

# GREENGATE TOWERS, SALFORD

# **Archaeological Analysis Report (Issue 2)**



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#### **SUMMARY**

In 2014, Renaker commissioned Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) to undertake a programme of post-excavation analysis and publication, in order to conclude the archaeological work at Greengate Towers, Salford, Greater Manchester (centred on SJ 8365 9895).

This site lies within Salford's historic core and had been examined by OA North between 2005 and 2007, initially through the excavation of targeted evaluation trenches across four individual areas. This work was also supplemented by an archaeological watching brief, which monitored earth-moving works across parts of the site. During the evaluation, one area (Area A) was found to contain significant archaeological remains and, accordingly, it was subjected to more extensive and detailed excavation. This entailed removing the modern overburden across the complete southern corner of the site and manually excavating and recording the below-ground remains. The remains in this area included: a medieval ditch, pits, and occupation deposits; early post-medieval garden soils and pits; and later eighteenth-and nineteenth-century brick-built buildings. The site also produced a regionally significant assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery.

The analysis detailed in this report has primarily focused on discerning the precise form and sequence of below-ground remains within Area A and analysing the large assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery. This work has concluded that the medieval remains date from the thirteenth to fifteenth centuries, and that they lay within a burgage plot fronting Greengate. The work also indicates that the postmedieval garden soils contained pottery dating from the late seventeenth century onwards, which probably represents domestic waste derived from those post-medieval buildings that originally fronted Greengate. In addition, the analysis suggests that the majority of the brick-built buildings date to the latter half of the eighteenth century and these were probably established in the 1770s/1780s. These included a row of terraced properties fronting Greengate, with cellars and outshuts, and yards to the rear. These appear to represent the more salubrious of the domestic dwellings that would have been situated within the historic core of Salford. In addition, one small building stood to the rear of these properties, which was probably constructed in the 1770s. This appears to represent a two-unit blind-back workers' dwelling, with each 'unit' comprising a single ground-floor room, that was constructed directly within a former post-medieval garden plot. Following its construction, additional late eighteenth-century workers' dwellings were constructed, which abutted its walls, and possessed two ground-floor rooms. Other identified remains included elements of an early nineteenth-century workers' dwelling, and structures associated with a later nineteenth-century phase of rebuilding.

The results from the analysis will be incorporated into a popular publication, in the *Greater Manchester's Past Revealed* series, which will place the site in its wider archaeological and historical context.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) is grateful to Stephen Shields from Renaker for commissioning and funding the project. Thanks are also due to Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director (Archaeology), Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, for his invaluable advice and support.

The original scheme of investigation was managed by Ian Miller, whilst the excavation was directed by Vix Hughes, assisted by Andy Lane, Caroline Raynor, Alastair Vannan, Caroline Bulcock, Jay Clarke, Christina Clarke, Kathryn Levey, Ged Callaghan, and Pip Haworth. The recent programme of analysis was undertaken by Richard Gregory (stratigraphy) and Jeremy Bradley (pottery), who together authored the report, whilst the illustrations were prepared by Mark Tidmarsh. The project was managed by Ian Miller.

#### 1. INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT AND SCOPE OF WORK

- 1.1.1 In 2005, Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submitted a project design (OA North 2005) to undertake a programme of archaeological investigation of land on Greengate, Salford, in advance of a major programme of redevelopment, known as Greengate Towers (Fig 1). This project design was in response to a request from BS Construction Ltd, and it was devised in accordance with a project brief, formulated by the Assistant County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester. Following the acceptance of the project design, OA North was commissioned to undertake the work, which commenced in December 2005.
- 1.1.2 The fieldwork element of the investigation comprised an archaeological evaluation, which involved the excavation of 11 evaluation trenches (Trenches 1/2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, and 14) across four areas (Areas A-D; Fig 2), alongside an archaeological watching brief, which monitored earth-moving works across parts of the site. The majority of the evaluation trenches contained archaeological remains of little significance, and hence no further archaeological excavation was required. However, four trenches (Trenches 3-6), which lay in the southern corner of the site (Area A) contained significant archaeological deposits and, accordingly, in order to establish the full extent of these remains, a decision was taken to strip this entire area of modern overburden. This confirmed that significant archaeological deposits existed throughout the area, leading to a programme of detailed excavation. Furthermore, this area also produced a regionally significant assemblage of medieval and post-medieval pottery.
- 1.1.3 Following the fieldwork, a programme of preliminary post-excavation work was undertaken, which resulted in the production of a report that presented an overview of the results (OA North 2007). This contained detailed accounts of those evaluation trenches that did not contain significant archaeological remains, and an overview of the finds, which included pottery, clay tobacco pipes, glass, ceramic building material, metalwork, and bone. However, with regard to the more significant archaeological remains from Area A, only a summary account of the results was presented, as full analysis was beyond the remit of the commissioned work. Given this, it was recommended that the dataset from Area A should be subjected to a later stage of analysis and that the results should be published in an appropriate manner.
- 1.1.4 In 2014, Renaker commissioned OA North to undertake this analysis, produce an appropriate publication, and deposit the project archive. The scope of work was agreed with Norman Redhead, Heritage Management Director (Archaeology), Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, and principally includes analysis of the stratagraphic information from Area A, the production of a stratigraphic narrative, along with detailed analysis of the pottery recovered from the site.

- 1.1.5 This report details the final results of the analysis and also includes summary details of the results obtained from the evaluation trenching. The information within this report will be incorporated into a popular publication, in the *Greater Manchester's Past Revealed* series, which will place the results in their wider archaeological and historical context.
- 1.1.6 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991; 2006). The paper and digital archive will be deposited with Salford City Archive Service, Salford Museum and Art Gallery, on completion of the project.

#### 2. BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 SITE LOCATION AND GEOLOGY

- 2.1.1 The site of Greengate Towers lies within the historic core of Salford, Greater Manchester (centred on SJ 8365 9895). This area is situated on the right bank of the River Irwell, immediately below its confluence with the River Irk, and is encompassed by a wide meander of the Irwell on all sides but the south-west (Fig 1). Within this area, the Greengate Towers site occupies an area of land bounded by New Bridge Street, Greengate, the Irwell, and Gorton Street, and lies at a height of between 28.66m and 30.65m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), which is approximately 7m higher than the level of the Irwell.
- 2.1.2 The geology of the site consists of Permo-Triassic red mudstones, silt stones, and sandstones (Sherwood and New Red Sandstones), which date to between 280 and 195 million years ago (Countryside Commission 1998). The overlying superficial geology incorporates glacial and post-glacially derived boulder clays and sands, gravels, and clays of fluvial origin (Hall *et al* 1995, 8).
- 2.1.3 The natural topography of the area has been heavily masked by modern development, although archive sources and cartographic evidence allow some reconstruction of the original landscape to be made. For instance, a detailed map of the area by William Green that was published in 1794 (Pl 1), shows a broad plateau of elevated land extending from the River Irwell towards Water Street (later Blackfriars Road), which represents a high river terrace.

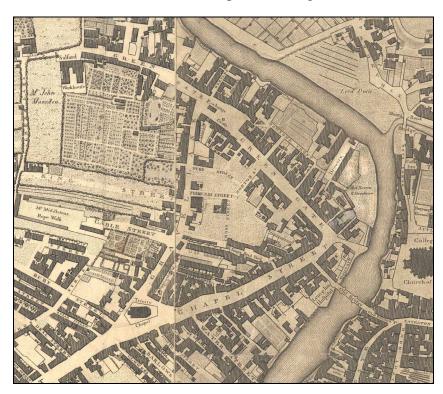


Plate 1: William Green's 1787-94 map of Manchester and Salford, showing Salford's historic core

#### 2.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- **Prehistoric period:** there is an absence of evidence for prehistoric activity 2.2.1 within the immediate environs of the Greengate Towers site, and more generally across Salford's historic core. When considering the wider distribution of prehistoric material, several artefacts of this date have been recovered from the City of Manchester, on the other side of the Irwell. These were confined to Castlefield and within the vicinity of Manchester Cathedral (cf Gregory 2007a, 181; Davey and Forster 1975). On the Salford side of the Irwell, prehistoric finds have also been made between East Ordsall Lane and the River Irwell, which was later occupied by the Salford Goods Station (Hampson 1945, 162). However, the provenance of these finds is far from secure and it is quite possible that they were originally recovered from Woden's Cave, which lay further to south-east, close to Ordsall Lane (ibid). The locations of these remains, particularly those from the City of Manchester, suggest that prehistoric activity was probably confined to the better-drained and more topographically pronounced areas. Given that part of Salford's historic core formed a high river terrace (Section 2.1.3), it therefore seems at least possible that this was similarly used by prehistoric people, and that the evidence for this activity has yet to be uncovered.
- 2.2.2 Roman period: across Salford's historic core, archaeological evidence for Roman activity is largely lacking, despite the considerable Roman remains excavated in Manchester, on the opposite side of the River Irwell. These remains formed part of the Roman fort of Mamucium which was established on a sandstone bluff within Castlefield (Bryant et al 1986). Archaeological excavation has shown that in the late first century the fort comprised a turf rampart and timber gates, and, covered an area of c 1.2ha, and was of a size compatible with holding a 480-man infantry unit. The fort was rebuilt to similar dimensions in stone c AD 200 (*ibid*). Outside the defences of the fort, a substantial extramural settlement, or vicus, was established in the late first century, which was occupied until the early third century (Jones and Grealey 1973; Jones and Reynolds nd; Proctor 2005; Gregory 2007a). Based on archaeological excavation and the distribution of Roman finds, the limits of this settlement appear to have extended northwards from the fort to approximately Quay Street, westwards along Liverpool Road for c 100m from the north-west corner of the fort, eastwards across Deansgate to the area now occupied by the Beetham Tower, and south-eastwards along Chester Road, terminating somewhere in the vicinity of Great Jackson Street (R Gregory pers obs).
- 2.2.3 Outside the Roman settlement, a series of Roman roads also linked the fort with other Roman forts and settlements in north-west England. However, none appear to have crossed Salford's historic core and certainly these all lay some distance from the Greengate Towers site. The nearest roads include one which linked the forts at Manchester and Ribchester, which crossed the River Irk, on the Manchester side of the Irwell, and continued northwards through Broughton, approximately along the line of Bury New Road. To the south of Salford's historic core, it is also feasible that another Roman road, perhaps

- linking Manchester with the settlement at Wigan, forded the River Irwell at a point close to the modern Princes Bridge, although this awaits confirmation.
- 2.2.4 The medieval town: whilst the origins of the manor of Salford are uncertain, it is known to have been in existence by the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086, when it formed the principal centre of administration for the area, referred to as the Hundred of Salford (Tupling 1962, 115). In 1399, Salford came to the Crown as part of the Duchy of Lancaster, and the Queen today retains the distinction of being the Lady of the Royal Manor of Salford (Kidd 1996, 13). The manor was extensive, with estimates putting it at over 360 acres, although exactly what it consisted of remains largely unknown. Furthermore, the precise location of the manorial hall is also unknown, although this may have been situated towards Victoria Bridge and Gravel Lane, within the historic core.
- 2.2.5 Within the manor, the town of Salford became established and was granted market status by Henry III in 1228, whilst in 1231, Ranulph de Blundeville, Earl of Chester, granted this settlement its borough charter (Frangopulo 1962). Within this settlement resided the burgesses, who owned burgage plots, which were areas of land formally laid out and often delimited by a boundary ditch. A survey of 1346 indicates that there were approximately 129 burgages in Salford, which were held by 52 individuals, suggesting a medieval population somewhere in the region of 200-300 people (Arrowsmith 2006).

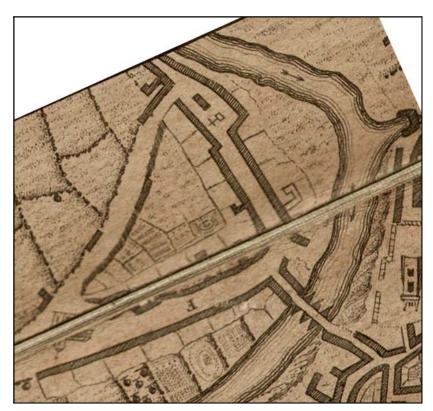


Plate 2: A c 1650 map of Salford, showing Salford's historic core

2.2.6 Although no medieval maps survive depicting Salford, its form can be discerned, to some degree, from the early cartographic sources, principally a map dating to c 1650 (Pl 2). This suggests that during the medieval period the settlement was arranged around three major streets. These were Greengate and

Chapel Street (formerly Sergeant Street), which might be the earlier of the streets, and Gravel Lane, which might represent a slightly later, medieval, routeway (*ibid*). Of these roads, Chapel Street continued beyond the town, eventually leading to Warrington, via White Cross Bank, Eccles, and Barton, and it formed the major westerly route into south Lancashire, for both Salford and Manchester, during the medieval period (Tindall nd, 8). The medieval marketplace was found on Greengate, near its junction with Gravel Lane, immediately north-west of the Greengate Towers site, and by the post-medieval period this was associated with a market cross, stocks, the town pump, together with a Court House (Arrowsmith 2006).

- 2.2.7 The documentary and cartographic sources, together with the evidence derived from archaeological excavation, indicates that by, at least, 1650 the frontages of Greengate and Chapel Street were lined by continuous ranges of buildings, situated within burgage plots, which were probably used for a range of activities, such as rubbish disposal, craft working, and horticulture (*ibid*). In terms of archaeological survival, it is probable that medieval and early post-medieval remains are overwhelmingly confined to the rear sections of the burgage plots, within areas that have not been subjected to later periods of disturbance (*ibid*). These remains might comprise pits and ditches, together with garden soils, associated with domestic artefacts and craft-working residues (*ibid*).
- 2.2.8 During this period, Salford was also connected to Manchester via a wooden bridge across the River Irwell, which was extant by 1226 (Thomson 1966, 37). This was replaced by a stone bridge, the presence of which is mentioned in the will of Thomas del Bothe of Barton in 1368, who bequeathed £30 for the erection of a chantry chapel on it (*op cit*, 52). The bridge stood at the eastern edge of the town, close to the point where Greengate and Chapel Lane converged.
- 2.2.9 The post-medieval town (1540 to early 1770s): according to Joseph Aston, who was writing in the early ninetenth century, it was during the reign of James I that Salford became 'a populous place; Sergeant Street and Greengate being nearly in the state they are now' (Aston 1816, 15). It was also during this period that the manufacture of textiles became firmly embedded within the town's economy. These textiles initially included woollens and linens, and later cottons, which probate records dating to the late sixteenth and seventeenth centuries indicate were manufactured in workshops and warehouses attached to a number of domestic dwellings (Arrowsmith 2006). These activities certainly increased the prosperity of the town and within Salford's historic core, one notable outcome included the establishment of the Sacred Trinity Church in 1635, positioned on Chapel Street to the south of the Application Area, the construction of which was funded by Humphrey Booth, a merchant clothier and woollen manufacturer (Hartwell et al 2004, 389; Vigeon 1989, 13).
- 2.2.10 During the early part of the eighteenth century, significant advances in transportation also occurred. Specifically, this related to the River Irwell, as in 1721 an Act of Parliament allowed the Mersey and the Irwell to be made navigable between Warrington and Manchester (Hadfield and Biddle 1970,

16-18). This allowed waterborne trade to enter Manchester and Salford for the first time and provided an efficient link to the expanding port of Liverpool. The navigation was probably completed in 1736 and by 1740 wharfage facilities for boats of up to 50 tons were provided by a quay established on the Manchester side of the river by Edward Byrom, a wealthy fustian dealer and one of the proprietors of the Mersey Irwell Navigation Company (*ibid*). The quay was built in 1735 at the bottom of what, in that year, became Quay Street, strategically placed to carry much of the town's trade, with a river frontage of 136 yards (George and Brumhead 2002, 22). In the early 1770s, the Navigation Company opened a quay on the opposite side of the River Irwell, with the intention of securing the Salford trade (Nevell 2004, 31). This quay also lay at the bottom of a route, similarly named Quay Street.

2.2.11 The form of the post-medieval town is apparent on the *c* 1650 map, which depicts the main medieval streets, building ranges, and the position of the market cross (Pl 2), and also on several later maps dating to the mid/late eighteenth century. These include a map produced by Hill in 1740 (Pl 3), four maps produced by Casson and Berry, between 1741 (Pl 4) and 1751, and a map produced by Tinker in 1772 (Pl 5). Although these maps depict the mideighteenth-century town as essentially similar to that depicted on the *c* 1650 map, they do indicate that by this period buildings had been established along Gravel Lane, as well as portions of Chapel Street, immediately west of the medieval core. Casson and Berry's maps also suggest that the buildings towards the northern end of Greengate, in the vicinity of the market place and partially within the Greengate Towers site, were larger than those to the south. These may, in turn, suggest that these were occupied by the wealthier inhabitants of the town.

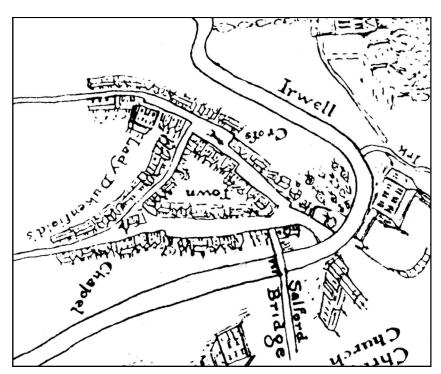


Plate 3: Hill's 1740 map of Salford, showing Salford's historic core



Plate 4: Casson and Berry's 1741 map of Manchester and Salford, showing Salford's historic core (north is to the bottom)

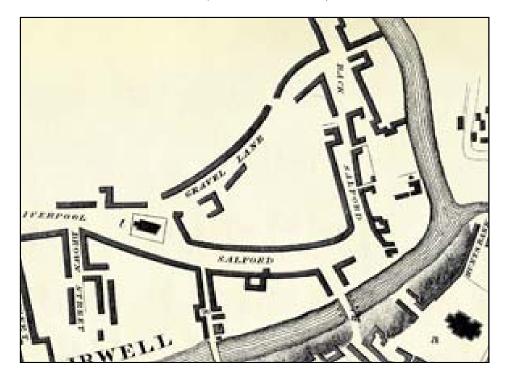


Plate 5: Tinker's 1772 map of Manchester and Salford, showing Salford's historic core

2.2.12 The various historical maps also provide valuable details relating directly to the Greengate Towers site. Of these, the *c* 1650 map depicts a continuous range of buildings fronting Greengate, whilst the area between Greengate and the River Irwell is shown as open land, which is replicated on Hill's map. A

similar pattern is also evident on Casson and Berry's and Tinker's surveys, though more detail can be discerned. For instance, Casson and Berry's 1741 edition map indicates that the Greengate Tower site was partly occupied by a continuous range of properties along Greengate, which lay to the north-east of the marketplace (Fig 3). These buildings extended into the north-western part of the site, and immediately to their rear was a linear building, which was orientated north-east/south-west and continued up to the River Irwell; this may have had an industrial function. To the south-east of this, the remainder of the Greengate Towers site was occupied by two additional blocks of properties, fronting Greengate, which were separated by a vacant plot. One of these had a U-shaped form and contained several properties that faced towards the marketplace, whilst the other was L-shaped in form. The area to the rear of these buildings contained two garden plots and these lay on the south-western fringe of an area of open ground, termed 'Dawson's Croft'. Place-name evidence, specifically relating to the element 'croft', would suggest that this area formed a small plot of horticultural land next to rear of the houses fronting Greengate (Ekwall 1922, 9).

