



REDBANK ROAD DEVELOPMENT, GREATER MANCHESTER

Archaeological Review



Oxford Archaeology North

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Sinclair Knight Merz

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CONTENTS

SUMMARY	3
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	4
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Circumstances of Project.....	5
1.2 Location, Topography and Geology	5
2. METHODOLOGY	6
2.1 Project Design	6
2.2 Desk-Based Assessment.....	6
2.3 Site Visit.....	6
2.4 Archive.....	6
3. RESULTS.....	7
3.1 Introduction	7
3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background	7
3.3 Map Regression Analysis.....	11
3.4 Archaeological Interventions	12
3.5 Site Visit.....	13
4. GAZETTEER OF SITES	14
5. CONCLUSION.....	16
5.1 Introduction	16
5.2 Character	16
5.3 Significance.....	17
5.4 Potential	17
6. BIBLIOGRAPHY	18
6.1 Cartographic Sources	18
6.2 Secondary Sources	18

7. ILLUSTRATIONS	20
7.1 Figures.....	20
7.2 Plates	20
APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN.....	21

SUMMARY

Sinclair Knight Merz requested that Oxford Archaeology North undertake an archaeological review of a car park off Redbank Road, Greater Manchester (centred on SJ 8438 9934), proposed for redevelopment as mixed landuse, including commercial and residential. The aim of the archaeological review was to highlight the archaeological potential of the area and any possible issues that may arise as a result of the proposals. The work was carried out over two days in October 2005, and involved consultation of the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), held at Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit (GMAU).

There were no known archaeological sites within the defined boundary of the development area, but there were five SMR sites in close proximity (Sites **1-5**), and two sites (Sites **6** and **7**) were derived from cartographic sources. All but one of the sites were post-medieval in date.

The area of proposed development was determined to be of a moderately high significance at a local scale. This was based on three main facts. Firstly, early medieval remains have been found in the vicinity (Site **1**), and the regional rarity of such remains increases the importance of the development site. Secondly, the proximity of the late eighteenth century (Site **2**) and early nineteenth century (Site **7**) ironworks to the north-east and south-west of the site may indicate that associated activity may be found on the site itself. Lastly, the chemical works (Site **6**) shown on the map of 1831, demonstrate that it was already established at this time. The nature of the works was unknown, but such early chemical works is unusual and any surviving remains could show what the site was being used for.

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Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) would like to thank Sinclair Knight Merz for commissioning the project. Thanks are also due to Norman Redhead, of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit and for his assistance with this project.

The desk-based assessment was undertaken by Vix Hughes, with the kind assistance of Ian Miller. The drawings were produced by Christina Clarke. The project was managed by Emily Mercer, who also edited the report, together with Alan Lupton.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 CIRCUMSTANCES OF PROJECT

- 1.1.1 Sinclair Knight Merz requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) conduct an archaeological review of a car park off Redbank Road, Greater Manchester (NGR SJ 8438 9934; Fig 1), which is proposed for redevelopment as mixed landuse including commercial and residential. The aim of the archaeological review was to highlight the archaeological potential of the area and any possible issues that may arise as a result of the proposals.
- 1.1.2 The results will provide the client with the necessary information as to whether further works may be required prior to, or during, any development. The review comprised a search of both published and unpublished Sites and Monuments Records (SMR) held by GMAU (Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit), online resources, and the archives and library held at OA North. The report sets out the results of the review in the form of a short document, outlining the findings, followed by a statement of the archaeological potential and significance.

1.2 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 The study area is situated in Redbank within Cheetham on the north-east side of Manchester city centre, just off the A665, and north-east of Victoria Station (Fig 1). The site comprises a roughly triangular area measuring approximately 7200m², and is bounded by the River Irk to the south, Roger Street to the north-east, and Back Red Bank and Faber Street to the north and west. The land is also bounded by two raised viaducts, one to the north-west and one to the south-east, with infilling properties occupying the distinctive broad rounded arches (Plate 1).
- 1.2.2 Topographically, the Manchester Conurbation, as a region, lies within an undulating lowland basin, bounded by the Pennine uplands to the east and north. The region comprises the Mersey river valley, which is dominated by its heavily meandering river within a broad flood plain (Countryside Commission 1998, 125). The present topography of the site is level and, any original elements have since been considerably masked by urban expansion. The site lies at about 30m aOD (above Ordnance Datum), with land rising gently to 40m aOD to the north-west, outside the site.
- 1.2.3 The underlying solid geology of the area consists mainly of Bunter sandstone of Permo-Triassic age. They were deposited under the marine conditions of the period, between 280 and 195 million years ago (*ibid*). The overlying drift geology is composed of essentially Pleistocene boulder clays of glacial origin, and sands, gravels, and clays of fluvial/lacustrine origin (Hall *et al* 1995, 8), including fluvial sediments along the Irk valley. The soils of the development area are not well-mapped since the area is urban in nature.

2. METHODOLOGY

2.1 PROJECT DESIGN

- 2.1.1 A project design (*Appendix 1*) was submitted by OA North in response to a request from Sinclair Knight Merz. The project design was adhered to in full, and the work was consistent with the relevant standards and procedures of the Institute of Field Archaeologists, and generally accepted best practice.

2.2 DESK-BASED ASSESSMENT

- 2.2.1 The archaeological review involved a rapid desk-based study of the site, to consist mainly of a search of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in Manchester, online sources, and a review of material held in the OA North library. The information has provided the basis of archaeological and historical knowledge summarised, in order to establish pertinent information with regard to the potential of the proposed development site. However, it was not intended to be a comprehensive desk-based assessment usually required as the initial stage of the planning application process and as per advice provided in the Planning Policy Guidance, Note 16 (PPG 16, DoE 1990).

