

The Centre for
**Applied
Archaeology**



Centre for
Construction Innovation
North West



**The Cheadle Green Bicentenary
Community Excavation:
An Archaeological Investigation
at Cheadle Hall, Stockport.**

CfAA Report 2010/07

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Contents

Summary	3
1. Introduction	4
2. Previous Archaeological Works	6
3. Methodology	9
4. Archaeological Description	11
5. Archaeological Results	14
6. Archaeological Conclusions	16
7. Archive	21
8. Acknowledgements	22
9. Sources	23
Appendix 1: Context List	24
Appendix 2: Figures	25
Appendix 3: Levels	33
Appendix 4: Photographic Archive	34
Appendix 5: Project Design	49



Summary

The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CfAA) were commissioned by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and the Cheadle Civic Society to undertake a community archaeological excavation on the site of the Village Green in Cheadle, Stockport, Greater Manchester (centred on NGR: SJ 860 887).

The excavation centred on the area to the south of the pond and comprised two trenches placed to take in elements of the evaluation undertaken in April 2010.

The project was designed to provide information regarding the nature and extent of the survival of the 18th and 19th century Cheadle Hall and obtain information and evidence of its history. This information would be used to aid landscaping improvements on the green. A secondary objective was to celebrate the bicentenary of the village green and involve local people in the investigation and recording of their heritage.

The archaeological deposits were very close to the present ground surface and as a result were successfully identified and recorded, however time constraints limited the excavation to two days. Had this period been longer it is expected that more extensive deposits would have been revealed. Although much of the suspected archaeological remains were identified, some elements have been truncated or destroyed by the mid 20th century construction of the pond and paved area. The majority of the archaeological features uncovered belonged to the mid-late 19th century phases of the eastern side of the Hall, although earlier phases were noted.

As a result CfAA can conclude that the area of land to the south of the concrete pond on the eastern side of Cheadle Green contains considerable surviving features of archaeological significance in the form of walls, foundations and cellars from various phases of Cheadle Hall's construction. The remains of the Hall are of local significance and their survival would suggest the need for further evaluation or excavation should any development be undertaken in the future. The site would be eminently suitable for further community archaeological excavation to promote the significance of the remains to local people.



1. Introduction

CfAA were commissioned by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and Cheadle Civic Society to undertake a community excavation on the site of the village green in Cheadle, Stockport, Greater Manchester centred on NGR: SJ 860 887.

This work conformed to a CfAA project design (Apr 2010) (Appendix 5) which was informed by an archaeological evaluation undertaken by the CfAA and volunteers from South Manchester Archaeological Research Team (SMART) in April 2010.

Location

The site of Cheadle Hall is situated on the current Cheadle Village Green, Cheadle village, Stockport (NGR: SJ 860 887) (**CG-10 Fig. 1**). Cheadle Green lies at the eastern end of the Cheadle Village Conservation Area which contains several buildings of historical and architectural interest, including St Mary's Church, a Grade I Listed Building. The excavation focused on the paved area located c. 2m to the south of the concrete pond and the grassed area 14m south of the pond on the eastern side of Cheadle Green.

Topography

The Green is a small pocket of public land standing at 42m AOD, which has remained undeveloped since before 1810 when an act of parliament declared it should continue to be unenclosed, creating the village green. The green is situated c.0.50km southeast of the Micker Brook and 100m south of the Stockport to Chester railway line. The green is bounded on two sides by roads, the B5095 to the west and the A560 to the south and by the Queens Gardens housing estate to the North and East. Due to the levelling of the site following demolition of the Hall the site is generally flat on a raised platform approximately 1.50m higher than the western part of the green.

Geology

The solid geology underlying Cheadle Green comprises Pebble Beds of the Permo-Triassic. The drift geology of the area incorporates boulder clay overlain by glacial sands and gravels.

Personnel

The project was conducted and supervised by professional archaeologists from the Centre of Applied Archaeology. Onsite excavations were conducted by Brian Grimsditch Sarah Cattell and local volunteers from South Manchester Archaeological Research Team (SMART) and Cheadle Civic Society. This report and associated illustrations were written and compiled by Sarah Cattell and Brian Grimsditch. The project was managed by Brian Grimsditch

Monitoring

The archaeological project design for the scheme of works was produced in consultation with Norman Redhead the County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester (Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit, GMAU) who also monitored the programme of archaeological works.



2. Previous Archaeological Works

Historical Background

The manor of Cheadle was created in the 13th century by King Richard I and passed through the de Chedle family until it was split into the manors of Cheadle Bulkely and Cheadle Moseley in the 1320s (Cheadle Village Conservation Area Character Appraisal). The manor of Cheadle Bulkeley covered the present Cheadle Village and was sold by the de Bulkeley family in 1756. A hall was thought to be standing prior to this date (Seddon, *pers. comm.* 2010) but is possible that it doubled as the old Rectory and occupied the site of the current Post Office (Cheadle Village Conservation Area Character Appraisal).

The Hall itself stood to the East of the original village green and was a brick building constructed in 1756 following the sale of the manor of Cheadle Bulkeley to the Reverend Thomas Egerton, rector of Cheadle at this time (Greater Manchester HER), who probably bought the manor in order to obtain the manorial rights to Cheadle. On the death of Thomas Egerton the Hall was passed to his nephew Edward Berisford who sold it to John Harrison, a local merchant. The hall remained in the possession of the Harrison family until 1826. During this period in 1810 an act of Parliament was passed creating Cheadle Village Green decreeing that it should 'remain open and unenclosed forever'. In 1826 the Hall became a well known boarding school for local merchants' daughters gaining a good reputation as 'Miss Hunters' (Cheadle Village Conservation Area Appraisal, 2006).

Following the decline of the school around 1869, the Hall was briefly used as a temporary convalescent hospital housing 26 patients, probably during the construction of Barnes Hospital a short distance away (ELGAR, accessed Apr 2010). By 1875 it was again used as a family home under the ownership of James Watts of Abney Hall. This was the beginning of a strong link between Cheadle Hall and Abney Hall as both residences were owned and used by the Watts family until the early 20th century. It was also during their ownership that the Hall welcomed a number of distinguished guests, including Agatha Christie who was James Watts' sister-in-law.

During the early 20th century the Hall was let to a Mrs C.J. Spence. Following her death in 1914 the Hall had a number of occupants including a dairy, a removal company and the Milk Marketing Board (Seddon, *pers. comm.* 2010). Cheadle Hall stood unoccupied during its final years until its eventual demolition in 1958 when the land was used to extend the green and a pond was constructed .

The hall appears in photographs from the late 19th and early 20th century (**CG-10/Plates 1-3**) as being 3 storeys high and 10 bays long with a rounded gable at the southern end and an extension to the rear. The first cartographic evidence for the Hall is the 1846 tithe map which shows a regular rectangular footprint with a

square southern gable (**CG-10/Fig.2**). By 1872 the Hall had been extended to the rear, possibly as a result of its use at this time as a school and the need to accommodate teachers and pupils. The map indicates two rectangular blocks had been added onto the rear elevation at the northern and southern ends of the Hall as well as the alteration of the gable from square to rounded (**CG-10/Fig.3**). These extensions did not last for long as the 1897 map shows, they have been removed and a larger extension built on the southeastern corner complete with two large bay windows on the southern and eastern sides (**CG-10/Fig.4**). James Watts (son of the above), the owner of the Hall at the time was reported to have made a number of alterations to the house of which this was the final and most extensive and was complemented by equally impressive interior furnishings (Seddon, *pers. comm.* 2010).

Throughout its occupation Cheadle Hall had a number of associated outbuildings which are visible on mapping of the area between 1846 and 1960 (**CG-10/Figs. 1-2**). To the north of the Hall adjacent to the Literary Institute a large range can be identified running east-west. This is by far the oldest of the associated outbuildings and can be seen on the 1960 map despite the absence of the Hall itself. Another long-standing building is the small square structure to the east of the Hall's northeastern corner which appears to have been demolished along with the Hall (**CG-10/Figs.2-4**). Another small structure appears on the 1846 and 1872 maps to the east of the southern end of the Hall, however this seems to have been removed in advance of the construction of the late 19th century extension. This building has the potential for surviving below ground remains due to its location on an area of minimal 20th century development on the current village green.

Archaeological Evaluation

The Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record entry (HER No. 57.1.0) and the need to landscape and improve the Green led to the recommendation of Norman Redhead, County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester at the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit that an archaeological evaluation be carried out. This work was designed to provide better understanding of the character and significance of the archaeological remains that might be affected by such works. It was also felt that there was an opportunity for public community engagement in relation to the bicentenary celebration of Cheadle Green.

Following consultation with the County Archaeologist an evaluation was undertaken by CfAA on the site on Sunday 11th April 2010. The evaluation was carried out by around thirteen volunteers from the local community, members of the Civic Society, members of South Manchester Archaeological Research Team and was supervised by Brian Grimsditch (CfAA) and Andy Coutts (SMART).

Using the georectified historic mapping, supplied by the Historic Environment Record, to determine the location of the buildings associated with Cheadle Hall, six small trenches were opened. In all but one trench positive archaeology in the form of brick walls and floor surfaces were uncovered at a very shallow depth. Evidence was found for the remains of the eastern and western elevations and the southern gable of the Hall. The trench that was most useful for location purposes

revealed a curved wall that has been interpreted as the curving southern gable of the Hall that was the extent of the mid to late 19th century development (**CG-10 Plates 4 & 5**). The middle section of the western exterior wall was also found with an internal wall dividing cellars.

A further trench was opened 10m to the north of the pond and 15m to the east of the Institute building to locate the remains of ancillary buildings associated with the hall as shown on both the 1846 tithe map and the 1872 and 1897 OS maps (**CG-10 Fig. 2-4**). This limited investigation failed to locate any structural remains, though some rubble in the form of broken bricks was revealed. Further investigation is likely to locate this large range of buildings.

Many artefacts in the form of pottery and clay pipe stems were recovered during the evaluation. A preliminary evaluation of these artefacts revealed that the majority were of mid 19th to mid 20th century origin.

The evaluation was able to identify that a great deal of the Hall was probably preserved at a shallow depth and was eminently suitable for further investigations in the future.



3. Methodology

Excavation Methodology

The project design produced by CfAA for the community excavation proposed that excavation took place during the period Friday 10th – Monday 13th September to incorporate the Bicentenary of the Green on Saturday 11th September. Financial constraints prevented a larger community excavation involving local schools and adult volunteers. It was however possible to run a successful two day weekend excavation coinciding with the Heritage Open Weekend. This incorporated site tours, a children's excavation area, finds processing and displays provided by Cheadle Civic Society and the Friends of Cheadle Green.

CfAA proposed that two trenches be opened within the area to the south of the concrete pond over the footprint of the Hall remains, as determined during the evaluation in April 2010. Trench 1 ran east to west across the central area of the perceived footprint of the Hall incorporating two of the trenches from the previous evaluation and measured c.8.00m x 2.00m. Its position was designed to locate and reveal any remains of the western and eastern elevations of the Hall and the internal arrangements between. Trench 2 was placed over the southern bay discovered in the previous evaluation and would expand on that evaluation trench to measure c. 5.00m x 4.00m. This trench was located to reveal any remains of the southern gable along with its associated architectural feature of the bay window and incorporate parts of the interior of the Hall.