- 2.2.13 In terms of the form of Salford's early post-medieval buildings, a proportion, fronting Greengate and Chapel Street, such as the Bull's Head (SMR 874.1.0) and The Shearers (SMR 6682.1.0), which were on the opposite side of the road to the Greengate Towers site, survived into the early twentieth century and formed the subjects of nineteenth- and twentieth-century illustrations and photographs (Arrowsmith 2006). These indicate that Salford's typical post-medieval town building was of timber-framed construction and was one, or one-and-half, storeys high (*ibid*).
- 2.2.14 Two post-medieval buildings, one a town house and the other the Edinburgh Castle public house, also occupied part of the Greengate Towers site. Of these, the town house formed part of the U-shaped block of properties (*Section 2.2.12*) and was originally a single-storey town house, standing within a burgage plot, with an orchard to the rear. However, it was converted into three tenements in the early 1800s, and refurbished at various times subsequently until 1901, when the structure was demolished (SMR 1942.1.0). Similarly, the Edinburgh Castle (SMR 1943.1.0) formed an adjacent building within the U-shaped block of properties (*Section 2.2.12*). This was a sixteenth-century timber-framed building, which may also have originated as a town house, but later functioned as a beerhouse/public house, and was still standing at the beginning of the twentieth century (Richardson 2003, 20).
- 2.2.15 Late eighteenth- to early nineteenth-century activity: in the later decades of the eighteenth century, both Salford and Manchester entered a period of massive expansion, largely as a result of the rise of the region's textile industry. This resulted in a rapid increase in population, and a concomitant growth of both of the urban centres, which continued throughout the early part of the nineteenth century.
- 2.2.16 Within Salford, the town's textile tradition was based upon weaving and finishing, using the relatively pure water of the Irwell for bleaching (Williams with Farnie 1992, 22). Within Salford, the River Irwell also had considerable potential to power waterwheels, offering a distinct advantage over Manchester

to pioneering factory masters prior to the advent of steam engines. Hence, in 1782, James Ackers, Jonathan Beever and Joseph Ramsbottom established Bank Mill, and William Douglas built a mill beside the Irwell at Pendleton in Salford, representing two of the earliest water-powered mills in Lancashire (Aspin 2003, 453). By 1795, the latter concern was the largest firm in the Manchester district (Greenwood 1951, 143-6). Salford was also notable in cotton-spinning history as it became the site of the seven-storey Salford Twist Mill, built in 1799-1802 as one of the first buildings with a fireproof iron frame (Williams with Farnie 1992, 23).

- 2.2.17 An impression of the local importance of the textile and related industries to Salford may be gained by examining the occupations listed in contemporary trade directories. Scholes' *Directory of Manchester and Salford* for 1797, for example, identifies a cloth hall on Greengate, together with a linen and woollen hall (Scholes 1797). This formed Salford's first such cloth hall and was the focus for trade in Salford's traditional fabric types. It was in operation until 1814, after which date it appears to have been converted into housing (Tomlinson 1989, 21). Scholes' directory also lists the residences of several cotton-manufacturers on Greengate, together with a silk-thrower, a wool dealer, a print-cutter, and a hat manufacturer. Other occupations listed in this directory for Greengate include an umbrella-maker, a nailor, a brush-maker, a shoe-maker, an attorney, several flour dealers, merchants, and 'gentlemen'. Indeed, writing in the early 1820s, Butterworth noted that buildings on Greengate were inhabited by 'persons of utmost respectability' (1823, 136).
- 2.2.18 Fortunately, the development of the Greengate Towers site during the late eighteenth and early part of the nineteenth century can be discerned through reference to the cartographic sources dating to this period. One of the more significant maps was that produced by William Green in the late eighteenth century, based on a survey that was completed between 1787 and 1794, and represents the first accurate survey of Salford (Pl 1; Fig 4). This map shows considerable development relative to the earlier maps (eg Pl 4), with a dense concentration of buildings fronting onto Greengate. Furthermore, those fronting onto the south-eastern corner of the marketplace are not of a uniform size or shape, and probably represent the survival of the post-medieval buildings shown on Casson and Berry's plan of 1741 (Pl 4). The size and shape of the buildings further south, in the southern corner of the Greengate Towers site, however, are consistent with terraced housing that characterised late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century domestic properties. Dawson's Croft is clearly marked to the east of Greengate, with buildings fronting its western side. The eastern side of Dawson's Croft, and extending down to the river, remained open and may was probably used for horticulture purposes. Other buildings depicted on Green's map lay within the north-western part of the site and were sandwiched between Greengate and the River Irwell. Although the precise nature of the buildings depicted cannot be elucidated from the map, their large size and irregular shape suggest that were industrial in nature.
- 2.2.19 Whilst several maps of the area were published during the early nineteenth century, Bancks' survey, published in 1831, is the first subsequent to that of Green's to provide reasonable detail (Fig 5). The major change within the

Greengate Towers site during the early nineteenth century appears to have been the development of the open land to the east of Dawson's Croft, with the erection of a Unitarian Chapel. This stood on the south-eastern edge of the site and had a street immediately to its south-west, which was referred to as Dawson Street. Some of the buildings on this street were used for the brewing and retailing of beer, as evidenced by entries in nineteenth-century trade directories (Table 1), forming elements of what appears to have been a locally significant trade; other nineteenth-century breweries in the area included John Johnson's on Greengate, and James Wilkinson's on Paradise Street (Butterworth 1823, 288-9).

Source	Address	Name	Description
Pigot 1813	Dawson's Croft	Hindley & Johnson	Porter merchants
Pigot 1828-9	Dawson's Croft	John Harman & Co	Ale and porter brewers
Pigot 1828-9	Dawson's Croft	Robert Hindley	Brewer
Pigot 1828-9	Dawson's Croft	Johnathan McCandlish	Ale and porter brewers
Pigot 1841	2 Gorton Street	Robert Martin	Beer retailer

Table 1: Early nineteenth-century brewers and beer retailers in the study area

- 2.2.20 Bancks' map also shows that the buildings fronting Greengate within the Greengate Towers site had retained the same layout shown on Green's map, and may have been unchanged, although some small areas may have been subjected to infilling with new buildings. The north-eastern edge of the site, along the bank of the River Irwell, is clearly shown to have been developed, with the erection of new buildings, the sizes of which suggest that they may have had an industrial function. Significantly, Salford was connected with Manchester via a new bridge across the river. This was accessed via a new thoroughfare, appropriately named New Bridge Street, which crosses the northern boundary of the Greengate Towers site, and necessitated the demolition of some properties on the eastern side of Greengate. This appears to have been coupled with the erection of new buildings along the northern edge of the study area, fronting onto New Bridge Street. The market cross is also absent from Bancks' survey, as it was taken down in 1824 (Arrowsmith 2006).
- 2.2.21 *Mid-nineteenth- to mid-twentieth-century activity:* during much of this period, traditional industries, connected with textiles and brewing, continued to flourish within Salford's historic core, though these were supplemented by a range of other industries such as iron working, and the also the production of rubberised goods from the mid-nineteenth century (Tomlinson 1989). Large swathes of domestic housing were also constructed in this area, although Salford was notorious for it slums at this time (Hartwell *et al* 2004, 615).
- 2.2.22 In terms of the form of Salford, one significant feature relating to this period was the development of the railways, which cut through its historic core. Initially, in the late 1830s, Salford's rail network was developed through the construction of the Manchester, Bolton, and Bury (MB&B) railway. This was carried across Salford on a brick-built viaduct and its original terminus was Salford Central Station, which lies to the south-west of Salford's historic core.

- This still-functioning station, fronting onto New Bailey Street, contained the head offices of the MB&B railway and was opened in 1838 (Holt 1986, 108; Gray 1989, 76).
- 2.2.23 Further developments to the rail system then occurred in the 1840s, as a result of the opening of a railway line in 1844, from Ordsall Lane to the newly opened station at Hunt's Bank (later Victoria). This line was constructed by the Liverpool and Manchester Railway (L&MR) Company and was again carried on a brick-built viaduct through Salford Station, onwards to Victoria Station, Manchester. This viaduct lies immediately to the south of the Greengate Towers site, and in this area it was also linked to two engine houses depicted on the Ordnance Survey (OS) map of 1850.
- 2.2.24 The latter half of the nineteenth century witnessed further developments and alterations to the railway system traversing Salford's historic core, through the construction of additional viaducts and station facilities. Initially, this included the construction of an additional railway viaduct between Salford Station and Victoria. This viaduct is again to the south of the Greengate Towers site and was opened in 1865. It was constructed by the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway (L&YR), which by this date had subsumed the MB&B railway.
- 2.2.25 Following the construction of the viaduct in 1865, a major scheme of railway construction occurred in the 1880s, connected to the establishment of Exchange Station. This stands immediately south of the Greengate Towers site and was built across the centre of Salford's historic core. It opened in 1884, and was supported by a series of brick-built arches, its platform level being accessed by two inclined roadways, named Salford Approach and Cathedral Approach, the latter of which also crossed the River Irwell (Holt 1986, 134). A final nineteenth-century railway viaduct was then constructed in 1894. This linked Salford Station to Victoria, and it again stands immediately to the south of the Greengate Towers site.
- 2.2.26 All of these viaducts are still extant, along with elements of Exchange Station, which is presently used as a car park. They are also depicted in some detail on nineteenth- and twentieth-century OS mapping (*eg* OS 1892; 1908), which provide valuable details concerning the form of the Greengate Towers site in the mid- and late nineteenth century.
- 2.2.27 The first detailed OS map is a town plan dating to 1850. This indicates that the majority of buildings present on Green's and Bancks' maps were still present. This map also identifies the function of several of the large buildings on the northern and eastern boundary of the Greengate Towers site (Fig 6). The northern boundary, fronting onto New Bridge Street, was occupied by an iron and brass foundry and a size works, with a large brewery to the rear, and a tannery fronting onto the River Irwell. In addition, this map indicates that the buildings shown in the southern corner of the site were clearly domestic properties, as were those immediately to the north-west, which appear to represent small domestic dwellings.
- 2.2.28 By the late nineteenth century, OS mapping (1892) indicates that the buildings within the Greengate Towers site, that fronted onto Greengate, appear to have

been unchanged relative to the 1850 OS map, and are shown as domestic properties with cellars (Fig 7). Some of these are evidently back-to-back housing, focused on Mallet's Court and Preston's Court. The size works in the northern corner of the site is shown to have been converted to a rubber works, and the tannery and other industrial buildings fronting onto the River Irwell have been subsumed by Dawson's Croft Cotton Mill.

- 2.2.29 The 1908 OS map shows some clearance of buildings within the Greengate Towers site (Fig 8). In particular, the houses fronting Greengate adjacent to the market area, formerly constituting Mallet's Court and Preston's Court, have been demolished, leaving a large area of open space. The three domestic properties further south, however, remained extant. An additional row of four domestic houses are shown on the eastern side of Dawson Street, occupying part of the site of the former brewery. Significantly, whilst the market place is not annotated, the site remained undeveloped.
- 2.2.30 A detailed survey of the study area was undertaken in 1913 by Charles Goad for insurance purposes, and this shows some changes to the site. The houses fronting onto Greengate at its junction with Gorton Street are annotated as three-storey properties, although the cellars had seemingly fallen out of use by this date. The site of the demolished houses to the north is shown to have been reused as a two-storey garage; this building was noted by Pevsner (1993, 392) to have been 'a handsome building of c1900...it has a round corner turret and is of brick with much stone'. The plot to the rear of the Greengate frontage, on the corner of Gorton Street and Dawson Street, was occupied by a two-storey rag warehouse, seemingly without a basement. Further north, Dawson Street is shown to have been flanked on both sides by two blocks of four dwellings, mainly of two-storeys, although two are of four-storey. The large building to the south, occupying the site of the former Unitarian Chapel, is annotated as a two-storey starch factory with a basement. Dawson's Croft Mills, situated on the bank of the River Irwell, is used as a rag warehouse and by a firm of cotton-spinners and doublers. This was evidently a steam-powered mill, with the engine house situated against the north-west corner of the building, with an adjacent 80ft-high chimney. The northern corner of the Greengate Towers site was occupied by Weiner's rubber garment factory, which incorporated a 90fthigh chimney in the centre of the building complex. Situated to the west of the rubber factory, and fronting onto New Bridge Street, was a small engineering works, brass foundry, and, in the north-western corner of the Greengate Towers site, a two-storey stereo-typer factory, which incorporated a basement.
- 2.2.31 The layout of the buildings within the site shown on Goad's map is replicated on the 1933 OS map. However, the OS map of 1955 shows that some of the buildings in the study area had been cleared, principally those in the southern portion of the site. The garage annotated on Goad's map, fronting onto Greengate, is marked as 'Greengate Rubber Works', and was probably used as ancillary premises associated with the firm's manufactory on the opposite side of Greengate, and on the western side of Gravel Lane. The industrial buildings fronting onto the River Irwell, known formerly as Dawson's Croft Mills, also appear to have undergone some alteration, with the abandonment of the north-

western of the mill buildings, which incorporated a chimney in its western corner.

#### 3. EXCAVATION RESULTS

#### 3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 At the time of the archaeological excavation, the site was in use as a car park. A phased approach to the programme of evaluation was therefore taken, and the site was divided into four areas (Areas A-D; Fig 2). Consequently, the fieldwork programme was completed in stages between December 2005 and January 2007, and comprised the excavation of targeted evaluation trenches across the four individual areas, alongside an archaeological watching brief, which monitored earth-moving works across parts of the site. In addition, the results obtained from the evaluation trenches placed across the southern part of the site (Area A) revealed significant and well-preserved archaeological remains. This therefore led to a programme of more detailed excavation.

#### 3.2 METHODOLOGY

- 3.2.1 **Evaluation:** during the evaluation, the uppermost levels of each trench were excavated by a machine fitted with either a toothed bucket for the removal of compact rubble, or a toothless ditching bucket for lightly-compacted overburden. The machining carefully defined the extent of any surviving walls, foundations and other remains, after which all excavation was undertaken manually. The base and sides of each trench were cleaned and recorded in an appropriate manner.
- 3.2.2 All information was recorded stratigraphically with accompanying documentation (plans, sections and photographs, both of individual contexts and overall site shots from standard view points). Photography was undertaken with 35mm cameras on archivable black-and-white print film as well as colour transparency; all frames included a visible, graduated metric scale. In addition, digital images were taken for immediate illustrative use.
- 3.2.3 The precise location of the trenches, and the position of all archaeological structures encountered, was surveyed by EDM tacheometry using a total station linked to a pen computer datalogger. This process generated scaled plans and sections within AutoCAD, which were then subject to manual survey enhancement. The drawings were generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale, and all information was tied in to the Ordnance Datum.
- 3.2.4 All finds recovered were bagged and recorded by context number. These were processed and stored according to current standard practice, based on guidelines set by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA 2001).
- 3.2.5 **Watching brief:** this comprised a full description, and preliminary classification of the features and materials revealed, on OA North *pro-forma* sheets. A plan was produced showing the positions of all the trenches and features located by the watching brief. A photographic record, using blackand-white, colour slide and digital formats, was also maintained.

- 3.2.6 **Detailed excavation of Area A:** the methodology employed during the excavation of Area A was comparable to that employed during the evaluation trenching. Therefore, the modern overbuden was initially removed by a machine and then the underlying deposits and structures were cleaned and excavated by hand.
- 3.2.7 Similarly, as with the evaluation trenching, all information was recorded stratigraphically with accompanying documentation and photography, and the location of deposits, features, and structures was surveyed using a total station and supplemented by manual survey and planning. All information was also tied in to the Ordnance Datum. In addition, in a similar fashion to the evaluation, all finds recovered were bagged and recorded by context number, and then processed and stored.

#### 3.3 AREA A

- 3.3.1 Area A incorporated the southern quadrant of the study area and covered an area that was partially bounded by Greengate, Gorton Street, and Dawson Street. It was initially investigated via four evaluation trenches (Trenches 3-6), though given the presence of significant archaeological remains, and following consultation with the Assistant County Archaeologist, a decision was made to strip the entirety of this area of modern overburden (Fig 2).
- 3.3.2 The results obtained from this area form the main subject of the present analysis. The evidence relates to several different phases of activity. These comprise early activity, seemingly dating to the Roman period, and also more clear evidence for activity dating to the late medieval period. Evidence for early post-medieval activity was also encountered in this area, including a significant assemblage of post-medieval pottery, though the main period of activity dated from the late eighteenth century onwards.
- 3.3.3 *Early remains:* a single sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from a pit (*494*; Fig 9). This also contained eighteenth-/nineteenth-century brick fragments and cinder, and thus the Roman pottery is clearly residual.
- 3.3.4 *Medieval remains:* several medieval features were identified close to the north-western edge of Area A, immediately north of Greengate. The earliest of these comprised a shallow ditch (236/468/556), measuring c 0.6m wide, that was excavated for a distance of 2.5m (Fig 9; Pl 6). It was aligned north-north-west/south-south-east and contained a homogeneous fill (555/282), which comprised a dark brownish-grey clay-silt that was associated with three sherds of medieval pottery (from fill 282), possibly dating to the fourteenth century (Section 4.3.7). The character of this deposit suggests that the ditch was filled naturally. Given its date and character, it may well have functioned as a boundary which separated two separate burgage plots, fronting Greengate. Furthermore, it is possible that these burgage plots were in use in the thirteenth century, given the presence of residual pottery sherds dating to this period in later deposits (Section 4.3.10).