2.3 SITE VISIT

- 2.3.1 In addition to the desk-based research, a site inspection was carried out on the site of the proposed development, in order to relate the past landscape and surroundings to that of the present. It also allowed for the state of the ground and any obvious features to be viewed.

2.4 ARCHIVE

- 2.4.1 A full professional archive has been compiled in accordance with the project design (*Appendix 1*), and in accordance with current IFA and English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 1991). The paper and digital archive will be deposited in the Greater Manchester County Record Office, 56 Marshall Street, New Cross, Manchester, M4 5FU, on completion of the project.

3. RESULTS

3.1 INTRODUCTION

- 3.1.1 The historical and archaeological background is principally compiled through secondary sources obtained from the SMR and other resources. It is intended to set the gazetteer sites and the proposed development in a wider context.

Period	Date Range
Palaeolithic	30,000 – 10,000 BC
Mesolithic	10,000 – 3,500 BC
Neolithic	3,500 – 2,200 BC
Bronze Age	2,200 – 700 BC
Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
Romano-British	AD 43 – AD 410
Early Medieval	AD 410 – AD 1066
Late Medieval	AD 1066 – AD 1540
Post-Medieval and Modern	AD 1540 – present

Table 1: Summary of British archaeological periods and date ranges

3.2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.2.1 **Prehistoric Period:** there are relatively few sites known from this period in the vicinity, although general patterns of settlement locations indicate that the Irwell valley would have been a favourable location for occupation and transport routes. The upland areas of the surrounding moors may have been exploited for hunting but the poor drainage of the Pennines and spread of blanket peat at higher altitudes would have discouraged any settlement (Hall *et al* 1995, 117).
- 3.2.2 **Roman Period:** during the governorship of Agricola the first military occupation of Manchester was established, which commenced with a five acre wooden fort, known as '*Mamucium*', apparently meaning 'a breast shaped hill' (Brunton 1909). The site of this encampment is marked today by Camp Street, to the south-west of the proposed development area. The original garrison was probably populated by legionaries from modern Spain and Romania. Over the next three centuries a stone fort was built further downstream, at what was to become Castlefield and an associated civilian settlement or *vicus* developed with as estimated 2000 inhabitants, including soldier's wives and families, together with craftsmen and traders. The later stone fort was excavated during the 1970s and reconstructed sections remain visible (Jones 1974; 1972). Finds included fragments of pottery produced in Spain, and of considerable importance was a word square bearing the words '*Pater Noster*' ('Our Father'), which could constitute the beginning of the Lord's Prayer. Being dated to between 170-175 AD this may be among the oldest known Christian relics in Britain (Bryant 1986). Later in the early fifth century AD the fort was abandoned and the *vicus* probably fell gradually into disuse; with the well-

dressed stone blocks being highly desirable building materials, they would have been robbed out and re-used (Jones 1974).

- 3.2.3 The Roman fort at Castlefield lies just over one kilometre south-west of the proposed development area, and Red Bank is situated close to the Roman road from Manchester to Walton-le Dale (Margary 1973). Despite this close proximity of significant Roman activity, there were no known remains within or close to the outlined development area.
- 3.2.4 **Early Medieval Period:** the period following the Roman military occupation saw the inhabitants of the region both attempt to continue the Roman way of life and also reassert or revert to the indigenous practices. Remains that date to this period are rare, and much evidence is based on place names, topographical elements, such as curved churchyards and surviving stonework, such as cross fragments and architectural detailing in buildings (Newman 1996). The area around Manchester came under the control of several kingdoms during this period. Aethelfrith extended his kingdom of Northumbria to the Mersey after the battle of Chester in c AD 617. Shortly after, his successor, Edwin conquered and occupied the town in AD 620 (Farrer and Brownbill 1908). In AD 870 the Danes invaded up the River Mersey, and in a prolonged conflict almost completely razed the settlements at Manchester. The Danish word 'gat', meaning road is still evident in names such as Deansgate and Millgate. It was during the Anglo-Saxon period that Manchester, which had been established around the Roman fort at Castlefield, was re-established around the cathedral, which lies about one kilometre to the south-west of the proposed development area.
- 3.2.5 Manchester is mentioned in the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (AD 919). It refers to Edward the Elder, son of King Alfred the Great, taking over the town in the AD 920s and making repairs to the 'fortifications', (probably based around the present cathedral), which would still have been little more than a wooden palisade. There may, in fact, have been a garrison of his men here, as an effigy of their patron saint, the Archangel Michael, is thought to have been brought with them. During the tenth century, the church of St. Mary was established at the north end of Deansgate. This is now the site of Manchester Cathedral. The Church of St Mary is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086. In 1028, King Canute regarded the town as important enough to found one of his ten royal mints here (Farrer and Brownbill 1908). The so-called 'Angel Stone', or effigy of the Archangel Michael, can still be viewed in Manchester Cathedral which was unearthed by workmen repairing the South Porch in 1871, and is one of the few known remains of Saxon times in Manchester (manchester2002-uk.com/history). Another is that of a findspot of a Saxon style funerary urn (Site 1), found at about 1850 just to the north of Red Bank (Morris 1983).
- 3.2.6 **Late Medieval Period:** after the Norman invasion of 1066, William of Normandy carved the newly won lands into large areas and distributed them to the barons who had loyally supported him in the conquest of England (Morris 1983). They in turn, further divided the lands as gifts in payment to their knights and soldiers. William gave the lands, including the area of Red Bank, in the Hundred of Salford to Roger de Poitou, who in turn bestowed the Manor

