastern end of the trench was a 1.1m to 1.2m wide feature (**105**), which was cut into the natural geology (Plate 6). It ran south across the trench and then turned south-west, continuing along the trench edge for 3.8m before terminating (Fig 4). It contained the remains of a single-course wide wall of machine-made bricks, indicating that feature **105** was a wall foundation trench. The material that had been backfilled into the foundation trench contained fragments of brick, stone and plastic bottles of a modern date.
- 4.2.3 A 1.14m wide rectangular concrete slab (**104**), exposed at a distance of 8.5m from the south-western end of the trench, was similarly of a modern date. The slab was 0.32m thick, and lay on modern engineering brick, probably forming a manhole. It had the remains of wooden shuttering along its sides.



Plate 6: Feature **105**, looking south



Plate 7: Concrete slab **104**, looking north-east

- 4.2.4 **Trench 2:** this trench measured 20 x 1.8m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.65m. It was aligned north-west/south-east across the north-eastern edge of the study area, placed across the footprint of ancillary buildings associated with the former cotton mill depicted on the 1848 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 2).



Plate 8: General view across Trench 2, looking south-east

- 4.2.5 The simple stratigraphic sequence exposed in the trench comprised 0.1m of turf (**201**) above 0.22m of rubble levelling material (**202**). This overlay natural clay **206**, which was exposed at a depth of 0.32m. At the south-western end of the trench was a modern cut (**203**), aligned north-east/south-west (Fig 4). Only the north-western 0.5m of this feature was observed within the trench, and it was not bottomed at 0.65m (Plate 9). It contained a rubble fill with modern refuse, and is likely to have been a service trench.
- 4.2.6 At a distance of 1.7m to the north-west of feature **203** was a stone-capped brick drain (**204**), aligned north-east/south-west and cut into the natural clay. The drain was 0.51m wide and built from hand-made bricks, suggesting an early to mid-nineteenth-century construction date. At 3.4m to the north-west of the drain was a 0.62m wide and 2.88m long ephemeral feature (**205**), cut into the natural clay (Plate 10). It contained mixed loam and rubble with modern refuse.



Plate 9: Feature 203, looking south



Plate 10: Feature 205, looking north-west

4.2.7 **Trench 3:** this trench was intended originally to be 20m in length, but had to be shortened to 15m as its south-western end lay across a large tree bole, truncating any remains within its radius. A 2m gap also had to be left unexcavated towards the south-western end of the trench to avoid a potentially live cable. The 4.5m of trench between this service and the tree bole were also slightly doglegged to avoid as much of the root ball as possible. The trench was 1.8m wide, excavated to a maximum depth 0.55m, and was aligned north-east/south-west across the site of the former cotton mill shown on the 1848 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 3).



Plate 11: General view across Trench 3, looking south-west

4.2.8 The trench was overlain by 0.1m of turf (**301**), overlying 0.35m to 0.45m of rubble levelling material (**302**). This lay directly onto natural boulder clay (**304**). A single large drainage feature (**303**) was revealed along the the trench, cut into the natural clay. It was between 0.4m and 0.9m in width, and had a second branch running from it to the south-east. At the north-eastern end it widened into a rough circle, and contained the truncated remains of a quarter circle of machine-made brick (Fig 5), probably an access shaft or vent for the drain. It was filled with mixed loam and rubble around a truncated brick drain made from a mixture of hand-made and machine-made bricks.

4.2.9 **Trench 4:** this trench measured 8 x 1.8m, and was excavated to maximum depth of 0.9m (Plate 11). It was aligned north-west/south-east across the site of the former cotton mill visible on the 1848 Ordnance Survey map (Fig 2).



Plate 12: General view across Trench 4, looking north-west

4.2.10 The trench comprised 0.2m of turf (**401**) above 0.37m of mixed rubble levelling material (**402**). At the south-eastern end of the trench, 0.9m from the trench edge, was a 0.33m wide wall (**406**) of hand-made bricks with a white lime-based mortar (Plate 13). This was aligned north-east/south-west, and was built with a header course along the south-eastern face and a stretcher course along the north-western face. Set into the wall, on the north-western face, was a 0.35 x 0.25m indentation, presumably for a drain pipe.

4.2.11 To the immediate north-west of wall **406** was a second wall (**405**). This comprised a single header course of hand-made bricks with white lime-based mortar, which continued south-west from the trench edge for 0.5m and then turned north-east, at a slight angle, running into the opposite trench edge and creating a dogleg (Fig 5). This had probably formed an internal partition.

4.2.12 These two walls were built into a compacted layer of mixed clay and brick fragments (**407**), which was 0.29m thick and overlay natural boulder clay (**408**). This may have represented levelling for an interior floor of a former building. At the north-western end of the trench, two stone-capped hand-made brick drains (**403** and **404**) had been cut into the natural clay. These ran parallel to each other on a north-east/south-west alignment (Fig 5).



Plate 13: Wall 406, looking east



Plate 14: Wall 405, looking south-west

- 4.2.13 **Trench 5:** this trench measured 20 x 1.8m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.55m. It was aligned north-east/south-west across the south-western corner of the site, parallel to Briscoe Lane, and across the site of former post-medieval buildings and the early printing works. The trench had to be excavated in two halves, with a 4m gap in the centre to avoid a large sewer manhole (Figs 2 and 3).
- 4.2.14 The south-western 12m of the trench comprised 0.2m of turf (**501**) above 0.35m of rubble levelling material (**502**). Below this was a 0.3m thick layer of clay capping (**503**), which sealed a 0.35m thick layer of clinker and ash (**504**). These formed the upper capping layers of a 6m deep sewer cut filled with mixed compact stoney clay loam (**505**). The sewer continued south-west from the manhole in the centre of the trench, removing any remains that may have originally been in this area. The sewer cut was not bottomed (Plate 15).



Plate 15: Trench 5 South-western part of Trench 5, with sewer infill, looking west

- 4.2.15 The north-eastern 12m of the trench comprised 0.2m of turf (**501**) above 0.3m of rubble levelling material (**502**). Below this was a further 0.45m of looser rubble (**506**), below which was a 0.65m thick deposit of fine light brown silty clay (**507**), which contained no features or artefacts of archaeological significance. This was felt to represent the original subsoil. At a depth of 1m from the current ground surface, a heavily rusted cast-iron service pipe (**508**) had been cut into layer **507**. Natural clay **509** was observed at a depth of 1.55m below the modern ground surface.



