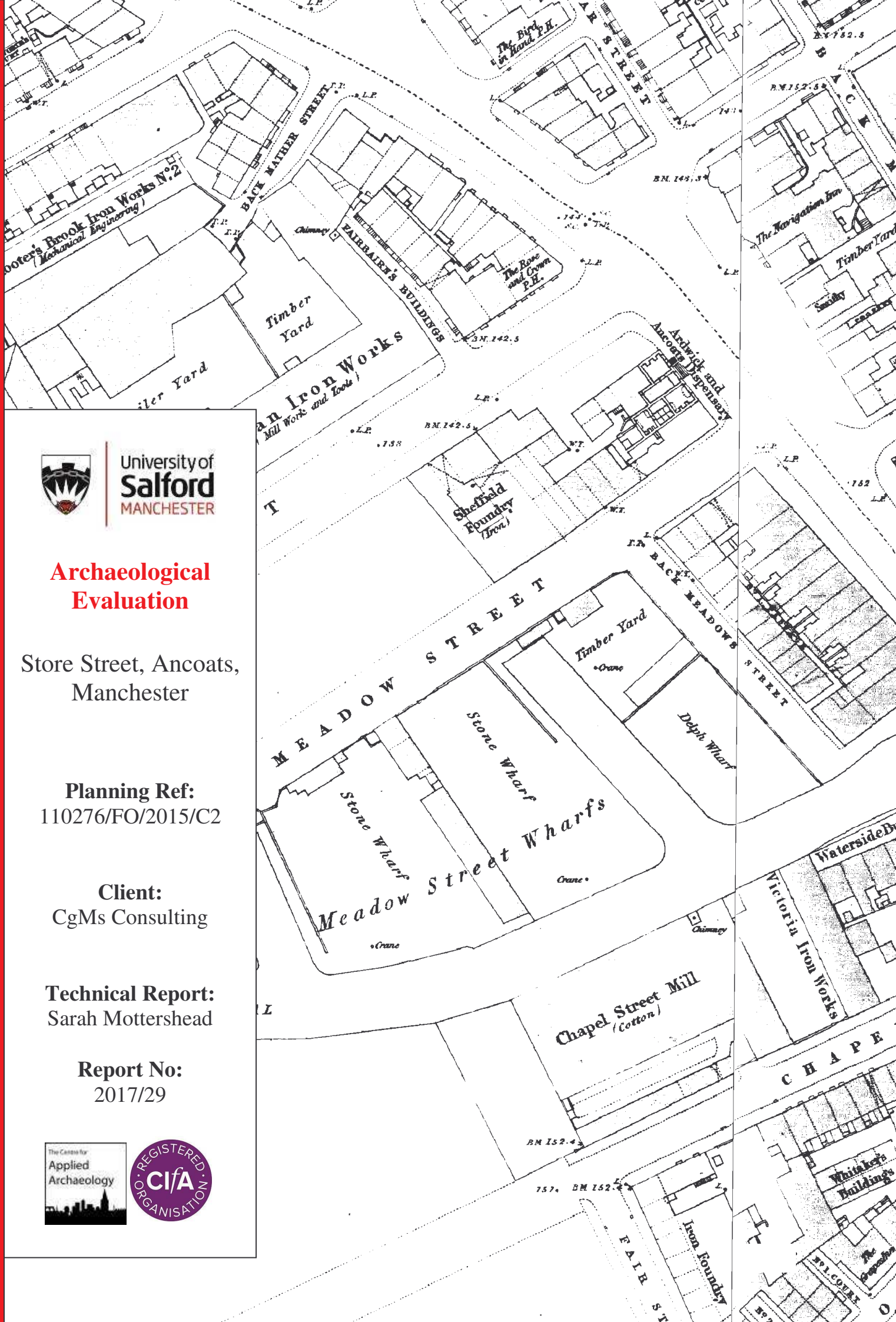


University of Salford MANCHESTER

Archaeological Evaluation

Store Street, Ancoats, Manchester

Planning Ref:
110276/FO/2015/C2

Client:
CgMs Consulting

Technical Report:
Sarah Mottershead

Report No:
2017/29

The Centre for Applied Archaeology

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

Site Location:	The study area lies between Store Street and Millbank Street in the Ancoats area of Manchester
NGR:	Centred on NGR 385150 398175
Project:	Store Street, Ancoats, Manchester
Planning Ref:	110276/FO/2015/C2
Internal Ref:	SA/2017/29
Prepared for:	CgMs Consulting
Document Type:	Evaluation Report
Version:	Version 1.0
Author:	Sarah Mottershead
Position:	Archaeologist
Date:	March 2017
Approved by:	Ian Miller Signed:
Position:	Assistant Director of Archaeology
Date:	March 2017

Contact: Salford Archaeology, Centre for Applied Archaeology, LG 19 – 25 Peel Building, University of Salford, the Crescent, Salford, M5 4WU.