of Manchester on Nigellus, a Norman knight. Nigellus subsequently gave the manor as a present to his son-in-law, Albert de Greslé (Farrer and Brownbill 1908). In the Domesday Survey of 1086 there is a brief mention of Manchester and it was recognised as an ecclesiastical centre with a parish covering over 60 square miles. In 1222 the town was granted an annual fair held on land known as Acresfield, just outside of the town (now St Ann's Square). The fair was extended to three days in 1227. By this time the town had its own court. Albert de Greslé's descendant, Thomas, was granted the Great Charter of Manchester in 1301 by Edward I, and thus it became a free borough (*ibid*).

- 3.2.7 The Red Bank site lies within the old district of Cheetham. It is known to have been in existence since at least the thirteenth century, as it is first mentioned in documentation in 1212. Its name is derived from the Old English for *cheet* and a later suffix of *-ham* and translates as 'village near the wood' (Mills 1976).
- 3.2.8 By 1322 there is record of a fulling mill, showing the early beginnings of textile manufacture in Manchester, this industry eventually made Manchester a city of global importance. This early mill, utilising the River Irk, was located in the vicinity of the present cathedral, to south-west of the proposed development area (Morris 1983). The alleyway known as 'Hanging Ditch' still marks the course of the River Irk where it enters the Irwell, where textiles were hung to drain and drip dry after fulling. During this period the Grelley manor (seat of the Greslé family and now Chetham's School of Music) stood on an area of high ground and was fortified on three sides by natural defences; with the River Irk on one side, a tributary ditch on another and the River Irwell on the third side. A wooden bridge crossed the Irwell in front of the manor, and was replaced by a stone three-arch bridge in the fourteenth century, on the site of the later Victoria Bridge, built in 1839 (Kelly and Co 1926). Subsequently, the River Irk was culverted below ground, under present day Walkers Croft and Hanging Ditch. The remains of 'Hanging Bridge' where the medieval bridge crossed Hanging Ditch are still visible alongside the cathedral (www.manchester2002.com).
- 3.2.9 There are no known sites of this period within or in close proximity to the proposed development area.
- 3.2.10 **Post-Medieval Period:** there was a time when Cheetham and Cheetham Hill were separate entities, but today they are regarded as the same, and the area includes the present Red Bank site. Cheetham Hill Road, just to the north-west of the proposed development area, was once known as York Street and became a turnpike road at about 1820 (Dobkin 1984, 9). By the 1860s Cheetham had become a thriving and busy township with its own town hall, library, swimming baths, assembly rooms and hospital. It was considered an elegant and desirable place to live in Victorian times and had been incorporated into the City of Manchester in 1838 (Farrer and Brownbill 1908).
- 3.2.11 The basis of much of Manchester's economic success in the nineteenth century was the textile industry (Baines 1835). The excellent infrastructure, including the canal system, the coming of the railways, and later, the Manchester Ship Canal, meant that it was able to receive incoming raw materials. Manchester could also draw on a large workforce required to process and manufacture the

materials, and had the means to distribute the finished goods (Williams and Farnie 1992). Manchester, and the towns of the region, generated much of Britain's nineteenth century wealth, and was intrinsically involved with pioneering many of the groundbreaking technological achievements of the time. Methods in spinning, weaving and dyeing had become fully mechanised by the middle of the nineteenth century, through inventors such as Samuel Crompton, inventor of the Spinning Mule, James Hargreave and the Spinning Jenny, Richard Arkwright and many others (Chapman 1905).

- 3.2.12 Water and later steam power were readily available from the numerous rivers and various tributaries flowing through the Manchester area. The power was plentiful and cheap, and the much needed coal was also readily available and easily transported. The use of water as a raw material, power source and transport medium was also essential in other industries such as iron works like those of Sites 2 and 7 and chemical works including Site 6. Red Bank had a good supply of water from the River Irk and this factor was obviously a key aspect in the location of some industries, such as those just mentioned.
- 3.2.13 Throughout the nineteenth century, the textile industry expanded and the rates of production increased dramatically. The height of the Lancashire cotton industry was in 1913, when exports of woven cloth reached over 7,000,000,000 yards, which was more than 80% of the entire national textile output, and around 65% of global output (Daniels 1915). Despite this, the failure to invest meant that much of the material was still produced on Victorian machines and a reliance on the one major market of India meant that during the First World War when supplies of British cloth to India were cut off, the market was diminished. This combined with new production centres with cheaper labour and newer and better machinery meant the Manchester textiles industry never fully recovered. Government intervention, in the form of the 1959 Cotton Industry Act, came too late, and its enforced modernisation and rationalisation was pointless, since by that point synthetic fibres were already beginning to replace cotton (Deane and Cole 1962).
- 3.2.14 Manchester also had innumerable other industries, including paper, iron (Sites 2 and 7), engineering, leather, timber, rope, shipping and so on (Ashmore 1969). Some industries were clustered together in particular locations, garnering benefits from close proximity. These industries included rope manufacture, seen to be clustered in the Red Bank area. Examples include Site 5 and three other ropery sites shown on the 1831 Banck's map; one to the north, one to the north-east and one to the south of the site (Fig 4). A number of dye works were also concentrated in the vicinity of the proposed development area, again shown clearly on Banck's 1831 map (Fig 4) and including an element of Site 2. The industries generated much wealth, but it belonged to only a small number of the leading industrialists. As a public display of their wealth, some of it was invested in schools, hospitals, libraries, swimming baths, public wash-houses and bridges, which were more grand than functional (Site 3). However, these eventually became financed through a municipal duty and paid for out of rates. In the early 1900s Manchester had begun to take its civic responsibilities seriously and installed sewers and a clean water system, as well as gas, electricity and an electric tram system.