Plate 16: North-eastern part of Trench 5, looking south

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

5.1.1 All trenches showed a uniform upper layer of 0.1m to 0.2m of turf covering 0.2m to 0.45m of rubble levelling material, representing twentieth-century demolition and levelling. The natural clay was also observed across much of the site at quite a shallow depth. It is likely that the site was cleared following the demolition of the industrial buildings, and levelled using the remainder of the demolition rubble before being turfed over to accommodate firstly the nursery school, and then the tree-planted area. This redevelopment evidently had a considerable impact upon any remains of the nineteenth-century buildings.

5.2 POST-MEDIEVAL BUILDINGS AND PRINTING WORKS

5.2.1 The subsoil found in the north-eastern half of Trench 5 may have been associated with the earliest phase of activity on the site, but contained no features, structures or artefacts. Historical accounts note that the early core of the printing works was set up in a hay loft and stables, suggesting that the post-medieval buildings may be the site of the printing works.

5.2.2 The two wall footings found within Trench 4 are likely to date to the late eighteenth or nineteenth century, the bricks using appearing to be of this date rather than any earlier. The walls probably represent the vestiges of the foundations for an outbuilding associated with Cheetham Fold Farm, converted for use as a textile printing works in the early nineteenth century. The mixed layer of compacted clay and brick fragments (407) associated with the two walls could potentially represent the levelling material for an internal floor, either in a farm building or the early printing works. However, there was little evidence for the actual floor to survive *in-situ*, and no evidence for any internal features was identified.

5.3 COTTON MILL AND ANCILLARY BUILDINGS

5.3.1 As the natural clay was encountered at a shallow depth, it is likely that the mill was not cellared. The stone-capped brick drains found in trenches 2, 3 and 4 are likely, in their construction style, are also likely to be of a nineteenth-century date, and may represent sub-surface drainage infrastructure associated with either the printing works or the later cotton mill. This further suggests that the mill was removed entirely to below floor level on demolition.

5.3.2 All potential remains at the south-western side of this trench had been removed by a deep sewer.

5.4 RESERVOIRS

- 5.4.1 No remains of the reservoirs originally serving the nineteenth-century mill were encountered within the evaluation trenches. However, a deposit of ashy silty material observed cut into the clay during knotweed excavation to the north of Trench 5 and west of Trench 1 may represent the edge of one of the infilled reservoirs. These features appear to have been filled in initially in the second half of the nineteenth century, and then completely in the mid-twentieth century.

6. SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPACT

6.1 SIGNIFICANCE

6.1.1 The results obtained from the evaluation trenching demonstrate that there are few buried archaeological remains surviving within the development area. Notwithstanding the fragmentary survival of the two brick wall foundations in Trench 4, and the levelling material for an associated possible floor, most of the deposits and structures that were exposed in the trenches pertained to late nineteenth- or twentieth-century additions and remodelling to the site, and are considered to be of low archaeological significance.

6.2 IMPACT

6.2.1 The results obtained from the evaluation trench demonstrate that there is little potential for significant archaeological remains to survive *in-situ*. It is thus unlikely that any earth-moving works associated with the proposed development would have a negative impact on the buried archaeological resource, and it is considered unlikely that any further intrusive investigation of the site is merited.

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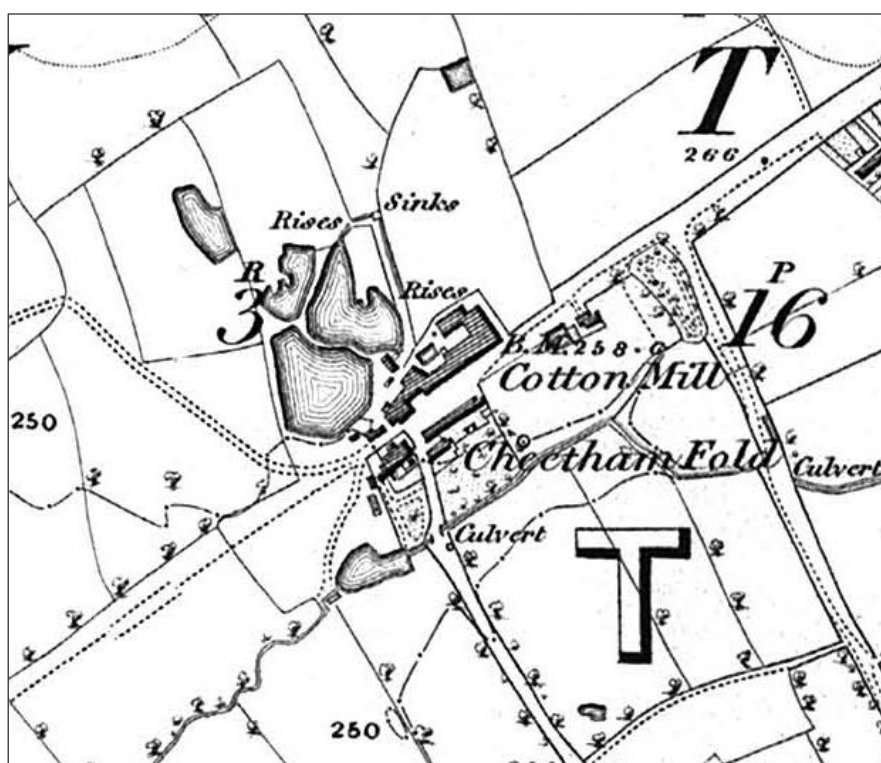
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APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

February 2015

Oxford
Archaeology
North

BRISCOE LANE,
NEWTON HEATH,
MANCHESTER



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

Proposals

The following Written Scheme of Investigation is offered in response to a request from Janet Saville of Laing O'Rourke for an archaeological evaluation in advance of a proposed development at Briscoe Lane Academy School in Newton Heath, Manchester.