Both trenches were extended to take in features identified during the evaluation, Trench 1 was extended to 13.00m x 2.00m to cover the full footprint of the Hall and Trench 2 was extended to 7.00m x 4.00m to locate the interface between the southern curved gable and the eastern wall and extension. Each trench was excavated by hand by SMART and local volunteers using shovels and hand trowels. Where necessary paving slabs encountered were also removed by hand. Excavated spoil was placed at least 1.00m from the edges of the trenches and spoiled on one side only.

Herras fencing supplied by Stockport MBC was located along the perimeter of the area containing the trenches and abutted the concrete pond edge to the north.

Archaeological features identified on site were hand excavated to expose them in plan and recorded using the following methodology.

Recording Methodology

Separate contexts were recorded individually on Centre for Applied Archaeology (CfAA) pro-forma context sheets (Appendix 1). Plans were recorded on CfAA

pro-forma drawing sheets at an appropriate scale of 1:20, or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data and features encountered (Appendix 2). All drawings were individually identified and cross referenced, contexts enumerated and principal layers and features annotated with OD level information (Appendix 3).

Photography of all relevant phases and features was undertaken with digital formats (Appendix 4). General working photographs were taken during the duration of the archaeological works, to provide illustrative material covering the wider aspects of the archaeological work undertaken and to contribute to the record of the bicentenary celebrations.

During the full period of the archaeological excavations at Cheadle Green, the Cheadle and Gatley Film Makers, a local documentary film group, were on site making a video record of the work carried out.

All finds were recorded by context and processed on site by volunteers as part of the open days. All identified finds were deposited with Cheadle Civic Society as agreed in consultation with SMBC and Cheadle Civic Society.

All fieldwork and recording of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts was carried out to acceptable archaeological standards. All archaeological works carried out by CfAA are carried out to the standards set out in the Code of Practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.



4. Archaeological Descriptions

Trench 1

Trench 1 was located to the south of the concrete pond in an east-west orientation for a length of 13.00m measuring c.2.50m wide (**CG-10 Fig. 5 & 6**) (**CG-10 Plate 6**). Excavation revealed a leveling layer (**100**) immediately beneath the flagstone surface, varying in depth between 0.05m – 0.12m. This layer consisted of levelling material laid down as preparation for the laying of the flagstones. This contained lenses of dark grey/black and white gravel at the eastern end of the trench and yellow sand at the western end. Located directly beneath was (**102**), a dark greyish brown demolition layer measuring between 0.10m and 0.36m in depth (**CG-10 Plate 15**). All identified archaeological deposits of structures were stratigraphically located beneath (**101**).

At the eastern end of Trench 1 orientated in a north-south direction, wall (**111**) consisted of five courses of handmade bricks laid in a stretcher bond with a single course to the east laid on edge in a header bond. This wall was truncated on the southern side of the trench and continued beyond the trench edge to the north. This wall was butted by two others at right angles, (**112**) to the north and (**113**) to the south, also consisting of handmade bricks, although those in (**113**) appeared slightly less coarse than those in (**111**) and (**112**) (**CG-10 Plate 8**). Wall (**112**) orientated in an east-west direction, had two courses laid in a stretcher bond and extended beyond the trench edge to the east. Wall (**113**) also orientated in an east-west direction, had a single course of bricks laid in a header bond and also extended beyond the trench edge to the east. All three walls were excavated to the depth of a single course, approx. 0.10m. To the west of wall (**111**) at the same level and extending to the western end of the trench, lay the demolition layer (**102**) consisting of whole and broken hand made bricks and fragments of stone and blue slate tiles. This layer also contained a large amount of 18th and 19th century pottery, infrequent fragments of clay tobacco pipes and several iron nails. All structures identified in Trench 1 were surrounded by this layer.

In the centre of the trench, running north-south and extending beyond the northern edge of the trench lay a handmade brick surface (**114**) (**CG-10 Plate 9**). This was a level area of bricks laid with headers and stretchers but in no regular pattern. Wall (**115**) lay approximately 0.50m to the west of the brick surface and comprised a single course of handmade bricks laid in a stretcher bond orientated in an east-west direction (**CG-10 Plate 10**). This wall had little surviving mortar and was therefore loose in its setting.

At the western end of Trench 1 a sondage was excavated to locate the remains of walls that were found during the evaluation. At a depth of c. 0.30m walls (116) and (117) were identified in the south and east facing sections respectively. Wall (116) was excavated to reveal three courses of handmade bricks, the lower two laid as stretchers and the top course as headers. Wall (117) was also exposed to a depth of three courses, all laid in a stretcher bond. The height and depth of both walls was unknown due to their position in section (**CG-10 Plate 11**). The fill of this sondage lying against (116) and (117) was directly below demolition layer (102) and comprised a dark grey/brown loam (118) containing fragments of brick, wall tile and an iron bar. This layer is likely to be an infill of the cellar/basement of the Hall.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was located c.14m to the south-west of the concrete pond (**CG-10 Fig. 5 & 7**). The trench was extended twice to follow the curving southern gable wall resulting in an L shape in plan running in a northwest-southeast/northeast-southwest direction (**CG-10 Plate 7**). The western part measured 3.30m x 6.80m, the eastern part 5.00m x 2.00m. This trench contained a large section of the southern gable of the Hall (106), including evidence of a divided cellar, and the interface between this gable and the main (108) and extension walls (109).

All archaeological features lay beneath the subsoil (101), a dark brown loam overlain by turf. As in Trench 1 this layer overlay (102) demolition containing whole and part hand made bricks, 19th century pottery and several fragments of clay pipe. At the western end of the trench this layer also contained a piece of concrete drain and a fallen piece of wall with 2 courses of handmade brick intact. Layer (102) did not extend beyond the east of the gable wall, this external area contained a mid-brown soft loam with very few inclusions and brick fragments (105).

Wall (106) measuring 0.80m x 4.60m x c.1.50m (excavated depth) was constructed using hand made bricks three header courses thick with an extra stretcher course over the cellar arch (**CG-10 Plate 16**). It is unclear which bonding style has been used as only a small area was exposed above the cellar arch showing the extra stretcher course, however in plan it is clear that both headers and stretchers have been used together. This wall extends beyond the southern extent of the trench and is butted to the north by the main eastern wall (108). At a depth of approximately 0.40m below the excavated wall level a two course segmental arch was identified measuring c.1.00m wide. This was butted at the same level by a later dividing wall (107) measuring 0.30m x 3.20m comprising three courses of hand made brick. This wall continued south under the arch and beyond the trench edge (**CG-10 Plate 12**).

Wall (108) was constructed using two courses laid in header bond of handmade bricks and measuring 0.55 x 1.00m. This wall extended north beyond the northern edge of the trench. Wall (109) measuring 0.30m x 1.10m was butted to (108) and comprised two courses of hand made bricks laid in stretcher bond. Both (108) and (109) were faced on the northern side by a single course laid in stretcher bond with large amounts of mortar in situ (**CG-10 Plate 13**).

Located immediately to the east of wall (106) a sondage measuring 0.90m x 0.80m was cut through layer (105) to establish the nature and survival of the outer face of wall (106) and to identify if an earlier external ground surface was present. No external surface survived although the natural clay (**104**) was exposed at a depth of 0.40m (**CG-10 Plate 14**). This sondage also revealed the cut of the foundation trench [**119**] for wall (106) and its dark brown loamy fill (**120**).



5. Archaeological Results

Trench 1

Trench 1 identified a number of features of archaeological interest. The north-south orientated brick wall (111) and associating east-west abutting walls (112) and (113) relate to a brick built structure extending east from the main eastern wall. The north-south wall (111) dating from the mid 19th century is wider than (112) and (113) and may have an entrance in the centre represented by the extra courses of brick on its eastern side (**CG-10 Fig. 6**). The east-west walls also date to the same period and are narrower, approximately 0.20m, suggesting this structure may have been a single storey. These walls correspond with the small structure extending eastwards from the eastern wall as seen from the map evidence first appearing on the 1872 OS map of Cheadle (**CG-10 Fig. 3**). This may be an entrance way or porch. The lack of demolition debris in the clay layer (103) surrounded by these walls would suggest that this may be an internal levelling layer for the structure.

To the west of walls (111), (112) and (113) was demolition layer (102), the depth of which, c.0.44m excavated, indicates that no internal surfaces survive on the eastern side of the hall structure. This layer did, however produce architectural materials such as brick, floor tiles and flagstones and fragments of glazed wall tiles dating to the 19th and 20th centuries. Within this layer, aligned north-south, lay the remains of a possible brick floor (114) and internal wall (115) both with lime mortar intact dating to the mid 19th-early 20th century. Surface (114) represents the only possible floor surface to be found on the site.

At the western end of Trench 1 walls (116) and (117) were identified but not fully excavated. Constructed during the 19th century, wall (116) ran east-west and is likely to have been an internal cellar dividing wall similar to (107) in Trench 2. Wall (117) appears to have been of similar date and construction. Its north-south alignment and position on the western side of the site would suggest that it could possibly be the main western wall of the Hall. Lying against (116) and (117) fill (118) seems to have been laid to infill the hall's cellars, the low proportion of rubble would suggest this was done prior to demolition.

Trench 2

Trench 2 was able to locate the eastern half of the southernmost gable of the Hall (106) and its interface with the main eastern wall and the late 19th century extension. On the southern side of the trench the internal face of this wall was excavated to a depth of c. 1.00m to expose the style of bonding and the segmental arch of the cellar opening. The position of the arch in the southern wall would suggest that the cellar extended beyond the above ground extent of the hall.

This is echoed by the location of supporting wall (107) butting the arch and continuing south underneath it. This wall appears to be a later internal cellar dividing or supporting wall dating to the late 19th-early 20th century. Its thickness at c.0.30m seems unusually wide for an internal wall and may indicate the need for the gable to be supported in the latter part of its occupation. Unlike other walls on site (107) has a sandier Portland cement type mortar.

Butting (106) to the north, wall (108) represents the southernmost extent of the main eastern wall. This appears to be a later (mid-late 19th century) rebuilding as the remains of an earlier brick line is visible keyed in to the northern end of [106]. Aligned northeast-southwest, wall (109) butts (108) and is part of the late 19th century extension. The thickness of the wall would suggest the probable height of the extension to be less than the main older structure and photographic evidence shows it to be a single storey with a first floor terrace (**CG-10/Plate 3**). Both walls (108) and (109) have been internally faced by a single course of bricks in the late 19th-early 20th century, possibly as part of a later refurbishment or alteration.

6. Archaeological Conclusions

The excavation was successful in identifying the nature and survival of the remains of Cheadle Hall and establishing its external footprint. In particular a large part of the rounded southern gable was identified along with the eastern porch and the southern extension wall. The excavation showed that the cellars extended across the full footprint of the building exposed.

Cheadle Hall was originally three storeys high and ten bays wide with a large 19th century extension on the southeast corner. Following the demolition of the Hall in 1958, the northern end and associated structures were subsequently truncated in the early 1960s due to the construction of the concrete pond and the landscaping of the site. The recent excavations have proved that a large amount of the southern part of the hall exists below the current ground surface. The demolition of the Hall seems to have included only the above ground structures, filling cellars with rubble, removing ground floor levels and leaving lower walls and foundations untouched. This has meant that phasing information and dateable material have been preserved within this demolition layer.