Plate 6: General view across Area A looking souh-east, with medieval ditch 236/468/556 and deposit 547 in foreground

- 3.3.5 Immediately to the north-west of the ditch, a possible occupation deposit (436/478) was also present, consisting of a grey clayey sand. It is possible that this had formed when the ditch was open, or was in the process of filling. Further support for this was provided by the pottery associated with this occupation deposit, which, in a similar fashion to that present within the ditch, dated to the fourteenth century (Section 4.3.7).
- 3.3.6 Following the filling of the boundary ditch, two additional medieval deposits appear to have formed. One of these (279/548) lay directly over the boundary ditch and comprised a layer of dark blackish-grey clay-silt, which was up to 0.12m thick and contained c10% charcoal flecking, and also sherds of fifteenth-/sixteenth-century pottery (Section 4.3.7). Given its character, it is possible that this deposit represents an occupation layer that formed at the rear of the burgage plot.
- 3.3.7 The other deposit (547) lay close to the western edge of the site, and it overlay layer 279/548 (Pl 6). It clearly formed a discrete deposit, however, with overall dimensions of 1.5 x 0.75m. Its matrix was composed of a large quantity (c 45%) of stones of various sizes and configurations, suggesting that it had been deliberately dumped. Significantly, this dump only contained medieval pottery sherds, indicating that it, too, was probably associated with medieval activity at the rear of one of the Greengate burgage plots. These sherds dated to the fourteenth or fifteenth century (Section 4.3.7), though, given the presence of a fifteenth/sixteenth-century sherd from an underlying deposit (279; see above), it is likely that this material was deliberately dumped in the fifteenth century.
- 3.3.8 Other features of probable medieval date included two pits (234 and 541). Pit 541 had been cut into the backfilled boundary ditch, had a diameter of c 0.6 m,

- and contained medieval pottery probably dating to the fourteenth century (Section 4.3.7). The other pit (234), which was located at the eastern corner of Area A, close to Gorton Street, had been severely disturbed by later features. Its fill (233), though, also contained sherds of fourteenth-century pottery (Section 4.3.7).
- 3.3.9 *Early post-medieval remains (pre-late 1780s):* significantly, in Area A, several additional layers, representing garden soils and associated features, were identified that probably formed, or were created, during the post-medieval period, when Area A lay within a garden plot/horticultural area. The cartographic evidence suggests that this plot lay immediately to the rear of, and in between, two L-shaped blocks of properties that are depicted on Casson and Berry's 1741 map (Fig 3), though it had certainly been built upon by the time of Green's 1787-94 survey (Fig 4).
- 3.3.10 The earlier of the garden soils (129/272; Fig 10) partially sealed the medieval ditch (236/468/556; Section 3.3.4) and dump 547 (Section 3.3.7), and extended northwards from modern wall 127 (Section 3.3.39). This soil comprised a midbrown silty-clay, with 10-15% charcoal flecking, occasional fragments of iron-working debris, and fragments of residual medieval pottery, as well as sherds of post-medieval pottery. Together, this cultural material suggests that this layer dates to the early/mid-eighteenth century and that the garden soil contained a mixture of craft-working and domestic detritus.
- 3.3.11 Other features which appear to pre-date the establishment of late eighteenth-century buildings across Area A included several shallow pits, which varied in size (415, 500, 502, 518, 520, and 549; Fig 10). However, they all contained a homogeneous brownish-grey clay-silt and yielded few artefacts or organic material indicative of them having been used for the disposal of domestic waste; the rationale for these features therefore remains unclear. Based on the pottery recovered, one of these pits (500) was probably dug between c 1650 and 1700 (Section 4.4.39) and may therefore have pre-dated the formation of the earliest surviving garden soil (Section 3.3.10).
- 3.3.12 In addition to the pits, two postholes (519 and 543) were also present in Area A, which were probably contemporary features. The postholes lay immediately to the rear of the post-medieval buildings that would have fronted Greengate, and probably formed elements of ephemeral timber structures, within the garden plot.
- 3.3.13 Sealing the pits and postholes was a homogeneous soil horizon (158/275/281/344/345/439/440/455), which yielded a large and significant assemblage of pottery, with the majority of sherds dating to the eighteenth century. The depth of this soil and its relatively fine texture indicated that this was also a garden soil, which had formed in the area to the rear of the buildings depicted on Casson and Berry's 1741 map (Fig 3).
- 3.3.14 Later eighteenth-century buildings and associated features (late 1740s-early 1790s): a series of brick walls, and features associated with them, were encountered which, in the southern parts of Area A, cut through the eighteenth-century soil horizon (Section 3.3.13). These features represent the

- remains of late eighteenth-century buildings that are depicted on Green's 1787-94 survey of the area, and also on the 1850 OS map. They could be divided into two principal groups.
- 3.3.15 The first group comprised three late eighteenth-century terraced properties (Buildings 1-3; Fig 11), which fronted Greengate. Although the front parts of these properties lay outside the excavated area, it was clear that the smallest of these (Building 1) was c 3m wide, and it is possible that this replaced, or was a rebuild of, an earlier property that is plotted on Casson and Berry's 1741 map. The other two properties were larger, with one measuring c 5m wide (Building 2) and the other (Building 3) c 6m wide, and the cartographic evidence suggests that these were constructed across a plot that was open in the mideighteenth century.
- 3.3.16 More specifically, the remains of this group of buildings comprised several walls, which were two courses thick and built of handmade bricks (measuring 0.23 x 0.11 x 0.7m) bonded with buff-coloured, lime-rich mortar, and laid in an English Garden Wall bond. These walls defined the cellars situated beneath the rear rooms of these properties (Fig 11; Pl 7). Although it was not possible to empty all of the cellars completely of their demolition rubble, it was clear that each was divided lengthways by a brick wall, and one (Building 3) contained the remains of an *in situ* timber doorframe, denoting the position of a doorway allowing access between the rooms. In addition, the cellars associated with Buildings 2 and 3 had two brick structures (461 and 528) attached to their rear walls, which probably denote the positions of fireplaces. Of these, structure 461 contained pottery dating to c 1755-70, suggesting that it was constructed in the third quarter of the eighteenth century (Section 4.4.38).



Plate 7: General view across Buildings 1-3, and their outshuts and yards, looking north

- 3.3.17 Aside from the cellars, three outshuts and two yard areas were also uncovered that were associated with these properties (Pl 7). The outsuts were similarly defined by walls of handmade brick (measuring 0.23 x 0.11 x 0.7m), bonded with buff-coloured, lime-rich mortar, and laid in an English Garden Wall bond, though in certain sections (eg walls 529 and 479) it was evident that they had been set on pink sandstone-block footings. Those associated with Buildings 1 and 2 both measured c 2.9 x 3.7m and both also possessed the remains of central fireplaces, positioned on their rear walls. The outshut associated with Building 3 was larger in size and measured 4 x 8.5m. It also contained an internal wall (579) at its north-eastern end, that defined a small room within its interior, measuring c 1.8m wide. Immediately to its west was a narrow passage, which is depicted on both Green's 1787-94 map and the 1850 OS town plan. This passage is named as Mallet's Court on late nineteenth-century OS mapping (eg OS 1892).
- 3.3.18 The two yard areas were positioned between the outshuts associated with Buildings 2 and 3, and formed further elements of the two respective properties. The yards were defined by the walls of the adjacent outshuts and also a free-standing handmade brick wall (462), which was set on pink sandstone-block footings.
- 3.3.19 The second group of late eighteenth-century buildings lay at the eastern corner of Area A and comprised the remains of several terraced dwellings (Buildings 4-8) that fronted either a courtyard, Dawson Street, or Gorton Street (Fig 11). The cartographic evidence suggests that these partially replaced two small square garden plots shown on Casson and Berry's 1741 map (Fig 3).
- 3.3.20 The most clearly defined of these buildings (Buildings 4 and 5) formed a small range that fronted both a courtyard area and Dawson's Street, and that together formed terraced dwellings (Pl 8). However, the excavated remains indicated that this range represents two different phases of eighteenth-century building.
- 3.3.21 The earliest element (Building 4) comprised a rectangular building, measuring c 9 x 5.2m. Its external walls (176, 184, and 453), although substantially rebuilt and modified at a later date (Section 3.3.34), were composed of handmade bricks, bonded with buff-coloured, lime-rich mortar. Material (eg soil 452) that was used to pack the construction cut for one of these walls (453) contained late seventeenth/eighteenth-century pottery (Section 4.4.36). In addition, pottery associated with wall 184 was also of similar date. It is likely that these sherds were derived from the nearby garden soil (Section 3.3.13).



Plate 8: View across Buildings 4 and 5, looking west

- 3.3.22 This building was divided into two equal-sized cells (265 and 266) by a centrally positioned handmade brick wall. These rooms had internal areas measuring 4.2 x 4m. Significantly, this wall was continuous, indicating that it represented a dividing wall between two separate single-celled dwellings. The dividing wall also widened in its central section, suggesting that each dwelling possessed a fireplace positioned on this wall. External wall 184 contained a c 0.8m-wide doorway, which allowed access into cell 265. This feature lay at the northern corner of the cell. It is likely that a similar doorway originally served the adjacent cell (266), positioned at its western corner, though this had probably been eradicated during a later phase of building (Section 3.3.34).
- 3.3.23 An area of brick flooring survived in the south-western cell (266) and this may represent its original floor, whilst small areas of flags, forming part of another floor, were located in other parts of this, and the adjacent, cell; again, these may well represent an original floor. Another feature of note that lay beneath the floor of this building was a large oval rubbish pit (446), measuring c 0.7 x 0.5m, and 0.7m deep, which was within Building 4's more north-easterly room (265). The fill of this pit (368) contained a broad chronological range of post-medieval pottery, though the presence of Creamware suggests that it was dug in the 1760s or 1770s (Section 4.4.40). It this was the case, this rubbish pit was perhaps dug immediately prior to the construction of the building.
- 3.3.24 Given the form and position of Building 4, it is quite possible that it was constructed as a two-celled 'urban cottage' during the latter half of the eighteenth century, directly within a garden plot to the rear of the buildings fronting Greengate, as part of an early scheme of infilling (*cf* Brunskill 1997, 149). This building does not appear on Tinker's map of 1772 (Pl 5), though it is depicted on Green's 1787-94 map (Fig 4), which may suggest that it dates to the 1770s. This date would also fit with the ceramic evidence, particularly that

- from pit **446**, which suggests that this building was constructed in the 1760s or 1770s (*see above*). Intriguingly, its ground plan also directly mimics one of the garden plots depicted on Casson and Berry's 1741 map, implying that the outline of this plot conditioned the size and form of the later building.
- 3.3.25 Building 5 formed the later element of the range (Pl 9), though it was probably constructed fairly rapidly following the completion of Building 4. This was evidenced by pottery recovered from a construction cut (380) that contained its north-western wall, which dated to c 1720-70 (Section 4.4.37). It abutted the north-eastern end of Building 4, and would have originally fronted Dawson's Street. Its exposed remains included two-course-thick handmade brick walls, bonded with buff-coloured, lime-rich mortar, that defined a single room (264). This measured c 2.6 x 5.3m and contained a flagstone floor, which sealed a drain (377). The remains of a brick-built fireplace were also evident on the rear (west) wall of this room.



Plate 9: Building 5, looking south-west

- 3.3.26 The other remains associated with this group of buildings were much more fragmentary, though again they largely comprised handmade brick walls. More specifically, they appear to have formed the rearward elements of two terraced properties (Buildings 6 and 7) fronting Dawson's Street, and an adjoining property fronting Gorton Street (Building 8), all of which were probably constructed at a similar time to Building 5.
- 3.3.27 Of the properties fronting Dawson's Street, one (Building 6) measured *c* 3.2m wide and it contained a right-angled brick wall (269), which lay within the rear room and may have supported a staircase (Pl 10). Within the adjacent Dawson's Street property (Building 7), a set of steps was present, which allowed access into a cellar that lay beneath the front room of the property. These steps measured 0.7m wide and had sandstone treads, supported by handmade brick walling. The steps had also been backfilled with hundreds of

complete glass bottles of various makes (Pl 11), from as far away as Belfast and London (OA North 2007).



Plate 10: Buildings 6 and 7 (foreground) and Building 8 (background), looking south-west



Plate 11: A selection of the bottles that sealed the cellar stairs in Building 7

3.3.28 The property fronting Gorton Street (Building 8) was partially defined by wall 305, which also formed the rear wall of Buildings 6 and 7 (Pl 10). This wall was two-courses thick and, although partially rebuilt at a later date (Section 3.3.35), originally it was composed of handmade bricks (measuring 0.22 x

- $0.12 \times 0.07$ m) bonded with a buff-coloured, lime-rich mortar. Several brick-built features and walls were present within its interior, which were also composed of handmade bricks that were bonded with a similar mortar type. These included two walls (144 and 642), which were set perpendicular to wall 305 and defined a c 2.5m-wide room in the portion of the property that fronted Gorton Street, and a c 3.4m-wide room at the rear of the property. In addition, two angled walls (147 and 643) were also identified, though their purpose is difficult to ascertain.
- 3.3.29 Within the rear room of Building 8, a stone flagged floor (300) survived, and two other structures were also present. The function of one (308) was not particularly clear, though it had a polygonal shape and it abutted walls 642 and 305 (Pl 12). This structure had maximum dimensions of 2 x 1.4m and was composed of two-course-thick brick floors with a brick-built base. The other structure (645) was a short length of handmade brick wall, which probably denoted the side of a fireplace, positioned on the rear wall of the property.



Plate 12: Structure 308, looking west

3.3.30 A final feature that could be confidently dated to the late eighteenth century was a triangular walled yard area that lay at the northern corner of Area A. This yard area is depicted on Green's 1787-94 survey (Fig 4) and it was defined by three two-course thick handmade brick walls (165, 419, and 420), which were bonded with a buff-coloured, lime-rich mortar (Pl 13). A bedding layer (366) beneath one of the walls (420) contained late seventeenth-/early eighteenth-century pottery (Section 4.4.25). A fragmentary cobbled surface (434) was also present within this yard area, and this was sealed by a layer of soil (433), which contained sherds of post-medieval pottery. In addition to the cobbles, a right-angled length of handmade brick wall (421) of unknown

function was uncovered, positioned at the south-eastern corner of the enclosed yard.



Plate 13: The triangular yard area, looking east

3.3.31 Late eighteenth/early nineteenth-century building (early 1790s-1831): during this period, the cartographic evidence indicates that within Area A an additional terraced property was constructed fronting Gorton Street, within a former courtyard that existed in the late eighteenth century (Fig 5). The fragmentary remains of this property (Building 9) were present, and these lay directly next to Building 8 (Section 3.3.28), which it adjoined on its southwestern side (Fig 12). Its remains included two structures (307 and 432), which were both constructed of handmade bricks bonded with buff-coloured, lime-rich mortar. Structure 432 was L-shaped and was defined by two course-thick walls and a brick floor, with maximum dimensions of 2.1 x 1.6m (Pl 14). The width between the walls was 0.7m and it appears to have defined a small chamber. Structure 307 was rectangular in plan, measuring 2.3 x 1.2m, and was defined by single- and two-course-thick brick walls. It was also divided internally by a single-course-thick wall, and it is possible that it again formed a small chamber situated in the rear of the property.



Plate 14: Structure 432, looking south

- 3.3.32 *Early to mid-nineteenth-century remains*: one feature was identified that probably dates to early/mid-nineteenth century (Fig 13). This was a rubbish pit (539) that was identified immediately to the east of Building 1, adjacent to the enclosed triangular yard (*Section 3.3.30*). Although this pit had been heavily truncated by later features, significantly, it contained a fairly large assemblage of artefacts, including pottery, clay tobacco pipes, glass, and bone. Although the pottery had a broad range, the latest sherds appear to date to c 1800-30, confirming the early/mid-nineteenth-century date of deposition (*Section 4.4.41*). This material probably derives from the clearance of a dwelling and this would certainly explain the mixture of material, and also its relatively wide chronological currency.
- 3.3.33 *Later nineteenth-century rebuilds and modifications*: it is quite possible that during this period at least two of the eighteenth-century properties were repaired, or more probably substantially rebuilt (Fig 14). This was evidenced by replacement handmade brick walls that were bonded with a mid-grey ashrich mortar, which differed to the buff-coloured lime-rich mortar used to bond the walls of the eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century buildings.
- 3.3.34 One of the eighteenth-century buildings that was clearly modified, and perhaps rebuilt, was Building 4 (Section 3.3.21). For instance, the upper courses of its north-western external wall (184) were bonded with the later grey, ash-rich mortar type, which differed from that used on the lower course. It is also probable that as part of this rebuilding, a brick pier (448), also bonded with grey ash-rich mortar, was constructed within one of the building's rooms (265), which abutted the interior face of its south-eastern wall. It is likely that this feature acted as a buttress, designed to support this side of the earlier building. A comparable buttress (660) was also present in

the adjoining Building 5, which again butted the south-eastern wall of this building and, in a similar fashion, the north-western external wall of this dwelling had also been rebuilt with handmade bricks, bonded with grey ashrich mortar.

- 3.3.35 Wall 305, dividing Buildings 6/7 and 8, exhibited a similar style of rebuild, and presumably its modification was undertaken at a similar time to the rebuilding undertaken at Buildings 4 and 5. Again, its upper courses were formed of handmade bricks bonded with grey ash-rich mortar. It is also probable that structure 644 was contemporary with this phase of rebuilding. This formed a right-angled length of handmade brick wall, bonded with the characteristic grey ash-rich mortar, which appears to represent a modification to an earlier fireplace (645: Section 3.3.29) in Building 8.
- 3.3.36 During this phase of later nineteenth-century modification, it is also likely that wall 185 was constructed, as it too was composed of handmade bricks bonded with grey ash-rich mortar (Pl 15). It was identified above a rubble levelling deposit (396) that was associated with eighteenth-century pottery. This wall lay immediately to the north-west of Buildings 4 and 5, and was parallel to the buildings, set a mere 0.4m distant. It appears to have bounded a narrow passage, which was paved with stone flags. However, immediately to the north-west, and abutting wall 185, was a wider road surface (285) made of setts, with a distinct camber, which was also adjacent to the triangular yard area (Section 3.3.30). This surface was set above several levelling layers (342 and 392), one of which (392) was associated with mid-nineteenth-century pottery (Section 4.4.18).



Plate 15: General view of wall 185, paved passage (background), the setts of road surface 285 (foreground), and structures 341 and 348 (right background)

3.3.27 Several structures were also present which abutted the western side of wall *185* at its far southern end (Pl 15). These comprised two square structures (*341* 

- and 348), possessing handmade brick walls and flagstone floors, which were probably privies, and were also set above pit 539 (Section 3.3.32). Both structures measured c 0.7m square and one (341) had been replaced by a similar-sized structure (288) at a later date, which was associated with a French stoneware bottle (Section 4.4.22). Privies are depicted in this part of the site on the 1892 OS map, which would confirm their late nineteenth-century date (Fig 7).
- 3.3.28 Several other features were present that probably also date to the later nineteenth century. These include several drains (*eg* **274**), which may, along with the privies, relate to later nineteenth-century attempts at improving sanitation.
- 3.3.29 Late nineteenth-/early twentieth-century remains: remains dating to the end of the nineteenth century were confined to the north-eastern part of Area A (Fig 15). They included a flagstone surface (255), which was laid following the demolition of Building 3 (Section 3.3.15). The cartographic evidence indicates that this building was demolished between 1892 and 1908 (Figs 7 and 8; Section 2.2.29). Other remains clearly dated to the twentieth century and included building 200, comprising north-west/south-east-aligned wall (127), which formed the south wall of a structure, and a diesel tank (190), both of which had a significant negative impact upon the earlier remains. These features formed part of the industrial works, established in the early twentieth century, that largely lay to the north-west of Area A.

#### 3.4 AREAS B-D

- 3.4.1 The remains within the other areas were less significant, particularly as no clear pre-eighteenth-century archaeology was present. These remains included: the basement of a nineteenth-century building in Area B and a small island of post-medieval garden soil that might date to the eighteenth century; late eighteenth- to nineteenth-century brick structures in Area C; and predominantly twentieth-century remains in Area D. The account that follows reiterates those descriptions given in the earlier excavation report (OA North 2007).
- 3.4.2 **Area B:** this area was situated to the north-east of Area A, and investigated the eastern part of the study area. Three trenches were placed across this area (Trenches 7-9; Fig 16), which only revealed nineteenth- and twentieth-century remains that were of little archaeological interest. The results obtained from the evaluation trenching were confirmed during the course of an archaeological watching brief, which monitored ground-reduction works in this area.
- 3.4.3 *Trench 7:* this trench was aligned approximately north/south, and was targeted to investigate the northern part of the site, shown on the 1850 OS map to have been occupied by a large structure, identified by historical research to have been a print works that was converted subsequently to a textile warehouse. The trench measured 35 x 9m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 3.75m. The large width of the trench was to allow for safe access to the base

- of the trench, which was approximately 1.9m wide. Essentially, Trench 7 uncovered three interior basement rooms with associated walls and floors. These had been demolished, and the resulting rubble used to backfill the basement areas.
- 3.4.4 Early walls associated with the nineteenth-century print works were exposed at the northern and southern ends of the trench. At the northern end, these included two walls (211 and 243), which were both aligned east/west, spaced 0.4m apart, and were constructed of handmade bricks that had average dimensions of 0.24 x 0.12 x 0.07m. They were laid in an English Garden bond, using a pale grey lime-based mortar, and represent dividing walls within the print works. Between the two walls was a rubble fill, over which lay a short stretch of wall (242) that was aligned north/south and also overlay both walls 211 and 243. Wall 242 appeared to be providing a bonding course between the two, but post-dated their initial construction.
- 3.4.5 Wall 228 was encountered at the southern end of Trench 7 and formed part of the southern external wall of the nineteenth-century print works, bounding a basement. It consisted of an east/west-aligned wall, with a return to the south and an associated length of rendered wall, exposed in the east-facing section of the trench. Its walls were constructed of handmade bricks, built in an English Garden Wall coursing, with a mid-buff-coloured lime-based mortar. The east-facing section incorporated three recesses, set back 0.26m from the face of the wall, representing apertures for cellar lights. The bricks at the corners of the recesses had rounded corners and the recesses themselves had later been filled with cinder blocks. The basement was backfilled with a deposit of loose brick rubble, which also contained inclusions of timber, stone, some concrete and textile waste.
- 3.4.6 Abutting structure **228**, and immediately to the north, was a short stretch of wall **(229)**. This was aligned east/west, and was again constructed of handmade bricks. However, these were a darker hue, and were bonded using a mid-grey mortar, typical of the later nineteenth century, and they probably formed part of a later conversion of the building. Both this wall and structure **228** were sealed beneath a thick deposit of brick rubble, which seemingly represented the demolition of the building and associated levelling of the site during the late twentieth century.
- 3.4.7 The walls and demolition rubble were buried beneath a concrete surface. Overlying this were several demolition deposits.
- 3.4.8 *Trench 8:* this trench was aligned approximately east/west, and was positioned to investigate the area north of Dawson Street, including a row of midnineteenth-century domestic properties. The trench measured 25 x 3m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 4m. The majority of the trench was filled with rubble, and the depth of this unstable material did not permit physical access to the trench itself. The surrounding area was expanded subsequently, resulting in a trench with overall dimensions of 14.5 x 11m, with an excavated depth of approximately 5m (Fig 16).