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Laing O'Rourke has been commissioned by Manchester City Council to deliver proposals to increase the capacity of Briscoe Lane Academy in Newton Heath from a 1.5 form entry (FE) to a 3 FE school. The proposed development will augment the school site with the addition of a new single-storey classroom block located in the south-west corner of the site, which will necessitate considerable earth-moving works with a potential to have a negative impact on any buried archaeological remains.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological potential of the site has been highlighted by a desk-based assessment produced by Atkins in 2014. This study showed that the site had been developed initially during the first half of the nineteenth century as a result of the industrial expansion of Manchester. The first reliable plan of the area is provided by the Ordnance Survey 6": 1 mile map of 1848, which shows that a cotton mill had been established on the site, served by two large reservoirs.
- 1.1.3 In the light of this information, the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), which provides archaeological advice to Manchester City Council, recommended that a programme of intrusive archaeological investigation of the site is merited in advance of development, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework, Paragraph 128.
- 1.1.4 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been formulated in consultation with GMAAS, and provides for an appropriate scheme of initial intrusive archaeological investigation. It allows for the excavation of five evaluation trenches, targeted on the footprint of the former cotton mill and its associated water-management system, together with a possible post-medieval building the may have been used subsequently as a textile-printing works. In the event of significant archaeological remains being discovered in the trenches, further archaeological investigation is likely to be required. Any such additional works will be carried out in accordance with an Updated WSI.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology is an educational charity under the guidance of a board of trustees with over 35 years of experience in archaeology, and can provide a professional and cost-effective service. We are the largest employer of archaeologists in the country (we currently have more than 300 members of staff), and can thus deploy considerable resources with extensive experience to deal with any archaeological obligations you or your clients may have. OA is an Institute for Archaeologists Registered Organisation (No 17). We have offices in Lancaster and Oxford, trading as Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) and Oxford Archaeology South (OA South) respectively, enabling us to provide a truly nationwide service. All work on the project will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional standards, including:

- IfA's *Code of Conduct* (2012); *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (2010); *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (2010);
- English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, 1991;
- The European Association of Archaeologists *Principles of Conduct for Archaeologists Involved in Contract Archaeological Work* (1998).

1.2.2 OA North has unrivalled experience in the assessment, evaluation and excavation of former industrial and associated residential sites, particularly in the context of Manchester. We have an extensive portfolio of excavating the buried remains of former textile mills in Manchester, including Salvins' Factory, New Islington Mill, and Waller's Mill as part of the New Islington Millennium Village, Moore's Mill on the New Islington Wharf development, Peter Drinkwater's Mill and Shepley Street Mill in Piccadilly, and the Bengal Street Mill in Ancoats to name but a few.

2. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 ACADEMIC AIMS

2.1.1 The main research aim of the investigation, given the commercial nature of the development, will be to establish the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains on the site and, if present, characterise the level of preservation and significance, and provide a good understanding of their potential.

2.2 OBJECTIVES

2.2.1 The objectives of the project may be summarised as follows:

- to determine the presence, character, and extent of the post-medieval buildings associated with Cheetham Fold;
- to determine the presence, character, and extent of the late eighteenth-/early nineteenth-century textile printing works;
- to determine the presence, character, and extent of the mid-nineteenth-century cotton mill, shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1848;
- to inform a decision as to whether further archaeological investigation will be required in advance of development ground works;
- to compile an archival record of any archaeological remains within the development area.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

- 3.1 The development area will be investigated initially via the excavation of five targeted evaluation trenches. These are targeted on those elements of the former cotton mill and ancillary structures that lie within the boundary of the proposed development area, together with the post-medieval building that is thought to have been converted for use as a textile-printing works in the late eighteenth/nineteenth century (Figures 1 and 2). In the event of significant archaeological remains being discovered in the trenches, it is likely that further archaeological investigation will be required. Any such additional works will be carried out in accordance with an Updated Written Scheme of Investigation, which will be devised in consultation with GMAAS.

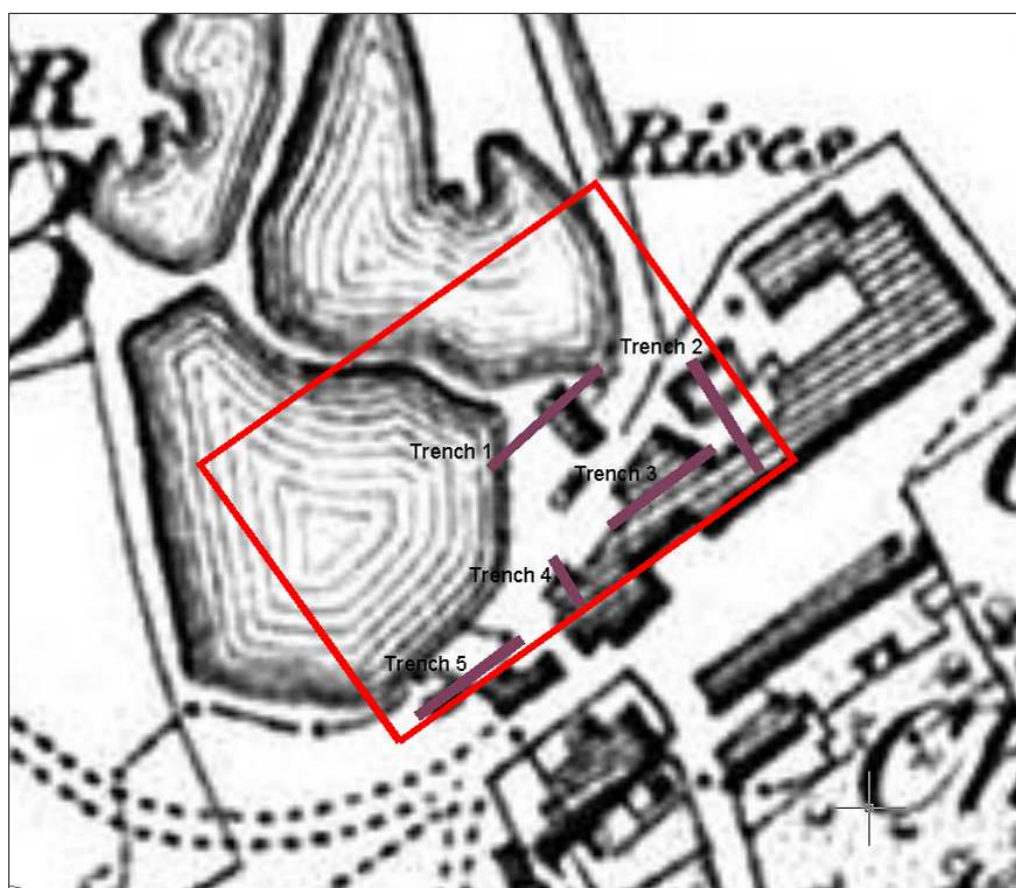


Figure 1: Proposed location of the evaluation trenches superimposed on an extract of the Ordnance Survey map of 1848

