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Summary

Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Muse Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation of land on Oldfield Rd (centred on NGR: SJ82573 98439), currently being developed as part of Salford's regeneration scheme. This report consists of the results of three evaluation trenches excavated in December 2016.

An archaeological assessment completed earlier in the year demonstrated the study area had potential for late 18th - 19th buildings, including housing, a public house and the western end of an industrial complex: Islington Mill. No earlier archaeological remains were anticipated given the later development of the site, particularly in the southern part of the site, which was recently occupied by a hostel and leisure complex with deep footings. The accidental loss of a large portion of the cellared housing in the northern part of the site through groundwork restricted potential to a narrow strip, in the middle of the study area.

The trenches in the study area confirmed the western limit of the southern wall of late 18th - 19th century mill, which was located to the east of the study area. The trench closest to Oldfield Rd, revealed a series of walls of a cellared building with a partially surviving flagstone floor. This was likely part of the public house, the Jollies. The trench located in the middle part of the site revealed a single brick pad and linear gully feature, cut into the natural clay. Together these archaeological remains confirm 19th century domestic and industrial activity. The natural clay was observed at approximately 1.5m below the existing ground levels at the south-east side of the site and at 1.9m depth towards the north-west. No earlier archaeological remains were encountered.

The results obtained from the evaluation trenches have indicated that no remains of archaeological significance survive within the study area and that no further archaeological work is required.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Muse Developments to undertake an archaeological evaluation at land on Oldfield Road (centred on NGR: SJ82573 98439). This work was conducted during the initial phase of groundwork, ahead of the construction of residential development. The work was carried out to determine the presence, extent and nature of the site's archaeological resource, enabling informed recommendation for the treatment of surviving remains. The excavations were completed in mid-December 2016.

The work was carried out in accordance with the CIFA guidelines for archaeological investigation and followed a Written Scheme of Investigation, compiled by Adam Thompson of Salford Archaeology.

1.2 Location, Topography and Current Land Use

The study area (centred NGR SJ82573 98439) lies in the borough of Salford on land bounded by Oldfield Road to the west, Barrow Street to the North, William Street to the East and James Street to the south. The study area lies at a height of roughly 38m AOD. From the site entrance on Oldfield Road the land slopes gradually to the east (*Plate 1, Fig 1*).



Plate 1: Aerial view of site (marked in red)

The overlying drift geology, as mapped by the OS Geological Survey, comprised Glacio-Fluvial Sand and Gravel. The underlying solid geology comprised of Permo-Triassic, interbedded sandstone and conglomerate, also known as Sherwood Sandstone.

1.3 Personnel

The project was conducted by archaeologists from Salford Archaeology. On-site excavations were completed by Graham Mottershead, Oliver Cook and Sarah Mottershead. The report was written and illustrated by Sarah Mottershead, with the trench descriptions written by Oliver Cook. The project was managed by Adam Thompson.

1.4 Monitoring

Norman Redhead, the County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester (Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service, GMAAS) approved the archaeological works.

2. Historical Background

2.1 Introduction

This section of the report is based on cartographic and documentary research in addition to previous historical research undertaken by the desk-based assessment report produced by the Centre for Applied Archaeology (Nevell, 2013: 8 to 11).

As no finds were uncovered earlier than the 19th century, only this period has been included in the historical background and any earlier periods are considered in the previous desk based assessment.

2.2 Industrial – Modern

In the late 18th century Salford, like its larger neighbour Manchester, entered upon an era of massive expansion thanks largely to the upsurge of the region's textile industry. By 1801 Manchester had a population of 75,281 and Salford around 18,525, and by 1851 central Salford's population had risen to 87,523 and Manchester's population to 339,483.

In the vicinity of the study area, which lay on the western side of the historic core of Salford, by the late 18th century a small hamlet had developed at the cross roads of Cross Bank (Chapel Street), Adelphi Street and Oldfield Road. This area was initially known as White Cross. Green's map of 1794 is largely undeveloped at this point with only a couple of dwellings each enjoying landscaped gardens set within large field boundaries. The land covered by the study area at this time is labelled as being owned by Messrs Bateman & Co and Legendre Starkie Esq.