Telephone: 0161 295 4467
Email: i.f.miller@salford.ac.uk

Contents

Summary

In March 2017, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological evaluation of land between Store Street and Millbank Street in the Ancoats area of Manchester (centred on NGR 385150 398175). The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation produced by CgMs Consulting in June 2016, and was required to fulfil a condition (Condition 12) placed on planning consent for the redevelopment of the site (Planning Ref: 110276/FO/2015/C2).

The archaeological interest in the site was highlighted in a desk-based assessment that was produced by WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff in 2015. This concluded that there was potential for archaeological remains relating to the early 19th-century Ardwick and Ancoats Dispensary and a mid-19th-century iron foundry and copper works to survive *in-situ*.

The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of two 30m long trenches, which were targeted on the footprint of the former iron foundry and copper works in the central part of the site (Trench 1) and the Ardwick and Ancoats Dispensary to the north-east (Trench 2). The only archaeological features observed in the excavated trenches, however, comprised a short section of a 20th-century wall in Trench 1, and a wood-lined circular feature with an associated brick surface in Trench 2. Both of these features were truncated and fragmentary, and were overlain by a homogenous mixed demolition rubble levelling layer, which appeared to have been deposited very recently.

Based on the results obtained from the evaluation trenches, it is concluded that no further investigation is merited in advance of the construction works for the proposed development.

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

In March 2017, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting to carry out an archaeological evaluation of land between Store Street and Millbank Street in the Ancoats area of Manchester city centre. The archaeological work was required to satisfy a condition attached to planning consent for the redevelopment of the site (Planning Ref: 110276/FO/2015/C2). Condition 12 stated that:

'No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. The works are to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by Manchester City Council. The WSI shall cover the following:

1. A phased programme and methodology of investigation and recording to include:
   - archaeological evaluation trenching
   - dependent on the above, targeted excavation and recording
2. A programme for post investigation assessment to include:
   - analysis of the site investigation records and finds
   - production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented.
3. Dissemination of the results commensurate with their significance.
4. Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation.
5. Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.

Reason: In accordance with NPPF Section 12, Paragraph 141 - To record and advance understanding of heritage assets impacted on by the development and to make information about the archaeological heritage interest publicly accessible. GMAAS will continue to monitor the implementation of the archaeological programme set out in the agreed WSI on behalf of Manchester Planning Authority'

The required WSI was devised by CgMs Consulting in June 2016 and, in the first instance, allowed for the excavation of two evaluation trenches, each measuring 30m in length. The location of these trenches was informed by the results obtained from an archaeological desk-based assessment, produced by WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff in 2015, which concluded that there was potential for archaeological remains relating to the early 19th-century Ardwick and Ancoats Dispensary and a mid-19th-century iron foundry and copper works to survive *in-situ*. The evaluation was required to establish whether any such remains survived *in-situ* to enable an appropriate strategy for the future treatment of the remains to be devised.

1.2 The Setting

The study area comprises a parcel of land at the south-east side of Store Street, in the Ancoats area of Manchester (centred on NGR 385150 398175). It is bounded at the north-west by Store Street, at the north-east by Great Ancoats Street and at the south-east and south-west by Millbank Street (Figure 1).

The site slopes downward gradually from north-east to south-west from a height of *c* 44.5m above Ordnance Datum at the north-eastern end to *c* 42m at the south-western end. The area is surrounded by steel fencing, and has an entrance close to the centre of its north-west side, from Store Street. At the time of evaluation all buildings had been demolished and associated concrete surfaces removed. The ground comprised mixed levelled demolition rubble with hardcore infill at the north-eastern end of the site.

Plate 1: Recent aerial view across the Store Street area, highlighting the development site

The solid geology of the area comprises sandstones from the Sherwood Sandstone Group of the Triassic period. The overlying drift geology incorporates glacial till (www.bgs.ac.uk).

2. Historical Background

2.1 Introduction

A desk based assessment was carried by WSP|Parsons Brinckerhoff during 2015. The following historical background is summarised from that document.

2.2 Historical Background

Historical research has indicated that the proposed development area lay on the fringe of Manchester and comprised undeveloped agricultural land until the early 19th century; there is no evidence to suggest any human activity within the study area until the early 1800s.

The Ardwick and Ancoats Dispensary was built on the south-western side of Great Ancoats Street in 1828, representing the first development within the present study area. The Dispensary was a medical charity established by local wealthy mill owners to supply medical appropriation to the local working population. The principal objective of dispensaries during this period was to advise and treat poor people at their homes or as outpatients, relieving some of the burden on hospital facilities and minimising the possibility of epidemics that could arise if people with infectious diseases were admitted to hospitals as inpatients.

By the mid-19th century, an iron foundry and copper works had been built to south-west of the Dispensary, and is identified as the Sheffield Foundry (Iron) on Ordnance Survey mapping published in 1850. This concern seemingly met with commercial success, and was expanded during the second half of the 19th century, occupying the entire north-eastern part of the study area and subsuming the site of the Dispensary, which had been relocated to Mill Street in Ancoats in 1869.

