



LIVERPOOL INSTITUTE OF PERFORMING ARTS

MERSEYSIDE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Oxford Archaeology North

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**The Environment
Partnership for Kier
Construction Northern**

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SUMMARY

Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (NGR SJ 354 895) submitted a planning application (ref 15F/2159) to build an extension to the former printing department building. Following recommendations made by the Liverpool City Council Buildings Conservation Officer, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) outlining a programme of watching brief was compiled by The Environment Partnership (TEP). Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) was commissioned by TEP to maintain the watching brief during the excavation of the foundation base pits carried out by Kier Construction Northern. The aim of this watching brief was to ascertain the level of preservation of the former Sandon Terrace, part of the Georgian Quarter. This was demolished during the 1830s to accommodate the expansion of the Mechanics School of Arts (latterly the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts), which lies below the proposed location of the new extension. The groundworks were carried out during January 2016.

The site mainly comprised made up ground containing a 1m-thick layer of demolition rubble. This was generally loose in nature and was unstable, which resulted in accurate recording of archaeological remains being limited.

During the course of the watching brief, 16 base pits were excavated prior to filling with concrete to accommodate the new building. The remains of cellar walls made of handmade red brick were observed in three of the base pits. One of these walls was plastered in a yellow material, but the other two walls exhibited a brown plaster on the single side exposed.

The remains of yellow sandstone walls were revealed in two base pits at the south-western corner of the site. Both appeared to form an aperture, perhaps doorways, although not enough of these structures was revealed to make an accurate interpretation. There were no remains of glazing or roofing material within the demolition rubble which overlay the archaeological remains, nor were there any finds. There were no deposits suitable for palaeoenvironmental analysis and samples were not taken.

The walls discovered are perpendicular to Upper Duke Street, parallel with Hope Street and lie on the same alignment as the former terraced buildings of Sandon Terrace. Further excavation in other parts of the site might reveal additional remains on similar alignments. As the area was probably undeveloped until the eighteenth century, it is unlikely that remains earlier than this date are present.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Oxford Archaeology North would like to thank Jason Clarke of TEP for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Nick Backhouse of Kier Construction and Damian O'Grady of Site Engineering Ltd for their assistance during the course of the watching brief.

Alex Batey and Mike Birtles undertook the watching brief; the latter also wrote the report. The drawings were produced by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Karl Taylor, who also edited the report.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

1.1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken in January 2016 at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, Merseyside, by Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), at the request of The Environment Partnership (TEP). The work was required in advance of the construction of a two- to three-storey extension to the rear of the 1960s former printing department building (Planning Application Ref 15F/2159), where ground-breaking operations could potentially impact upon the remains of the former Sandon Terrace, which once stood in this location. This report documents the results of the archaeological watching brief, and discusses these in their archaeological and historical context.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

1.2.1 The site is situated at the corner of Hope Street and Upper Duke Street, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) SJ 354 895. The topography of the site is fairly flat, near the top of raised ground approximately 43m above Ordnance Datum (AOD). The solid geology of the site comprises the Tarporley siltstone formation, overlying glacial till (BGS 2016). The soils are classified as freely draining, slightly acid sandy soils (Landis 2016).

1.3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 1.3.1 The earliest evidence of settlement at Liverpool appears in a charter of 1190-4. The settlement formed part of the Hundred of West Derby (Philpott 1988, 34).
- 1.3.2 The expansion of Liverpool took place from the early eighteenth century, accelerating during the nineteenth century, as a result of the silting up of the River Dee in Chester and the development of colonies in the New World. The impetus for growth was the construction of the world's first commercial wet dock, known as the Old Dock, built into the pool that gave Liverpool its name, and opened in 1715 (Gregory *et al* 2014). The development of the system of docks from this beginning allowed trade links with Ireland and North America to grow, creating the climate for industry to prosper, leading in turn to a dramatic growth in population (*ibid*).
- 1.3.3 Prior to the mid-eighteenth century, the Georgian Quarter, to the south-east of the medieval town, is likely to have been agricultural land (TEP 2015). Sandon Terrace dates from c 1785 and fronted onto Hope Street. This terrace was demolished in the mid-nineteenth century to allow the expansion of the Mechanics School of Arts, which later became the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (*ibid*).