The earliest phase of building, c.1756-1846, incorporates the western wall and a square gable at the southern end as seen on the 1846 tithe map (**CG-10 Fig. 2**) although these features are not represented on site. The cellars identified in Trench 2 may also date to this original pre-1840s structure. The backfilled cellars represent a fascinating time capsule but may themselves have removed evidence of any earlier structures.

The second phase, c.1850-75 comprised the construction of the southern rounded gable wall including the arched cellar opening, and possibly the north and south walls of the eastern porch and the possible internal brick floor. It is unclear from the photographic and archaeological evidence if the segmental arch identified in Trench 2 was a cellar light or doorway accessed from outside, although the double coursing of the arch would suggest the latter. With the exception of the floor surface all these elements appear on the 1872 OS map for the first time (**CG-10 Fig. 3**). This map also shows two small extensions to the eastern wall, although no evidence of these was identified archaeologically and they seem to have been demolished by 1897 (**CG-10 Fig. 4**).

In the later 19th century the main eastern wall seems to have been rebuilt and/or realigned possibly due to or in advance of the construction of the large south-eastern extension. Remains of this earlier wall were revealed in Trench 2 with some bricks still keyed in to the gable wall; however it could not be identified in Trench 1 suggesting it had been truncated by the demolition of the Hall. Although documentary evidence suggests that small alterations were made afterwards, the Hall retained this layout until its demolition. The final phase identified

archaeologically was the single course facing of the interior walls of the extension, although the purpose of this addition is unknown.

During the excavation a large number of glazed hearth bricks and arts and crafts tiles were found indicating the style of interior decoration during the final phases of occupation of the Hall. There were also considerable amounts of both Victorian pottery sherds and 19th century clay pips stems and bowls as well as assorted items of metal work, including a gas light fitting.

The Archaeological Context of Cheadle Hall

The Development of Cheadle Hall

The historic, photographic and archaeological evidence suggests that Cheadle Hall was originally built around 1756. This first structure appears to have been a double-depth, central staircase plan, house of three storeys. It seems likely that this first building was five bays long with the porch occupying the middle bay, which was stepped forward. The porch had a keystone arch, flanked by sash windows (which appear to have been hornless) with keystone lintels and projecting stone sills, and the elevation was topped by a cornice, the whole forming a regular classical appearance. The western elevation was further enlivened by the use of Flemish bonded-brick picked out in two colours.

This mid-eighteenth century structure was extended to the north by the addition of two further bays in a similar style, but stepped slightly back from the main western elevation. In the early to mid-nineteenth century a further two bays were added to the south, and although the same height as the rest of the building this wing was just two storeys high. Its tall sash windows distinguished it from the earlier range and it is this plan-form that is shown on the tithe map of 1846.

The hall underwent further alteration and expansion in the period 1846 to 1872 when two short wings were added to the eastern elevation and a bay window appears to have been added to the southern gable. Between 1872 and 1897 a large, cruciform, single-storey wing was added to the south-eastern corner of the hall and parts of the ground floor interior refurbished with panelling. This expansion coincided with the ownership of the hall by the Watts family. The hall appears to have gone into decline once it ceased to be a family residence in 1914 and was demolished in 1958.

Cheadle Hall and the Double-depth House

The primary phase of Cheadle Hall was as a three-storey, double-depth, central-staircase, house. The double-depth house was introduced into England in the seventeenth century. Its symmetrical plan-form and elevations, and specialist rooms, reflected both a move towards more personal space and the rise in fashion of classical architectural forms for the landed and emerging middle classes (Brunskill 1982; Newman 2001). One of the earliest known examples in Greater Manchester lies in the Trafford area, where Sale New Hall was built in this style in 1688. Shortly afterwards a new double-depth, central staircase, brick wing was added to Clayton Hall in eastern Manchester. Such buildings do not appear lower down the social scale until the early 18th century in this area, but once they do appear double-depth brick farmhouses with central staircases became a common

feature of the southern Lancashire and northern Cheshire landscape (Hartwell, Hyde & Pevsner 2004). One of the earliest farmhouses built in this style was Astley Green Farm in Salford where a dated inscription indicates it was built in 1730. This structure contains noteworthy architectural details such as, externally, the original form of the porch and a mixture of original sash and casement windows on the southern elevation, whilst internally the staircase with its swept moulded rail, turned balusters on cut string and turned newels are particularly fine, as are the surviving six-panel doors with H-hinges. These features make it one of the most important surviving farmhouses in the region during this period.

Another early example but not as complete is the double-pile house on the Dunham estate known as Big Tree Cottages in Dunham Town built in 1730 according to the datestone. Dunham was an area where the double-pile house was in early use. The grandest double-pile house on the estate was Manor Farm in Dunham Woodhouses. This was originally built as a Dower House for the Earl's mother, only later becoming a farmhouse. Although undated the style of this property suggests that it was contemporary with Village Farmhouse opposite, a double-pile house built in 1752. New double-pile houses on the estate can be found at; Little Heath Farm (mid 18th century); New Farm, Little Bollington, c 1760; Yew Tree House Farm, 1805; Ash Farm, Little Bollington, c 1800; Sinderland House Farm c 1840; and Yew Tree Farm, Dunham Woodhouses, c. 1850 (Woodside 2000, 52-3). Most of these properties had front facades built in the more expensive Flemish bonded brick with the cheaper English Garden wall bond kept for the sides and rear. Likewise, stone quoining was kept for the front facade only.

By the late eighteenth century such houses could be found on many rural estates. The three-storey Yew Tree Farmhouse in Timperley was one such property and this had a dated inscription of 1777 (Nevell 1997, 79). In Shepley, Denton, a two storey, brick built, double-depth farmhouse appears to have dated from c. 1780. Cheadle Hall was clearly of much higher status than these farmhouse properties, and at five bays wide much bigger. However, this plan-form also became popular in middle-class eighteenth century town residences and a number of terraced and detached examples can still be seen on St John Street, King Street and Cobden House on Quay Street in Manchester (Hartwell 2000, 9-12). Cheadle Hall may thus have been inspired by contemporary middle-class housing in Manchester and possibly in London where the middle-class, three storey, terrace of this form had become very fashionable.

Cheadle Hall and Nineteenth century Middle-class Housing

The first phase of Cheadle Hall may also belong to the beginning of the rise of the detached villa residence set in its own gardens on the fringes of the newly industrialising towns of the region, which would become very common in the nineteenth century.

During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century there was a growing tendency among the more affluent classes to move to the outskirts of the town, away from the grime and the factory air which had become synonymous with urban life. The houses which were built to meet these aspirations were detached or

semi-detached properties, often referred to as villas. The occupants of these new houses largely came from the emerging middle classes, and included doctors and lawyers, businessmen and shopkeepers. As with much urban housing, the villa was usually a speculative venture, with the occupants renting their accommodation. The villa not only stood physically separate from the terraced houses of the working class but in architectural terms it also symbolized the greater affluence of its residents (Figueiredo & Treuherz 1988; Walker & Tindall 1985). Notable concentrations emerged around Altrincham, Alderley Edge, Ashton-under-Lyne, Bowdon, Hale, Hyde, Manchester, Stalybridge, Stockport, Wilmslow, Prestwich and Whitfield (Burke & Nevell 1996; Hyde 1999; Nevell 1997; Pevsner 1969). Indeed in 1883 Prestwich was described as containing a great number of genteel residences, principally occupied by Manchester Merchants (Prat 1973, 61-2). The occupants of these new houses mostly came from the emerging middle classes such as doctors, lawyers, businessmen, and shopkeepers who often worked in the city of Manchester. The arrival of the railways in the 1830s and 1840s hastened the development of these new suburban areas. The former middle-class suburbs such as Ardwick Green and Greenheys in Manchester, and The Crescent in Salford were vacated by the middle-classes in favour of new areas made accessible by the railways such as Altrincham, Bowdon, Didsbury and Alderley Edge. Documentary and map analysis indicates that between 1780 and 1872 at least 163 detached villa residences were built in the Greater Manchester area.

Although the earliest villa residences were usually built for wealthy industrialists, by the mid-19th century villa construction had become a speculative venture, with the occupants renting their accommodation. Most of the villas in the Greater Manchester area were constructed on former agricultural land allowing them to be built on a large scale, set within large landscaped gardens and with a plethora of rooms. The external treatment of the villa was very individual showing ‘a taste for the eclectic and the curious, which led to a startlingly wide variety of architectural idioms’ (Tarn 1973, 153). The revival of past architectural styles and general eccentricity present in much of Victorian architecture was also prevalent in the designs of villas.

Mid-nineteenth century Cheadle Hall, with its additional wings in a vernacular revival style, panelling and arts-and-crafts style glazed tiles, can be seen to fall into this pattern of architectural embellishment. Indeed Watts, the designer of the most elaborate and striking of Manchester’s textile warehouses (now the Britannia Hotel in Piccadilly Gardens) was almost certainly responsible for the remodelling of the hall in this way.

Despite revealing the footprint of the Hall and some internal features the excavation was unable to provide any information on the outbuildings associated with the Hall. Should further excavation be considered, this area should be a targeted to provide information on the wider setting of the Hall and other activities carried out on the site. Such investigation would conform to the recommendations of the Regional Research Framework for the North West for the excavation of well preserved elite houses and their study in a social context (Newman & McNeil, 2007). There is also potential for an archaeological investigation into the links

between Cheadle Hall and Abney Hall during their period of ownership by the Watts family to set the history and archaeology of Cheadle in a broader context.

As the community excavation coincided with both the bicentenary of Cheadle Green and the Heritage Open Days, the site was opened to the public throughout the weekend. There were several elements of community engagement in the form of site tours, the provision of a children's excavation area, finds washing and display boards. Over 800 people visited the site during the excavation, with 100 children taking part in the excavation of the southwestern end of Trench 2. The open days resulted in an increase of knowledge and enthusiasm of the heritage of Cheadle by the local community and an interest in the archaeology of the area.

In conclusion, Cheadle Hall represents a site of high local significance not only due to extent of the below ground remains but also the high quality of preservation of those remains. Further excavations would provide considerable information regarding the development and use of the Hall and are recommended should further funding or opportunity become available. Such excavations would be suitable for community involvement, however due to the presence of cellars of unknown depth across the site any investigation should conform to a strict risk assessment and monitoring. During the community open days a desire was expressed to expose the remains although this is impractical due to health and safety and preservation concerns. It is therefore recommended that the future landscaping of the site includes the marking out of the wall lines of the Hall as well as the creation of information boards to disseminate and explain the findings of the excavation.

Artefactual Evidence

During the excavation many artefacts in the form of late 19th and early 20th century pottery were recovered (**CG-10 Plate 18**). Also there was a deal of material associated with the fixtures and fitting of the Victorian period hall most notably a number of Arts and Crafts style floor tiles (**CG-10 Plate 18**), glazed hearth bricks and a gas light fixture. On general inspection the bulk of this material was associated with the late 19th century phase of Cheadle Hall at the time it was owned by James Watt.

Due to funding limitations a full analysis and catalogue of finds has not been completed but it is proposed that members of SMART carry out this exercise in the near future, with advice from the professional archaeologists (CfAA and GMAU), to continue and enhance the volunteer experience and to provide a further teaching and training aspect to the project.