Other aspects included the Unemployed Workmen Act of 1905, whereby the city formed a committee to help create employment. The Manchester Technical School was opened in 1902 and went on to become one of Britain's leading scientific and technical teaching and research institutions, as the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (UMIST).

- 3.2.15 In the 1930s, areas of Manchester were systematically cleared. The activity was concentrated in areas of slum housing built in the Victorian era (www.manchester2002.com). The houses were 'jerry' built, without control or regulation of any kind. Builders, often hired by the employer of prospective inhabitants, would aim to have a high density of occupants with ten or twelve people sharing one bedroom, and up to 100 houses that shared the one 'privy'. Even the cellars of houses were occupied, and these areas of housing were the root of most health problems and, consequently, became a national disgrace (OA North 2004a). As early as 1832 the problems were highlighted by authors such as John Kay who published *The Moral and Physical Conditions of the Working Classes*, and Engels who wrote the well-known *The Condition of the Working Class in England* in 1844, based on the plight of the Manchester underclass in Angel Meadows, just to the south of the present site. Evidence of earlier houses, exemplified by those that would have been at Cat Nest houses (Site 4), is even scarcer.
- 3.2.16 More recently the city of Manchester sustained a large amount of damage through the blitz, and many of its finest buildings perished during that period. Estimates have been made to suggest that almost 70% of Manchester's Victorian and Edwardian buildings were destroyed by bombing, including 165 warehouses, 150 offices, five banks and over 200 business premises were destroyed or severely damaged and subsequently demolished (www.manchester2002.com).
- 3.2.17 During the post-medieval period the population of Manchester increased drastically. In 1717 it is estimated that the population was 10,000. By 1773 it had doubled to 22,481, and tripled by 1801 to 75,281. However, by 1821 this figure had increased dramatically to 126,066 people. The exponential increase continued so that in 1841 there were 235,507 people. The numbers finally became more stable after 1851 when there was a population of 303,382 through to modern day, eg. in 1971 there were 351,189 people (Data from census returns).
- 3.2.18 There are two sites from the post-medieval period within the boundary of the proposed development area, Site 2, an iron foundry and Site 6, a chemical works. There are also four sites which lie close to the proposed development area, Sites 3-5 and 7. Site 3 is a bridge, Site 4 houses, Site 5 a rope manufactory and Site 7 a iron and red liquor works.

3.3 MAP REGRESSION ANALYSIS

- 3.3.1 A brief examination of available cartographic sources at the SMR was undertaken for the proposed development site. There are several early county maps that cover the area but the scale is too great for the site to be seen, and

there are no details. Casson and Berry's map of about 1740 includes the area of the site, which shows essentially open fields and lanes, but there are some indications that along the main thoroughfares properties already existed, such as the ribbon development along Red Bank.

- 3.3.2 The earliest map of any detail available was Ashton's 1804 map of Manchester (Fig 3). This clearly shows buildings along the street frontages of Roger Street and Red Bank Road, with a number of small more isolated buildings to the rear, which lie within the development boundary of the site. However, the majority of the development site is shown as open. Red Bank and the River Irk are the only named features.
- 3.3.3 Banck's 1831 printed map is at a larger scale, with the area of the proposed development site shown very clearly (Fig 4). It shows Red Bank, Foundry Street, Back Foundry Lane and Roger Street. The site itself appears to remain mostly open but there are two properties easily visible on the map. To the south, partly within the outlined development site was a dye works, positioned around a small open courtyard and on the south-eastern side is a large block labelled chemical works. Interestingly, the chemical works front directly on to the River Irk and would almost certainly have been utilising the water, either for the provision of power or as a raw material itself.
- 3.3.4 Pigot and Slater's map of 1841 is not as clear in detail but the chemical works can still be seen and the site remains relatively unchanged.
- 3.3.5 The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1848 shows one of the major impacts on the area, in the form of the arrival of the railways. The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway Company's line east out of Manchester is clearly shown. The second later edition of 1888-9 shows an additional line that runs along the side of Red Bank to the north-west of the site.

3.4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTERVENTIONS

- 3.4.1 There are no previous archaeological interventions on the site. However, within the nearby area several projects have been undertaken. Immediately adjacent to the site, to the north-west, a desk-based assessment of the Gateway Development site was undertaken and demonstrated the possibility for the remains of an eighteenth century dyeworks, a nineteenth century ropeworks and a tannery of the same date, among other structures. However, the potential was thought to be limited since the site appeared to have been terraced (UMAU 2000). A large amount of work has been ongoing in the Ancoats areas to the south of the site and includes excavation work and building recording of mills and other structures (OA North 2004b). The most recent work was carried out in September 2005 by Time Team and Dig Manchester on a site in Angel Meadows, just to the south of the proposed development area (Norman Redhead *pers comm*). This uncovered remains of the earliest known steam-powered mill in the world, designed by Arkwright.