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 INTRODUCTION

2.1.1 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI; *Appendix 1*) was prepared for Kier Construction Northern by TEP (2015), in response to a request by the Liverpool City Council Buildings Conservation Officer. This was adhered to in full, the work being consistent with the relevant CIfA and Historic England guidelines (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 2014a; 2014b; 2014c; Historic England 2015).

2.2 WATCHING BRIEF

2.2.1 A permanent archaeological presence was maintained during groundworks. The purpose was to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains encountered.

2.2.2 During the watching brief, no samples suitable for palaeoenvironmental analysis were revealed. In addition to this, no finds were recovered.

2.2.3 A daily record of the nature, extent and depths of groundworks was maintained throughout the duration of the project. All archaeological contexts were recorded on OA North's *pro-forma* sheets, using a system based on that of the former English Heritage Centre for Archaeology. A digital photographic record was maintained throughout.

2.3 ARCHIVE

2.3.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the WSI and with current CIfA and Historic England guidelines (CIfA 2014b; Historic England 2015). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Merseyside Historic Environment Record on completion of the project.

3. RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

3.1.1 The objective of the watching brief was to identify, investigate and record any archaeological remains encountered during the groundworks for the proposed development, and the following is a summary of the findings. The area of the watching brief is plotted on Figure 1 and a plan of the archaeological remains is shown on Figure 2.

3.2 RESULTS

3.2.1 The breaking of ground was restricted to several small foundation pits (Fig 2) not exceeding 2 x 2m in size, and excavated to a maximum depth of 3m. The ground conditions across the site comprised loosely compacted demolition rubble, approximately 0.5-0.8m thick, which subsequently became unstable during excavation. The ability to identify and record archaeological remains accurately was, therefore, restricted.

3.2.2 The remains of a cellar wall (**101**), on an east to west alignment parallel with Upper Duke Street, were revealed underneath the standing building (Plate 1). A length of approximately 3.2m of this wall was revealed, which comprised a double skin of red handmade bricks, covered with a yellow plaster on either side. The bricks were uniform in size, each measuring 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.07m. The depth of excavation was insufficient to reveal any floor.



Plate 1: Cellar wall 101

- 3.2.3 Fragments of a yellow sandstone structure (**102**; Plate 2) could be observed in the south-eastern corner of the site, which appeared to form the end of an east-west-aligned wall (Plate 3). It is possible that these sandstone blocks formed a doorway, but not enough of this feature was revealed to demonstrate a substantive interpretation.



Plate 2: Sandstone 102, west-facing edge



Plate 3: Sandstone wall/pillar 102, west-facing edge

- 3.2.4 The remains of a north-south-aligned cellar wall (**103**) were revealed in one base excavation pit (Plate 4; Fig 2) along the western-facing edge of the new building. A length of approximately 1m of this wall was revealed, although only the western-facing edge was seen. The wall was composed of red brick and lined with a brown plaster on the western-facing edge. No floor was revealed.



Plate 4: Cellar wall 103

- 3.2.5 The remains of another cellar wall (**105**) could just be seen in a foundation base excavation immediately to the east of sandstone wall **102** (Plate 5). This feature was built of red bricks, each measuring 0.24 x 0.12 x 0.08m, aligned north-south.



Plate 5: Cellar wall 105

- 3.2.6 A yellow sandstone structure (**106**) could be seen in a foundation base pit excavation to the east of **105**. This appears to have formed an aperture, possibly a doorway, but unsafe conditions meant that measurements could not be recorded (Plate 6).