The recovered artefacts are at present in the possession of the Cheadle Civic Society pending future production of a catalogue following which it is recommended that a selection of the artefacts be deposited with Stockport Museum but the bulk being retained as a handling collection and/or for local exhibition purposes.



7. *Archive*

The archive comprises annotated field drawings, digital and colour positive photographs. This archive is currently held by the Centre for Applied Archaeology. This archive will be deposited with Stockport Museum following the publication of the site.

A copy of this report will be deposited with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record held by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit.

All artefacts from the site are currently held by the Cheadle Civic Society.

8. Acknowledgements

The Centre for Applied Archaeology would like to thank the Cheadle Civic Society for commissioning the archaeological works, the Friends of Cheadle Green and local councillors, June Somekh, Iain Roberts, Mick Jones and Pamela King and Mark Hunter MP for their support. CfAA also appreciate the support and assistance of Brian Nash and Brian Adamson of Stockport MBC and the members of South Manchester Archaeological Research Team, South Trafford Archaeology Group, Tameside Archaeological Society, Mellor Archaeological Trust and local volunteers and children who carried out the excavations. CfAA would also like to thank the Cheadle and Gatley Film Makers for their video recording of the work on site and the Cheadle community for their enthusiasm during the open days. Special thanks are due to Andy Coutts (SMART) for organising the volunteer excavators and his assistance with the logistics of the project and Miranda Galloway of Stockport MBC who supervised and cared for the children involved in the excavation during her own time .

CfAA are also grateful to Norman Redhead (County Archaeologist) for initiating the project and providing monitoring, support and advice. Onsite excavations were conducted by Brian Grimsditch and Sarah Cattell. This report and associated illustrations were written and compiled by Sarah Cattell and Brian Grimsditch and managed by Brian Grimsditch.

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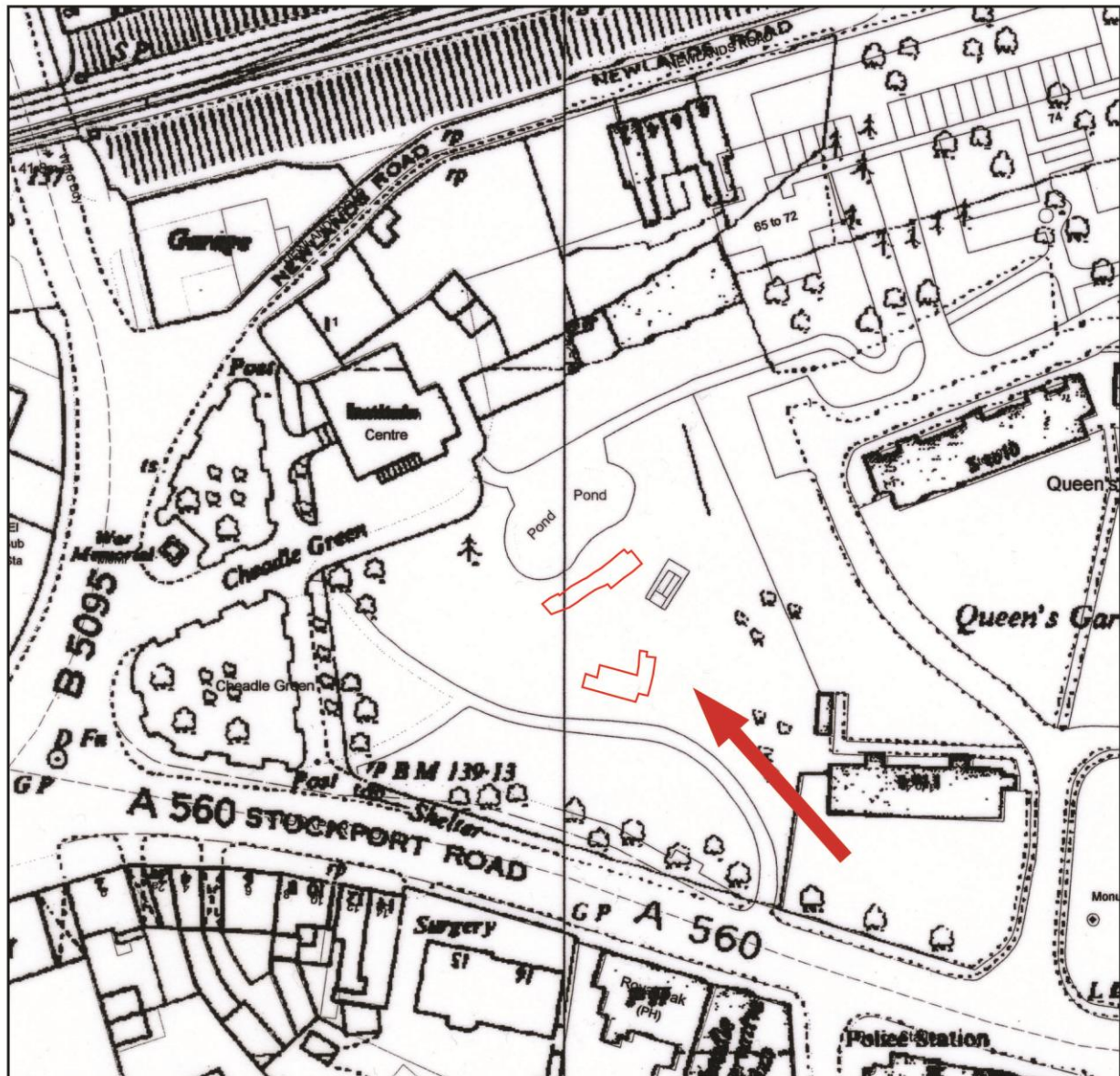
Appendix 1: Context List

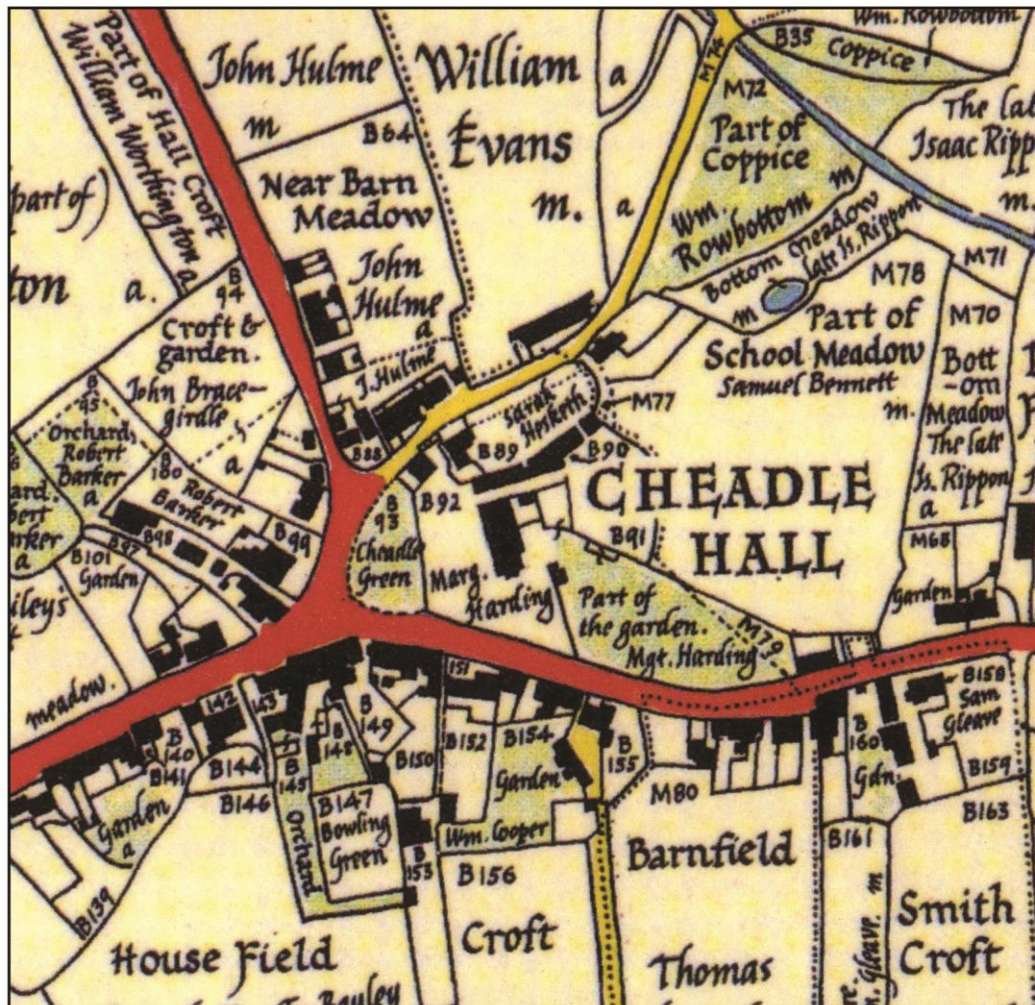
Context	Type	Trench	Description
(100)	Layer	1	Leveling layer laid prior to the laying of flagstones to the south of the concrete pond.
(101)	Layer	2	Subsoil.
(102)	Layer	1 & 2	Demolition rubble including whole and fragmentary bricks, tiles and stone.
(103)	Layer	1	Yellow clay layer lying between walls [111], [112] and [113].
(104)	Layer	2	Natural yellow silty clay.
(105)	Layer	2	Mid brown loam lying to the east of wall [106] at the same level as (102).
(106)	Structure	2	Curving wall of southern gable of Hall with segmental arch for vaulted cellar.
(107)	Structure	2	Cellar dividing wall abutting [106].
(108)	Structure	2	Main eastern wall of Hall, butting [106] and butted by [109].
(109)	Structure	2	South-eastern extension wall butting [108].
(110)	Structure	2	Internal single course facing of [108] & [109].
(111)	Structure	1	N-S wall of porch/entrance way.
(112)	Structure	1	Northern E-W wall of porch/entrance way.
(113)	Structure	1	Southern E-W wall of porch/entrance way.
(114)	Structure	1	Possible internal brick floor.
(115)	Structure	1	Single course internal wall.
(116)	Structure	1	Internal cellar wall.
(117)	Structure	1	Possible main western wall/internal cellar wall.
(118)	Fill	1	Fill of cellar at western end of Trench 1, light brown sandy loam with brick rubble.
[119]	Cut	2	Cut of foundation trench for wall (106)
(120)	Fill	2	Fill of foundation trench for wall (106), dark brown loam with no inclusions.