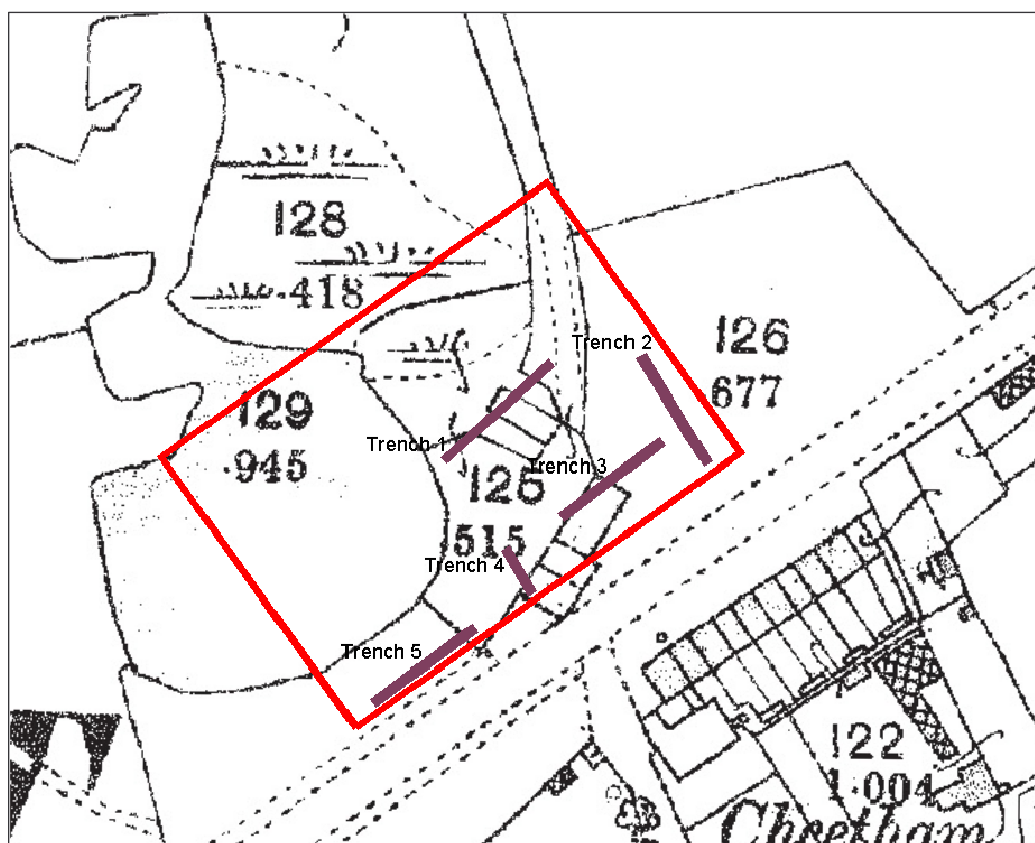


Figure 2: Proposed location of the evaluation trenches superimposed on an extract of the Ordnance Survey map of 1893

3.2 EVALUATION

3.2.1 **General Methodology:** it is proposed that the site be investigated initially via five trenches:

- *Trench 1:* will be 25m in length, and will be aligned north-east/south-west across ancillary buildings shown on the historical mapping. The trench will also investigate the edges of the two mill reservoirs;
- *Trench 2:* will be 20m in length, and will be placed across the centre of the cotton mill shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1848, and an ancillary structure;
- *Trench 3:* will be 20m in length, and will be placed along the centre of the cotton mill shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1848;
- *Trench 4:* will be 8m in length, and will be placed across the south-western end of the cotton mill shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1848;
- *Trench 5:* will be 20m in length, and will be placed along the south-western boundary of the study area, targeted on the site of post-medieval buildings associated with Cheetham Fold and a late eighteenth-/early nineteenth-century textile-printing works.

- 3.2.2 Excavation of the modern ground surface will be undertaken by a machine of appropriate power using a toothed bucket and, where necessary, a breaker. The uppermost levels of overburden/demolition material will then be removed using the same machine, but fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, to the top of the first significant archaeological level. The work will be supervised closely by a suitably experienced archaeologist. Spoil from the excavation will be stored adjacent to the trench, and will be backfilled upon completion of the archaeological works.
- 3.2.3 Machine excavation will then be used to define carefully the extent of any surviving foundations, floors, and other remains. Thereafter, structural remains will be cleaned manually to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date. If the excavation is to proceed below a depth of 1.2m, then the trenches will be widened sufficiently to allow the sides to be stepped in.
- 3.2.4 All information identified in the course of the site works will be recorded stratigraphically, using a system adapted from that used by the Centre for Archaeology Service of English Heritage. Results of the evaluation will be recorded on *pro-forma* context sheets, and will be accompanied with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and both black and white and colour photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features.
- 3.2.5 **Context Recording:** all contexts will be recorded using *pro-forma* sheets, and details will be incorporated into a Harris matrix. Similar object record and photographic record *pro-formas* will be used. All written recording of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced from *pro-forma* record sheets using sequential numbering.
- 3.2.6 **Photography:** a full and detailed photographic record of individual contexts will be maintained and similarly general views from standard view points of the overall site at all stages of the evaluation will be generated. Photography will be undertaken using high-resolution digital cameras. All frames will include a visible, graduated metric scale. Photograph records will be maintained on special photographic *pro-forma* sheets.
- 3.2.7 **Planning:** the precise location of the evaluation trenches, and the position of all archaeological structures encountered, will be surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a pen computer data logger. This process will generate scaled plans within AutoCAD, which will then be subject to manual survey enhancement. The drawings will be generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale, but can be output at any scale required. Sections will be manually drafted as appropriate at a scale of 1:10. All information will be tied in to Ordnance Datum.
- 3.2.8 Human remains are not expected to be present, but if they are found they will, if possible, be left *in situ* covered and protected. If removal is necessary, then the relevant Home Office permission will be sought, and the removal of such remains will be carried out with due care and sensitivity as required by the *Burials Act 1857*.