Plate 6: Sandstone wall 106

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 DISCUSSION

4.1.1 During the excavation works, it was clear that the putative remains of the former Sandon Terrace potentially survive up to 1m below the current made-ground level. The remains comprised red handmade brick and sandstone blocks, similar in nature to the surviving houses elsewhere in the area. The nature of the excavations meant that the full extent and nature of the remains could not be ascertained but it is likely that most of the remains do indeed relate to the former terraced buildings of Sandon Terrace. All of the surviving structural remains were observed in the south and west parts of the investigation area, although this could be a result of the fact that this is where the majority of the foundation pits were excavated. The structural remains were covered by loosely compacted demolition rubble, which consisted of 95% crushed red brick. There were no remains of floor, roof, timber or glazing materials, nor were there any finds.

4.1.2 The walls discovered are perpendicular to the surviving street of Upper Duke Street, parallel with Hope Street and lie on the same alignment as the former terraced buildings of Sandon Terrace (Plate 7). Further excavation in other parts of the site might reveal additional remains on similar alignments. As the area was probably undeveloped until the eighteenth century, it is unlikely that remains earlier than this date are present.

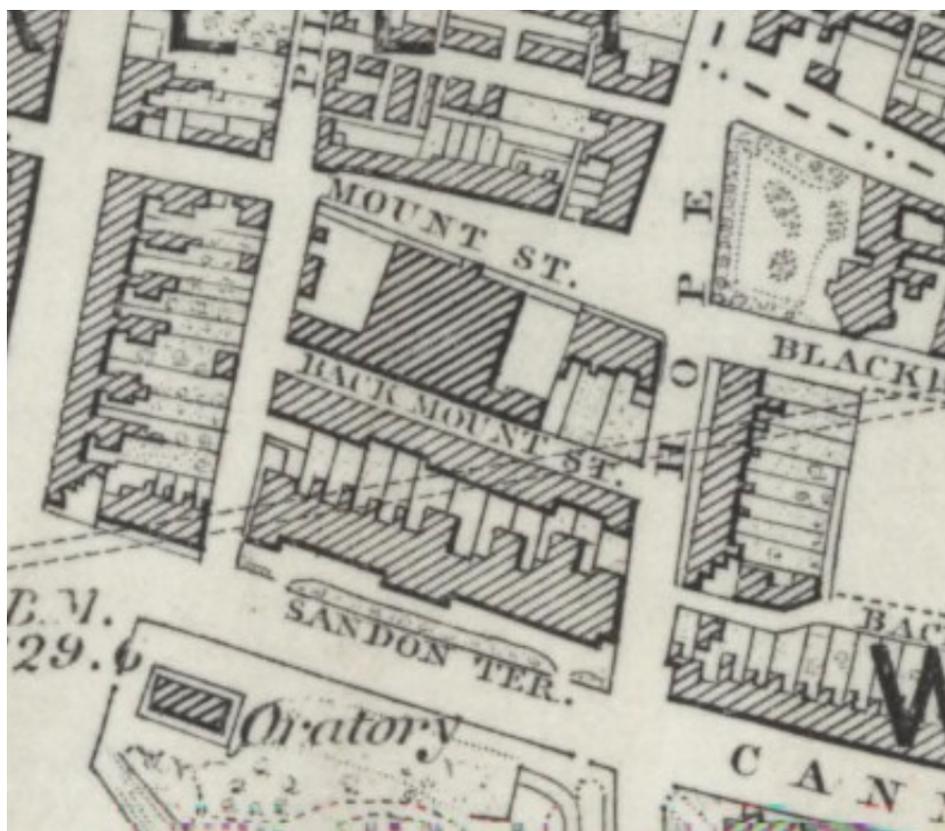


Plate 7: 1845 OS 6-inch map, illustrating the former Sandon Terrace

- 4.1.3 Surviving elements of Sandon Terrace are unlikely to be disturbed during the current development and will probably be preserved *in situ*.