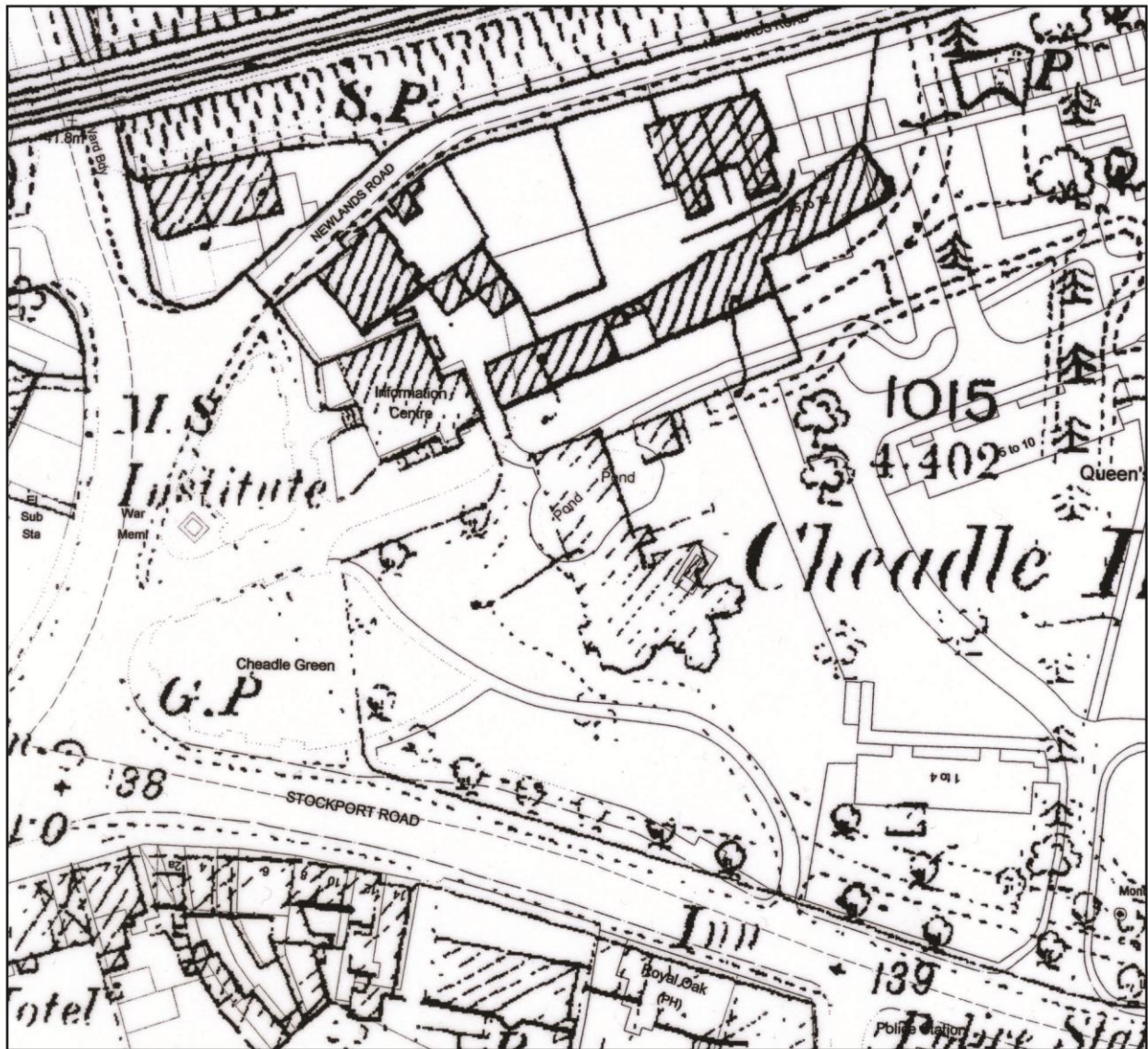


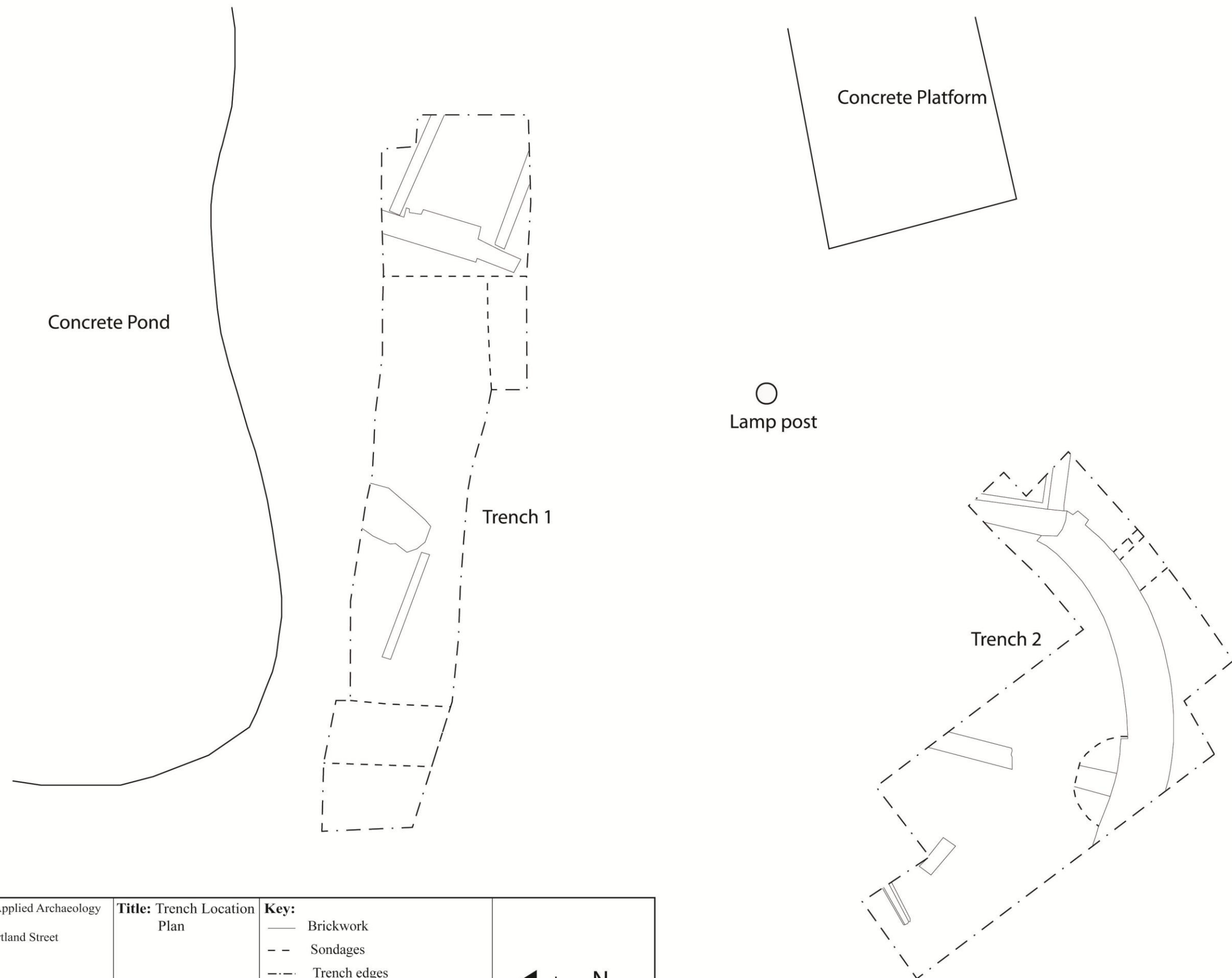
Appendix 2: Figures

<i>Figure Number</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Source</i>
CG-10/Fig1	General	Location of excavation (arrowed) on 1960 OS map.	Ordnance Survey 1:2500 (1960)
CG-10/Fig2	General	1846 tithe map	Stockport Archive.
CG-10/Fig3	General	1872 OS map	OS 1:2500 Sheet XIX.1
CG-10/Fig4	General	1897 OS map	OS 1:2500 Sheet XIX.1 (revised 1897)
CG-10/Fig5	General	Trench location plan.	CfAA
CG-10/Fig6	Trench 1	Plan of Trench 1	CfAA
CG-10/Fig7	Trench 1	Plan of Trench 1 showing levels	CfAA
CG-10/Fig8	Trench 2	Plan of Trench 2	CfAA
CG-10/Fig9	Trench 2	Plan of Trench2 showing levels	CfAA