- 3.2.9 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.
- 3.2.10 **Finds policy:** finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (following current Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines) and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. OA North employs in-house artefact and palaeoecology specialists, with considerable expertise in the investigation, excavation, and finds management of sites of all periods and types, who are readily available for consultation. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC).

3.3 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 3.3.1 Full regard will be given to all constraints during the course of the project. OA North provides a Health and Safety Statement for all projects and maintains a Safety Policy. All site procedures are in accordance with the guidance set out in the Health and Safety Manual compiled by the Standing Conference of Archaeological Unit Managers.
- 3.3.2 OA North undertakes to safeguard, so far as is reasonably practicable, the health, safety and welfare of its staff and of others who may be affected by our work. OA North will also take all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of all persons not in their employment, such as volunteers, students, visitors, and members of the public (this includes trespassers).
- 3.3.3 OA North is fully familiar with and will comply with all current and relevant legislation, including, but not limited to:
- The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974);
 - Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations (1999);
 - Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 (as amended in 2002);
 - The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (2007);
 - The Control of Asbestos Regulations (2006);
 - The Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (1992);
 - Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations (1996);
 - The Health and Safety (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations (2002);
 - The Work at Height Regulations (2005);
 - The Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations (2002);
 - The Health and Safety (First-Aid) Regulations (1981);
 - The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order (2005);
 - The Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations (1998);
 - Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations (1998).
- 3.3.4 OA North has professional indemnity to a value of £2,000,000, employer's liability cover to a value of £10,000,000 and public liability to a value of £15,000,000. Written details of insurance cover can be provided if required.

3.4 OTHER MATTERS

3.4.1 **Project Monitoring:** the aims of monitoring are to ensure that the archaeological works are undertaken within the limits set by the Written Scheme of Investigation, and to the satisfaction of the curatorial archaeologist at the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS). The curatorial archaeologist will be given at least five days' notice of when work is due to commence, and it is anticipated that there will be at least one formal monitoring meeting during the course of the evaluation.

3.5 POST-EXCAVATION AND REPORT PRODUCTION

3.5.1 **Report:** a report will be produced within four working weeks of the completion of the fieldwork, and will include:

- a summary statement of the findings; the background to the evaluation, including location details;
- an outline of the methodology of the evaluation;
- a description of the site's setting, including topography and geology;
- an account of the documented historical background to the site;
- a summary, assessment, and interpretation of the results;
- an assessment of any finds and samples recovered from the trenches;
- a description of the significance of the site in its local and regional context;
- recommendations for any further archaeological investigation that is considered merited to mitigate the impact of the development works;
- a catalogue of archive items, and details of the final deposition of the project archive.

3.5.2 **Archive:** the results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*The Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991) and the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IfA in that organisation's code of conduct. As part of the archiving process, the on-line OASIS (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed.

3.5.3 The paper and finds archive for the archaeological work undertaken at the site will be deposited with the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester. The archive will be deposited with the museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. Except for items subject to the Treasure Act, all artefacts found during the course of the project will be donated to the museum.

4. WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.1 A minimum one-week period should be allowed to excavate and record the evaluation trenches. On the first day of the fieldwork, OA North will accurately locate through measured survey the exact position of the trenches to be excavated. The trench locations will then be scanned for live services with a CAT prior to any mechanical excavation.
- 4.2 In the event of significant archaeological remains being discovered in the evaluation trenches, a programme of further investigation may be anticipated. The time required for any additional investigation cannot be determined until the results of the evaluation are known.
- 4.3 A report will be submitted within four weeks of the completion of the fieldwork.

5. STAFFING PROPOSALS

- 5.1 The project will be under the overall charge of **Ian Miller BA FSA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed. Ian has over 20 years experience of commercial archaeology, and has a particular interest in the archaeology of the Industrial Period, and particular that of Greater Manchester and Lancashire. His role will be to ensure that the Written Scheme of Investigation is implemented within the framework of the Project Objectives. He will be responsible for all aspects of staff and resource logistics, ensuring the smooth running of the project programme. He will liaise with the Client and GMAAS with regard to progress, and will maintain relationships with other contractors.
- 5.2 The fieldwork is likely to be undertaken by **Graham Mottershead BA** (OA North Project Supervisor). Graham is an highly experienced field archaeologist, with over 20 years continuous experience of field archaeology. It is not possible to provide details of specific technicians that will be involved with the fieldwork at this stage, but all shall be suitably qualified archaeologists with proven relevant experience. It is anticipated that up to two technician will be required for the initial stage of the fieldwork.
- 5.3 Assessment of any finds recovered from the evaluation will be undertaken by OA North's in-house finds specialist **Christine Howard-Davis BA** (OA North Finds Manager). Christine has extensive knowledge of all finds of all periods from archaeological sites in northern England, and is a recognised expert in the analysis of post-medieval artefacts.

ILLUSTRATIONS

LIST OF FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Trenches superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 6": 1 mile map of 1848
- Figure 3: Trenches superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 25": 1 mile map of 1892
- Figure 4: Plan of trenches 1 and 2
- Figure 5: Plan of trenches 3 and 4