The foundry buildings appear to have survived extant until the mid- to late 20th century, when they were cleared and the site redeveloped. The site was occupied subsequently by small pre-fabricated industrial units and a scrap metal yard.

3. Methodology

3.1 Excavation Methodology

Two evaluation trenches were excavated across the site, each measuring 30m long, and aligned north-east/south-west, as per the specification outlined in the approved Written Scheme of Investigation. The trenches were excavated using a wheeled excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket. Spoil was placed next to the excavated trenches and was then backfilled into those trenches on completion of the evaluation.

3.2 Recording Methodology

Separate contexts were recorded individually on Salford Archaeology *pro-forma* trench sheets. The trench was located and planned by total station theodolite using EDM tacheometry. Levels were established using an Ordnance Datum height taken from a spot height on Store Street.

Photography of all relevant phases and features were undertaken in digital format using a digital SLR camera. 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 Introduction

The evaluation consisted of the excavation of two trenches covering the areas of archaeological potential across the central and north-eastern parts of the study area (Figure 2). The natural ground observed in both trenches comprised compact light to mid-brown boulder clay.

4.2 Trench 1

Trench 1 was aligned north-east/south-west, and excavated across the central part of the study area (Figure 3). It measured 30 x by 1.6m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.78m. No features of archaeological interest were revealed in the trench, and no artefacts were recovered.

Natural light brown boulder clay ***08*** was observed at depths ranging from 0.1m in, at the south-western end of the trench, to 0.78m, at the centre of the trench. Cut into the clay across the south-western half of the trench were two linear drainage features (***03*** and ***04***). These were aligned broadly east-north-east/west-south-west and lay parallel to each other, set 1.6m apart, and were between 0.37m and 0.42m wide. Both features were filled with mixed clay and ash, which contained fragments of modern brick. Drainage feature ***03*** was cut by a later service trench (***02***), which was 0.3m wide, ran east/west and was filled with grey stone chippings. Drain ***04*** was cut by an east/west-aligned plastic pipe (***05***), which was 0.08m in diameter (Plate 2).

To the north-east of these drainage features was a 3m wide section of modern disturbance (***06***) that contained gravel, plaster, brick fragments and a metal pipe covered with asbestos lagging material. Due to the presence of asbestos, this area of recently disturbed material was not excavated to depth.

Situated to the north-east of the area of modern disturbance was a single short section of a wall (***07***), composed of machine-made bricks of 20th-century date. The wall was aligned north-east/south-west, was two stretcher courses wide, and survived to a length of 1.73m. It was cut into natural clay ***08***, and appeared to have been truncated at both ends (Plate 3).

The uppermost layer in the trench was a 0.1 to 0.78m thick deposit of mixed demolition rubble (***01***). This contained modern materials, suggesting that it had been deposited very recently.

Plate 2: General shot of Trench 1, looking north-east, showing drainage and service disturbance

*Plate 3: Truncated brick feature **07**, looking north-east*

4.3 Trench 2

Trench 2 was excavated across the north-eastern part of the study area, and was aligned north-east/south-west (Figure 4). It measured 30 x 1.7m, and was excavated to a maximum depth of 1.9m.

Natural boulder clay ***08*** was revealed along the entire length of the trench. At the north-east end this was at 1.6m below the current ground level. At 13.5m from the north-east end of the trench, the natural clay sloped downwards to a depth of 1.8m, appearing to have been reduced by *c* 0.2m. This reduction in ground level coincided with a yard area marked on the modern mapping at the rear (south-west) of the former Ash of Ancoats building. The clay continued to slope downwards to the south-west and at the south-west end of the trench was at 1.9m below ground level (Plate 4).

Plate 4: General shot of south-west end of Trench 2 showing depth of infill above natural clay, looking south-west

Cut into the natural clay at 6.3m from the south-west end of the trench was a 0.9m diameter circular feature ***11*** (Plate 5). This was lined with wood and contained a mixed clay and cinder fill with brick fragments, stone, wood and modern glass. At the north-eastern side of this were the heavily disturbed remains of what may possibly have been a brick surface (***12***), although this was too damaged to ascertain with confidence where it was an *in-situ* feature. The fragmentary nature of the structure meant that it was not possible to determine whether the bricks were hand or machine-made and what, if any, mortar had been used to bond them. No other structural elements associated with feature ***11*** were identified.

*Plate 5: Circular feature **11** and associated truncated brick surface **12**, looking north-east*

The south-west 17m of the trench was overlain by a homogenous mixed levelling layer ***09*** of clay, brick, stone, slate and modern refuse to a depth of between 1.75m and 1.9m. The north-eastern 13m of the trench, coinciding with the reduction of natural clay and the position of the former Ash of Ancoats building, was overlain with yellowish-brown hardcore (***10***), which appeared to have been compacted in layers (Plate 6). Both of these levelling layers were very unstable once excavated and continually collapsed.