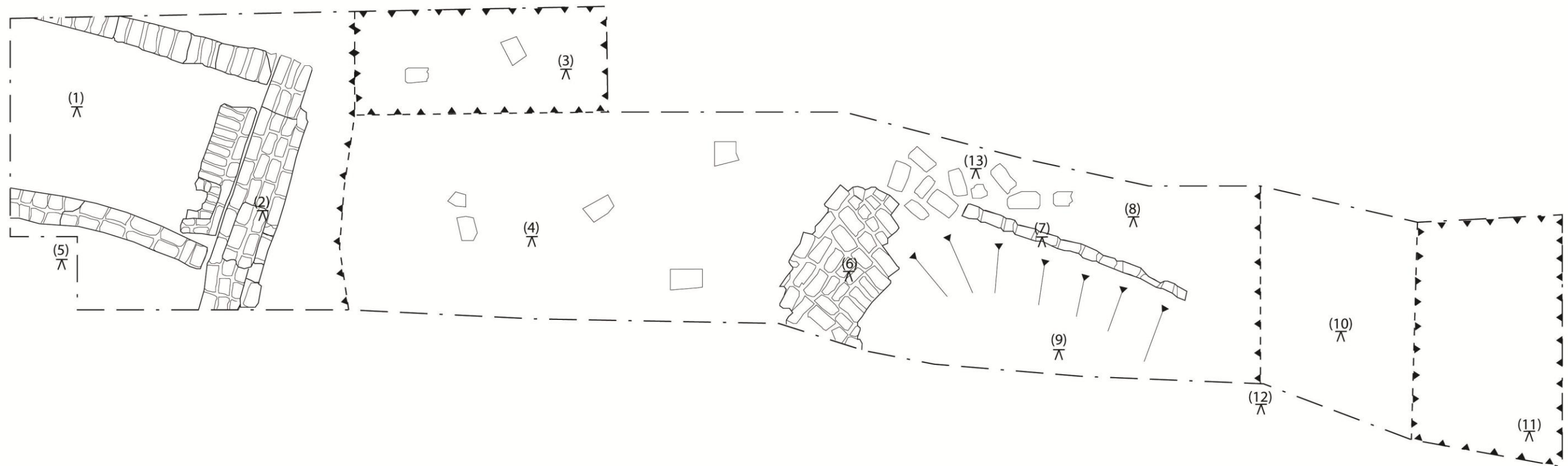





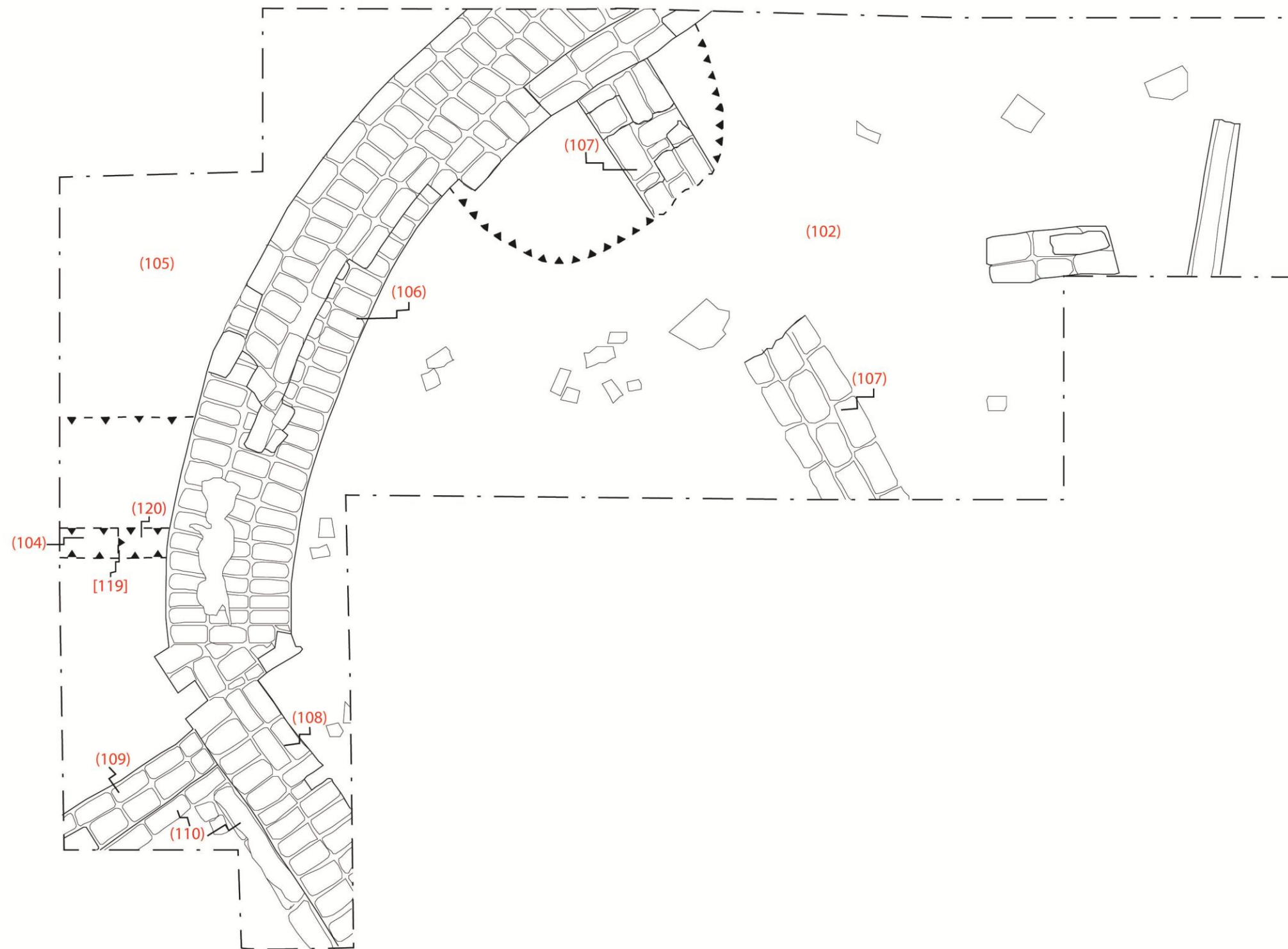






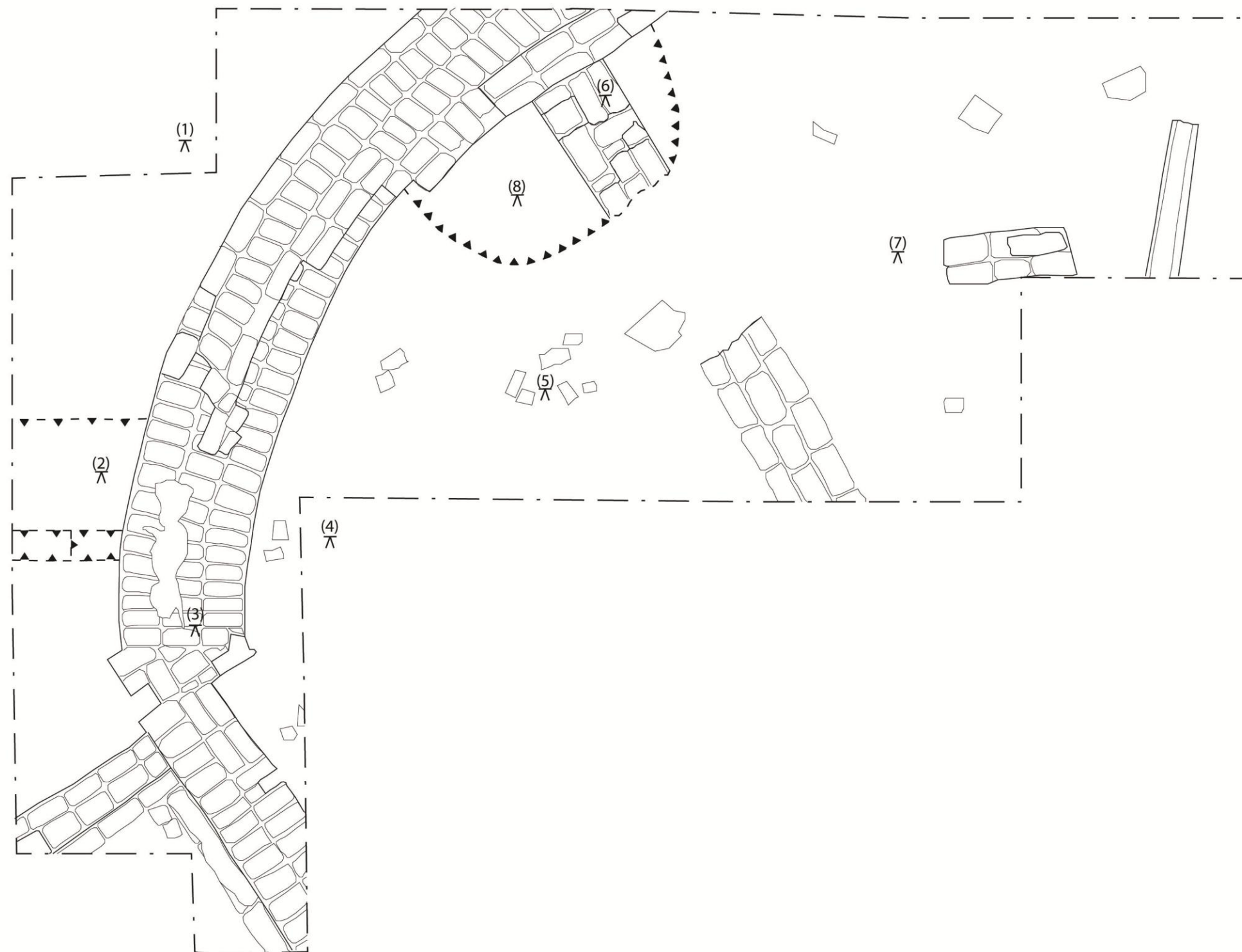
<div><div><div>The Centre for Applied Archaeology</div><div></div></div><div><div>Centre for Applied Archaeology CUBE 113-115 Portland Street Manchester M1 6DW</div></div></div>	<div><div>Title: Trench Location Plan</div></div>	<div><div>Key:</div><div><div><div>—</div>Brickwork</div><div><div>- -</div>Sondages</div><div><div>- - -</div>Trench edges</div></div></div>	<div><div></div></div>
<div><div>Site Name: Cheadle Green, Stockport Site Code: CG10 Drawing Ref: EX-CG-10-5 Date Drawn: 27-09-2010 Drawn By: SC</div></div>	<div><div>Scale: 1:50</div><div><div><div>0</div><div></div><div>1.00m</div></div></div></div>		





<p>The Centre for Applied Archaeology</p>	<p>Centre for Applied Archaeology CUBE 113-115 Portland Street Manchester M1 6DW</p>	<p>Title: Trench 1 Levels</p>	<p>Key:</p> <p>(1)  Levels taken from TBM (see Appendix 4)</p>	<p>N ↓</p>
<p>Site Name: Cheadle Green, Stockport. Site Code: CG10 Drawing Ref: EX-CG-10-7 Date Drawn: 27-09-2010 Drawn By: SC</p>	<p>Scale: 1:20</p> <p>0 1.00m</p>			



<p>The Centre for Applied Archaeology</p>	<p>Centre for Applied Archaeology CUBE 113-115 Portland Street Manchester M1 6DW</p>	<p>Title: Trench 2 Plan</p>	<p>Key:</p> <p>(102) Context - Layer/Wall</p>	<p>N</p> 
<p>Site Name: Cheadle Green, Stockport. Site Code: CG10 Drawing Ref: EX-CG-10-9 Date Drawn: 27-09-2010 Drawn By: SC</p>	<p>Scale: 1:20</p> 			



The Centre for Applied Archaeology	Centre for Applied Archaeology CUBE 113-115 Portland Street Manchester M1 6DW	Title: Trench 2 Levels	Key: (1) Levels taken from TBM (see Appendix 4).	
Site Name: Cheadle Green, Stockport. Site Code: CG10 Drawing Ref: EX-CG-10-9 Date Drawn: 27-09-2010 Drawn By: SC	Scale: 1:20 			

Due to time constraints, all levels on site were taken against a temporary benchmark (TBM). This was located at the level of the top of the lowest step (at ground level) of the entrance on the southern wall of the Cheadle Institute building. The temporary reading will be measured into the closest benchmark to the site at a later date. The value of the TBM was 0.00m and the foresight was 1.69m, giving a datum of 1.69m. The positions of measurements are shown on **CG-10/Fig7& 9**.

Trench 1 Reduced Levels

Level No.	Height
(1)	-0.12m
(2)	-0.06m
(3)	-0.49m
(4)	-0.05m
(5)	0.12m
(6)	0.04m
(7)	-0.16m
(8)	-0.03m
(9)	-0.37m
(10)	-0.06m
(11)	-0.48m
(12)	0.06m
(13)	-0.15m

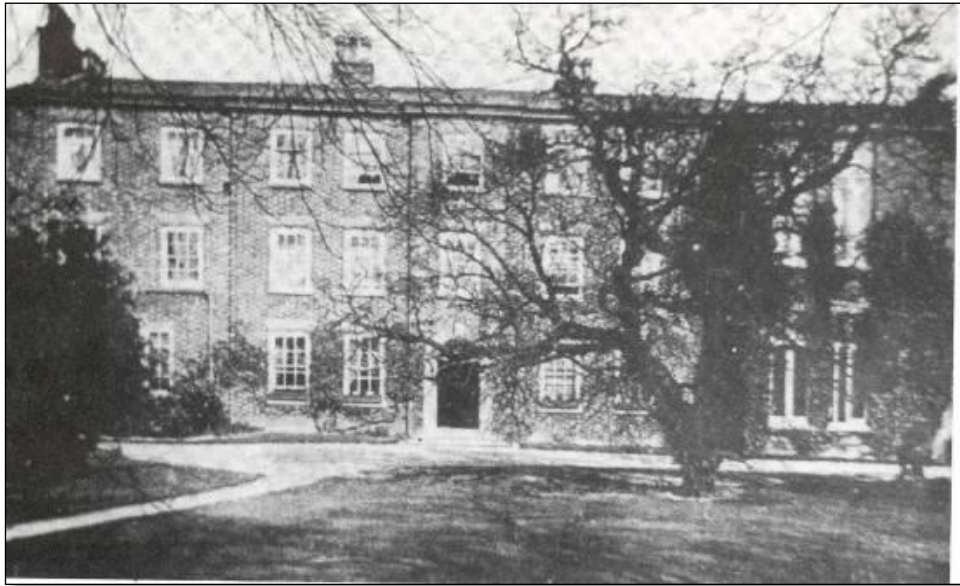
Trench 2 Reduced Levels

Level No.	Height
(1)	0.13m
(2)	-0.63m
(3)	-0.11m
(4)	-0.08m
(5)	-0.06m
(6)	-0.51m
(7)	-0.20m
(8)	-1.01m