19th Century

Pigots 1813 map shows that within the study area that by this time the field boundary between the lands belonging to Bateman & Co and Starkie Esq has been replaced by a street heading east from Oldfield Road. The stand-alone houses (18th C) had become a large built up area. However it is not until Bancks 1831 map that we can see in detail the development of this area. Already by this time we can see heavy industrialisation due to the study areas proximity to the Islington and Oldfield Mills. The new road seen in Pigots map is labelled as Factory Lane and sixteen back-to-back houses had been built to the south of it.

James Street is also labelled as a new street at this time again with back-to-back houses to immediate north. The land between these two sets of houses is undeveloped, but there does appear to be a dividing structure present.

Along Oldfield Road five rectangular buildings were present between James Street and Factory Lane. It is likely these were mixed purpose buildings. To the north of Factory Lane fronting Oldfield Road is a public house and a further mixed purpose building.

At the north end of the study area three mixed purpose buildings were visible fronting Barrow Street. Behind these buildings backyard divisions can be seen. To the south of this five terraced houses can be seen with four back-to-backs meeting Wroe Street.

With the first edition OS map of 1851 we see greater detail visible within the study area (*Fig 2*). The public house is now labelled as being St Phillips Tavern, and has visible steps to Oldfield Road and in its back yard . Alleyways and courts are visible between blocks of back-to-back houses and a further block of 4 back-to-backs had been added to the corner of James Street and William Street. Further development had been added between Factory Lane and Back Barrow Street. .Pigot & Slaters 1841 Trade Directory shows at this time the occupations of the residents of Factory Lane and James Street were mainly textile related. Other occupations within the study area are beer retailers and shopkeepers.

The study area and wider White Cross area had been described by the social commentator Frederick Engels as containing housing that ‘vie with the dwellings of the Old Town in filth and overcrowding’ - in other words it was a slum with high levels of overcrowding, lack of sanitation and high a level of disease. Engels full description of the White Cross and Chapel Street areas reads as follows;

“The narrow side lanes and courts of Chapel Street, Greengate and Gravel Lane have certainly never been cleansed since they were built. Of late, the Liverpool railway, has been carried through the middle of them, over a high viaduct, and has abolished many of the filthiest nooks; but what does that avail? Whoever passes over this viaduct and looks down, sees filth and wretchedness enough; and, if anyone takes the trouble to pass through these lanes, and glance through the open doors and windows into the houses and cellars, he can convince himself afresh with every step that the workers of Salford live in dwellings in which cleanliness and comfort are impossible. Exactly the same state of affairs is to be found in the more distant regions of Salford, in Islington, along Regent Road, and behind the Bolton railway. The working men’s dwellings between Oldfield Road and Cross Lane, where a mass of courts and alleys are to be found in the worst possible state, vie with the dwellings of the Old Town in filth and overcrowding. In this district I found a man, apparently about sixty years old, living in a cow-stable. He had constructed a sort of chimney for his square pen, which had neither windows, floor, nor ceiling, had obtained a bedstead and lived there, though the rain dripped through his rotten roof. This man was too old and weak for regular work, and supported himself by removing manure with a hand-cart; the dung-heaps lay next door to his place!’ (Friedrich Engels, 1845, *The Condition of the Working Class in England*. Henderson & Chaloner translation, 1971, Oxford Basil Blackwell, 74-75).

The later 19th century mapping of the area is not so frequent but is supplemented by the census returns and the trade directories for Salford. Census Returns from the mid-

19th century indicate an influx of migrant workers from Ireland living within and around the study area.

By the turn of the century the study area was fully developed. The 1893 OS map shows the alleyways and courts between the workers housing were well developed and shows dividing walls, water taps and shared outbuildings (*Fig 3*).

20th Century

With the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century we begin to see structural changes to the properties in the study area. The large majority of the back-to-back houses began to be converted into double depth terraces, a change which can be seen between the 1893 OS map and OS map of 1908 (*Fig 4*).

The only other changes around this period that are notable occur to the north of the study area to the properties around Wilkinson Court and north of Back Barrow Street.

By the time of the 1956 OS map a large scale demolition of the area had occurred. All the buildings south of Factory Lane had been demolished apart from commercial property number 25 on the corner of Factory Lane and Oldfield Road. The buildings between Factory Lane and Back Barrow Street had also gone by this time.