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APPENDIX 1: WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION



**Archaeological watching brief at the
Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts
Hope Street, Liverpool**

Written Scheme of Investigation



**Archaeological watching brief at the Liverpool Institute of
Performing Arts, Hope Street, Liverpool**

Written Scheme of Investigation

August 2015

Job No. 5361

Version 1.0

Prepared by:

Jason Clarke

TEP

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Kier Construction Northern

Written:	Checked:	Approved:
JC	HK	HK

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared for Kier Construction Northern in association with an application for full planning permission for the refurbishment, conversion and extension to the former printing department building at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, located on the corner of Hope Street and Upper Duke Street, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR SJ354895).
- 1.2 A full description of the proposed development will be set out in the Planning Statement submitted with the application. In summary, the proposed development consists of the renovation and conversion of the existing 1960's former printing department building as well as the construction of a 2/3 storey extension to its rear within the existing car park.
- 1.3 The archaeological works will comprise an archaeological watching brief during all below ground works during the construction of the rear extension building, this will include all foundation trenches, the excavation of any cellars, as well as any associated service runs, such as drainage and utilities.
- 1.4 Given the potential for archaeology, associated with the former buildings on Sandon Terrace, of at least regional significance within the development area, it is the advice of the buildings conservation officer at Liverpool City Council that a programme of archaeological watching brief be undertaken to mitigate any potential adverse effects on below ground archaeology.
- 1.5 The works outlined below in this WSI which will seek to secure full discharge of the pre-commencement condition.
- 1.6 This WSI provides a detailed description of the proposed programme of archaeological work.
- 1.7 It is consistent with the NPPF that this programme of work could be secured as a condition of planning consent.

Aims and Objectives

- 1.8 The following programme has been designed to identify any archaeological deposits or features identified during development groundworks. It will be undertaken in order to mitigate the impact by means of preservation by record of any such features or deposits. The works will be informed by and carried out in accordance with the policy and guideline provisions outlined below.
- 1.9 The research objectives of the programme of work will be determined by what, if any, archaeological remains are present within the development footprint. However, subsequent assessment and analysis will be in accordance with the research outlined in the Archaeological Research Framework of the North-West of England (2006).



KEY

+ Site Location

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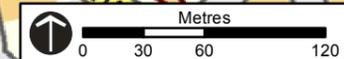
Project: **LIPA Archaeology**

Title: **Hope Street, Liverpool - Site Location**

Drawing No: **G5361.001**

Scale: 1:3,500 @ A3 Date: 20/08/2015

Drawn: BW	Checked: JC	Approved: HK
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2.0 BACKGROUND

Location and Geology

- 2.1 The site is located at the corner of Hope Street and Upper Duke Street at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR SJ354895). The solid geology is interbedded Sandstone and Conglomerate. The drift geology is glacial till (BGS).
- 2.2 The topography of the site is relatively flat and lies approximately 43m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD).
- 2.3 The river Mersey is located approximately 1.50km to the west of the site.

Historic background

- 2.4 There is no evidence of prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon settlement activity within Liverpool. There are isolated findspots of Roman and Anglo-Saxon coins, none with the development area.
- 2.5 The name Liverpool may have developed from the ancient dialect for 'Lower pool' and appears in a charter of 1190-1194 as one of a number of villis possibly associated with West Derby Manor mentioned in the Domesday Survey of 1086.
- 2.6 King John founded a port in 1207 as a staging post to send men and supplies to the recently conquered Ireland. In the same year King John issued a letters-patent which resulted in Liverpool becoming a borough.
- 2.7 Liverpool castle was constructed by William de Ferrers in the reign of Henry III (1216-1272).
- 2.8 Liverpool expanded during the 18th and 19th centuries due to trade links to Ireland and North America, as well as large amount of immigration to the city to provide labour for industries such as sugar refining, ship building, rope manufacture and iron working.
- 2.9 Up until the mid-18th century Hope Street was likely to have been agricultural land, by 1785 the northern end of Hope Street was straightened and the Georgian expansion of Liverpool was underway.
- 2.10 The original buildings of Liverpool School of Performing Arts was built in 1825 as the Mechanics School of Arts and promoted by the Liverpool Institute. The building expanded in the 1830's with the construction of Liverpool Institute and school of arts building, completed in 1837. Further expansion of the Institute was complete in 1883 with a school population of almost 400 boys. In the early 20th century the institute was further expanded with the demolition of a row houses named Sandon Terrace that fronted on to Hope Street and the filling of Back Mount Street.
- 2.11 By the mid-20th century an additional building was constructed, for the printing department, fronting onto Hope Street. The building is still present today and scheduled for major refurbishment and extension in the latest phase of the institute's development.