Appendix 4: Photographic Archive

Photo Number	Plate Number	Description	Orientation (looking)
1 – 11		Working shots showing Open Day visitors	Various directions
12	CG-10 Plate 18	Finds on the Open Day	-
13	CG-10 Plate 17	Arts and crafts hearth tile	-
14 – 26		Open Day displays	-
27 – 28		Working shot	S
29		Working shot	SW
30		Sondage cutting layer (105) to the east of wall [106] showing natural layer (104).	S
31		Sondage cutting layer (105) to the east of wall [106], showing natural layer (104).	W
32 – 33		Sondage at western end of trench 1 showing walls [116] & [117]	N
34		Sondage at western end of trench 1 showing walls [116] & [117]	NW
35 – 36		General view of Trench 1, eastern end.	N
37 – 38	CG-10 Plate 15	General view of Trench 1, eastern mid section	N
39 – 40		General view of Trench 1, western mid section	S
41 – 42		General view of Trench 1, western end	S
43 – 45	CG-10 Plate 11	Sondage at western end of trench 1 showing walls [116] & [117]	NW
46 – 47	CG-10 Plate 9	Possible internal brick floor [114], Trench 1	S
48 – 49	CG-10 Plate 10	Single course internal wall [115], Trench 1	S
50 – 51	CG-10 Plate 8	Possible porch/entrance way showing walls [111], [112] and [113]	W
52 – 53	CG-10 Plate 13	Interface between southern gable [106] and main eastern [108] and extension [109] walls	E
54 – 55		Interface between southern gable [106] and main eastern [108] and extension [109] walls	N

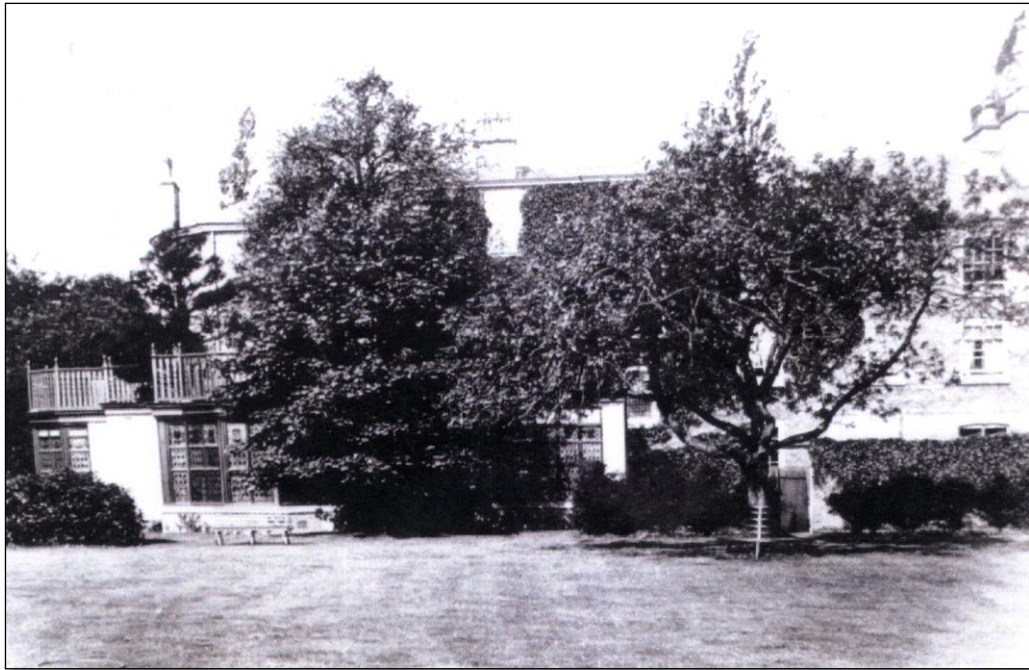
56 – 57	CG-10 Plate 16	Southern gable wall [106] showing cellar dividing wall [107]	S
58 – 59		Southern gable wall showing sondage and layers (102) and (105)	E
60 - 61		Southern gable wall [106], cellar dividing wall [107] and layer (102)	S
62	CG-10 Plate 12	Wall [106] showing segmental arch and abutting wall [107]	SE
63 - 64	CG-10 Plate 6	General view of Trench 1	W
65 - 66		General view of Trench 1	E
67	CG-10 Plate 7	General view of Trench 2	S
68		General view of Trench 2	W
69	CG-10 Plate 14	Sondage to the east of wall [106] cutting layer (105) and showing natural clay (104)	W
70 - 73		Working shots showing backfilling of trenches by hand.	Various directions
74 – 81	CG-10 Plates 19 - 26	Various shots of the community open day	Various directions



CG-10/Plate 1: Cheadle Hall front elevation. Cheadle Conservation Area Character Appraisal, 2006.



CG-10/Plate 2: Cheadle Hall front elevation. Courtesy of Mrs P. Seddon, Cheadle Civic Society.



C
G-10/Plate 3: Cheadle Hall rear elevation. Courtesy of Mrs P. Seddon, Cheadle Civic Society.



CG-10 Plate 4: Walls (111) and (113) as seen during the April 2010 evaluation. Looking west.



CG-10 Plate 5: Wall (106) as seen during the April 2010 evaluation. Looking south.



CG - 10 Plate 6: General view of Trench 1. Looking west.



CG-10 Plate 7: General view of Trench 2. Looking south.



CG-10 Plate 8: Walls (111), (112) and (113) at eastern end of Trench 1, showing clay layer (103) between. Looking west.



CG-10 Plate 9: Possible brick floor surface (114) showing wall (115) extending west from the southwest corner. Looking south.



CG-10 Plate 10: Single course wall (115) to the west of brick floor (114) showing layer (102) on both sides. Looking south.



CG-10 Plate 11: Sondage at western end of Trench1 showing walls (116) and (117) with fill (118) between. Looking northwest.



CG-10 Plate 12: Interior face of wall (106) showing segmental arch and abutting wall (107). Looking south.



CG-10 Plate 13: Interface of southern gable wall (106) and main eastern (108) and extension (109) walls with internal single facing course (110). Looking east.



CG-10 Plate 14: Sondage cutting (105) to the east of wall (106) in Trench 2 showing an area of natural silty clay in the northeast corner. Looking west.



CG-10 Plate 15: Mid section of Trench 1 showing demolition layer (102). Looking north.



CG-10 Plate 16: General view of southern gable wall (106) and internal cellar dividing wall (107). Looking south.



CG-10 Plate 17: Arts and Crafts Victorian tile, one of many recovered from Trench 2.



CG-10 Plate 18: Collection of tiles glazed hearth bricks and pottery recovered and processed during the open days

*Some photos of the Volunteers
working at Cheadle Green*



CG-10 Plate 19: the evaluation team, April 2010 after reinstatement



CG-10 Plate 20: Volunteers opening up Trench 2



CG-10 Plate 21: One of the many site tours



CG-10 Plate 22: Brian Nash waits to remove another full wheelbarrow



CG-10 Plate 23: Miranda supervising the younger archaeologists



CG-10 Plate 24: Another tour in progress



CG-10 Plate 25: Excavations being filmed by the Cheadle Amateur documentary crew



CG-10 Plate 26: Yet another tour of interested people being shown the apsed gable end of the hall



Appendix 5: Project Design



1. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Centre for Applied Archaeology (CfAA) has been invited to provide a written scheme of investigation and costs for a programme of archaeological work at Cheadle Green, Cheadle, Stockport (Centred SJ 860 887) by Brian Nash Stockport MBC and the Cheadle Civic Society.

Cheadle Green lies at the eastern end of Cheadle Village Conservation Area which has a number of buildings of historical and architectural interest including St Mary's Church a grade 1 listed building. Close to the Green was a brick built hall built in 1756 extended in the mid 19th century and demolished in 1958. Following demolition the area on which the hall sat was landscaped and a concrete lined pond was dug on the footprint of its northern end.

Following an Act of Parliament in 1810 the Green was created and in September this year the Green will celebrate its bicentenary and Cheadle Civic Society wish to commemorate the fact by carrying out a scheme of works to improve the appearance of the Green and surrounding free land. Part of the celebrations would involve a public open day that would be preceded by a community archaeological excavation of the hall site supervised by professional archaeologists.

The County Archaeologist was consulted, along with staff from the CfAA and Mr Andy Coutts of the South Manchester Archaeological Research Trust (SMART) a local archaeological group, who were asked to conduct an evaluation of the site to discover if anything of the hall remained and if such a community excavation was feasible. The evaluation was very successful and the results are highlighted below (2.2).

This work would not only enhance understanding of the below ground archaeology of the hall and other possible remains but would provide an opportunity for the local community to be involved first hand in their local heritage.

A more ambitious scheme was previously suggested but due to recent financial constraints the scheme has been modified to suit these constraints whilst attempting to retain the main aims and objectives of the project.

1.2 Monitoring

The archaeological project design for the scheme of works has been produced in consultation with, and will be monitored by Mr Norman Redhead, County Archaeologist for Greater Manchester (Greater Manchester Archaeology Unit).



2. Historical Background

2.1 Background

Cheadle Hall as depicted on the tithe map was constructed in 1756 by the Rector of Cheadle Rev. Thomas Egerton. He bequeathed the hall to his nephew Edward Berisford in 1762 who subsequently sold it to John Harrison a Stockport merchant in 1773.

An Act of parliament in 1810 caused the land in front of the hall, then owned by John Harrison, to remain open and unenclosed forever creating Cheadle Green. In the 19th century the hall was converted into a well know boarding school for young ladies following which it was used for a short time by Manchester Royal Infirmary as a convalescent. In the second half of the 19th century the hall was subject of development and was extended to the north and east with a further extension being built off the south east corner between 1872 and 1898.

During the 20th century, it was used for various businesses such as a furniture repository and afterwards the by Milk Marketing Board. However, after being empty for a number of years, the building was demolished in 1958. Photographs show the building to have been brick-built, of 3 storeys, and possibly 9 bays.

As a result of the research undertaken by the Civic Society and on consulting Norman Redhead it was decided that any groundwork to be undertaken may intrude on below ground archaeology. Also if any remains of the buildings identified on early mapping it would be a good opportunity to conduct an archaeological excavation that would involve members of the community. Consequently Andy Coutts of the SMART and Brian Grimsditch of CfAA were asked to supervise an evaluation of the Green utilising members of the local community and the 'Friends' to conduct the evaluation.

2.2 Previous Archaeological Work

No previous below ground archaeology is known with regards to the site apart from the evaluation in April 2010 (results below) though a deal of historical research has been carried out by the Civic Society members.

The evaluation was carried out on Sunday 11th April by around thirteen volunteers from the local community, members of the Civic Society, members of S.M.A.R.T, and was supervised by Brian Grimsditch (CfAA) and Andy Coutts (SMART).