3.5 SITE VISIT

- 3.5.1 The brief site visit confirmed that it is presently occupied by a car park, which is essentially flat open ground with a rough surface. Although only a brief examination was made there was evidence of a potentially early wall alongside the River Irk (Plate 2). The wall was constructed of, possibly handmade, nineteenth century bricks and had several phases of construction visible, with at least one blocked aperture.

4. GAZETTEER OF SITES

Site number	01
Site name	Red Bank Funerary Urn
NGR	SJ 8430 9940
Site type	Findspot
Period	Saxon
SMR No	1254.1.0
Stat. Designation	None
Sources	Morris 1983
Description	A funerary urn with stamped decoration typical of the Saxon period was found at Red Bank in 1850. The decoration consists of horizontal linear ornamentation and two rows of portcullis stamps above the shoulder. The urn's present whereabouts is not known. The imprecise location of the findspot is problematic but cartographic evidence (OS 1848 and Adshead's map of 1850) indicates where building may have been taking place along Red Bank at about the time of the find.
Assessment	The site is recorded as lying outside of the outlined development boundary but finds or features of this period may be a possibility.

Site number	02
Site name	Iron Foundry/Dye Works
NGR	SJ 8433 9929
Site type	Site of foundry and dye works
Period	Post-medieval; late eighteenth century
SMR No	9859.1.0
Stat. Designation	None
Sources	Green's map 1794; Banck's map 1831
Description	Green's map of 1787-94 marks four buildings around a courtyard. The site is located on the north bank of the River Irk and is designated Mr Fletcher's Iron Foundry. Laurent's map of 1793 shows Old Foundry Street as the street leading to the courtyard. The site is still intact and demonstrates the same layout on the 1831 Banck's map and the later 1896 map, which describes part of the site as a dye works. The site is presently covered by a large warehouse-type building.
Assessment	The site is recorded as lying outside of the outlined development boundary but associated activity may be present within.

Site number	03
Site name	Union Bridge
NGR	SJ 8445 9934
Site type	Bridge
Period	Post-medieval, eighteenth century onwards
SMR No	11696.1.0
Stat. Designation	Listed Building No. 458831
Sources	Manchester City Council
Description	The site is a small public road bridge over the River Irk. It is probably eighteenth century or very early nineteenth century in date. Constructed of sandstone ashlar blocks, it forms a single segmental arch span with plain voussoirs. It has no parapet but does have iron railings along the south side.
Assessment	The site is recorded as lying outside of the outlined development boundary.

Site number	04
Site name	Cat Nest Houses
NGR	SJ 8424 9935
Site type	Houses
Period	Post-medieval; sixteenth century onwards

SMR No	11252.1.0
Stat. Designation	None
Sources	Green's map 1794; Banck's map 1831; Ordnance Survey maps 1933 and 1962; Photograph MCL m05167
Description	The site is a row of three houses that certainly dated to the eighteenth century but may be as early as the sixteenth century. One of the buildings may have been the George and Dragon pub. The site was altered when it became part of the Red Bank Spring and Axle works in 1962 and the site is currently covered in debris with few upstanding remains.
Assessment	The site is recorded as lying outside of the outlined development boundary.

Site number	05
Site name	Rope Manufactory
NGR	SJ 8420 9935
Site type	Building
Period	Post-medieval, nineteenth century
SMR No	11253.1.0
Stat. Designation	None
Sources	Green's map 1794; Banck's map 1831; Adshead's map 1850; OS maps 1915, 1933 and 1962
Description	The site is visible on cartographic sources as a long linear feature in the urban landscape, from which the rope works can be dated to 1818-1905. The site is partly replaced by the later public baths. There are three other ropery sites on the same map, one to the north, one to the north-east and one to the south of the site.
Assessment	The site is recorded as lying outside the outlined development boundary.

Site number	06
Site name	Red Bank Chemical Works
NGR	SJ 8438 9931
Site type	Site of and remains
Period	Post-medieval, early nineteenth century
SMR No	-
Stat. Designation	None
Sources	Banck's map 1831; Site Visit
Description	Banck's 1831 map clearly shows the chemical works along the south-east part of the proposed development site, fronting onto the River Irk, although the exact date of construction is not known. The site visit revealed a brick wall running along the south-east side of the site, adjacent to the River Irk and it appeared to have several phases of construction evident. It may be the remains of the chemical works.
Assessment	The site lies along the southern part of the outlined development boundary and there is potential for remains.

Site number	07
Site name	Iron and Red Liquor Works
NGR	SJ 8438 9936
Site type	Site of
Period	Post-medieval, early nineteenth century
SMR No	-
Stat. Designation	None
Sources	Slater 1821-2
Description	A listing in Slater's commercial directory of 1821-2 lists Robert Green as an iron and red liquor manufacturer at Hargreaves Street, just to the north of the present site. Red liquor is an odd reference and may mean copper or oil of vitriol.
Assessment	The site is recorded as lying outside the outlined development boundary.

5. CONCLUSION

5.1 INTRODUCTION

- 5.1.1 Seven sites were noted to be in close proximity to the proposed development site. These include five SMR sites (Sites **1-5**) and two other sites derived from cartographic sources (Sites **6** and **7**). None of these sites included Scheduled Monuments, and there was only one listed building (Site **3**) to the north-east of the site. Six of the sites were post-medieval in date (Sites **2-7**) and one site from the early medieval period (Site **1**) thought to be Saxon in date.