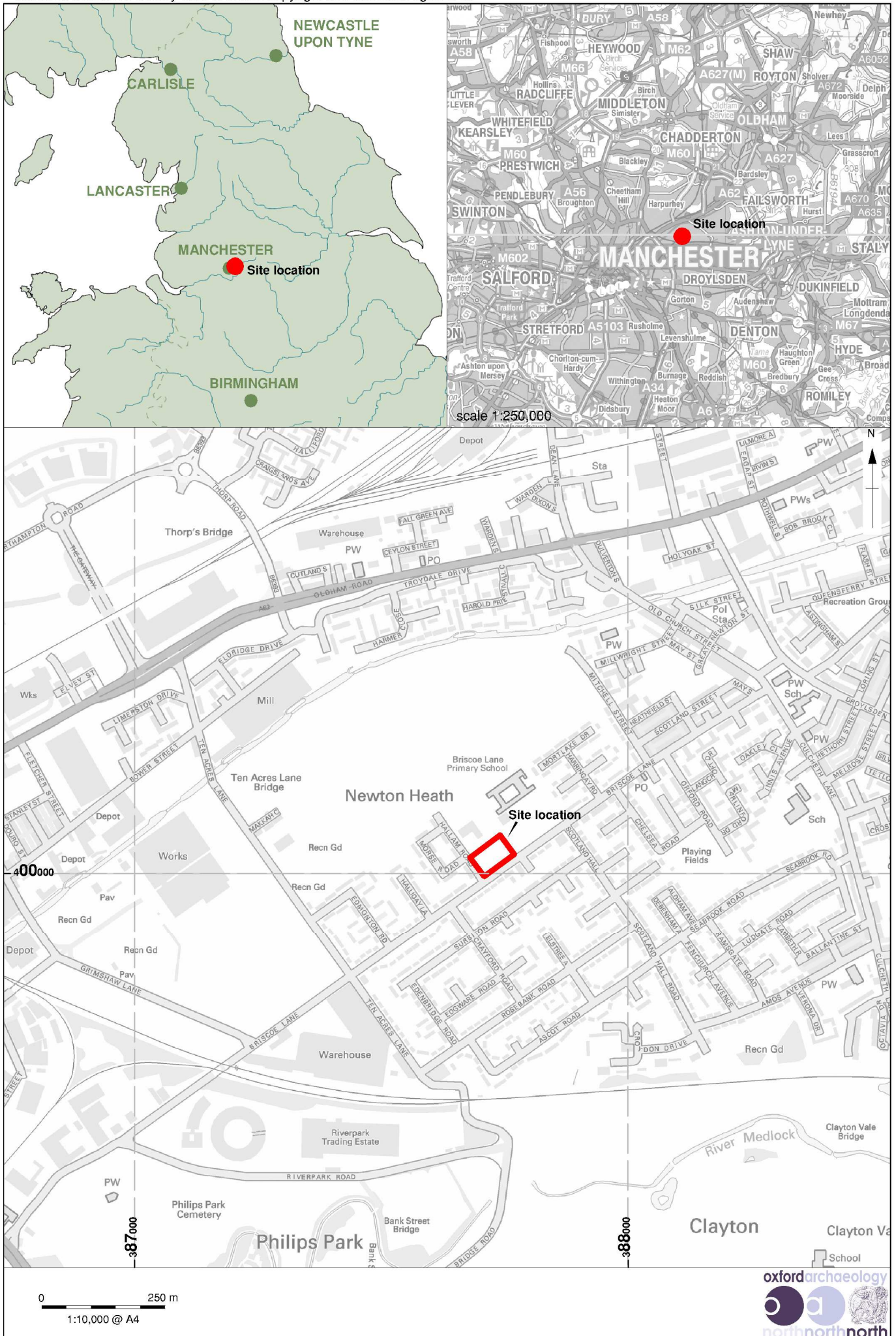


Figure 1: Site location

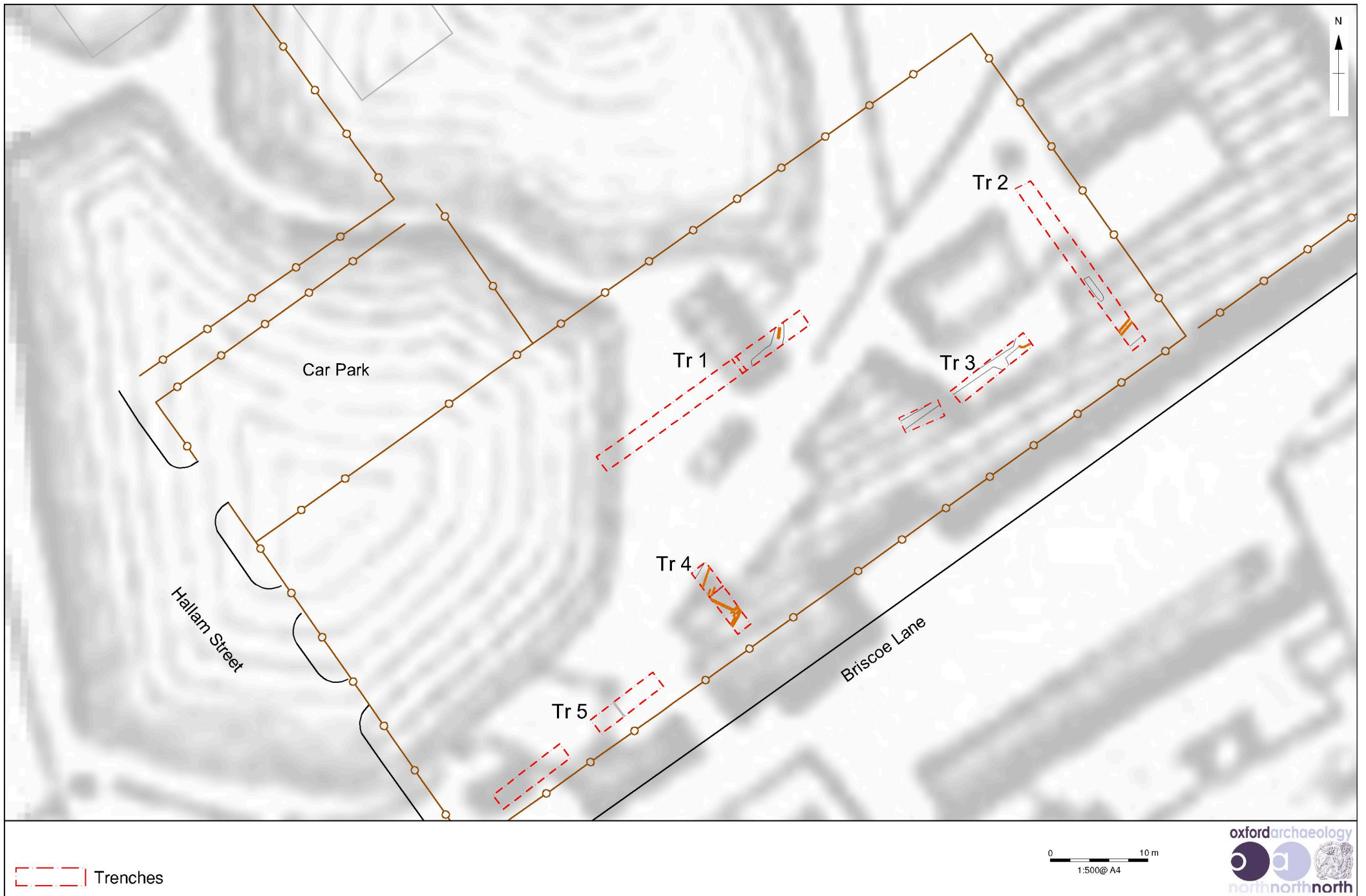


Figure 2: Trenches superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 6":1 mile map of 1848