Using the early mapping to determine the location of the buildings associated with Cheadle Hall, six small trenches were opened and in all but one trench positive archaeology in the form of brick walls and floor surfaces were uncovered at a very shallow depth. Evidence was found for the remains of the eastern and western elevations and the southern gable of the hall.

The trench that was most useful for location purposes revealed a curved wall that has been interpreted as the bay window of the southern gable of the hall that was the extent of the mid to late 19th century development.

Many artefacts in the form of pottery and clay pipe stems were recovered during the evaluation. A preliminary evaluation of these artefacts revealed that in the main they were of mid 19th to mid 20th century origin some probably discarded items from people walking across the area but many probably originating from the debris left by occupants at the Hall.

The evaluation was able to identify that a great deal of the hall was probably preserved at a shallow depth and was eminently suitable for further investigations in the future.

As a result the Civic Society, in collaboration with Stockport MBC and other associated groups and individuals are making plans and seeking funding to conduct a community excavation in September 2010 and ahead of any groundwork to improve the site. The excavation is to be conducted by local people and possibly including a local school under the supervision of professional archaeologists. It is hoped that the event will culminate in an open day when members of the community will be able to see the archaeology uncovered along with historical tours and other events.



3. Aims and Objectives

The primary objective of this scheme of archaeological works is to establish the nature and extent of the survivability of the demolished remains of Cheadle Hall and to obtain information and evidence of its history. This information would then be used to assist in the creation of information boards and other methods of displaying the history of the area should funding become available for this.

A secondary objective is to celebrate the bicentenary of Cheadle Green and involve local people and schools in the investigation and recording of their heritage.



4. Methodology

The programme of archaeological works comprises of two components, firstly the archaeological excavation through open area excavation and the teaching of archaeological techniques.

4.1 Evaluation Methodology

It is proposed that the excavations take place over the period Friday 10th to Monday 13th September 2010 to incorporate the date of the bicentennial of the Green that is Saturday 11th September.

CfAA propose that two trenches be opened within the area to the south of the concrete pond over the footprint of the hall remains, as determined during the evaluation in April 2010. Trench one would run east to west across the central area of the perceived footprint of the hall incorporating two of the trenches from the previous evaluation and would measure c. 8.00m x 2.00m. This trench would reveal any remains of the western and eastern elevations of the hall and the internal arrangements between. Trench two would be placed over the southern bay discovered in the previous evaluation and would expand on that evaluation trench to measure c. 5.00m x 4.00m. This trench would reveal any remains of the southern gable along with its associated architectural feature of the bay window and incorporate parts of the interior of the hall. The trenches may have to be adapted to prevent damage to certain trees that are to remain on the site. The site of the excavation will be enclosed with Heras fencing.

As the size of the trenches has been reduced it is now planned to remove the topsoil from the area by hand with the assistance of volunteers from SMART and Cheadle Civic Society. This process would be carried out on Friday 10th September prior to the public being allowed access to the excavations. However, should a mechanical excavator be made available then this would be used to assist in the removal and preparation of the site. No volunteers will be allowed on site during the period that the mechanical excavator is working. The spoil will be stored on site at a safe distance from the excavation area but within the fenced area.

The trenches will then be subject to hand excavation by volunteers under the supervision of professional archaeologists with the assistance of experienced members of the local archaeological society. The resulting spoil that has been removed will be placed within the immediate area and used to infill the trenches at the culmination of the archaeological work. It was planned to involve a local school in the project that include excavation of the site. If this is still feasible then a separate area will be designated for work conducted by the students and only those qualified will work with them. A dedicated educational archaeological officer will supervise all activities with the students and a separate risk assessment will be carried out in relation to the students.

It is suggested that the main excavation work be carried out during the weekend days of 11th and 12th September. This would also involve the beginning of recording and where possible volunteers would be taught recording techniques as well as excavation techniques.

Health and safety and access permitting each the area will be excavated to a maximum depth of 1.00m below the present ground surface or natural geological layers, all archaeological features identified within the excavation areas will be excavated to the required depth. It is anticipated that cellars connected to the hall may be encountered during the excavation that may require excavation below the one metre. However, due to the reduce time available it is anticipated that any cellars will not be excavated. The decision on whether to investigate such features will be at the discretion of the senior professional supervisor on site.

Excavations will be completed by close of day on Sunday 12th September and any remaining recording of the area will be finalised by the professional archaeologists and volunteers, on Monday 13th September. The trenches will also be backfilled by CfAA staff and volunteers, or by mechanical excavator if made available, with the earth which was removed. Any extra requirement for the reinstatement can be discussed between CfAA and the client and may require the provision of additional resources.

All fieldwork and recording of archaeological features, deposits and artefacts will be carried out to acceptable archaeological standards. All archaeological works carried out by CfAA are carried out to the standards set out in the Code of Practice of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

Any changes to the project design will be discussed with the client and the County Archaeologist prior to implementation.

On the days of 11th and 12th of September it is anticipated that the Cheadle Civic Society would wish to have an open day/s at which the public could view the excavations. CfAA staff would be available on those days to conduct guided tours and talk to members of the public.

4.2 Previous Archaeological work investigation

The results of the previous evaluation conducted in April 2010 have been the subject of a short report by Mr Andy Coutts of SMART. Other desk-based research has been carried out by members of the Civic Society, Mr Norman Redhead and Brian Grimsditch as a preliminary investigation to determine the feasibility of the project but no report has been completed. It is thought that no other reports or investigations have taken place for the site.

4.3 Recording Methodology

Separate contexts will be recorded individually on (CfAA) pro-forma context sheets. Plans and sections will be recorded on CfAA pro-forma drawing sheets at an appropriate scale of 1:10, 1:20, or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data and features encountered. All

drawings will be individually identified and cross referenced, contexts enumerated and principal layers and features annotated with OD level information.

Photography of all relevant phases and features will be undertaken with digital formats. General working photographs will be taken during the duration of the archaeological works, to provide illustrative material covering the wider aspects of the archaeological work undertaken.

All finds will be recorded by context. Significant “small finds” would be located within three dimensions to the nearest 10mm and bagged and labelled separately. They will be numbered and a simple description made so that they can be identified within the assemblage.

All finds work will be carried out in accordance with the IFA Guidelines for Finds Work. All identified finds and artefacts will be retained and where appropriate stabilised. A discard policy will be discussed and agreed between the County Archaeologist and CfAA following the start of the site work.

All finds will be appropriately cleaned and packaged in accordance with UKIC Archaeology Guidelines and First Aid for Finds. Guidelines established in the Museums and Galleries Commissions *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (1991)* will also be followed.

A finds assessment will be carried out including a sherd count, quantification, date range and a brief description of the fabric types. This will allow the County Archaeologist to formulate a strategy of post-excavation analysis if required.

Following the finds assessment any finds and samples, where necessary, will be submitted for expert assessment as part of the post-excavation phase. The appointment of archaeological specialists will be carried out after consultation with and approval of the County Archaeologist and client following the formulation of a post-excavation analysis strategy by the County Archaeologist.

4.2 Post-survey and Investigation Report

Upon completion of the archaeological fieldwork CfAA will produce a written report detailing the results of the above programme of archaeological work, which will include the following as minimum:

Non-technical summary of background, objectives and conclusions

Site name

Name of Archaeologist(s) who undertook the evaluation

Report author, report date, survey dates

Introductory statement

Archaeological and historical background

Aims and purpose of the project

Methodology

Analysis of the nature and significance of the archaeology

An objective summary statement of archaeological results

Interpretation of the archaeological results

Conclusion

A copy of the project brief

Appendices

Sections and illustrations at appropriate scales and showing levels

Site plans, at appropriate scales, identifying the location and reference for each floor

Photographs, printed and suitably annotated to trench location, direction etc

Supporting archaeological data tabulated or in appendices.

Index to archive and details of archive location

References

The preparation of the report will follow the guidelines published by the Institute of Field Archaeology.

Within 8 weeks of completion of the fieldwork, subject to the requirements for specialist reports, a report will be produced and will be submitted to the client and the County Archaeologist, GMAU (to enter on to the Greater Manchester Sites and Monuments Record). The County Archaeologist will be consulted on the final evaluation report before it submitted to the client.



5. Health and Safety

A risk assessment will be completed and submitted for approval prior to the start of the programme of fieldwork. All CfAA staff associated with the excavation will be given a copy of the written scheme of investigation and the risk assessment prior to the beginning of the works and will be required to read both documents.

Site procedures shall be in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Health and Safety Manual of the Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME).

All CfAA staff will wear PPE at appropriate times dictated by the Principal Archaeologist or the Senior Archaeologist on site.

A daily signing in and out book will be maintained by CfAA during the duration of the works.

The Institute of Field Archaeology code of conduct will be applied at all times.

No visitors will be allowed onto the site without the permission of the senior CfAA member of staff and the client. All visitors will be required to adhere to site safety rules as verbally explained and will be required to sign in/out of the site on arrival/departure.



6. *Archive*

The archive will be prepared in accordance with MAP 2, Appendix 3.1 and Appendix 4.1. It will be prepared for long term storage according to the requirements of the recipient repository and in accordance with the UKIC Archaeology Section 1 Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage (1990), the MSG Standards in the Museum Care for Archaeological Collections (1992) and the IFA archaeological documentary archive guidelines.

The archive will initially be held by CfAA. Ultimately arrangements will be made for the archive to be deposited with Stockport Museum. The archive will consist of artefacts, record sheets, original drawings, drawn plans, photographs, notes, copies of the final report along with an index to the archive. A copy of the archive list will be sent to the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit.



7. Proposed Personnel

Senior Archaeologist – Brian Grimsditch BA (Hons.), MA.

Is responsible for the management of the fieldwork undertaken by CfAA alongside geophysical surveys, archaeological building surveys, report production and archaeological illustration to publication standard.

Ten years experience in the excavation and management of multi-period sites in urban and rural settings throughout the country, including Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval sites in Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Cheshire and Derbyshire.

Particularly responsible for community archaeology projects and has conducted community excavations on many sites in the Greater Manchester area including Newton Hall in Hyde and Buckton Castle in Stalybridge.

Other professional archaeologist will be utilised dependant on their availability and their details supplied prior to commencement of the excavation.



8. *Timetable*

CfAA propose that the Archaeological work can be conducted 10th to 13th September 2010.

CfAA will be in a position to undertake the excavation following written notification of the agreed contract no less than five days prior to the commencement of onsite archaeological works.

The letter of confirmation of the contract will clearly state the cost plus VAT, contingency figure and invoicing details for the programme of works.

Within 8 weeks of completion of the fieldwork, subject to the requirements for specialist reports, a full report will be produced and will be submitted to the client and the County Archaeologist.



9. *Terms and Conditions*

The Centre for Applied Archaeology acts in accordance with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' Code of Conduct and observes the British Archaeologists and Developers Group Code of Practice.

CfAA is comprehensively insured for all field survey, investigations and excavations through The University of Salford by U.M Assurance Ltd. is at all times subject to the policy terms, exceptions and conditions.

Professional Indemnity Insurance of ten million pounds is provided for CfAA through The University of Salford by the QBE Insurance (Europe) Ltd.

CfAA follows the University of Salford's policy statement on Health and Safety and Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers (FAME) guidelines on Health and Safety in Field Archaeology.