Plate 6: Depth of compacted modern hardcore levelling above natural clay at the north-east end of Trench 2, looking south-west

5. Discussion

5.1 The Ardwick and Ancoats Dispensary

Although the north-eastern half of Trench 2 was positioned across the footprint of this building, no remains associated with the former Dispensary were uncovered during the evaluation (Figure 5). The nature of the hardcore levelling material overlying the natural clay within this part of Trench 2 strongly suggested that it had been remediated during the late 20th-century, with the resultant damage and destruction of any suriving archaeological remains.

5.2 The Iron Foundry and Copper Works

The south-western half of Trench 2 was positioned across this works as it is depicted on the Ordnance Survey mapping of 1851 (Figure 5). Trench 2 and the north-east part of Trench 1 were positioned across the works as shown on the mapping of 1891 (Figure 6). No substantial structural remains of the works were uncovered during the evaluation. The heavily truncated wood-lined circular feature and associated truncated brick surface may have been associated with the iron foundry, but were too fragmentary in nature to determine an exact date or function; the reasonably good condition of the component planks, however, suggest that the feature was of a 20th-century date. The absence of any associated features, moreover, implied that the working floor of the former foundry had been removed by subsequent redevelopment

5.3 Conclusion

No features or structural remains were uncovered that might merit further investigation. It appeared from the evaluation trenching that the site had been comprehensively remediated and only very sparse and fragmentary remains had survived.

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 Pete Owen of CgMs Consulting for commissioning the archaeological works and providing support and assistance throughout the project. Salford Archaeology would also like to thank Dr Andrew Myers for providing monitoring support and advice through GMAAS. Thanks are also expressed to E3P for providing a mechanical excavator and asbestos monitoring.

The on-site excavations were conducted by Graham Mottershead, assisted by Sarah Mottershead and Mandy Burns. This report was written, compiled and illustrated by Sarah Mottershead. The report was edited by Ian Miller, who was also responsible for project management.

Sources

Primary Sources

Map Sources

Ordnance Survey 1:1056 Town Plan, published 1851

Ordnance Survey 1:500 Town Plan, published 1891

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series 1st Revision, published 1908

Ordnance Survey 1:2500 County Series 2nd Revision, published 1933

Secondary Sources

CgMs Consulting, 2016 *Land at Store Street, Manchester Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation*

WPS Parsons Brinckerhoff, 2015 *Land at Store Street, Manchester: Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*