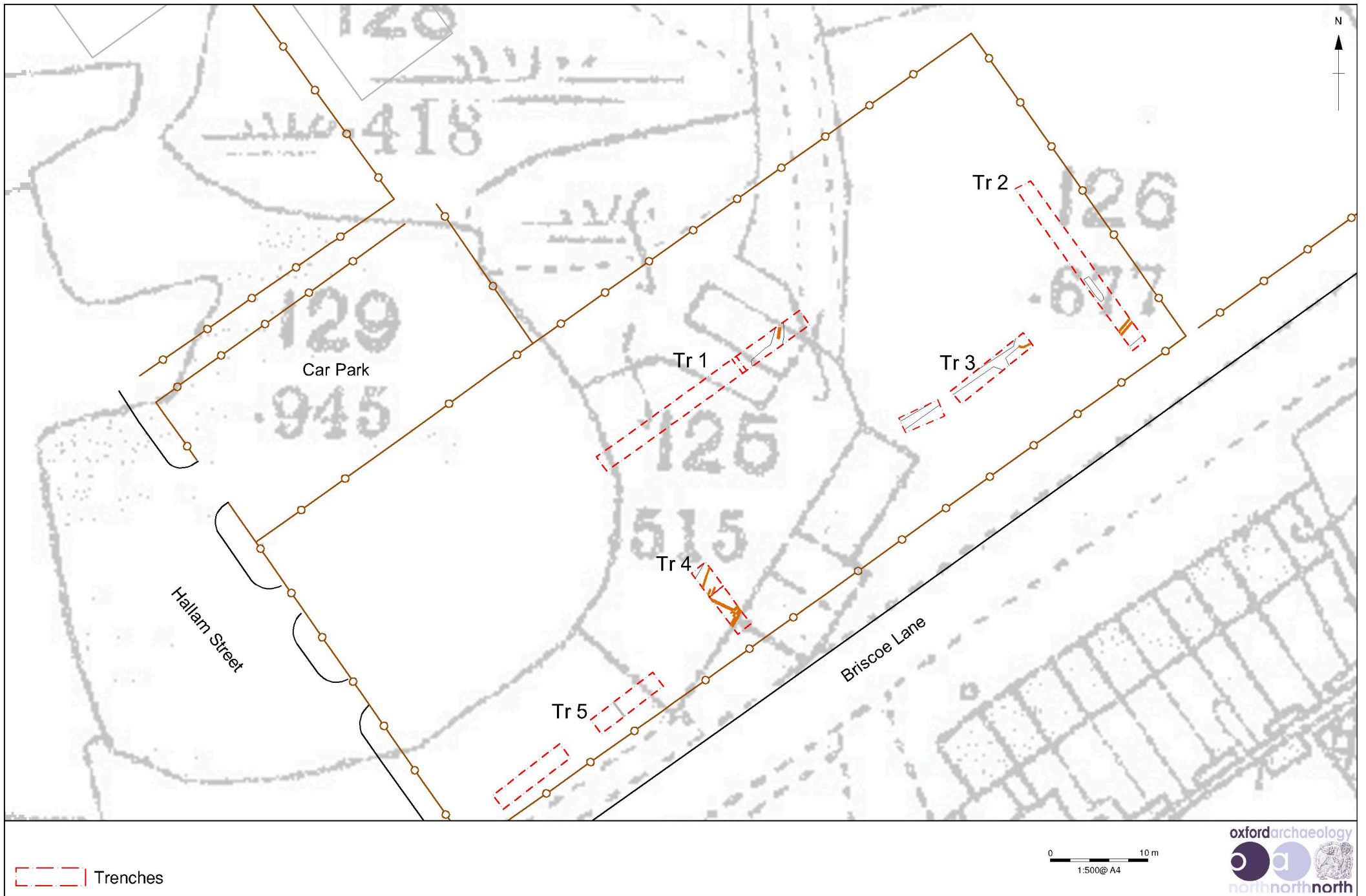


Figure 3: Trenches superimposed on the Ordnance Survey 25":1 mile map of 1892

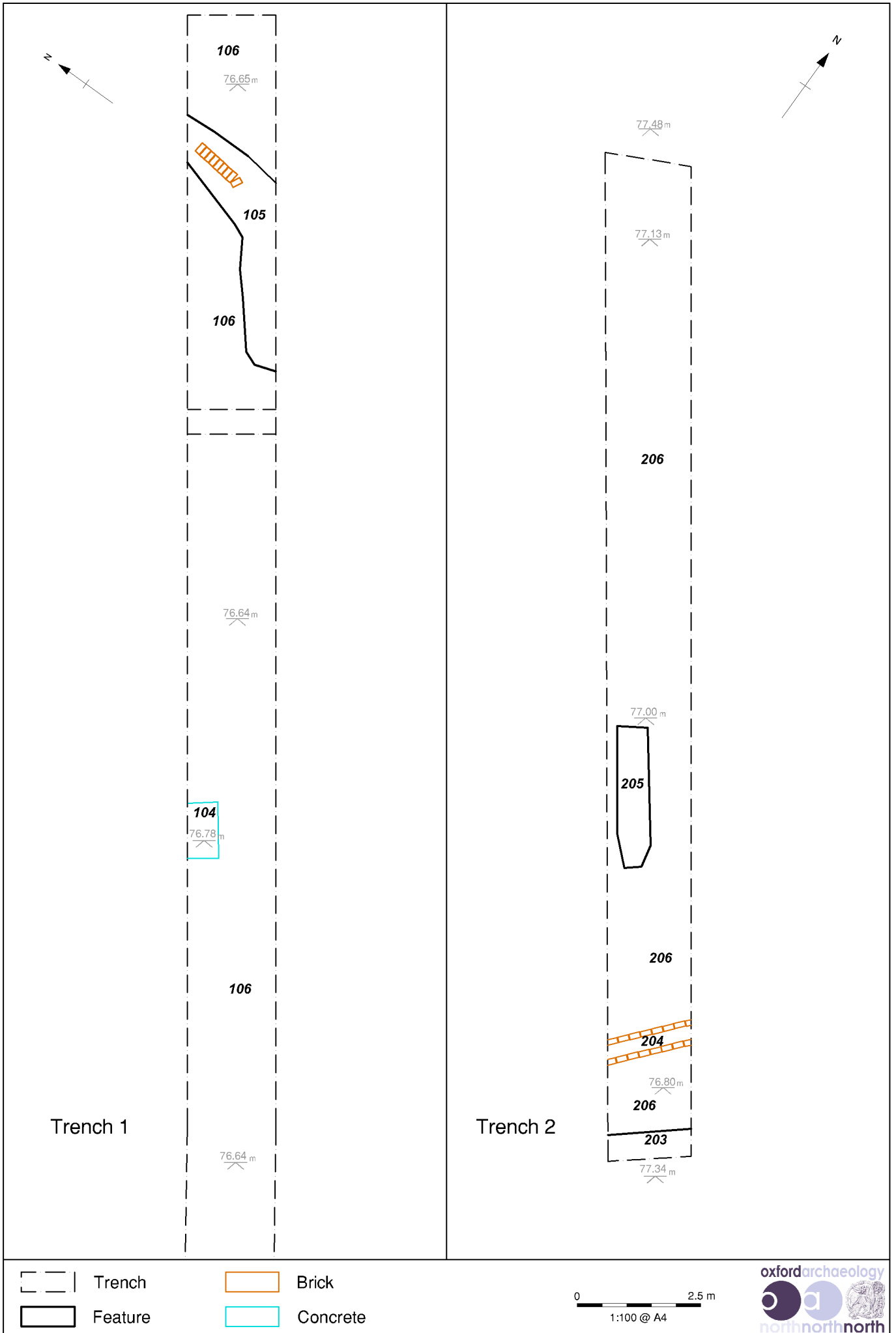