5.2 CHARACTER

- 5.2.1 The sites in the vicinity of the proposed development area fall into two clear periods. The earliest is the presence of a sixth century Saxon find (Site **1**), from the early medieval period. Since there are scant documentary references or finds from this period, very little is known about the occupation of the site at this time. However, the use of *cheet*, an Old English element in the name Cheetham, may suggest a relatively early date to activity in the area. The Saxon urn (Site **1**) must be regarded as extremely rare. Very few are known, and this is demonstrated by a search of English Heritage's Pastscape site which produces five known sites, at Corbridge, Cranford, Kettering, Scriven and Maughold. In addition, there are only 29 known Anglo-Saxon sites for Manchester recorded from the same source and the ADS (Archaeological Data Service) has a total of 23 Anglo-Saxon sites in its records. The Saxon urn is likely to be a fairly isolated incidental find, and although there may be other in the vicinity the number would be very small. Any Saxon features would probably relate to an independent settlement in what would have been an undeveloped, essentially agricultural, landscape.
- 5.2.2 The second period to be represented is the post-medieval period. Sites **2-7** are associated with street-front settlement, along Red Bank Road and Roger Street, and also industrial activity. The industrial sites are in the form of a relatively rare foundry (Site **2**), which is an early example of such activity in the area (Ian Miller *pers comm*), and a dye and chemical works (Site **6**). The evident surviving brickwork of Site **6**, does not appear to be substantial and, although it is presently faced by a more modern wall on the car park interior, it should be regarded as moderately fragile since there is no evident upkeep maintained on it. The remaining gazetteer sites are generally more common, Sites **3-5** and **7**.
- 5.2.3 The later post-medieval sites all form part of the urban landscape of Manchester, and include elements of the tanning, iron, chemical and dyeing industries, along with rope manufacture, spring production, public baths and pubs, and the highly visible viaducts illustrate the transport network serving Manchester. The sites do not form a cohesive interrelated group, but it is possible that the site of the chemical works does relate to the dyeworks and possibly the Iron and Red Liquor works recorded at Hargreaves Street, Red Bank (Site **7**).

5.3 SIGNIFICANCE

- 5.3.1 The site is of moderately high significance for three reasons. Firstly, Saxon remains have been found in the vicinity and other remains may exist and, although the probability is relatively low, the rarity increases the importance. Secondly, the proximity of the late eighteenth century (Site 2) and early nineteenth century (Site 7) ironworks to the north-east and south-west of the site may indicate that associated activity may be found on the site. Lastly, the chemical works are shown on the map of 1831, meaning that it is already established by this date. The nature of the works is unknown but any chemical works of that date is both early and unusual and any surviving remains could show what the site was being used for.

5.4 POTENTIAL

- 5.4.1 The current state of the site, with an open area car park, may indicate that the area has a reasonable degree of survival since no large-scale modern construction work has taken place. The area may simply have been levelled and any below ground structures and features buried. The nearby site of the Gateway Development appears to have been terraced which has reduced the probability of survival. However, it is unknown whether the current site has also undergone terracing. At least one brick wall can be seen to survive along the south-eastern side of the site, adjacent to the River Irk and this wall may relate to the nineteenth century chemical works. The site itself has the potential for uncovering rare Saxon remains and the later post-medieval chemical works, and if and how it relates to the dyeworks or ironworks and the River Irk.

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7. ILLUSTRATIONS

7.1 FIGURES

Figure 1: Site Location Map

Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites

Figure 3: Ashton's Map of 1804

Figure 4: Banck's Map of 1831

7.2 PLATES

Plate 1: General View of the Site

Plate 2: A view of an original brick wall faced with a modern wall

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT DESIGN

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

- 1.1.1 Sinclair Knight Merz (hereafter the 'client') has requested that Oxford Archaeology North (OA North) submit proposals for an archaeological review of a car park off Redbank Road, Greater Manchester proposed for redevelopment for mixed use including commercial and residential. The aim of the archaeological review is to highlight the archaeological potential of the area and any possible issues that may arise as a result of the proposals.

1.2 OXFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

- 1.2.1 Oxford Archaeology has over 30 years of experience in professional archaeology, and can provide a professional and cost effective service. We are the largest employer of archaeologists in the country (we currently have more than 200 members of staff) and can thus deploy considerable resources with extensive experience to deal with any archaeological obligations you or your clients may have. We have offices in Lancaster and Oxford, trading as Oxford Archaeology North (OA North), and Oxford Archaeology (OA) respectively, enabling us to provide a truly nationwide service. Watching briefs, evaluations and excavations have taken place within the planning process, to fulfil the requirements of clients and planning authorities, to very rigorous timetables. OA is an Institute of Field Archaeologists Registered Organisation (No 17), and is thus bound by the IFA's Code of Conduct and required to apply the IFA's quality standards.
- 1.2.2 Given the geographical location of Manchester, it is intended to co-ordinate the project from our northern office in Lancaster. OA North has considerable experience of the assessment, evaluation and excavation of sites of all periods, and has particular experience of archaeology in the North West having undertaken in recent years excavation, survey, building recording and post-excavation projects in both urban and rural environments; locally to Manchester, relevant work undertaken by OA North includes the excavation of the former Calprina Works in Stalybridge, the excavation and survey of the Macintosh Mill in Manchester, and a continuing programme of archaeological investigation at the Torrs in New Mills. OA North has recently undertaken works within the Ancoats area of Manchester at Murray's Mill and at Jersey Street, and at Piccadilly Place in Piccadilly prior to the major new development.

2. OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The review aims to highlight any archaeological issues early on in the planning process for the proposed development. To this end, the following programme has been designed. The results will provide the client with the necessary information as to whether further works may be required prior to, or during, the development. The required stages to achieve these ends are as follows:
- 2.2 **SMR Research:** to obtain information from the Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) as to the known archaeological resource within the study area.
- 2.3 **Report and Archive:** the review will consist in a written report, which will aim to assess any obvious archaeological issues that may arise.

3. METHOD STATEMENT

3.1 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

- 3.1.1 The archaeological review will involve a rapid desk-based study of the site, to consist mainly of a search of the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) in Manchester and a review of sources held in the OA North library. The information will provide the basis of archaeological and historical knowledge for the client, in order to provide information regarding the potential of the proposed development site. However, it is not intended to be a comprehensive desk-based assessment usually required as the initial stage of the planning

application process and as per advice provided in the Planning Policy Guidance, Note 16 (PPG 16, DoE 1990).

- 3.1.2 Should any recommendations be required as to any further archaeological work, OA North will need to be in receipt of the details of the proposed development and any areas of contamination, services etc.

3.2 REPORT AND ARCHIVE

- 3.2.1 **Report:** one bound and one unbound copy of a written synthetic report will be submitted to the client. A digital copy of the report can be supplied as on CD at the request of the client. The report will include;

- a site location plan related to the national grid
- a front cover to include the NGR
- the dates on which the work was undertaken
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results
- a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken and results obtained
- a copy of this project design and indications of any agreed departure from the details
- the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived.

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

- 3.2.3 **Archive:** the results of all archaeological work carried out will form the basis for a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current English Heritage guidelines (*Management of Archaeological Projects*, 2nd edition, 1991). The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is essential and archive will be provided in the English Heritage Centre for Archaeology format and a synthesis will be submitted to the Greater Manchester SMR (the index to the archive and a copy of the report). OA North practice is to deposit the original record archive of projects with the appropriate Record Office.

4. OTHER MATTERS

4.1 WORK TIMETABLE

- 4.1.1 **Documentary Research:** one day will be required to undertake this element, following receipt of the information from the SMR.

- 4.1.2 **Report:** the report and archive will be produced following the completion of all the fieldwork. The final report will be available within eight weeks of completion of the fieldwork, and the archive deposited within six months.

- 4.1.3 **Scheduling:** OA North would require a formal written agreement.

4.2 INSURANCE

- 4.2.1 OA North has a professional indemnity cover to a value of £2,000,000; proof of which can be supplied as required.