3.0 POLICY, GUIDANCE AND MONITORING

Policy

- 3.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) includes as a core planning principle (paragraph 17) to “conserve heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations”. Section 12 of the NPPF then goes on to describe provisions specifically relating to conserving and enhancing the historic environment.
- 3.2 Paragraph 141 states that “Local planning authorities should make information about the significance of the historic environment gathered as part of plan-making or development management publicly accessible. They should also require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted”.

Guidance

- 3.3 The guidance most relevant to this WSI is provided in:
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2014, Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief. This provides the following standard:
to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works.
- 3.4 Also relevant to this WSI is the English Heritage guidance document “Environmental Archaeology, A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (second edition). This document provides guidance for good practice in environmental archaeology. .

Monitoring

- 3.5 The site will be monitored by the buildings conservation officer on behalf of the local planning authority. The buildings conservation officer will be kept up to date with progress during all phases of the archaeological works.
- 3.6 If significant archaeological features are found the buildings conservation officer will be informed. Provision will be made for attendance on site for meetings to review the findings and update the sampling strategy.

4.0 PROPOSED FIELDWORK

Watching brief

- 4.1 The watching brief will be undertaken by a suitably qualified archaeologist, working with the construction contractors during the construction of the proposed development. The watching brief will comprise archaeological observations during mechanical excavations for foundations, drainage trenches, and for any other below ground works within the development area associated with the proposed building extension that could reveal archaeological remains.
- 4.2 The archaeologist would be present during the excavation phase of the construction programme, and would continue to be on site until below ground works are complete or the site has been 'signed off' by the building conservation officer.
- 4.3 The supervising archaeologist will work with the banksman and machine operator to ensure that stripped surfaces and excavations are not tracked across until the supervising archaeologist has inspected the area and handed it back to the contractor. The archaeologist will do so within an appropriate timescale and will avoid any unnecessary delays to the work programme.
- 4.4 The watching brief will provide an accurate record of any archaeological and palaeo-environmental finds, features, artefacts or ecofacts identified.
- 4.5 In the event that any such finds or features are identified, the construction contractor will be immediately informed and the works may be temporarily halted while the remains are recorded.
- 4.6 In the event that complex or extensive remains are identified, the archaeological contractor will safeguard the area of interest and immediately inform the client and building conservation officer.
- 4.7 The watching brief will provide an accurate record of any archaeological and palaeo-environmental finds, features, artefacts or ecofacts identified.
- 4.8 The sampling strategies will accord with the requirements of Liverpool Historic Environment team, as outlined in any brief documents.
- 4.9 Sampling strategies will be defined in a method statement to be provided by the archaeological contractor prior to site works commencing.

Finds

- 4.10 All finds or environmental samples recovered during the archaeological works will be assessed and reported on by internal and external specialists of the archaeological contractor. A list of specialists for the project will be provided in a method statement from the appointed archaeological contractor prior to works commencing:
- 4.11 All finds will be treated in accordance with current best practice as set out in Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Historic England guidance.

Human Remains

- 4.12 If human remains are encountered during the watching brief, they will be left in situ and the coroner notified. If it is deemed appropriate to excavate human remains, this will be done in accordance with appropriate Historic England and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (e.g. ClfA Technical Paper 13 Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed remains). Excavation, removal from site, analysis and final placing will all be subject to the requirements of the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence.