- 3.4.9 The earliest deposit revealed in Trench 8 was a mid-brown silty-clay (574), with 5% charcoal fleck inclusions, lying immediately above the natural geology. This deposit was comparable with the early post-medieval soil horizon (158/281/345/440) identified in Area A. However, layer 574 had been severely truncated by three north/south-aligned services and by two manhole structures inserted just north and west of Dawson Street. Consequently, layer 574 survived as several small isolated 'islands'.
- 3.4.10 The only features of note in this area were two nineteenth-century walls associated with the print works. One was aligned north/south, and was constructed of handmade bricks, built in an English Garden Wall coursing with a mid-buff-coloured lime-based mortar. It survived to a height of ten courses and formed a continuation of wall 228, exposed in Trench 7. The second wall (572) lay c 6.3m to the west and was 0.35m wide, nine courses high and constructed of handmade bricks with a pale grey mortar. It was only seen in the north section of the trench, and did not extend all the way across.
- 3.4.11 The remaining features in this area included a modern concrete floor, sealed by demolition deposits and a sandstone-sett surface, along the south section of Trench 8 near Dawson Street.
- 3.4.12 *Area C:* this area was within the northern quadrant of the study area, and was investigated by four trenches (Trenches 10, 11, 12 and 14). These were positioned across structures shown on historical mapping and also areas where early remains might be located.
- 3.4.13 *Trench 10*: the trench was excavated along the north-western edge of the site, bordering its perimeter. Its position close to the junction of Greengate and New Bridge Street suggested the possibility of undisturbed archaeological remains pertaining to medieval and post-medieval Salford. However, a large part of the trench was dominated by basements, the construction of which was broadly dated to the eighteenth to twentieth centuries. The trench measured 5 x 5m (Fig 16) and was 2m deep.
- 3.4.14 The southern part of the trench was dominated by a 4m² concrete-floored basement/cellar, which had been cut into the solid geology. The floor of the basement was exposed at 2m below the modern ground surface, and abutted a 0.35m-wide east/west-aligned brick wall, forming the north wall of a demolished building. The position of the wall corresponded to an iron foundry shown on historical mapping, whilst the use of frogged bricks set in an ashrich mortar indicated a late nineteenth- or twentieth-century date for construction. The basement was backfilled with large amounts of modern material, demonstrating that the room was used until relatively recently.
- 3.4.15 The northern face of the basement wall was butted by a 7m-wide cobble surface, representing an alley extending east from New Bridge Street. The cobbles were exposed directly below the modern concrete surface, and comprised rectangular cut granite setts. The setts were laid above thin bedding layers of powdered shingle and pale brown/orange sand, which in turn sealed compacted mixed clay and sand containing flat and rounded stones, redeposited natural material up to 0.6m in thickness. A single sherd of

twentieth-century pottery, a doorbell, and a fragment of window glass were recovered from this deposit. It sealed a north/south-aligned ceramic sewer pipe, which dog-legged to the east beneath the cobbles, and cut into the natural deposits below. The northern edge of the surface was also bordered by an east/west-aligned wall, which was seemingly of a contemporary build to the basement wall, and it is possible that the wall was latterly used as an internal partition within the foundry.

- 3.4.16 The eastern and southern walls of a small cellar with a brick floor were observed along the western edge of the trench. The cellar walls were exposed for 2.85m along the east side, and 1.30m along the southern border. The floor was encountered at a depth of 1.65m below the upper surviving course of the cellar walls, and comprised thin handmade bricks, laid half-edge, though the bottom two courses of the eastern cellar wall were constructed from large stone blocks. The cellar was subsequently filled with demolition debris, comprising roofing slate and window glass, along with large amounts of early nineteenth-century pottery, which suggested the cellar related to a property that was in existence prior to the construction of the foundry.
- 3.4.17 A stone-flagged floor was exposed over a distance of 4m across the northern end of the trench. The upper surface was sealed by a 0.5m-thick, mixed brick and sand layer below the concrete. The stones were 0.70 x 0.39 x 0.05m, rectangular, thin and yellow, laid in an irregular pattern and bedded with dark brown ash and sand layers. It is probable that these flags were laid sometime during the later nineteenth century.
- 3.4.18 A sondage measuring 3 x 2m was excavated beneath the floor to investigate the underlying deposits, and to ascertain the depth of the natural geology. Bedrock was encountered at a depth of 1.6m below the floor, and was sealed by a 1.20m-thick deposit of fuel waste derived from the foundry, which also contained nineteenth-century pottery. The waste also sealed a north/south-aligned sewer pipe along the western edge of the trench, that was possibly contemporary with an early nineteenth-century pipe exposed at the southern end of the trench. The pipe cut through a dark brown silt layer, possibly representing a buried soil horizon. The layer was exposed throughout the base of the sondage and measured 0.1m in thickness above natural sandy gravel. Upon investigation, the deposit was seen to contain wire, lead and lead-glazed pottery.
- 3.4.19 *Trench 11:* the trench was aligned approximately north/south across the site of a brewery shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1850 (Fig 6). The trench measured 12 x 2.1m (Fig 16), and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.75m. The majority of the trench was filled with rubble, which directly overlay the natural red sandstone geology. No archaeological features or deposits were present within the entire length of the excavated trench.
- 3.4.20 *Trench 12:* this trench was aligned approximately south-east/north-west, and targeted the site of a nineteenth-century size works, shown on the 1850 OS map (Fig 6). The trench was excavated for a distance of 18.3m (Fig 16), and to a depth of 1.5m.

- 3.4.21 The solid geology comprised red sandstone, which was exposed at the western end of the trench. Overlying the bedrock was a short alignment of bricks orientated east/west, laid as a single line of stretchers and bonded with a midyellowish-brown mortar with white flecking.
- 3.4.22 Two walls were also cut into the bedrock, one (604) at the western end of the trench, and one located approximately 4m to the east (609). Both were aligned north/south, and were of similar construction. They comprised handmade bricks, laid in an English Garden Wall bond using a mid-cream lime-based mortar. The walls were both 0.23m wide and survived nine courses high. The position of these walls corresponded to the walls of the size works as depicted on historical mapping.
- 3.4.23 Between walls **604** and **609** was a mid-brownish-grey silty-sand, which had 50% inclusions of bricks and brick fragments, and above this was a structure, which formed the down pipe of a brick-lined, sandstone-capped drain. The drain was orientated north-east/south-west and was bonded with a dark grey ashy mortar, indicative of a later nineteenth-century construction. These features were sealed by a demolition deposit.
- 3.4.24 Overlying the demolition deposit was a small wall, only visible in the northern section of the trench, which did not extend across the width of the trench. It was 0.25m wide and three courses high, and probably represents a late nineteenth/early twentieth-century boundary wall. This was also associated with a sett surface.
- 3.4.25 Another structure (617) lay to the east of wall 609 and this was built of handmade bricks, in English Garden Wall coursing, with a pale grey mortar containing lime and charcoal inclusions. Three sides of this structure were present, though it continued beyond the limits of the trench. It was visible as an east/west wall, with a wall returning southwards at either end. The walls were 0.36m wide, and over 15 courses high, and the east and west walls were set 2.44m apart. Abutting the western wall was a short section of bonded brickwork, which was positioned immediately east of the wall, but was only six courses high and 0.45m wide. In addition, two surfaces were also encountered. One lay immediately west of 617, and was composed of regularly-laid mid-greyish-yellow sandstone setts, with their long axes orientated east/west. The other surface lay to the north and consisted of whole bricks, with their long axes orientated north/south.
- 3.4.26 Structure 617 had been backfilled with a loose rubble material, 622, probably demolition debris. Outside structure 617, and overlying the two surfaces, were two further demolition deposits, which also post-dated another wall (613). This wall was constructed of handmade bricks, built in an English Garden Wall bond, with a pale cream lime-rich mortar, and was orientated north/south, extended across the trench. It was 0.25m wide and stood over 2m high. Immediately to the east was a second wall (614), abutting it and apparently later. Wall 614 was 0.35m wide and of a similar height, and comprised handmade bricks, again laid in an English Garden Wall bond with a mid-grey mortar. This wall was sealed by rubble backfill.

- 3.4.27 *Trench 14:* this trench was excavated as part of the watching brief and was not accessed on health and safety grounds. The trench was orientated approximately north/south along the north-western boundary of the study area. It measured 8.5 x 1.8m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2m below the present ground surface.
- 3.4.28 The earliest visible deposit was a 0.6m-thick layer of mid-greyish-brown gritty sand. Above this was a series of thinner layers, including a 0.2m-thick red sand layer, a 0.3m-thick mid-brown silty-sand layer, and a 0.2m-thick mid-yellow sand layer. These were all essentially make-up deposits, and appeared to correspond to those exposed in Trench 12. The three make-up layers had been disturbed by several modern services trenches, which had cut through the deposits along the southern part of the trench.
- 3.4.29 **Area D:** this area was situated in the western part of the study area, occupying land immediately to the south of the historic market place. The cartographic evidence suggested that this area might have considerable archaeological potential, as it seemingly had not been subjected to any major development since it was abandoned as a market place.
- 3.4.30 *Trench 1*: given the constraints of the area within which to work, a single trench was excavated (Fig 16). The trench was constrained on the northern side by the sheer drop of a large extraction hole and on the south by a still extant electric service. Trench 1 was approximately 22m in length, 1.6m wide and dug to a maximum depth of 1.1m. The trench was curved in plan due to the site constraints and attempted to evaluate the area (OA North 2007) originally proposed for Trenches 1 and 2.
- 3.4.31 The remains of a mid-twentieth-century brick wall were exposed at the eastern end of the trench. This wall was probably a continuation of one of the large structures excavated within Area A, (eg 127 or 200; Section 3.3.39). The wall disturbed several horizontal deposits of levelling material, which contained numerous sherds of nineteenth-century ceramics and clay pipes. These deposits overlay a gravel layer, which formed an interface between them and the natural geology.
- 3.4.32 Numerous service trenches cut the deposits, but these were later than a surface of setts visible along the southern side of the trench. Beneath this surface were additional make-up layers. Towards the western end of the trench, there was evidence of a narrow, deep discrete cut feature of unknown purpose (640). It contained redeposited natural material, including fragments of red sandstone bedrock. This feature truncated several layers of finely textured but mixed mid-brownish-grey to greyish-brown clayey-silt layers. Each layer was approximately 0.25m thick and the boundaries between each deposit were somewhat diffuse. These layers were clearly not characteristic of occupation or gradual build-up through use, and are most likely to have been formed by large-scale redeposition of material. At least one layer at the base contained brick fragments.
- 3.4.33 At the base of the trench was a single 0.08m-thick horizontal layer of dark silt, but it was somewhat brittle and not consistent with any medieval and post-

medieval horizons seen within Area A. This layer directly overlay the natural bedrock at a depth of 1.1m.

## 4. THE POTTERY

#### 4.1 THE FINDS

4.1.1 The overall assemblage of finds from Greengate Towers was surprising in terms of both the quantity and quality of the material. The main classes of material were all present, including pottery, clay tobacco pipes, glass, ceramic building material (CBM), metalwork and bone (Table 2).

Item	Date / Description	Totals
Pottery	Roman	1
	Medieval pottery up to	55
	c 1540	
	Post-medieval	8331
Clay tobacco pipe		268
CBM		20
Glass		605
Metalwork	Coins / tokens	4
	Copper Alloy	11
	Iron	40
	Lead	2
	Other	17
	Total	74
Miscellaneous	Mixed materials	18
Organics	Leather	2
	Animal bone	225
	Shell	23
	Wood	1
	Environmental samples	5
	Soil Monoliths	5

Table 2: Summary of the finds assemblages

- 4.1.2 Initially, all of the finds recovered during the archaeological investigation were considered by OA North in-house specialists, and a series of assessment-style reports was produced. Details of these are contained in the earlier report (OA North 2007).
- 4.1.3 It was clear, however, that the pottery from the site represented a significant archaeological resource, in terms of both its chronological range and quantity. More specifically, it was envisaged that this assemblage would provide valuable details on the types of medieval and early post-medieval pottery utilised within Salford's historic core.
- 4.1.4 Accordingly, it was recommended that the medieval and post-medieval pottery assemblage should be subjected to detailed analysis. This analysis has formed a major element of the present work (*Sections 4.2-4.4*).
- 4.1.5 *Quantification:* aside from a single sherd of Roman pottery, some 8387 sherds of pottery, weighing 210.454kg, were recovered during the Greengate Towers excavations. Of these, the overwhelming majority were post-medieval in date, comprising 8331 sherds (209.597kg). The remaining 53 fragments, weighing

771g, are medieval in origin (0.64% by sherd count or 0.373% by weight). Whilst the majority of the medieval sherds from the site came from 26 well-stratified contexts, only six contexts (nine fragments in all) produced exclusively medieval material. Given its residual nature, much of the medieval material was small and abraded. Similarly, although the post-medieval assemblage did produce some large sherds, the material was predominantly small. This was probably a result of the fact that much of it was derived from layers, where reworking was possibly a factor.

- 4.1.6 *Methodology:* the pottery was analysed in accordance with guidance provided by English Heritage (English Heritage 1991) and the Medieval Pottery Research Group (2001). It was examined in context groups and catalogued according to ware type and sherd family, in this case, all sherds from the same pot within the same context (Orton *et al* 1993, 172). The assemblage was examined by eye, and digitally photographed. It was then sorted into ware groups on the basis of fabric, form, glaze, and decorative technique. An estimation of the range of forms was based on sherd profile and diagnostic features, such as rim and base fragments. Each context containing pottery was given an approximate date based on ceramic-ware types. From this, an overall date for each deposit was established based on the datable pottery types present.
- 4.1.7 Identification of post-medieval material was undertaken with reference to ceramic traditions in Staffordshire, as identified by David Barker (Barker 2008) and previous excavations in Greater Manchester (OA North 2011; Garratt 2008). The medieval fabric groupings were also undertaken with reference to assemblages of medieval pottery from excavations in the region, as well as published material from the wider area (Ford 1995). However, because of the generally small size of the sherds, and the general lack of diagnostic fragments, the fabric groups have been left deliberately broad.

### 4.2 ROMAN POTTERY

4.2.1 A single fragment of Nene Valley-type colour-coated ware was present in pit **494** (fill **493**; *Section 3.3.3*), where it was likely to be residual.

#### 4.3 MEDIEVAL POTTERY

4.3.1 *The fabrics:* the medieval wares were derived mostly from the north-western part of Area A (*Section 3.3*; Table 3). Generally, the pottery fragments are small and abraded, only those from deposit *547*, which appears to represent a deliberate dump (*Section 3.3.7*), being larger and refitting. The small assemblage comprises five broad fabric types.

Context No	Weight (g)	Quantity	Medieval Fabric
129	38	1	Fabric 1
158	39	4	Fabric 2; Fabric 3; Fabric 4
161	11	1	Fabric 4
177=535	6	1	Fabric 2
233	38	2	Fabric 2
272	20	1	Fabric 2
272	15	1	Fabric 4
272	19	2	Fabric 2
272	47	3	Fabric 2
272	53	4	Fabric 5
273	20	1	Fabric 2
279	8	1	Fabric 4
281	27	1	Fabric 1
282	7	3	Fabric 2
344/345	10	1	Fabric 1
345	27	1	Fabric 2
345	3	1	Fabric 3
362	82	2	Fabric 2
387	67	3	Fabric 2
394	7	1	Fabric 3
400	10	1	Fabric 2
401	7	1	Fabric 1
413	1	1	Fabric 2
433	31	2	Fabric 2
478	12	1	Fabric 2
499	26	2	Fabric 2; Fabric 5
510	9	1	Fabric 2
540	4	1	Fabric 2
544	6	1	Fabric 2
547	96	4	Fabric 5
547	6	2	Fabric 5; Fabric 2
US	19	1	Fabric 3

Table 3: Medieval pottery-producing contexts

- 4.3.2 *Fabric 1 (Gritty-ware):* four sherds were recovered in this fabric, which forms part of the widespread Northern Gritty tradition, and dates broadly from the mid-twelfth to the mid-fourteenth century (McCarthy and Brooks 1988). The only sherd diagnostic as to form is a rod handle, likely to be from a jug.
- 4.3.3 *Fabric 2:* this is the most abundant fabric recovered during the excavations, with some 31 sherds present. The sandy fabric varies in colour between pale pink and pale orange, to buff, commonly with a pale grey reduced core. Two of the sherds exhibit traces of olive green glaze. Everted rims, probably from jar forms, are represented, and a jug or cistern handle is also present. This fabric may be part of the Midlands whiteware tradition, seen in south Staffordshire and the Midlands, which generally dates from the late twelfth to the fourteenth century (Ford 1995, 33-5). Similar pink/white wares have also been recovered from the Norton Priory (Vaughan 2008, 343-4) and the Dominican Friary in Chester, where they became common in the fourteenth century (Rutter 1990).

- 4.3.4 *Fabric 3:* this may represent a fine version of Fabric 2. The fabric is pink in colour, with fewer or no inclusions, and the recovered fragments are unglazed body sherds.
- 4.3.5 Fabric 4 (North West Purple): this forms part of the Midlands Purple-ware tradition, which also includes Cistercian ware (Hurst and Wright 2011, 32, 55-66). Such fabric types form part of a more widespread tradition, which continues through Bedfordshire and Northamptonshire, even extending as far as Normandy (Slowikowski 2011; Brown and Hardy 2011, 123). These products are often referred to as transitional, as chronologically they bridge the gap between the late medieval traditions and subsequent Dark-glazed earthenwares, which continued into the late nineteenth century (Section 4.4.3). Indeed, there are later seventeenth-century vessels from this site, which are included within the post-medieval catalogue. The fabric is hard-fired, often reduced to grey, with a semi-vitrified appearance, which gives the glaze its characteristic purple colour. A fifteenth- to sixteenth-century date is usually considered appropriate. No chronologically diagnostic fragments were recovered from the site.
- 4.3.6 *Fabric* 5: this is a hard-fired, gritty, red to orange fabric with traces of an overfired glaze, giving a glassy, opaque white appearance. Fragments from a single vessel, a globular jar with an everted rim, were recovered from deposit 547 (Pl 16; *Section 3.3.7*) and from a modern pit (546, fill 545). Similar pottery has been noted from elsewhere in Salford, where it was ascribed a late fourteenth- to fifteenth-century date (Garratt 2008) and also from Cheadle Green, to the south of Manchester (J Bradley *per obs*).