The OS 1971 map shows that a large rectangular 'L'-shaped building had been constructed across the middle and south west of the study area. Research indicates that this was the Stella Maris Seamen's Hostel constructed in 1964. This building was modelled on a Ships Bridge was a social centre and residential hostel for the sailors from Salford Docks. The Hostel had twenty four bedrooms, a bar and a swimming pool.

With the decline and closure of Salford Docks in the 1980s the need for the Seamen's Hostel dwindled. The building then became James Street Salvation Army Centre before being bought by Salford City Council in 2009. The entire site was demolished and cleared in 2012.

3. Methodology

3.1 Excavation Methodology

Before excavation, the client provided Salford Archaeology with service plans for the area and the trenches and surrounding areas were scanned with a cable avoidance tool to ensure that no live cables would be disturbed during the programme of works. The trenches were excavated using a tracked mechanical excavator with a 1.80m wide toothless ditching bucket down to archaeological features or natural geology. The machine excavation was supervised by a professional archaeologist at all times. The locations of the trenches are shown on the trench location plan (*Fig 5*).

The evaluation trenches were placed across the study area in order to determine the presence, extent, depth and state of preservation of the remains identified by the archaeological assessment.

Following machine excavation the trenches were cleaned manually using appropriate tools.

3.2 Recording Methodology

Separate contexts were recorded individually on Salford Archaeology pro-forma trench sheets. All trenches were recorded either digitally using a total station theodolite or by hand, whichever was deemed most appropriate.

Photography of all relevant phases and features were undertaken in digital format. General working photographs were taken during the archaeological works, to provide illustrative material covering the wider aspects of the archaeological work undertaken.

All fieldwork and recording of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts were carried out to acceptable archaeological standards. All archaeological works carried out by the CfAA are carried out to the standards set out in the Code of Conduct of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

4. Evaluation Results

4.1 Trench A

Evaluation Trench A measured 10.5m x 4m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.85m. It was aligned east-west across the footprint of the site of a public house, which stood as part of a block of buildings running north-south on Oldfield Road. The trench was located 5.7m to the south of a standing building (*Fig 6, Plate 2*).



Plate 2: Trench A looking south-east

It was set back from the edge of the former pavement due to a strong electrical signal detected during preliminary scanning. Given the loose compaction of the made ground, the trench edges were battered, leaving a strip of approximately 2m exposed

at the base of the trench, aligned east-west. At the base of the trench a modern service cut and ceramic pipe forming a land drain **06** (redundant) were observed and recorded. This ran east-west across the southern edge of the battered edge at the base of the trench.

The upper layer was made up of demolition rubble **01**, which relates to material from the demolished pub and newly introduced layer and piling mat. This lay to a depth of 1.85m. This deposit covered a series of walls and a partially surviving floor surface.

A substantial wall **02** was located in the eastern part of the trench, oriented east- west. The wall was 3.05m in length and 0.26m wide and survived to a maximum height of 0.86m. The wall was constructed of red brick (0.11m x 0.23m x 0.08m) and hard black bonding material. Adjoining wall **02** was another wall **03** (1.4m x 0.22m) oriented north - south. This wall **03** was constructed of white lime mortar and red brick (0.11m x 0.23m x 0.07m). It survived to a height of approximately 0.75m (*Plate 3*).



Plate 3: Walls 02 & 03 with floor 05, looking north

To the south of wall **02** and west of wall **03** survived a stone flag floor surface **05**. Although much of the surface had been removed during the building's demolition, two in-situ slabs were recorded.

Adjoining the western end of wall **02** was another less well preserved brick wall, **04**. This was of red brick and greyish white lime mortar construction and ran from the northern limit of excavation perpendicular to wall **02**. From there it curved 90° and

ran 1.72m west. The wall was two courses wide and survived in height as only one course. In the middle of the trench the wall was truncated. Towards the western limit of excavation a small section of brickwork was observed, which was in line with the wall.

Natural boulder clay *00* was observed at approximately 1.85m below ground level.