Treasure

- 4.13 If any artefacts are encountered that would constitute 'treasure' as defined by The Treasure Act, 1996, will be notified to the local Coroner and relevant Finds Liaison Officer.

Palaeo-environmental sampling and analysis

- 4.14 The palaeo-environmental assessment aims to identify areas within the development footprint where conditions are such that deposits suitable for the study of past environments are preserved. These most commonly occur in the form of subsurface peat layers, but are also taken to include all waterlogged deposits. The identification of any suitable areas will take place during the strip and record and watching brief.
- 4.15 Should any such deposits exist within the area of impact, samples will be taken by a suitably qualified specialist sub-contractor.
- 4.16 The samples would be assessed for their potential by internal or external specialists of the archaeological contractor, and suitable techniques applied to sub-sample from select cores to determine the preservation and taxonomic diversity within the samples. This is likely to include assessing for one or more of the following:
- Pollen (focussing on organic units)
 - Diatoms (focussing upon lithological transitions within and at the base of the Holocene sediment stack)
 - Foraminifera (focussing on mineral strata and in particular on transitions)
 - Plant macro-remains (focussing on organic units)
- 4.17 Having assessed the potential for analysis a project design will be produced that will provide a detailed proposal for analysis (including, for example, C14 dating, loss-on-ignition to measure organic carbon content, humification and mass specific magnetic susceptibility) of any present selected samples.
- 4.18 If necessary and appropriate the advice of the English Heritage Science Advisor for the north-west will be sought.

5.0 REPORTING

- 5.1 In accordance with the principles of Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (English Heritage 2006) and the Management of Archaeological Projects, 2nd Ed (MAP2) (English Heritage 1991), a programme of post-excavation assessment and reporting will be undertaken, to commence on completion of archaeological mitigation fieldwork.
- 5.2 The programme will be proportionate to the findings of the fieldwork, and it may be that a single phase of assessment, analysis and reporting is sufficient in the event of non-complex findings.
- 5.3 A report will be produced detailing the results of fieldwork within 12 weeks of the end of fieldwork and archived within 6 months. The report will include;
- a front cover to include the NGR,
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results,
 - the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken,
 - description of the methodology, including the sources consulted,
 - a very brief summary of the historical background of the study area,
 - a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the impact,
 - a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design,
 - the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted,
 - a site location plan related to the national grid,
 - appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located,
 - plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds,
 - illustrative photographs as appropriate,
 - Coordinates (latitude/longitude) of relevant sites if archaeological remains have been discovered.
- 5.4 In the event of archaeologically significant finds, the results of fieldwork will also be published in a relevant and appropriate journal, or other publically disseminated publication, as appropriate.

6.0 ARCHIVE

- 6.1 An archive of the results of the archaeological work will be produced, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (Management of Archaeological Projects, Appendix 3, 2nd edition, 1991). The archive will contain site matrices, and summary reports of the artefact record, context records, and any other records or materials recovered.
- 6.2 A single bound copy of each report plus a PDF on disk will be submitted to the Merseyside Historic Environment Record (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). The original record archive of projects (paper, magnetic and plastic media), and a full copy of the record archive (microform or microfiche), together with the material archive (artefacts, ecofacts, and samples) will be deposited with the National Museums Liverpool.
- 6.3 Details of the work will be entered on the OASIS database at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis>.

7.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1 All work on site would be undertaken strictly in accordance with the project health and safety plan and task specific risk assessments. All companies working on the project will adhere to the client's required quality, health, safety and environment controls.
- 7.2 Access routes to working areas would be specified by the client and access would only be permitted to those routes and the area of the fieldwork.
- 7.3 All site staff, including subcontractors and visitors, will prove that they have attended a site induction and have the necessary competencies (e.g. CITB training for machine operators) and any other necessary health and safety qualifications.