Appendix 1: Figures

Figure 1: Site location

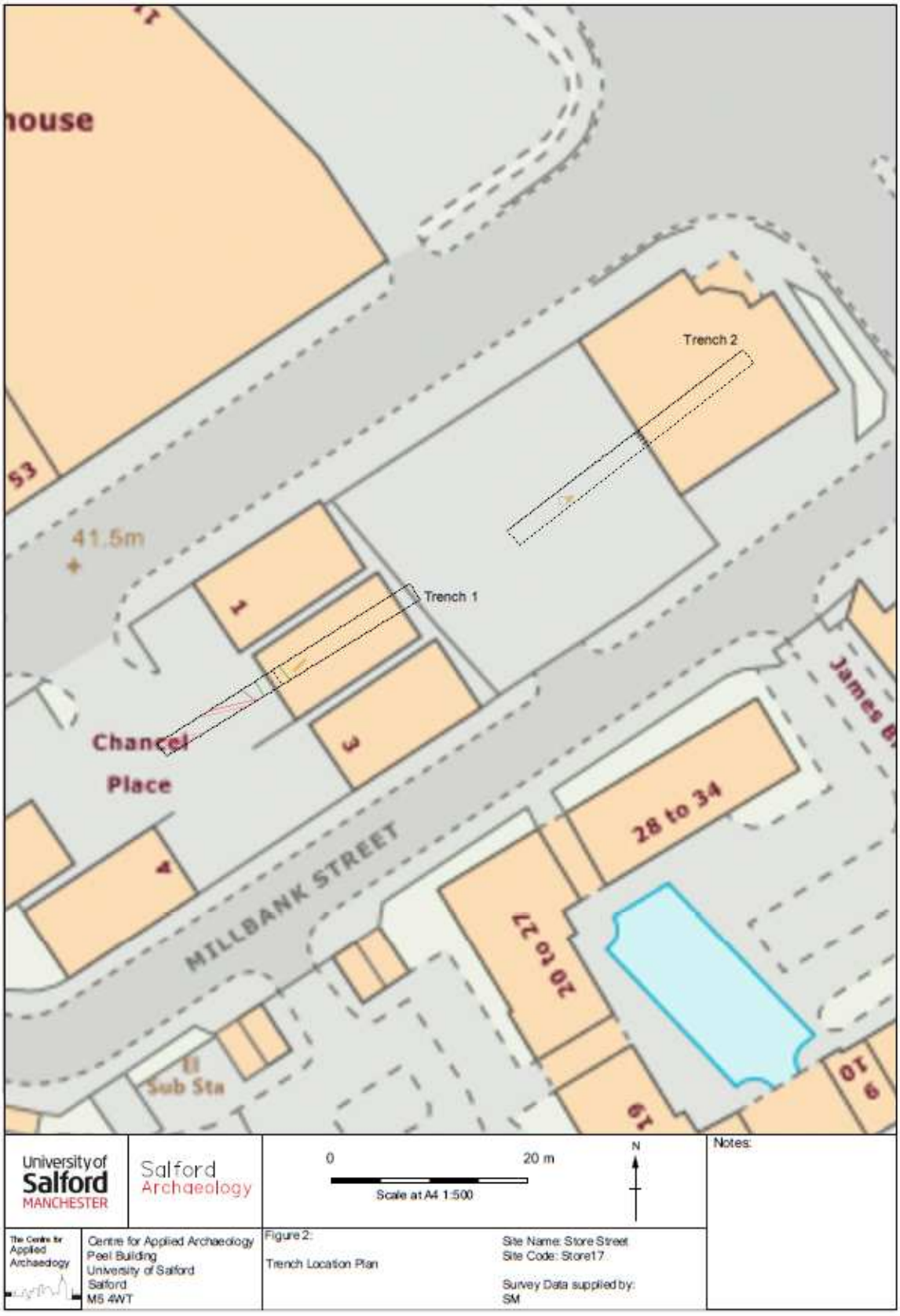


Figure 2: Trench location

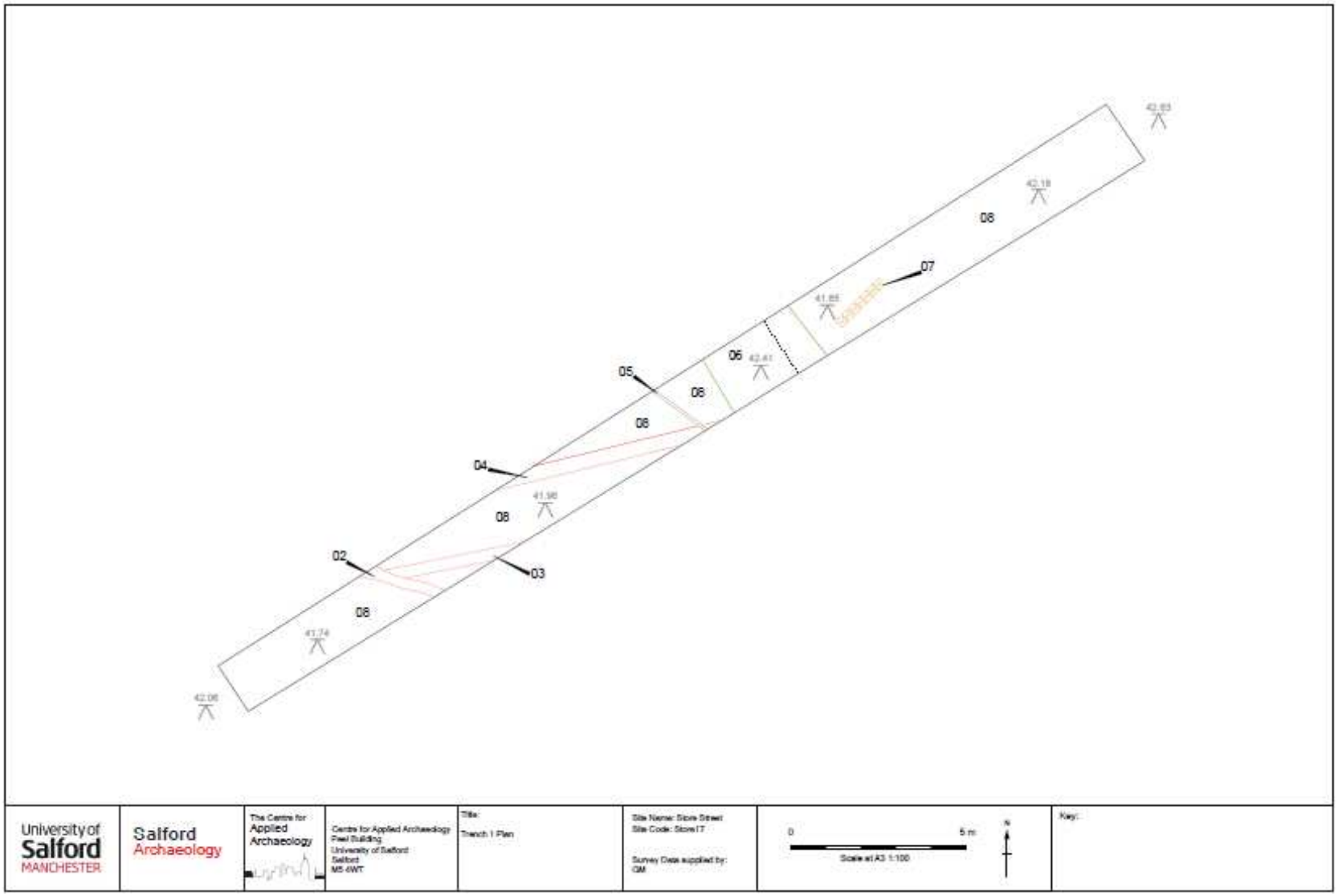


Figure 3: Plan of Trench 1

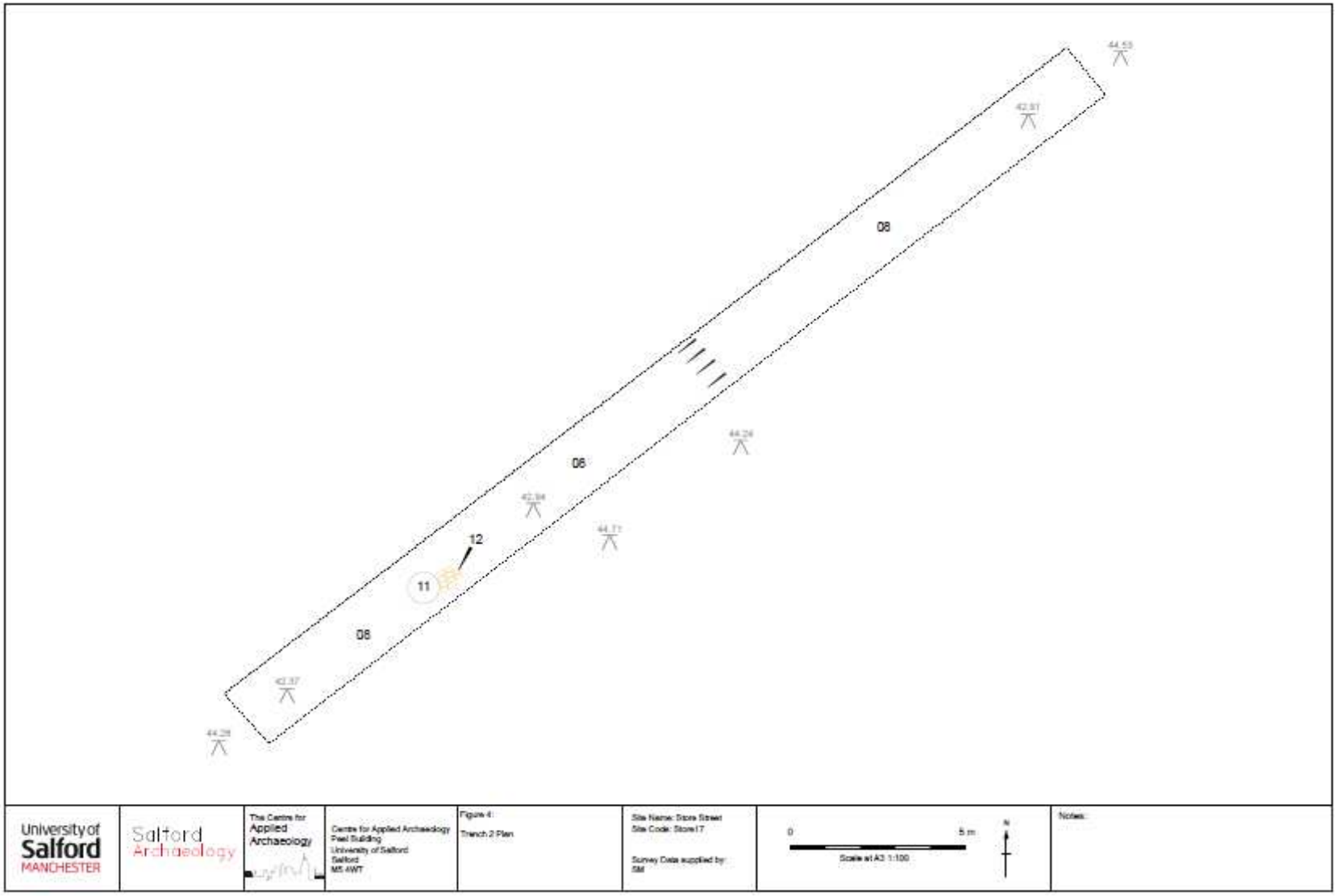


Figure 4: Plan of Trench 2

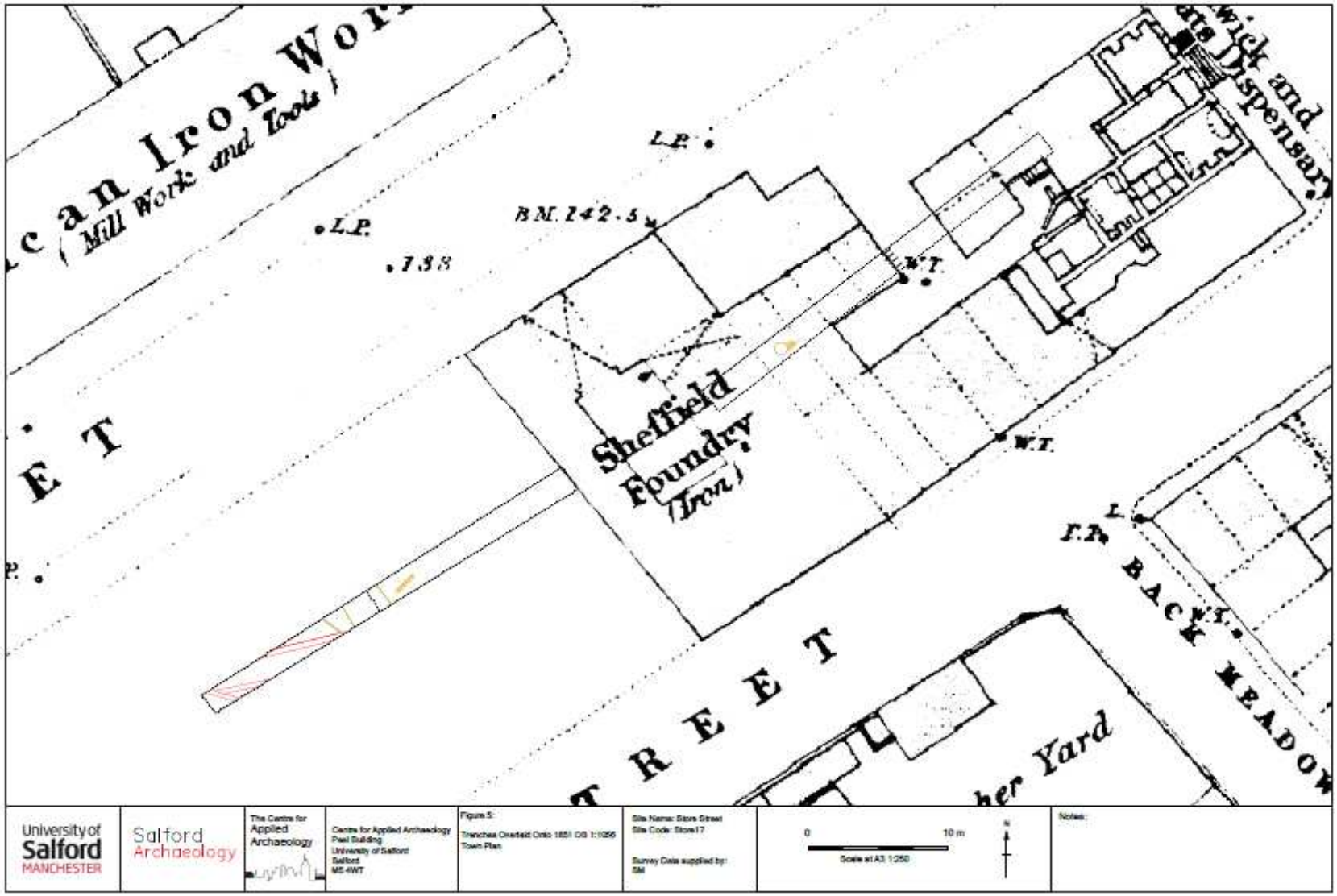