4.2 Trench B

Trench B measured 4m x 11m and was located on the eastern boundary of the site area. The intended trench location straddled the boundary of the site area; as the target location was not feasible, the trench was instead positioned c.1m from the hoarding, aligned north–south (*Fig 7, Plate 4*).



Plate 4: Trench B looking south-west

This part of the site was originally traversed by an east–west road, Factory Lane. At the junction of Factory Lane and William Street (running north–south), the road

doglegged and widened. The junction between the roads was in recent decades lined with bollards, across William Street. The trench was located to the south of the bollards along the former road surface of William Street.

A cobbled surface, in places overlain by layers of tarmac was observed **07**. The road surface overlay a layer of made ground **08**, evidently introduced to create a well-drained level foundation for the road. It was composed of crushed clinker and rubble. The road surface and associated made ground lay up to 0.5m in depth. This overlaid a series of walls, relating to the former Islington Factory.

The most substantial of these walls was wall **18**, constructed of handmade red brick and crumbly light greyish white lime mortar the wall extended the full width of the excavation area. This has been interpreted as a load bearing wall of the mill building which occupied this part of the study area. The top of the wall lay some 0.3m below the current level of the road, stratigraphically below the made ground **08**. The wall was initially 0.48m wide and survived to a maximum height of 0.7m. The exposed brickwork was regularly laid, particularly the upper three courses on the north face of the wall in stretcher bond. The foundation of the wall (lower four courses) was less regular and in places, broken or half bricks interrupted the pattern of but otherwise consisted of regular courses. The base of the wall was somewhat undermined, close to the eastern limit of excavation. The north face of the wall showed evidence of being plastered with traces of a plaster or lime wash adhered to the brickwork; this reinforces the interpretation that the area to the north of the wall was an internal space (*Plate 5*).



Plate 5: Wall 18 with walls 19 & 20 and column base 21, looking north-west

Two stubs of brick wall (**19 & 20**) form the two sides of a 1.3m by 0.8m structure extending south from wall **18**. This originally appeared to have a brick wall running east-west at its southern side which had been truncated by later cast iron pipe **17**, running east-west to its immediate south.

Between walls **19** and **20**, mill wall **18** had been partially truncated by the addition of a concrete column base **21**. This was a late type of concrete and had the remains of a steel column embedded into it.

In the southern part of the trench, underlying the made ground were a number of other features. The bottom course of a less substantial brick wall **26** (0.16 x 1.7m) of handmade brick construction was located in the south-west corner of Trench B. The wall was oriented east-west, extending from the western limit of excavation. No bonding material was observed on this wall and the bricks were heavily abraded.

To the south of wall **18** was a square brick drain **27** (0.63m x 0.58m) (*Plate 6*).



Plate 6: Drain 27 with walls 18, 19 & 20 and column base 21, looking north-east

The northern part of Trench B, adjacent to the substantial wall of the mill **18** contained a possible semi-basement level of the building. Beneath the made ground **08**, was a loose deposit of material **09** composed predominantly of ash, sand and mortar with frequent inclusions of brick rubble. This lay to a depth of c.0.7m and was interpreted as cellar fill. The fill overlay a layer of redeposited clay **28**, approximately 0.3m in thickness. The redeposited clay contained occasional inclusions of rubble. It may have been introduced during a levelling event and was found to cap an earlier drain, which ran underneath wall **18**. This layer was fully excavated in the northern part of the trench down to natural clay **00**.

Two walls aligned perpendicular to wall **18** and a narrow construction cut may have functioned as dividing walls within this level of the mill. Wall **10** was located along the eastern limit of excavation and extended beyond the northern limit of excavation. This wall was constructed of handmade bricks and light greyish white lime mortar (*Plate 7*).



Plate 7: Wall 10, looking north-east

A further linear feature **11** ran south from this wall. This was filled with rotted wood and may have been a former doorway. Wall **13** was aligned parallel to wall **10**, located 2.88m to the west. The wall was of the same construction but laid in stretcher bond. In-between these two walls was a small sub-rectangular brick pad **12** (0.4 x 0.35) consisting of whole and broken bricks. This may have functioned to support a wooden beam or metal column. It was located 1.88m west of wall **10** and 0.6m east of wall **13** (*Plate 8*).