8.0 REFERENCES

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ILLUSTRATIONS

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Foundation trenches and features observed during the watching brief

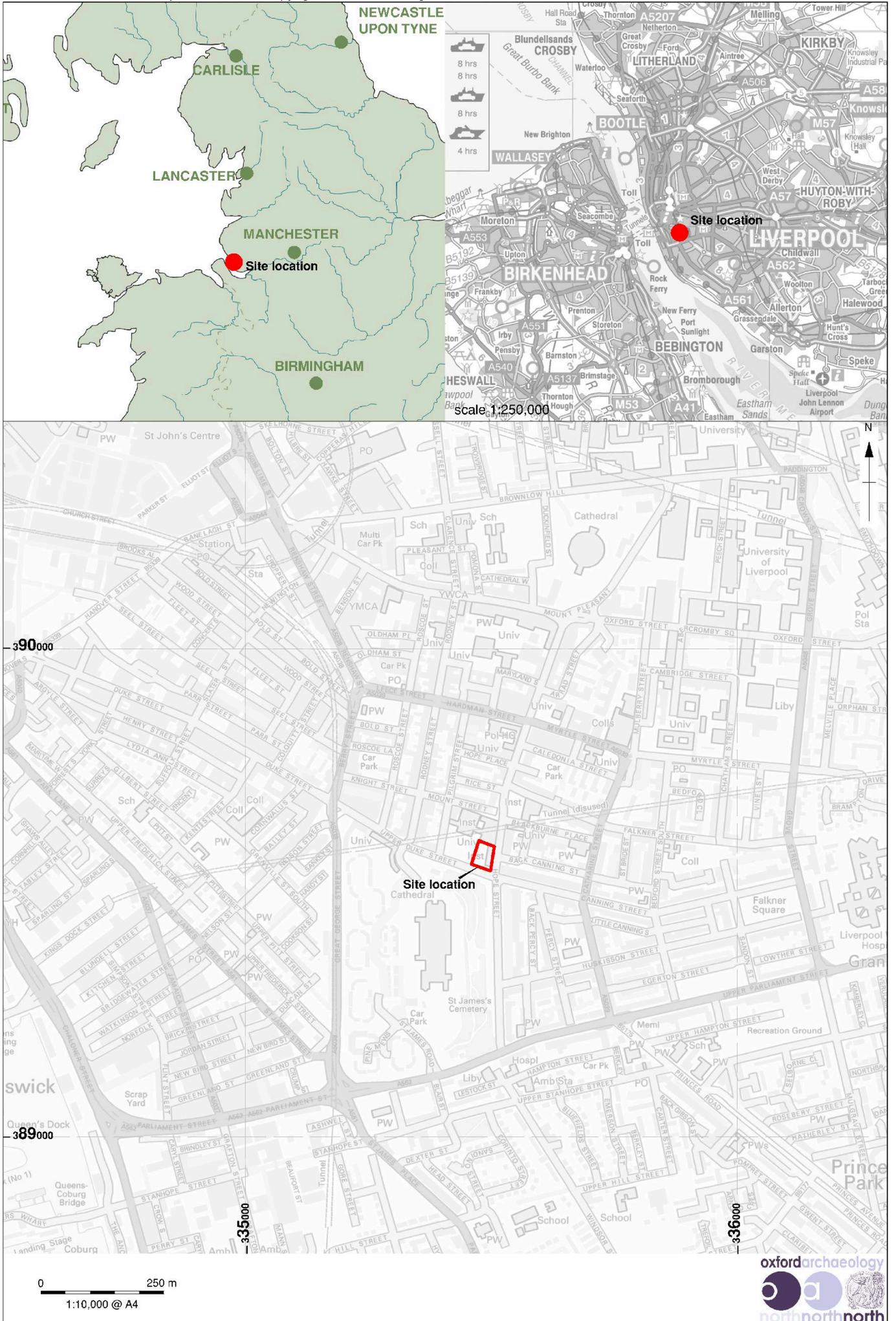


Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Foundation trenches and features observed during the watching brief



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