Figure 5: Trenches overlaid onto 1851 OS 1:1056 Town Plan

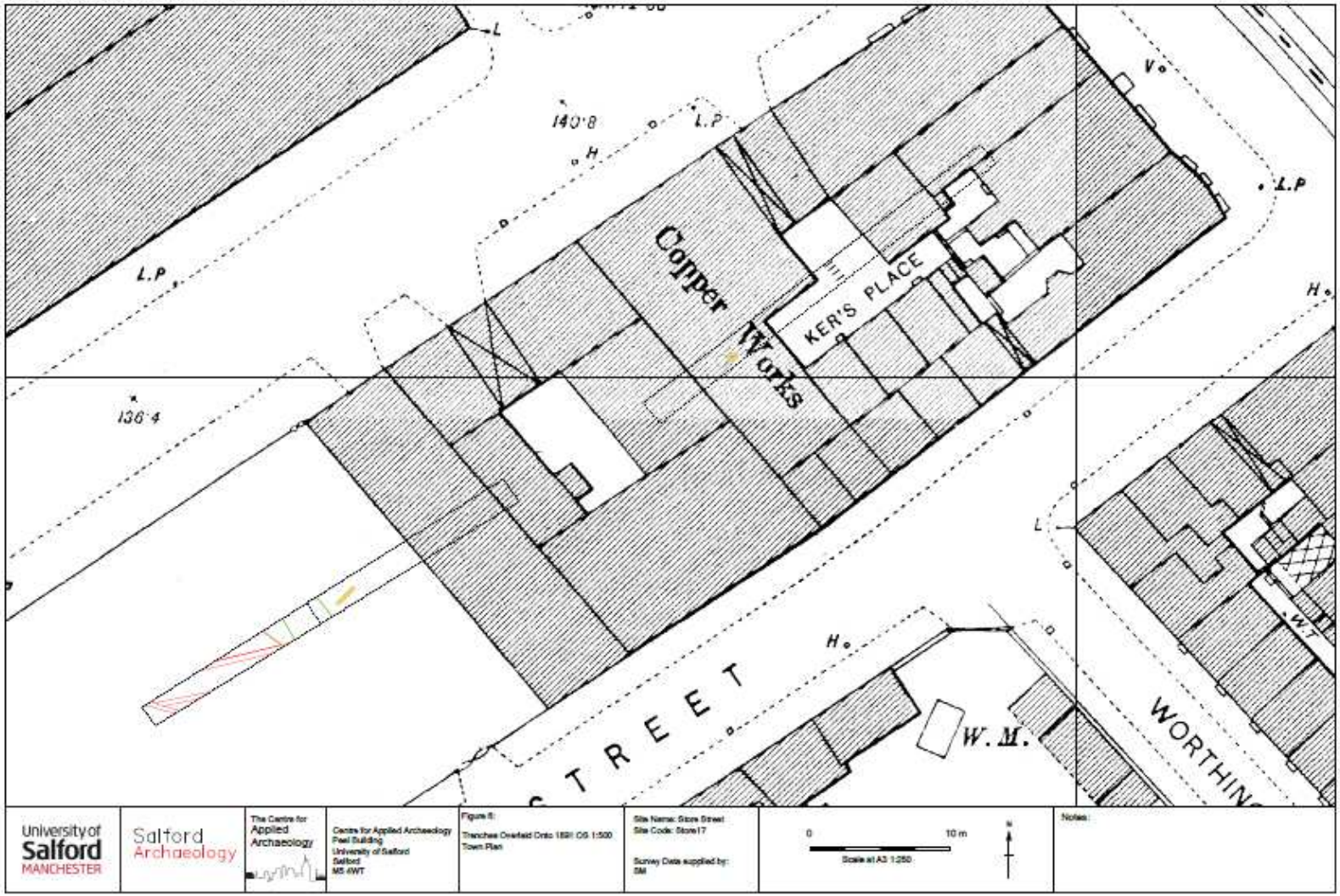


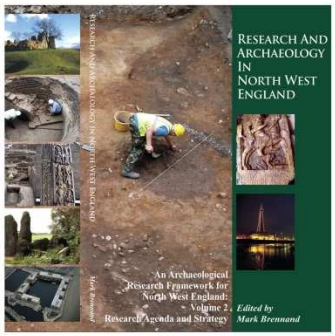
Figure 6: Trenches overlaid onto 1891 OS 1:500 Town Plan

University of Salford MANCHESTER

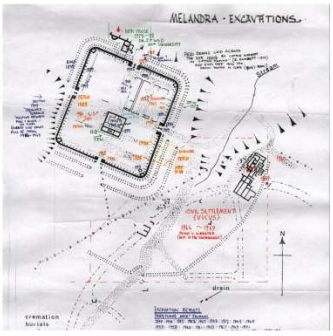