Plate 16: Fabric 5, from deposit **547** (50mm scale)

4.3.7 *Discussion:* although much of the medieval pottery was residual within later contexts, several sherds were recovered from features and deposits considered to be of medieval date. These included: a fill (282) from ditch 236/468/556 (Section 3.3.4); dump 547 (Section 3.3.7); fill 233 from pit 234 (Section 3.3.8);

- fill 540 from pit 541 (Section 3.3.8); layer 279 (Section 3.3.6); and occupation deposit 478 (Section 3.3.5). Deposits 233, 282, 478 and 540 all contained medieval white wares (Fabric 2), suggesting that a fourteenth-century date is likely (Vaughan 2008, 343-4). Dump 547 contained sherds likely to derive from a single globular jar, again suggesting a fourteenth- or fifteenth-century date for deposition. Layer 279 was dated by a single sherd of North West Purple ware, suggesting a broad fifteenth- to sixteenth-century date for this context.
- 4.3.8 Given the small size of the assemblage, and its residual nature, it is not unexpected that there are few form-diagnostic sherds. The Fabric 5 sherds from layer 547 represented a globular jar, whilst further jar fragments were noted in layers 272 and 345. A single Gritty-ware (Fabric 1) handle, likely to be from a jug, was noted in the fill of a post-medieval drain (274; Section 3.3.38).
- 4.3.9 The date of the medieval pottery spans a period from the mid-twelfth into the fifteenth or sixteenth century. However, the bulk of the pottery, mainly characterised by the white-firing clays of Fabric 2, dates to the late twelfth to fourteenth century, assuming that the date range for this pottery corresponds to that of Midlands whiteware (Ford 1995, 34). The latter became common in Chester in the fourteenth century and much of it could have been locally made, principally at Ewloe near Buckley (Vaughan 2008, 343).
- 4.3.10 Although from residual contexts, the few sherds of Gritty-ware from the site form part of a widespread tradition, which was dominant in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 142). Thus, their presence implies some activity at the site during this period. Given the known history of the town (*Section 2.2.5*), these are most likely to be a product of the thirteenth century. Apart from their date, the Gritty-ware component of the assemblage from Greengate Towers is too small to comment upon. However, it is possible that, as at Wigan, these represent a locally produced ware (*cf* OA North 2011).
- 4.3.11 Fabric 2, along with the North West Purple ware, may have had its origins in the Midlands or north Wales (Vaughan 2008, 343). This was also the likely origin of the white-firing fabric recovered from Millgate, Wigan (OA North 2011). It was noted, at the latter site, that, in broad terms, Gritty wares were superseded by Partially Reduced Greywares during the later thirteenth and fourteenth centuries (cf McCarthy and Brooks 1988; Edwards 2000), which was then eclipsed by fully-reduced Greywares from the fourteenth century onwards. The latter fabric formed part of a widespread 'Reduced Greenware' tradition in northern England, and was the dominant fabric across much of Lancashire during the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries (McCarthy and Brooks 1988, 29). However, in Wigan (OA North 2011), Chapel Wharf, Salford (Garratt 2008), and Greengate Towers, these wares are almost absent, although two small groups of Partially Reduced Greyware were recovered from the Grand Arcade, Wigan (OA North 2008a). Although the absence of these fabrics is hard to explain, it perhaps related to the difficulties of transporting goods from production areas lying further to the north.

4.3.12 The five sherds of North West Purple ware again hint at a Midlands origin for this type of pottery, as it strongly resembles Midlands Purple ware (Hurst and Wright 2011; Ford 1995), which dates to the end of the medieval period. Although the evidence remains scant, its comparative absence from Greengate Towers may relate to a wider regional trend. For example, in other towns across the region there are frequent signs of a decrease in fifteenth-century pottery (Dyer 2005, 190). This does not necessarily reflect a decline in urban fortunes, however. One possible explanation is that the supply of pottery became problematic. Moreover, this may be applicable to towns such as Penrith (*ibid*) and Wigan (OA North 2011), which also show a marked decline in pottery use between the fifteenth and mid-seventeenth centuries. Indeed, it has been suggested that during this period, in other parts of the North West, such as the Merseyside area, the region was effectively aceramic (Lewis 2002, 72).

### 4.4 POST-MEDIEVAL POTTERY

4.4.1 The post-medieval pottery comprises some 8331 fragments, weighing 209.597kg. The assemblage provides evidence for 32 wares, derived from a total of 146 stratified and unstratified contexts (Table 3). However, of these contexts, the majority, 86 in total (58%), were layers, either garden soils or make-up layers, thought to have accumulated over long periods of time, or were later demolition deposits. Pottery was also recovered from the interstices of six walls (161, 265, 288, 324, 404, and 407), 11 construction cuts and their associated fills (199, 202, 356, 372-74, 395,402, 430, 443, and 452), and five pit fills (233, 493, 499, 501, and 535).

Fabric	Quantity	Weight (g)
Agate ware	84	813
Black Basalts	5	54
Brown salt-glazed stoneware	495	10641
Buff-bodied earthenware	5	85
China	1	3
Colour glazed	14	190
Creamware	582	6454
Dark-glazed red earthenwares	2381	116944
Dipped	52	1103
Early Blackware	67	1383
Glazed Orange and yellow	12	321
Glazed red earthenware	82	5686
Industrial Slipware	95	1143
Jackfield-type	10	135
Lustre ware	1	3
Midland purple-type	32	3266
Mottled ware	1018	12246

Pearlware	436	5467
Porcelain	30	206
Porcelain/china	1	9
Red stoneware	3	20
Slip-coated	1186	15071
Slipware	450	4871
Stoneware	92	10272
Tin-glazed earthenware	131	1154
Unglazed red earthenware	97	2443
Unidentifed	4	70
Waster	1	7
Westerwald	1	19
White salt-glazed stoneware	694	6062
White ware	121	2197
Yellow ware	150	1339

Table 4: Relative quantities and weights of post-medieval pottery recovered during the excavation

- 4.4.2 In terms of its date range, the majority of the post-medieval pottery is likely to span the eighteenth and the first half of the nineteenth century. The lack of chronological precision is a reflection on the longevity of some of the wares seen at the site, notably the Dark-glazed red earthenwares, which have a long life-span and are notoriously difficult to date, unless accompanied by other, more precisely dated, pottery types.
- 4.4.3 *Dark-glazed red earthenwares:* the largest group from the site consists of Dark-glazed red earthenwares (Table 3), comprising 28.58% by sherd count and 55.80% by weight. This particular ware was ubiquitous in the North West, and largely represents coarse or kitchen wares. Notable groups of this pottery type have been recovered from Wigan, Lancaster, and Liverpool (OA North 2008a; Miller and White forthcoming; Philpott 1985). During the analysis of the assemblage from Greengate Towers, the finewares, recorded as Early Blackwares (after Barker 1986), were classified separately, as were those sherds that could be definitely identified as deriving from Midlands Purpletype 'butter pot-type wares' (Barker 2008).
- 4.4.4 The forms attributed to this group are fairly conservative, consisting of cylindrical (Pl 17) and globular jars, as well as pancheons and bowls. Less frequent forms include jugs, a cistern (Pl 18), bottles, and two fragments from a trencher/roaster/dripping pan; these derived from cleaning layer 544 and rubbish pit 539 (fill 535; Section 3.3.32). A vessel rim from pit 502 (fill 501; Section 3.3.11) is more difficult to identify. It has a squared rim, with a hole below. It may represent a saggar, although it does not have the vitrified appearance usually associated with the repeated firing of these vessels. Similar vessels have been recovered from Burslem Marketplace (Boothroyd and Courtney 2004, fig 10.42). It also resembles a vessel seen on Breugel's 1559 painting, The Fight Between Carnival and Lent (Pl 19), and could be a brazier or hand/foot warmer.



Plate 17: Dark-glazed red earthenware cylindrical jar from pit fill **535** in pit **539** (100mm scale)



Plate 18: Unstratified Dark-glazed red earthenware bunghole cistern (100mm scale)



Plate 19: Detail from The Fight Between Carnival and Lent (above; vessel marked by arrow), with the vessel below (50mm scale)

4.4.5 In terms of source, the Dark-glazed red earthenwares could have been produced at any of a number of different local manufacturing sites using the clays of the South Lancashire coalfields, including Rainsford, active in the seventeenth century (Davey 1989, 104-5), and Prescot, Merseyside, which was producing Dark-glazed redwares from the sixteenth to the early twentieth century (*op cit*, 103-4).

- 4.4.6 *Slip-coated/buff-bodied:* this type of pottery forms a fairly homogeneous group, and represents 13.43% by sherd count, and 7.19% by weight, of the total assemblage. It constitutes a once-fired buff fabric, and is characterised by a brown or dark red slip beneath a lead glaze. However, in some instances the slip appears to have been dispensed with, and a more ferrous glaze used. It is also notable that elements of the Mottled ware assemblage (*Section 4.4.10*) also exhibit this fabric. It is therefore likely that they all share the same kiln source. In its heyday, this ware was produced in Staffordshire, between the 1720s and 1740, although it has been found in domestic groups dating up to the 1770s (Barker 2008).
- 4.4.7 It is widespread in distribution, albeit occurring in relatively small quantities, at, for instance, Wigan (OA North 2008a) and Chapel Wharf, Salford, where it formed 5% (by sherd count) of the assemblage (Garratt 2008), as well as in Bury (OA North 2008b). Elsewhere, similar vessels have been reported with a slip-trailed wavy line (Barker and Halfpenny 1990). Similar wares were also unearthed during the excavation in 1975 at the western end of Butcher Lane, Bury (Tyson 1975), and they have also been recovered from Bewsey Old Hall (Lewis *et al* 2011, 123-8).
- 4.4.8 The range of forms include both kitchen and tablewares, with the former being represented by mugs from layer 396 (Pl 20; Section 3.3.36). The characteristic single handles from casserole dishes were identified from garden soil 281 (Section 3.3.13) and cleaning layer 488. Sooted bases are also fairly common throughout the assemblage, further illustrating that this ware was largely used in the kitchen. Other forms consist of small flaring dishes and small-handled bowls, for instance from layer 396.



Plate 20: Slip-coated/buff-bodied bowls and mugs from levelling deposit **396** (100mm scale)

4.4.9 *Mottled ware:* this forms the next largest ceramic group, with 1018 sherds, forming 12.22% of the post-medieval ceramic assemblage, and 5.84% by weight (2246g). This figure is close to that obtained for this ware type from Chapel Wharf, Salford (Garratt 2008).

- 4.4.10 Barker (2008) suggests that manufacture of Mottled ware occurred in *c* 1700-70, although Dr Plot, writing in the late seventeenth century, also notes that it was being produced at this time (Plot 1686, 123). There are variations in the colour of the glaze from dark to light, with the lightening seen as a later trait (Barker 2008). The fabric range is also quite broad, from buff (resembling the slip-coated material) to darker beiges, and red. These differences suggest that this ware was derived from several different, and widely spread, production centres. These may have included Buckley, in North Wales, and the potting centres in Yorkshire and Derby (*ibid*). However, Prescot would be the nearest known production site (McNeil 1989, 60-1)
- 4.4.11 In the North, attention has been drawn to the association of this type of ware with urban beer houses (Garratt 2008), with some mugs and tankards bearing impressed or applied ale marks (Barker 2008). However, the group from Greengate Towers is much more domestic in character, producing predominantly vessels for serving and eating (dishes and bowls), but also for drinking (jugs, mugs), and cooking or storage (jars, and a thrown trencher or dripping pan); in addition, sooted bases clearly indicate their use over heat, presumably in the kitchen. Decoration is restricted to horizontal ribs on mugs and a shallow bowl base with impressed decoration from layer 455 (Pl 21; Section 3.3.13).



Plate 21: Mottled ware dish with impressed decoration, from garden soil 455 (scale 100mm)

4.4.12 *White salt-glazed stoneware:* some 694 sherds, accounting for 8.33% of the post-medieval assemblage, but only accounting for 2.89% by weight (6062g), were recovered during the excavations. Taken together, White salt-glazed stoneware, Creamware, and Pearlware form important components of the

- assemblage, since their introduction and development can be used as clear chronological indicators. They also illustrate the changing tastes and styles in dining which took place during the 'ceramic revolution' of the eighteenth century (Barker 2010, 6).
- 4.4.13 White salt-glazed stoneware was first introduced in the 1720s, and in the following two decades they were dominated by tea wares, following an increasing trend in the consumption of tea and coffee (*ibid*), with their relative cheapness allowing their use by a wider section of the populace (Skerry 2008).
- 4.4.14 The material recovered from Greengate Towers includes early types, such as white-dipped stoneware, which appears in the early eighteenth century, and often has a brown rim band (Pl 22; Barker 2008). Examples of this ware were noted within garden soil 158/344/345 (Section 3.3.13), levelling layers 392 (Section 3.3.36) and 396 (Section 3.3.36), as well as rubbish pit 539 (fill 535; Section 3.3.32), and from the construction fill (374), associated with a brick pier (660) contained in Building 5 (Section 3.3.34).



Plate 22: White-dipped stoneware mug fragment (left) and saucer (right), both from levelling deposit 396, with brown ferrous decoration (scale 100mm)

4.4.15 Due to the brittle nature of White salt-glazed stoneware, and the resulting fragmentation, teawares were less obvious. These vessels (cups, bowls, and saucers) became common in the 1720s and 1740s (Barker 2010, 6). A brown dipped mug with rouletted decoration came from levelling layer *396* (Pl 22, left). Moulded plates with many of the common designs, such as 'dot, diaper and basket', 'barleycorn', and 'bead and reel', are also present, and these are generally dated to between 1760 and 1770 (Barker 2008; 2010; Pl 23).

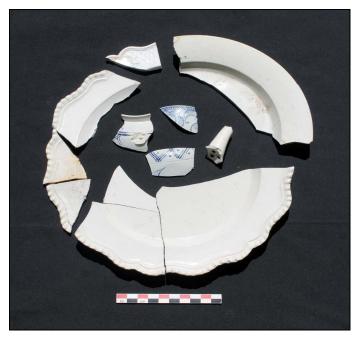


Plate 23: White salt-glazed stoneware plates with 'bead and reel', 'dot and diaper' and plain rims, surrounding scratch blue bowl sherds and a teapot spout from levelling deposit **396** (100mm scale)

4.4.16 *Creamware:* from the 1760s and 1770s onwards demand for this type of ware was outstripping that of White salt-glazed stoneware (Barker 2010, 13). Again, the demand was for tablewares, often attributed to Josiah Wedgwood's success in securing royal patronage for his Creamwares, subsequently marketing of them as Queen's ware (*ibid*). In total, 582 sherds were recovered (6.99%), which constitutes 3.08% by weight (6454g). Plates form a large part of the group, with the Queen's design and 'feather edge' both present (Pl 24; Barker 2010, 17, fig 2.13, nos 25 and 26), whilst beaded rims are also common. Hollow wares are less common, and are restricted to a few bowls and chamber pots. Demolition layer *251* and levelling layer *396* (*Section 3.3.64*) produced distinctive crossed handles, which may have derived from a tureen (*op cit*, 16, fig 2.12).



Plate 24: Cream ware plate with feather-edge rim, from levelling deposit 396 (100mm scale)

4.4.17 A small amount of related pottery known as Colour-glazed ware (14 sherds weighing 190g; Barker 2010, 7; Draper 1984, 45-6) was also recovered from layer **284**, which overlay road surface **285** (Section 3.3.36). These comprise a tortoise-shell decorated teacup, part of two teapots, and a rim from a cauliflower-decorated vessel, probably dating to c 1760, and a rim fragment with floral design (Pl 25; Draper 1984, 45).



Plate 25: Colour-glazed rim fragment from layer **284** (50mm scale)

4.4.18 *Pearlware*: some 436 sherds of Pearlware were recovered, forming 5.23% of the post-medieval assemblage (or 2.61% by weight). By the early nineteenth century, shell-edge Pearlwares had become the most widely used tables wares, partially because of their cheapness (Barker 2010, 15). These date, in broad terms, to between 1780 and the 1830s (Barker 2008). Other types present within the assemblage, but in much smaller quantities, are a green seaweed transfer-printed cup (1840s), an unscalloped shell-edge plate (1840-60), and a number of sponge-ware vessels, broadly dating to c 1800-60, but more common in c 1820-40 (Maryland Conservation Lab 2002). Painted decoration was widespread by 1800, and several examples were recovered from pit fill 535 (Pl 26), demolition layers 252 and 364, and drain fill 270, whilst there is a painted cup with Chinese scenes from rubbish pit 539 (fill 535; Section 3.3.32) dating to 1775-1810 (Maryland Conservation Lab 2002). Transfer-printed wares became dominant from the 1820s, with the 'Flow Blue' being introduced from around the 1840s (Barker 2008, 2010, 15). Both appear within the assemblage, with rubbish pit 539 (fill 535; Section 3.3.32) containing the former, and levelling layer 342 the latter (Section 3.3.36).



Plate 26: Pearlware feather-edge plates from pit fill **535** in pit **539**, surrounding a hand-painted rim fragment (100mm scale)

- 4.4.19 The term Whiteware has been used to describe both plain and transfer-printed refined white earthenwares dating from the 1820s to the present day (Barker 2008). Some 121 sherds (accounting for less than 1.5% of the post-medieval assemblage), weighing 2197g, were recovered, and one fragment, with 'H.W. & Co. Paris' on the base, can be dated to 1872-9, on the basis of the maker's mark (Coysh and Henrywood 1982, 170).
- 4.4.20 **Brown salt-glazed stoneware:** by weight, this fabric accounts for 5.08% (10,641g), and 5.94% by sherd count (495 fragments being present). This type covers a broad range of material, such as an early imported Bartmann bottle, to more utilitarian, and generally later, kitchen wares. The Bartmann bottle is represented by a medallion, which has an almost exact match in one found at Norton Priory (Pl 27; Brown and Howard-Davis 2008, 353). The vessel was probably a Frechen product, originating in Germany and dating to the later seventeenth century (ibid). It was recovered from garden soil 275 (Section 3.3.13). Other sherds with a freckled glaze, which are also likely to be seventeenth century in date, were recovered from other garden soils (158, 281, 344, and 345; Section 3.3.13). Although some will have been German imports, it is possible that others were from John Dwight's Fulham pottery, and a late seventeenth-century date would be appropriate (Barker 2008; Hildyard 1985, 28-9). In addition, the assemblage contains a single sherd from a seventeenthto eighteenth-century Westerwald stoneware vessel that was recovered from soil **433** (Section 3.3.30).



Plate 27: Medallion from a Bartmann-style jug, from garden soil 275 (50mm scale)

4.4.21 Mug fragments are a common element of the Brown salt-glazed stoneware assemblage, often with a lustrous finish; some exhibited ribbing, such as that from a construction fill 452 (Building 4; Section 3.3.21), or leaf designs, like that from cleaning layer 488, whilst two vessel fragments came from levelling layer 396 (Section 3.3.36), one of which is rouletted (Pl 28). This latter motif was common at South Castle Street in Liverpool, where it dates to the earlier eighteenth century (Danby and Philpott 1985, 77-84). Later products, whose range spans the whole of the eighteenth century, include dishes and bowls from Nottingham or Derby. Of note is a near complete coffee pot, from Trench 10 (Section 3.4.13), dating to c 1820, that probably derives from the Chesterfield/Brampton area (Hildyard 1985, 109).