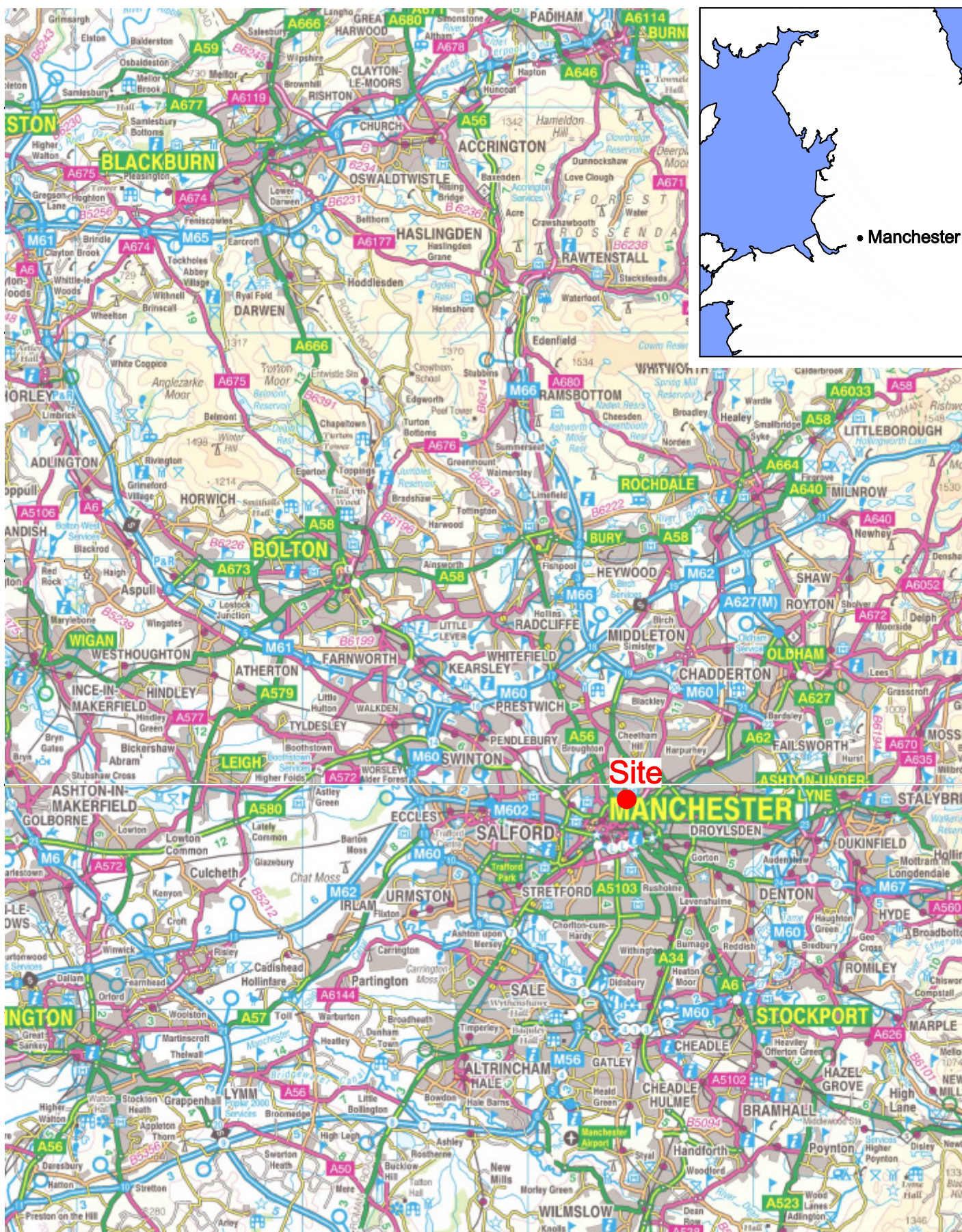
5. STAFFING

- 5.1 The project will be under the direct management of **Emily Mercer BA (Hons) MSc AIFA** (OA North Senior Project Manager) to whom all correspondence should be addressed.

- 5.2 The documentary research will be undertaken by either an OA North project officer or supervisor experienced in this type of project. Due to scheduling requirements it is not possible to provide these details at the present time.

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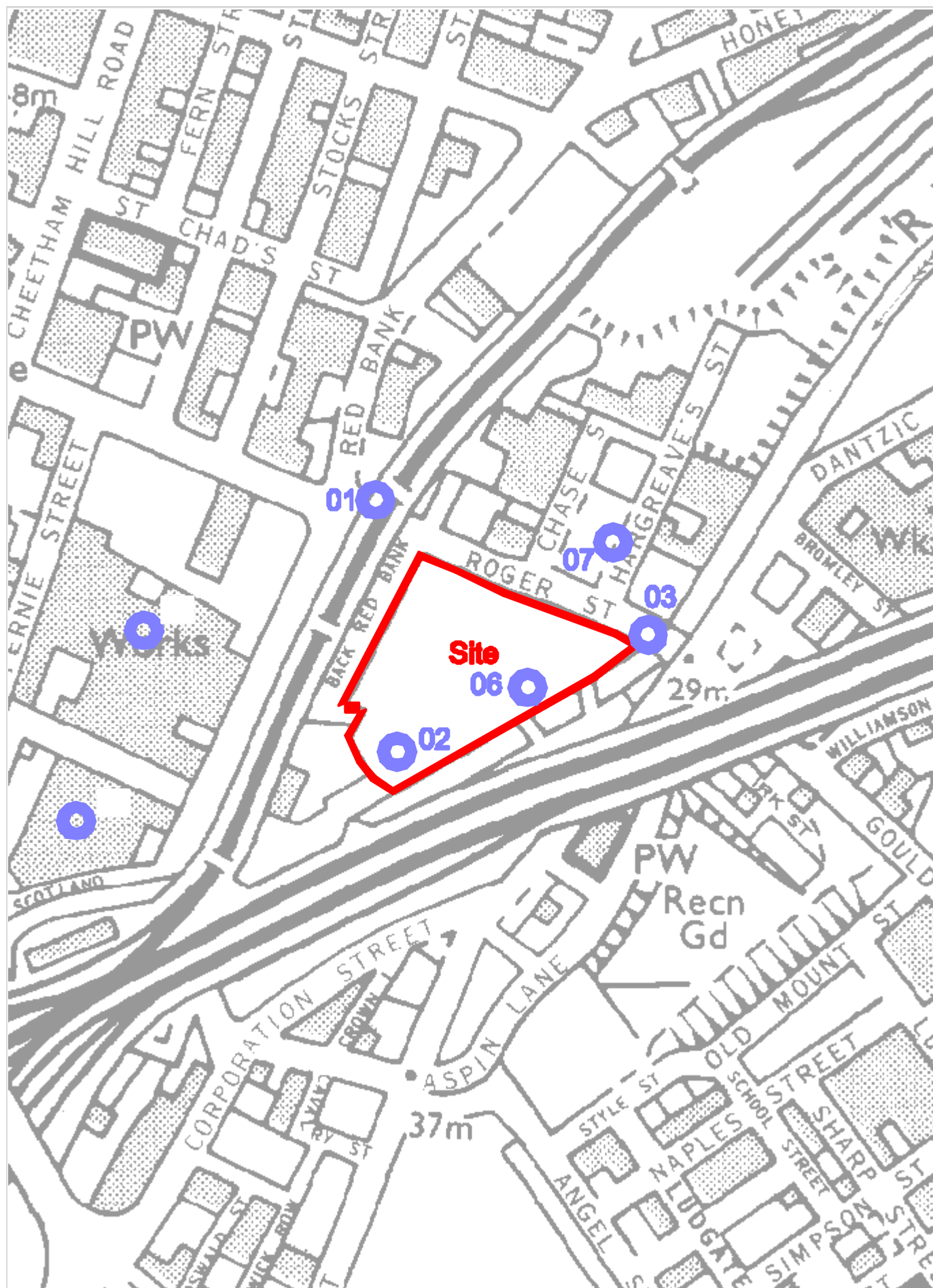


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Figure 1: Site Location Map

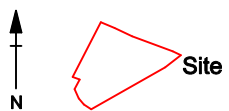


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Figure 2: Plan of Gazetteer Sites



Not to Scale

0 100m



Figure 3: Ashton's Map of 1804



Plate 1: General View of the Site



Plate 2: View of an original brick wall faced with a modern wall