Plate 8: Brick pad 12, looking south-west

4.3 Trench C

Trench C measured 10m x 4m and was located to the east of the southernmost terrace property on Oldfield Road. This area of the site had been subject to considerable disturbance during the recent groundwork. The trench was located in a low depression created by recent disturbance, filled with rainwater. The machining showed the base of the depression to be the natural boulder clay, a stiff light brown clay with greyish blue veining (*Fig 8, Plate 9*).



Plate 9: Trench C looking south-east

Two features were noted. The only structural evidence was a brick pad, **29**, rectangular in plan. The pad measured 0.65m x 0.85m and consisted of a single course of whole handmade bricks (*Plate 10*).



Plate 10: Brick pad 29, looking north-east

A linear channel **30** ran east–west, severely truncated by recent activity. The channel ran along the southern edge of the trench, curving northwards at its western end. At the western extent, the channel survived to a width of 0.78m but at its southern end was denuded and survived to only 0.45m in width. It survived to a maximum depth of 0.35m. It had a primary fill of firm mid to light bluish grey clay with organic inclusions. The upper layer of fill was composed entirely of rubble, predominantly handmade brick. It may have been an infilled stream or drainage gully, backfilled with rubble, later masked during the development of the study area. A portion of the feature was excavated by hand to ascertain the depth of the fills (*Plate 11*). A machine sondage was also excavated across the feature down to natural clay.



Plate 11: Hand dug slot across feature 30, looking north-west

5. Discussion

5.1 Historical Mapping

As can be seen from figures 9 and 10 the excavated remains fit roughly with structures depicted on the OS mapping of 1851 and 1893. Although these do not fit exactly this can be attributed to discrepancies in the overall georeferencing in the mapping due to differences in survey techniques and tolerances and to the change in map projections in 1936 from the formerly used Cassini Projection to the current modern Transverse Mercator Projection.

5.2 Islington Mill

Trench B contained some remains of the south-western end of the former Islington mill. From the map evidence it is likely that wall 18 represents the south exterior wall of the mill, with walls 10, 11 and 13 representing internal walling not visible on the mapping. The excavated remains also suggest that this part of the mill was cellared.

Walls 19 and 20 may be the remains of an entrance way or an outbuilding constructed against the exterior wall of the mill. The south-west edge of this outbuilding had been destroyed by a later cast iron pipe and a brick drain.

Along with the drain and pipe the later modifications to the mill area also evidenced by the concrete and steel column base which had been punched through the former exterior wall.

5.3 Jollies Pub/St Philips Tavern

Only fragmentary remains were uncovered of the former public house that originally occupied the area of trench A. Part of a few walls and a flag floor were uncovered at a depth of c. 1.9m suggesting a basement. Only one of these walls was built using lime based mortar, the others constructed with hard dark grey cement, suggesting that the remains were mostly later modifications to the original early 19th century building.

5.4 The Ephemeral Channel

The channel feature uncovered in trench C was inconclusive and ephemeral in nature. It may have been the channel for a former water course, the grey clay in its base suggesting that it was a water borne deposit. Its upper level had been purposely infilled during the 19th century suggesting that it was not particularly ancient. It appeared to be running from the rear of a former 19th century public house and may therefore have been a drain or water course associated with this.

6. Archive

The archive comprises of digital drawings, survey data and digital photographs. This archive is currently held by the Centre for Applied Archaeology.

A copy of this report will be deposited with the Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record held by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).

7. Acknowledgements

Salford Archaeology would like to thank Muse Developments for commissioning the archaeological works. Salford Archaeology would also like to thank Norman Redhead for providing monitoring support and advice through GMAAS. The on-site excavations were conducted by Graham Mottershead, Sarah Mottershead and Oliver Cook. This report was written, compiled and illustrated by Sarah Mottershead, with the trench description written by Oliver Cook. The report was edited by Ian Miller.

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Appendix 1: Figures

- Figure 1: Site location plan
- Figure 2: OS 1:1056 Town Plan 1851
- Figure 3: OS 1:2500 County Series 1st Edition 1893
- Figure 4: OS 1:2500 County Series 1st Revision 1908
- Figure 5: Trench Location Plan
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- Figure 9: Trenches overlaid onto OS mapping of 1851
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