Plate 28: Two Brown salt-glazed stoneware mug sherds, from levelling deposit **396** (100mm scale)

- 4.4.22 *Late stoneware:* this group is composed of later, predominantly nineteenth-century, stonewares, 92 fragments of which were recovered, representing 1.1%, or 4.9% by weight (10,272g). These are characteristically more utilitarian than the eighteenth-century wares, being largely a mixture of blacking, ink, and ginger-beer bottles. Some of there were of local origin, such as the large bottle from a demolition layer (256), embossed 'WINE AND SPIRITS, MANCHESTER'. A similar example is a nineteenth-century brownglazed stoneware, bottle stamped 'TOWNSENDS SUPERIOR GINGER BEER. SALFORD, 1874'. One bottle of note, from wall 288 (Trench 7; Section 3.3.35), is a fragment from a probable French import. This is stamped '3/4 L', possibly the quantity of the bottle in litres, along with '...N&MOL... ...TERD'.
- 4.4.23 *Slipware:* these comprise 5.4% of the total assemblage, totalling 450 fragments (4871g; 2.32% by weight). This group covers several different traditions of slip-decorated pottery dating from the mid-seventeenth to the eighteenth century. It is likely, like those from Chapel Wharf in Salford, that these products derived from potteries in North Wales, Staffordshire, and Yorkshire (Garratt 2008, 28). Moreover, it has been suggested that the occurrence of such a variety of slip-decorated ceramics had important implications for the socio-economic development of the area (*ibid*).

4.4.24 The earliest type of slipware, dating to *c* 1650 and later, is usually described as cream slip-trails on a thrown red body, and similar items were recovered from South Castle Street, Liverpool (Danby and Philpott 1985), Norton Priory (Brown and Howard-Davis 2008, 350-1) and from Lancaster (Miller and White forthcoming). This type of pottery resembles Metropolitan Slipware, but a more local provenance is likely, with production known from, amongst other places, Swan Bank pottery in Stoke-on-Trent (Stoke-on-Trent Museum Archaeological Society 2011). Thrown flat wares that can be partially reconstructed were recovered from drain 274 (fill 273; Section 3.3.36; Pl 29) and construction fill 394, associated with wall 185 (Section 3.3.34). Both of these vessels have a triangle or star motif, which has parallels with a complete dish from Norton Priory (Brown and Howard-Davis 2008, pl 209).



Plate 29: Thrown Slipware dish (cream trailed on red body), from drain 274 (100mm scale)

4.4.25 The bulk of the material probably dates from around the 1690s to the 1730s, and comprises slip-trailed or embossed press-moulded plates, and a small number of slip-trailed hollow wares. Several contexts, such as construction fill 452 (Building 4; Section 3.3.21; Pl 30), produced dark brown slip-coated examples, with the type of double-trailed slip lines and feathered infill more commonly seen on tulip cups, as well as buff-bodied feathered slip-decorated vessels (Barker and Crompton 2007, 22). There is also an example of sgraffito from bedding layer 366, which lay beneath yard wall 420 (Section 3.3.30). A large fragment of press-moulded, marbled slipware, from a demolition layer (289), is probably of Staffordshire origin, although similar examples are found in Buckley, North Wales (Barker 1993, 12; Longworth nd).



Plate 30: A variety of slipware styles dating from c 1650 to c 1730 from construction fill **452** (Building 4) (100mm scale)

- 4.4.26 *Yellow ware:* in north Staffordshire, Yellow ware is dated to the seventeenth century, and certainly occurs in Civil War deposits at Eccleshall Castle (Barker 2008), and further afield, at Beeston Castle (Noake 1993). The material from Greengate Towers consists of 147 sherds, mostly small, (accounting for 1.77% by sherd count), weighing 1205g (0.58%). Small jars, such as those from construction fill *452* (Building 4; *Section 3.3.21*), as well as bowls and dishes, are the most common forms, some of which have been utilised as cooking pots.
- 4.4.27 Seventeenth-eighteenth-century wares: the remaining ware individually comprise less than 1.5% by sherd count, or 2.7% by weight. The small amount and small size of individual fragments of Tin-glazed earthenware (131 fragments, constituting 1.57%) is perhaps unusual, considering that, between 1710 and 1760, 14 factories producing this distinctive type of pottery had been established in Liverpool (Black 2001, 8). It is even more so, considering that by the 1740s the Mersey and the Irwell Navigation had been established, allowing easy access between the two towns (Section 2.2.10). As the material is quite fragmented, vessel forms are difficult to recognise beyond the generic basal sherds and hollow-ware vessels. The exceptions are a near-complete teapot from rubbish pit 539 (fill 535; Section 3.3.32; Pl 31), and a chamber pot rim from levelling layer 396 (Section 3.3.34). Chinoiserie is represented by a sherd from levelling layer 401, with a Chinese house design, whilst another fragment from garden soil 344/345 (Section 3.3.13) depicts a bird.



Plate 31: Near-complete Tin-glazed earthenware teapot from pit fill **535** in pit **539** (100mm scale)

- 4.4.28 Like Tin-glazed earthenware, the Agate ware (84 sherds, weighing 813g) is quite fragmented. Rims from bowls, often with bands of slip, are present, as is a base with a pierced hole for secondary use as flowerpot, recovered from the surface of the natural substrate (338).
- 4.4.29 Early Blackware is defined by Barker (2008) as a lead-glazed earthenware, the origin of which was in the Cistercian wares of the late fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, with its popularity being at its greatest between *c* 1650 and 1720 (Barker 1986). Although the Early Blackware from the site accounts for less than 1% of the assemblage, both by weight and sherd count, the material has a relevance, in that diagnostic forms such as the mugs can be useful dating tools.
- 4.4.30 Notable amongst the assemblage were several good examples of mugs. Faceted mug bases were recovered from garden soil 440 (Section 3.3.13; Pl 32) and construction fill 475, which was associated with wall 479 (Section 3.3.17). In Liverpool, these mugs have been dated to the mid-seventeenth century (Philpott 1989), whilst other examples have been recognised at Old Abbey Farm, Risley (Heawood et al 2004). A straight-sided mug with multiple handles is similar to an example published by Barker (1986, fig 4, no 43). This was recovered from garden soil 440 (Section 3.3.13). Pedestal bases with flaring bodies are also present (from layer 250, which overlay garden soil 344 (Section 3.3.13), and from pit 502, fill 501 Section 3.3.11)). These have comparators in the Old Abbey Farm assemblage (Heawood et al 2004, 113, fig 53), and Norton Priory (Brown and Howard-Davis 2008, 347, fig 246, no 26). Part of a probable jug body from pit fill 501 (pit 502: Section 3.3.11) also resembles a jug published by Barker (1986, fig 8, no 82).



Plate 32: Faceted Early Blackware mug (left) and a multiple-handled straight-sided mug (right) from garden soil 440 (50mm scale)

4.4.31 Some 30 fragments of Porcelain are present. These are mostly underglaze blue-painted hollow ware, probably teawares, with occasional floral or Chinese scenes (demolition layer *309*; Pl 33), all of which are likely to be eighteenth century in date.

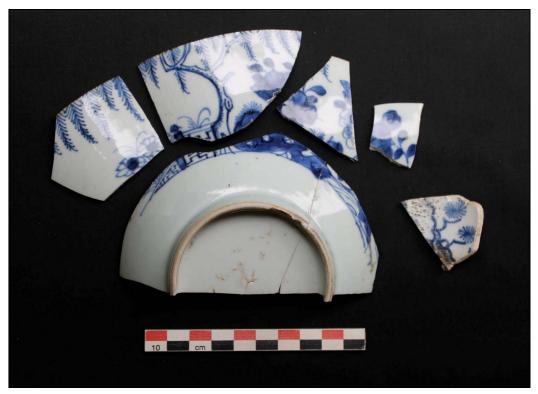


Plate 33: Porcelain bowl with painted Chinese scenes, from demolition layer **309** (100mm scale)

- 4.4.32 Midland Purple-type has been used to denote the post-medieval vessels in this fabric, primarily butter pot-types, usually considered to be eighteenth century in date (Barker 2008). Rim fragments, due to their diagnostic nature, are generally the only fragments recognised, and therefore the number of sherds is probably on the low side (32 sherds, weighing 3266g). Another contributing factor is that there are inherent difficulties in separating Midland Purple-type from earlier Dark-glazed red earthenwares. Small amounts of Jackfield-type ware (ten sherds, weighing 135g) and Red stoneware (three sherds, weighing 20g) were also recovered; these include a possible coffee-pot lid from garden soil 439 (Section 3.3.13).
- 4.4.33 *Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century wares:* finewares included Industrial Slipware (95 sherds) and Black Basalts (five sherds). The Industrial slipware almost entirely comprises mugs decorated with mocha, rouletted bands with inlaid slip, marbling and dipped fan decoration, all of which date to *c* 1770-1840 (Hyland 2005). Typical of these wares were an unstratified group (Pl 34). The basket-weave Black Basalt sherds probably derive from teawares, and were perhaps manufactured by the Herculaneum factory in Liverpool in *c* 1805-10 (*op cit*, 74-5). Coarsewares comprise Unglazed red earthenware (97 sherds), Glazed red earthenware (85 sherds), and Glazed Orange and yellow wares (12 sherds).



Plate 34: Unstratified Industrial slipwares (100mm scale)

4.4.34 *Wasters:* two waster fragments were recovered during the excavations. One from demolition layer *370*, is a Slip-coated fabric body-sherd, with glaze on the surface of the break. The other, from garden soil *344/345* (*Section 3.3.13*),

is a highly overfired base sherd in an unknown fabric. Although no pottery kiln sites are known from Salford, or Manchester, several non-specific kiln sites have been recognised in the Greater Manchester area (Garratt 2008), which may relate to ceramic production.

- 4.4.35 **Dating the excavated remains:** significantly, the post-medieval pottery from the site allows some refinement to the chronology of excavated remains, particularly within Area A. In terms of the excavated layers within this area, some of them, such as garden soil **281** (Section 3.3.1) and levelling layer **396** (Section 3.3.36), despite producing large quantities of pottery, can be quite tightly dated. For instance, both lack Pearlware and therefore probably formed prior to c 1780 (Section 4.4.18), perhaps developing in the mid-eighteenth century.
- 4.4.36 With regard to the post-medieval pottery recovered from walls and construction cuts, although this largely confirms the broad date of the associated buildings, as evidenced by the cartographic evidence, in some instances chronological refinement is possible. For example, cut 356 (for wall 184), associated with Building 4 (Section 3.3.21), contained Mottled ware and Yellow ware dating to the late seventeenth or earlier eighteenth century, whilst backfill 452, associated with another of this building's walls (453), has a depositional date of the late seventeenth century to c 1730 (Section 3.3.21). The cartographic evidence suggests this building was constructed at some point between 1772 and 1787, and the earlier date for the pottery may point to the earlier part of the date range, as opposed to the 1780s, particularly as it was not associated with Pearlware. Further support for this date was provided by a rubbish pit (446; Section 3.3.23), which was probably dug immediately prior to the construction of the building. This pit contained sherds of Creamware, perhaps dating to the 1760s or 1770s. Given that this building was constructed across a garden plot shown on Casson and Berry's map of 1741, it is also likely that many of the early sherds from its walls, and from pit 446, were once associated with the post-medieval garden soil, traces of which were present to the south-west of this building (Section 3.3.13).
- 4.4.37 Similarly, the pottery from fill 372 (wall cut 380) associated with Building 5 (Section 3.3.25) dates to the period c 1720-70. This building was later than Building 4, though it was suspected that there was probably not any appreciable time gap between the construction of them, perhaps ten years or less. The date of the pottery therefore appears to confirm this suspicion. Moreover, other deposits associated with Building 5 had a similar chronological range. These included backfill 373, forming material packed along north side of room 265, which contained pottery dating to the middle of the eighteenth century, and backfill 374, within room 264, which contained sherds dating to c 1720-70 (Section 3.3.22).
- 4.4.38 Other deposits within Area A, such as backfill (443) from structure 461, associated with Building 2 (Section 3.3.16), contained a White salt-glazed stoneware plate with a bead and reel rim, dating to the period c 1755-70 (Section 4.4.15). This material therefore suggests that this building was constructed in the third quarter of the eighteenth century. Slightly earlier pottery was recovered from backfill 430, associated with a late eighteenth-

- century yard wall (419; Section 3.3.30). This pottery comprised late seventeenth- or earlier eighteenth-century material, though the structure is probably a product of the late eighteenth century. This material therefore provides a terminus post quem for its construction, and was probably originally associated with an earlier garden soil that presumably lay across this part of the site.
- 4.4.39 Several of the post-medieval pits also contained tightly dated ceramics. For example, nine sherds of orange/red-bodied Slipware, with cream trailing, were recovered from pit 500 (fill 499; Section 3.3.2), as were sherds of medieval Fabrics 2 and 5, and Dark-glazed red earthenware. The range of this material would suggest deposition between c 1650 and 1700. Another comparable pit, 502 (fill 501; Section 3.3.11), contained orange/red-bodied Slipware, with cream trailing, as well as fragments of a press-moulded vessel with embossed decoration and Yellow ware. However, in this instance, the presence of White-dipped stoneware might suggest a depositional sequence in the early eighteenth century.
- 4.4.40 Rubbish pit **446** (Section 3.3.23) contained 103 fragments of pottery weighing 2100g. The pit group primarily consisted of kitchen wares, such as butter pots, cooking pots, dishes, and jars, in Mottled ware, Dark-glazed red earthenwares, and slip-coated wares. Finewares were mainly absent, apart from an early Blackware handle. A single undiagnostic sherd of Creamware would perhaps suggest a depositional date of *c* 1750-60 (Section 4.4.16).
- 4.4.41 Rubbish pit 539 (Section 3.3.32) contained the largest assemblage of pottery from a single feature, with the material confined to the upper fill (535). The deposit contained 590 fragments of pottery, weighing 32,345g. Other than the pottery, the deposit contained a small amount of clay tobacco-pipe fragments, shell, glass, and a copper-alloy disc. As with the assemblage in general, Darkglazed red earthenwares predominated, forming 35.76% of the total by sherd count (211 fragments), followed by Creamware (126 fragments), and Pearlware (115 fragments). It seems unlikely that the material accrued over an extended period, as seventeenth- or early eighteenth-century wares were few and likely to be nearing the end of their production period, or, indeed, residual. The presence of Creamwares, which form the second largest component of the finewares, being dominant during the 1760s-70s (Section 4.4.16), points to a later eighteenth-century start-date for deposition, perhaps continuing into the early nineteenth century, as scalloped shell-edged plates form a conspicuous element of the Pearlware component, and usually date to the period c 1800-30 (Maryland Conservation Lab 2002; Barker 2008). The presence of a near complete Tin-glazed teapot within the assemblage, a fabric which was on the wane by the later seventeenth century (Section 4.4.27), perhaps hints at the presence of a valued and curated item.
- 4.4.42 The value of such ceramic groups lies not only in their use as chronological markers, but also as a snap shot of changing fashions and culinary styles (*cf* Barker 2010). The presence of Dark-glazed red earthenwares illustrates not only their ubiquity within the assemblage as a whole, but also their durability and consistent preference as kitchen wares throughout the eighteenth century. Significantly, the rubbish pit produced a near-complete cylindrical jar and

shallow bowl in this fabric. However, it is the tablewares that demonstrate the changing styles: firstly with the Creamwares; followed by the much cheaper shell-edge Pearlware plates (*op cit*, 15). In addition, the assemblage perhaps, provides evidence of the discard of old or worn-out ceramics (*ibid*). It may even trace a decline in the fortunes of this locale, the edged-ware plates marking the move toward less expensive crockery.

- 4.4.43 *Conclusion:* the size and range of the post-medieval pottery assemblage from Greengate Towers makes it of regional importance. Not only does it provide a chronology for the site, it also illustrates the changing styles of dining and drinking from the mid-seventeenth century to the first half of the nineteenth century.
- 4.4.44 Significantly, the assemblage illuminates changing tastes in this area of Salford, and is very similar to that recovered from Chapel Wharf, a site which lies at the fringe of Salford's historic core (Garratt 2008, 39). For example, both assemblages are similar in terms of the late seventeenth- to early eighteenth-century ceramics, with both producing quantities of Early Blackwares, Slipwares, and Mottled wares (Garratt 2008, 39). However, where the two assemblages differ is in the quantities of finewares, in terms of the percentage of the whole assemblage. Whereas Greengate Towers was quite rich in White salt-glazed stonewares, Creamwares, and Pearlwares, accounting for 20.55% by sherd count, the Chapel Wharf assemblage contained only 3% (*ibid*). Clearly, different social groups were represented at the two sites, perhaps typified by the remains of late eighteenth-century back-to-back houses at Chapel Wharf (Mottershead and Garratt 2008, 56).