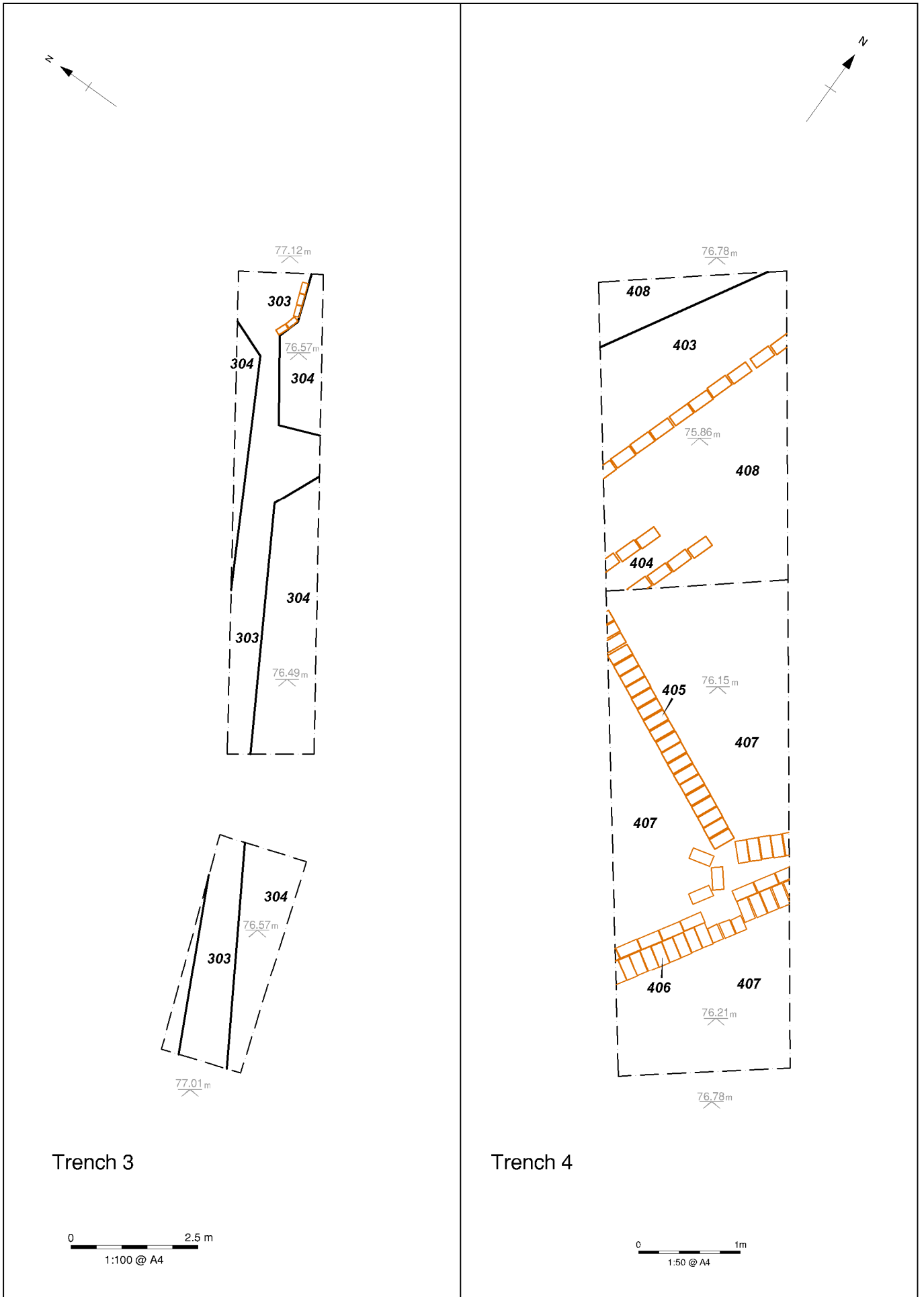


Figure 4: Plan of trenches 1 and 2



- Trench
- Brick
- Feature

Figure 5: Plan of trenches 3 and 4