#### 5. DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The results obtained from the Greengate Towers site, particularly those associated with Area A, are significant, and allow a deeper insight into the development of Salford's historic core. In essence, they represent a microcosm of the growth of this town, from its emergence in the medieval period, through its gradual development in the post-medieval period, followed by a period of pronounced growth from the 1770s onwards, which was intimately connected to the wider industrialisation of the North West.
- 8.2 Roman activity: there is slight evidence for Roman activity at the site, in the form of a single sherd of pottery, which probably dates to the third century AD. Significantly, two other sherds of Roman pottery, belonging to a mortarium, were also recovered during an excavation that examined an area on the opposite side of Greengate (Arrowsmith 2006). These sherds were probably also residual, as they appear to have been recovered from a nineteenth-century drain (ibid). The significance of this combined collection of pottery is not entirely clear, though it possibly relates to some form of low-level Roman activity across this area. As no Roman roads are known in the vicinity, one possibility is that this area was used as agricultural land during the period, and that the sherds were deposited during the manuring of fields.
- 5.3 *Medieval activity:* more significant evidence for early activity was present in the form of the medieval remains in Area A, particularly as they are clearly related to the medieval settlement. These included a ditch, which probably formed a boundary between two burgage plots. On the basis of the pottery recovered, this ditch probably filled naturally during the fourteenth century, suggesting that it pre-dated this period and formed a comparatively early urban feature. Early activity in this area was also confirmed by residual pottery recovered from across the site. This material indicates that these plots were occupied from the early thirteenth century onwards and hence would have formed elements of Salford's earliest urban settlement.
- In terms of the form and layout of this burgage plot, evidence from other prefourteenth-century urban settlements within north-west England suggest that it was normal for a timber building to be positioned at the front of the plot, which in this case would have fronted Greengate. Such buildings may have utilised either earthfast posts or, more sophisticated, timber sill beams in their construction (cf Leech and Gregory 2012, 63-4). It is also clear from the available evidence from other parts of north-west England that the rear portions of burgage plots were used for rubbish disposal, small-scale horticulture, and industry (ibid). At Greengate Towers, evidence relating to this type of activity was present in the form of occupation deposits and pits.
- 5.5 The earlier of the occupation deposits lay immediately east of the boundary ditch and probably formed when the ditch was open, or in the process of filling, as it was associated with fourteenth-century pottery. Presumably, it lay to the rear of a medieval building fronting Greengate and hence probably fell beyond the main dwelling. A pit that was possibly contemporary, as it too contained fourteenth-century pottery, lay some distance to the east. Although

- heavily truncated by later activity, this feature might have been a rubbish pit, implying that during this period the disposal of rubbish was confined to the far reaches of these burgage plots.
- 5.6 An additional occupation deposit also sealed the ditch, which may date to the fifteenth century. Again this probably related to activity at the rear of a late medieval building. It also clearly indicates that by this period the boundary separating two of the town's original burgage plots was now defunct, implying some reorganisation along Greengate during the late medieval period.
- 5.7 Another deposit, probably relating to fifteenth-century activity, comprised a deliberate dump of stone, which again lay above the earlier boundary ditch. Although it is unclear whether this material was dumped with a specific purpose in mind; it might have acted as a rudimentary yard surface that again lay to the rear of a building fronting Greengate. It is also possible that this surface was contemporary with an adjacent, isolated, pit. The function of this pit is not clear, however, though it might have been related to small-scale rubbish disposal. It contained fourteenth-century pottery, though this probably derived from the earlier, and underlying, boundary ditch.
- 5.8 In terms of the wider area, other evidence for medieval activity has also been recovered from Salford's historic core, which confirms that from Greengate Towers. This evidence is confined to a site that lies on the opposite side of Greengate, at the junction of Gravel Lane, which was excavated in 2004-5 (Noble and Arrowsmith 2005). At this site, two cess/rubbish pits were present that were probably contemporary with the boundary ditch and associated features at Greengate Towers, as they were associated with thirteenth- and fourteenth-century pottery. The pits contained a fairly rich assemblage of plant remains, including crop-processing waste, and also a leather archer's bracer. Other medieval features included a linear gully, probably representing a property boundary, that extended towards Greengate. This boundary contained a sherd of fourteenth-/fifteenth-century pottery. It may therefore have been created as part of the postulated late-medieval reorganisation along Greengate (Section 5.6). Slightly further afield, medieval pottery has also been recovered from Clowes Street, Chapel Wharf, which lies south-west of Salford's historic core (Mottershead and Garratt 2008). This material appears to relate to the manuring of fields at the edge of the medieval settlement.
- 5.9 Early post-medieval activity: the cartographic evidence indicates that Greengate continued to form a main component of the town during the early post-medieval period. At Greengate Towers, evidence for early post-medieval activity included the garden soils and also several small pits and postholes. As with the medieval remains, these deposits and features lay to the rear of the post-medieval buildings fronting Greengate, within an area that the cartographic evidence indicates was probably used for small-scale horticulture. The presence of fairly large amounts of pottery within the deposits implies that this garden area was periodically manured, with material including domestic detritus. Other debris associated with the garden soils suggests that small-scale craft working also occurred in the vicinity.

- 5.10 With regard to this pottery, although it included several of the main types of late seventeenth- and eighteenth-century pottery, intriguingly, other than a few sherds of Midlands Purple-type wares, the transitional wares were largely absent. A number of factors may be at play here: the apparent aceramic nature of the North West during this period (Lewis 2002, 72), outside of elite households; the relatively undeveloped nature of Salford during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries; or perhaps the preferential use of less durable materials that do not survive, such as wood.
- 5.11 The majority of the buildings fronting Greengate at this time, which were presumably the source of the pottery and associated material, were probably timber-framed, single or one-and-half, storeyed, based on the evidence of those post-medieval buildings that survived into the modern period (Arrowsmith 2006). For example, the Bull's Head, which stood directly opposite the Greengate Towers site and was extant until 1930, was a low timber-framed building, with sandstone footings, which comprised five bays with four gables in the Greengate facade. It contained a cruck-framed element, which could date anywhere between the medieval period and the seventeenth century, and also exhibited post-and-truss construction, a building technique that was used in the late sixteenth/seventeenth century (*ibid*).
- 5.12 Significantly, comparable garden soils have been located across other parts of Salford's historic core, and also on the other side of the River Irwell, in the City of Manchester. As at Greengate Towers, the importance of these deposits lies in the fact that they are usually associated with considerable quantities of early post-medieval pottery, and other artefacts, allowing insights into the material culture of this period. Moreover, they represent the only viable link to this elusive period as, generally, direct archaeological evidence for preeighteenth-century buildings in both Salford and Manchester is lacking. In Salford, a comparable garden soil was identified at Clowes Street, Chapel Wharf, which was probably associated with properties and a boundary wall that lay at the far south-western edge of the early post-medieval settlement (ibid). This soil contained a sizable assemblage of pottery dating to between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. Similarly, in the City of Manchester, a garden soil was identified at Plot 106, Spinningfields, which was associated with pottery dating to between the fifteenth and eighteenth centuries (Gregory 2007b). This deposit also sealed an earlier ploughsoil associated with medieval pottery.
- 5.13 Later eighteenth- and nineteenth-century activity: in Area A, at Greengate Towers, clear evidence was present for the expansion of the town's population in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and also for wider changes, particularly in the form and spatial arrangement of domestic architecture, and the adoption of new types of material culture, which was associated with the industrialisation of the region.
- 5.14 More specifically, it appears that along Greengate new brick-built properties were constructed across vacant plots, whilst others probably replaced timber-framed post-medieval properties. The evidence from Greengate Towers suggests that this phase of building began in the third quarter of the eighteenth century, and probably resulted in the construction of Buildings 1-3. It is also

probable that these buildings formed some of the more salubrious dwellings within the town. The excavated evidence indicates that they were provided with cellars, which probably lay beneath two ground-floor rooms, and may have functioned as a living room/parlour, at the front of the house, and a kitchen to the rear. Two of the properties (Buildings 1 and 2) also had small outshuts, which presumably functioned as sculleries. However, Building 3 had a much larger outshut, implying that it represented a fairly substantial dwelling, which probably contained multiple rooms to its rear.

- 5.15 It is clear from the cartographic sources that, during the late eighteenth century, the garden plots, and areas of open ground, that were originally situated to the rear of the post-medieval buildings, and later Buildings 1-3 (see above), were also infilled with domestic properties and industrial buildings. At the Greengate Towers site, clear evidence for this phase of urban expansion was evident in the form of Buildings 4-8, which all date to the latter half of the eighteenth century. Significantly, the excavated remains preserve the nuances of this process, and suggest that, in this area at least, it was incremental in nature. For example, it is likely that Building 4 was the first property to have been built, perhaps in the early 1770s. This contained two cells and clearly functioned as two separate dwellings. As a discrete entity, its form is akin to the 'blind-back' urban cottages of Yorkshire, in that each cell formed the principal room with a door on one corner and a fireplace on one wall (cf Brunskill 1997, 194). With the example from Greengate Towers, the lack of stairways associated with each cell also suggests that access to an upper room, if present, or more probably a loft area, which may have been used for additional accommodation, must have been via a ladder, positioned in one corner of the principal room. Significantly, this dwelling appears to have been built directly within the confines of a garden plot, which is depicted on Casson and Berry's map of 1741, and the size of this plot may have influenced the size of the building. Across Salford and Manchester, similar blind-back, as well as back-to-back, dwellings were often built within the gardens or yards of older town houses (cf Gregory 2007c), though the example from Greengate Towers may represent a comparatively early example associated with later eighteenth-century infilling.
- 5.16 Following the construction of Building 4, it then appears that Buildings 5-8 were built, and probably also a walled yard area to the north. However, the period of time between these two separate phases of building was probably not particularly great, probably less than ten years, highlighting the dynamic nature of building and urban growth during this formative period. As far as can be ascertained, these dwellings differed in several respects from the earlier. They were, for example, probably larger in size and also appear to have been provided with two rooms at ground-floor level, thus probably representing 'two-up-and-two-down' dwellings (*op cit*, 158). Given this, it is likely that the front room functioned as a living room/kitchen, whilst the rear room formed the scullery. However, although different in plan, these later properties probably shared a similar basic function in that they were designed as workers' houses.

- 5.17 In the early nineteenth century, an additional domestic structure was then constructed (Building 9) in Area A, whilst in the later part of the nineteenth century some of the late eighteenth-century properties appear to have been rebuilt. More generally, both of these events typify the broader trajectory of domestic settlement and rebuilding during this period, across the urban areas of Salford and Manchester. In addition to the remains in Area A, slight evidence for late eighteenth- and nineteenth-century building was also identified on other parts of the site. In contrast, these predominantly related to industry within this area and included the brick walls forming elements of a nineteenth-century print works, iron foundry, and size works (Section 3.4).
- 5.18 The pottery associated with this period is also different in character from the early material. It includes White salt-glazed stoneware plates, Creamware and Pearlware, all of which are associated with new forms of dining and consumption, which, more generally, characterise the industrial period.

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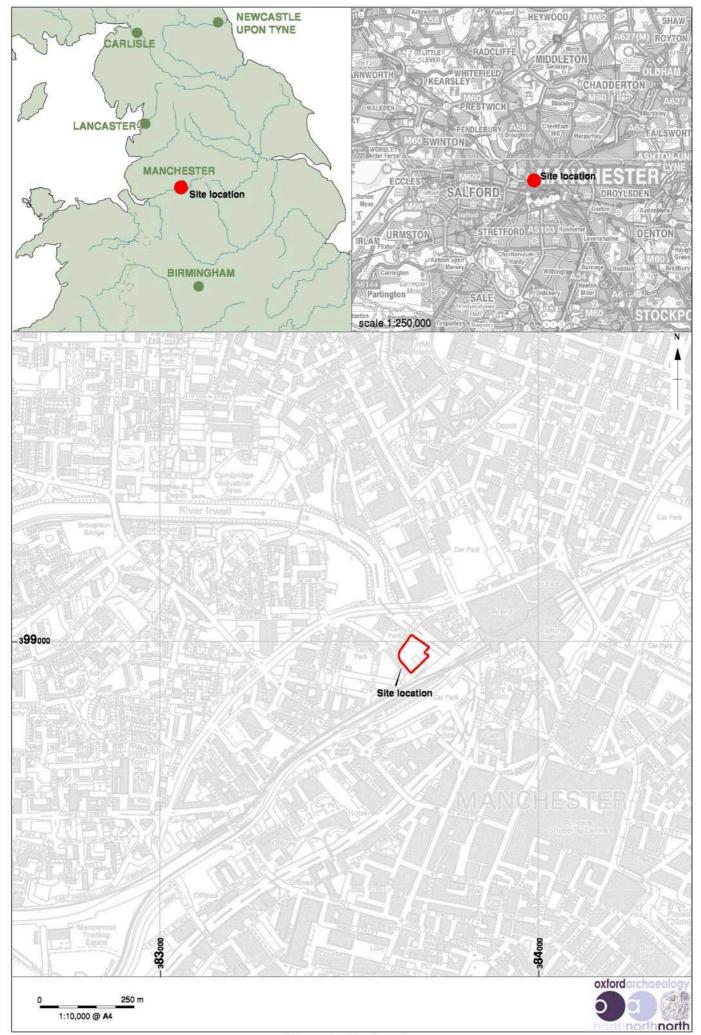


Figure 1: Site location

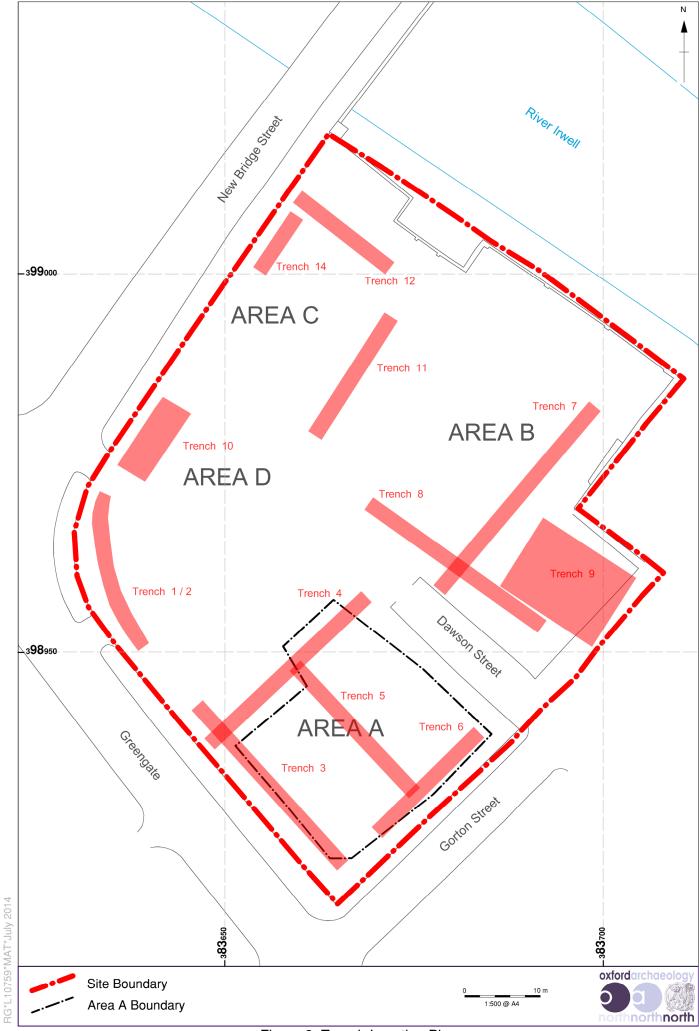


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Figure 3: The site superimposed on Casson and Berry's 1741 map of Manchester and Salford

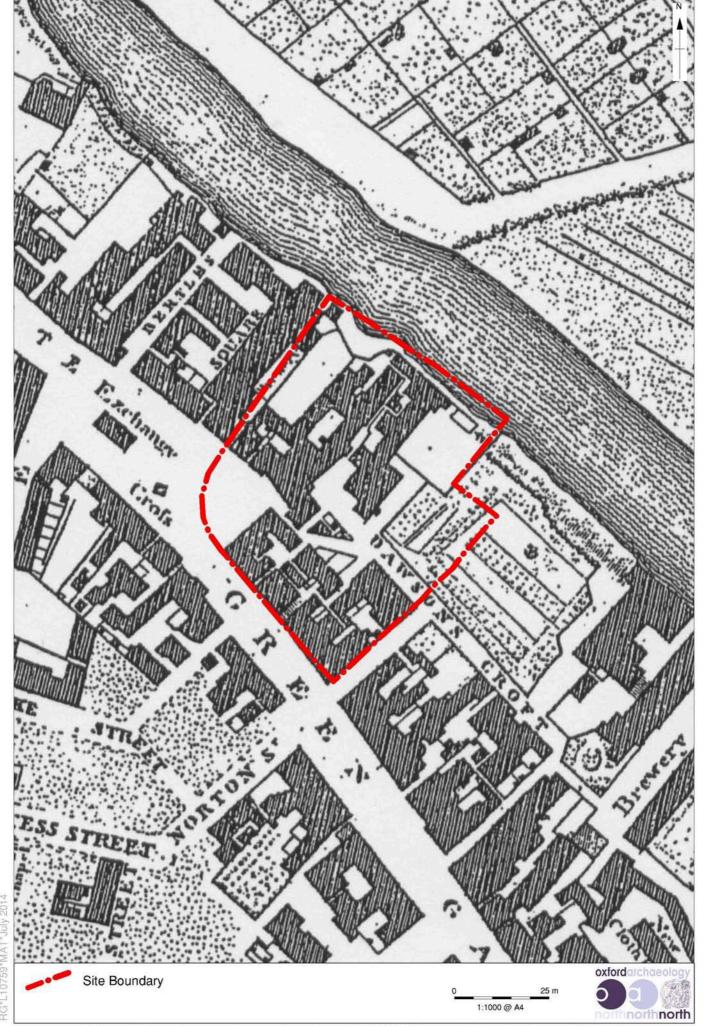


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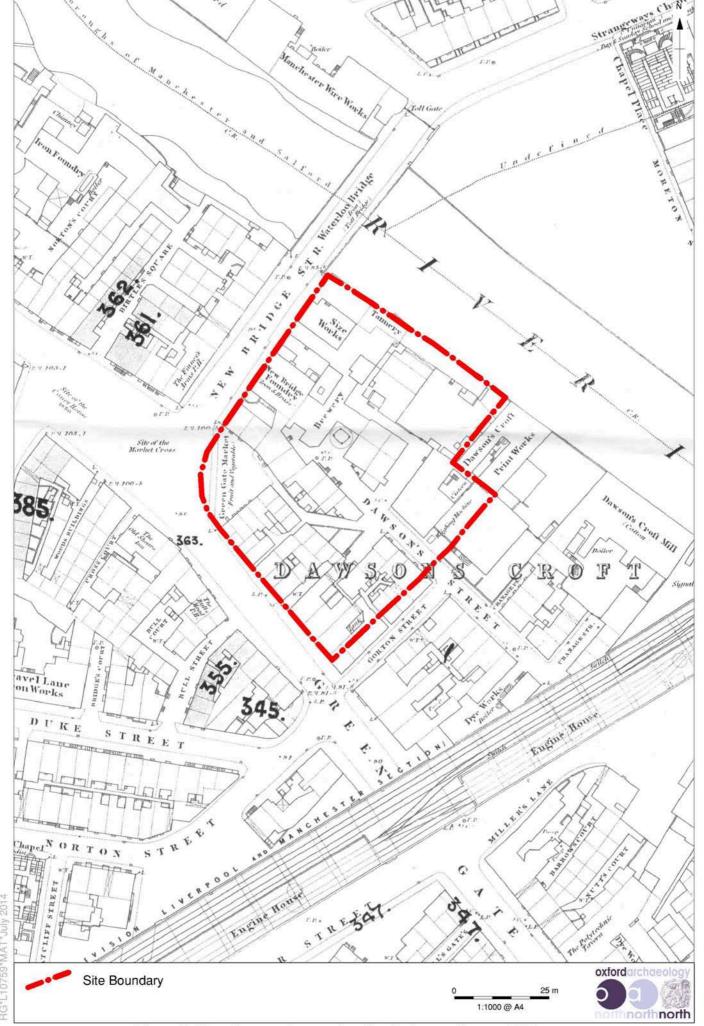


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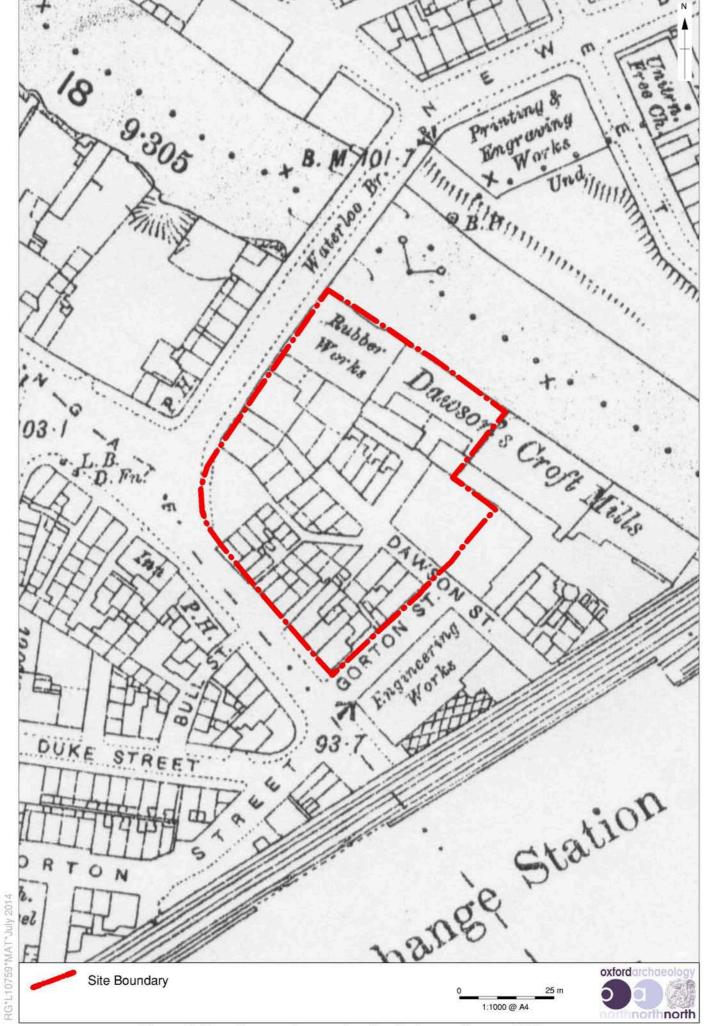


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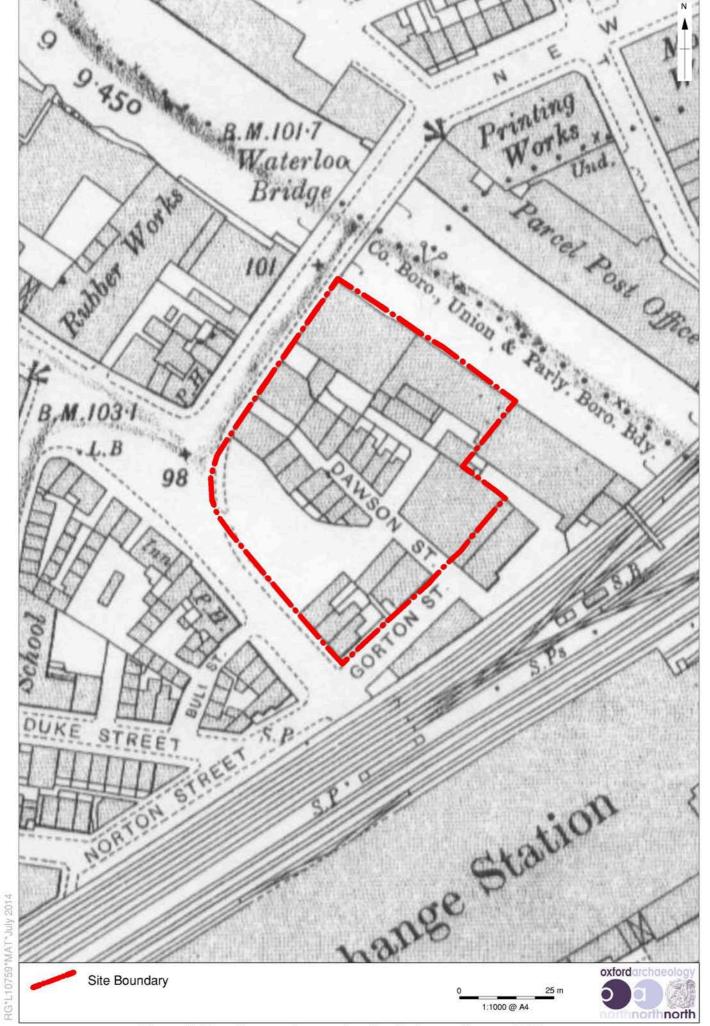


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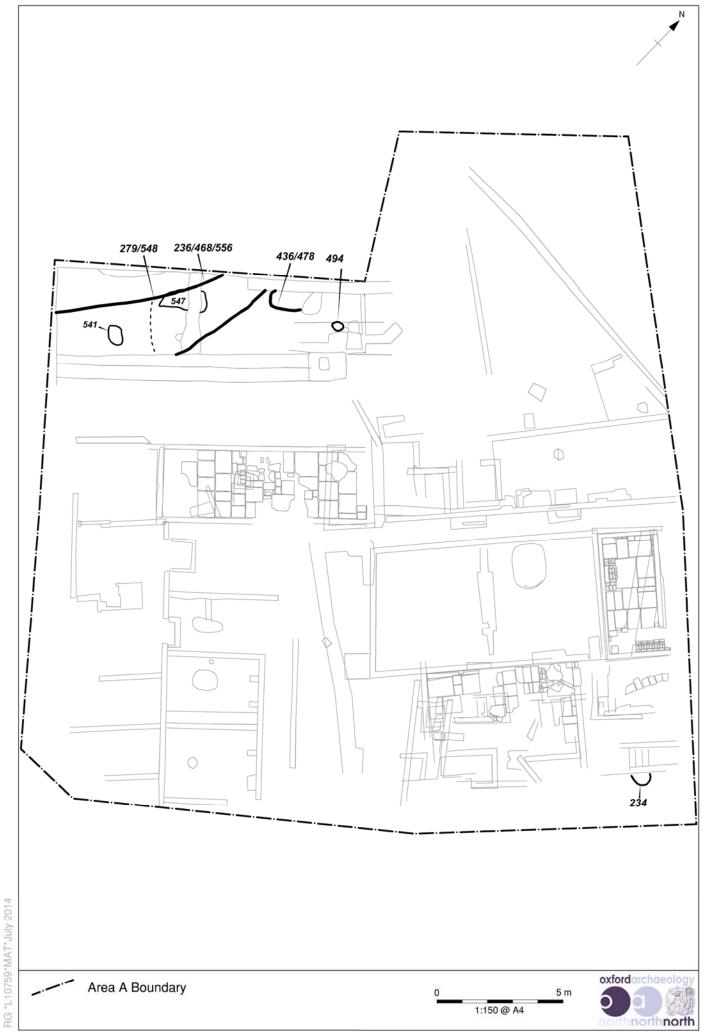


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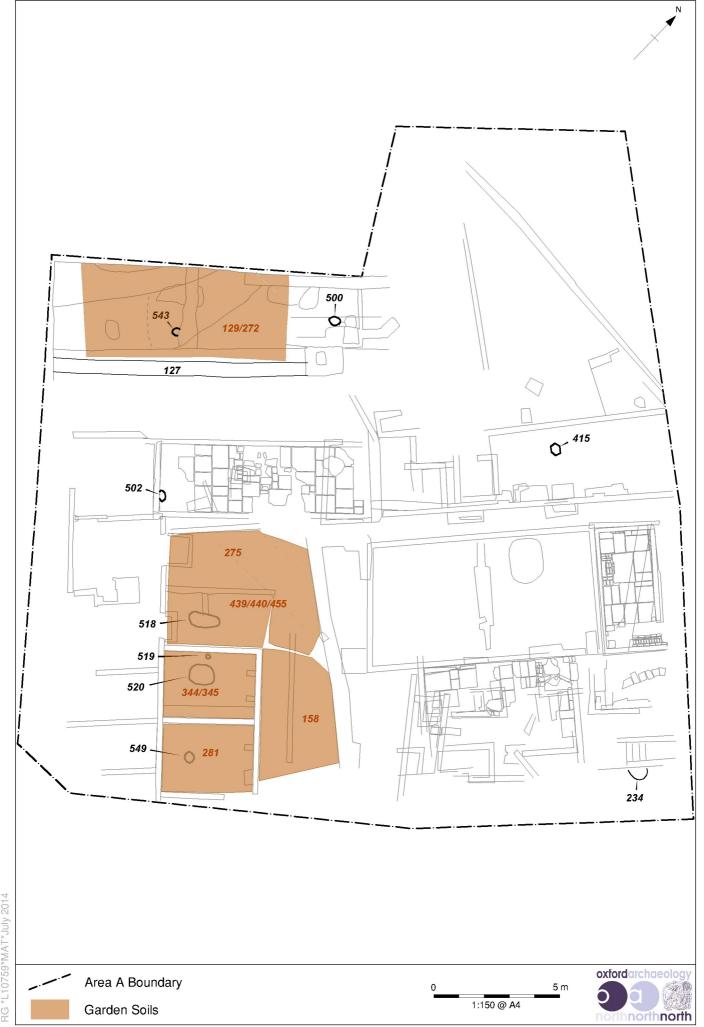


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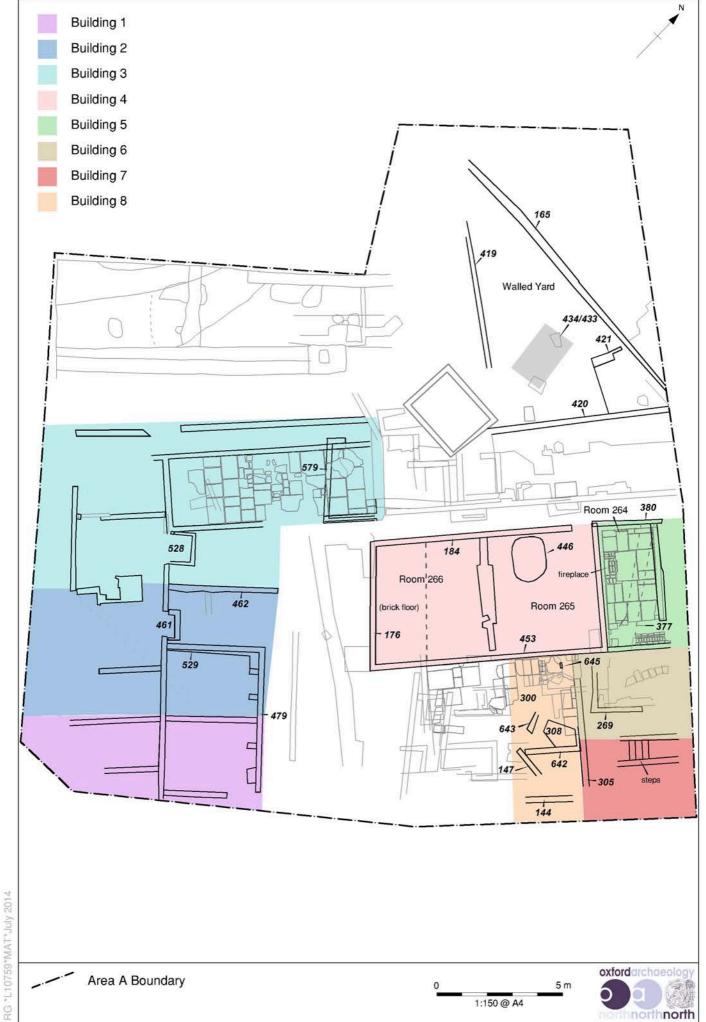


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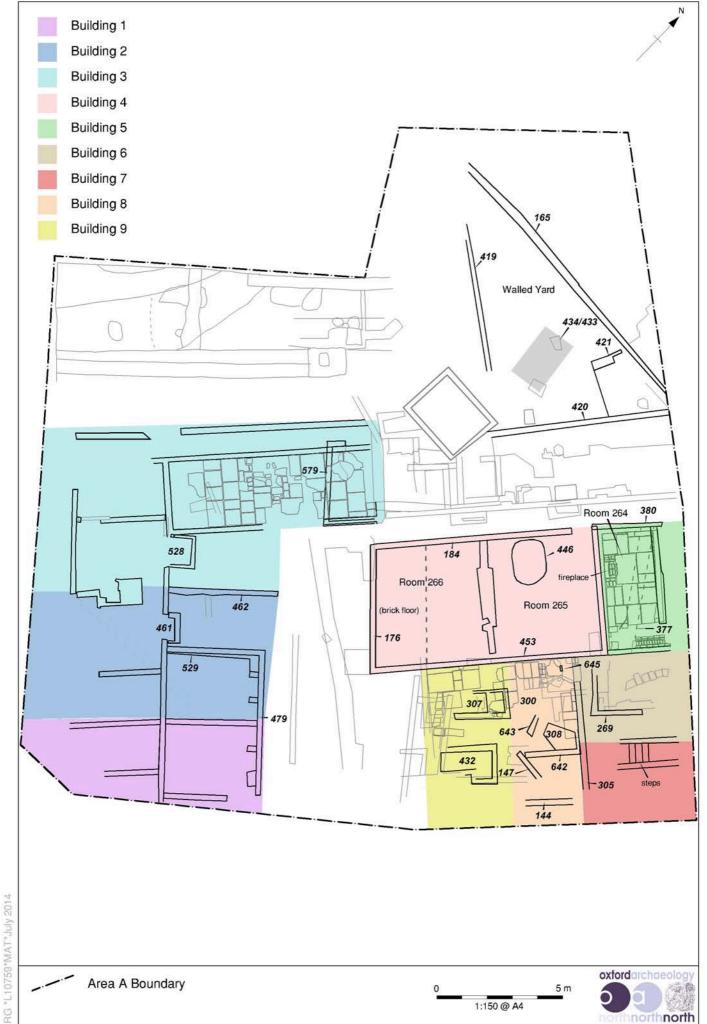


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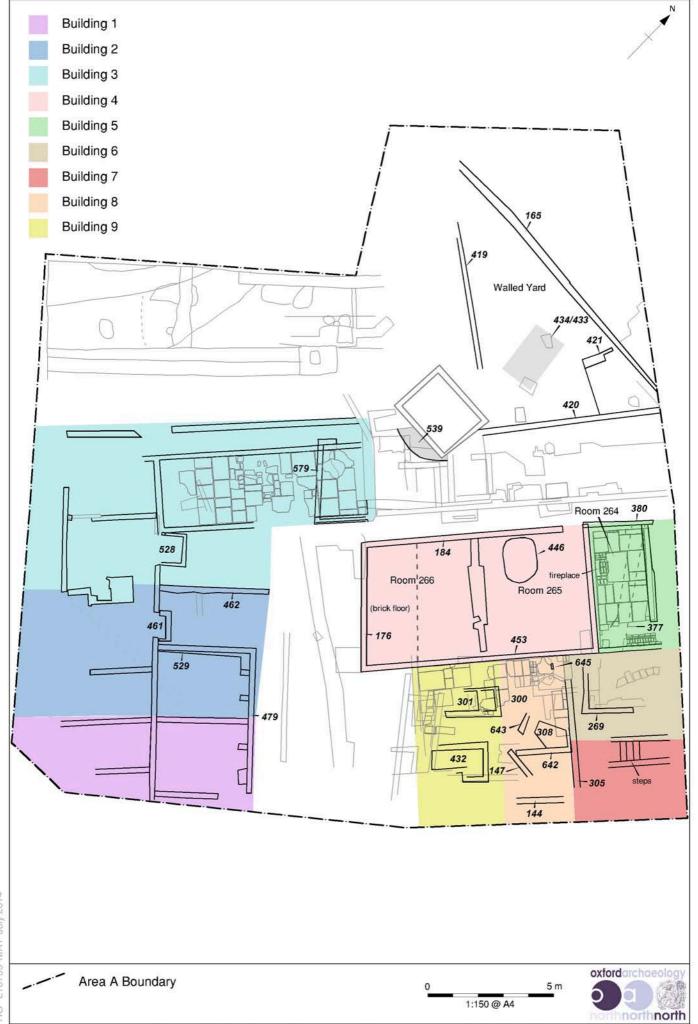


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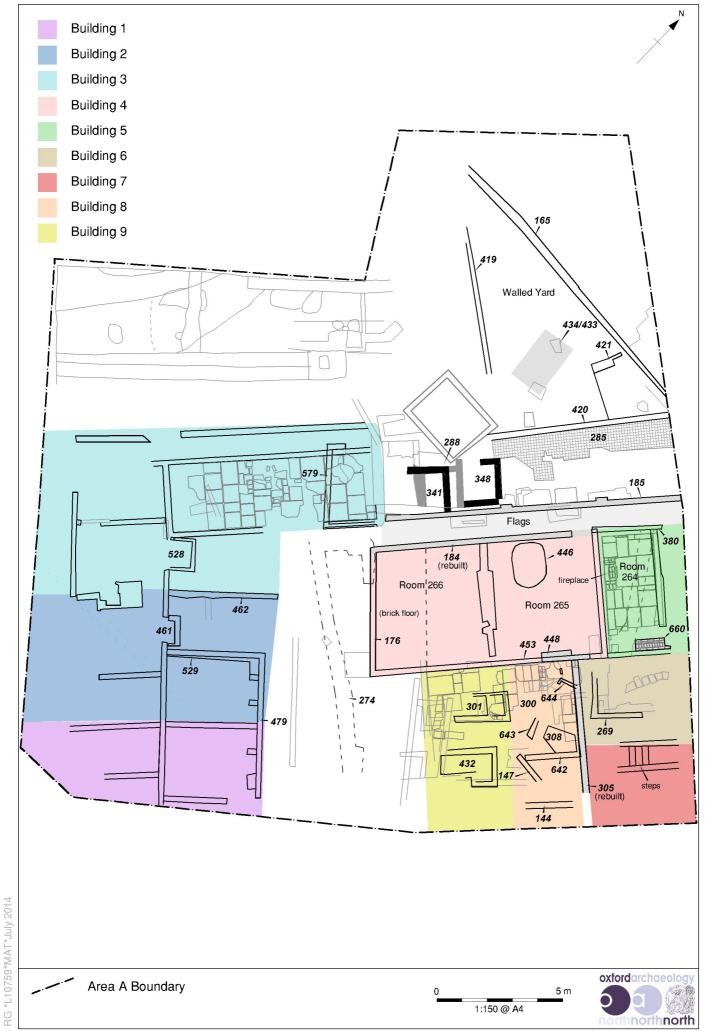


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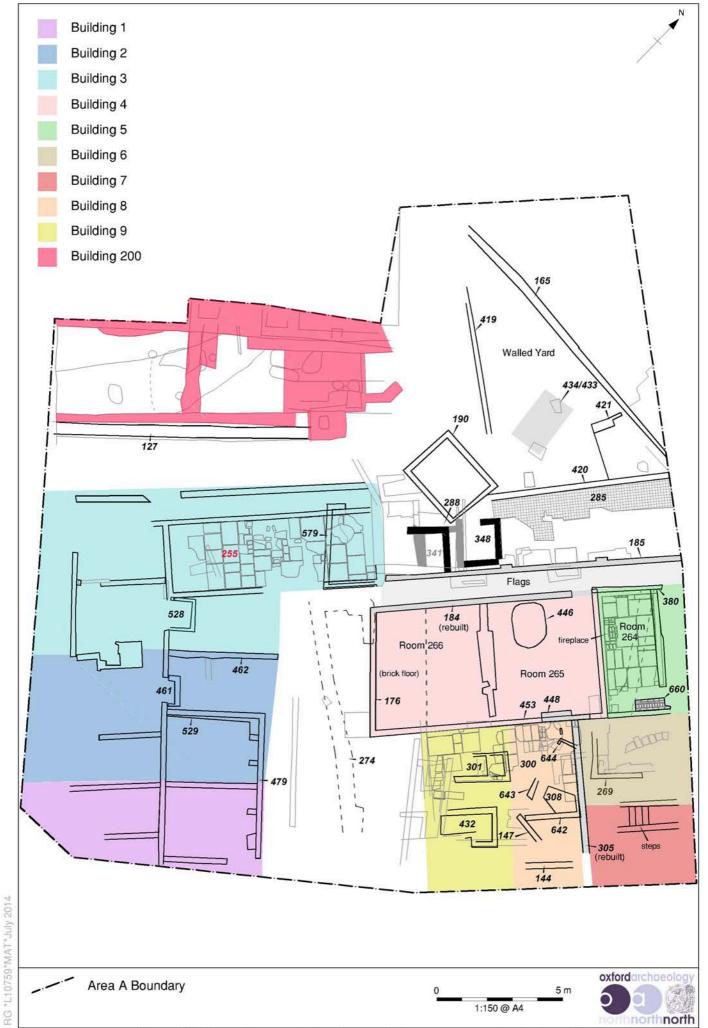


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Figure 16: Main structural remains identified during the evaluation in Areas B-D



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