The Centre for Applied Archaeology

REGISTERED ORGANISATION IfA

CONSULTANCY



DESK BASED ASSESMENTS

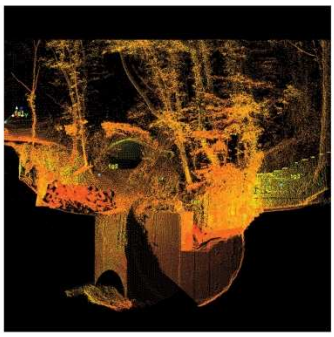


WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION

EXCAVATION

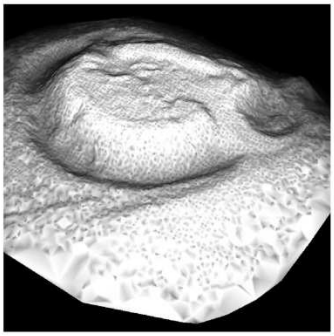
BUILDING SURVEY

3D LASER SCANNING



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

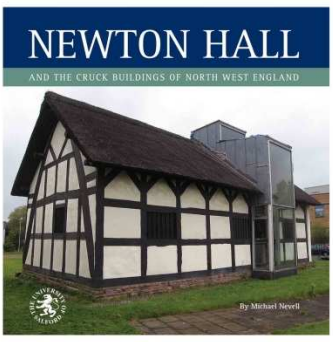
LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS

WORKSHOPS & VOCATIONAL TRAINING

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS



SEMINARS, DAYSCHOOLS CPD EVENTS

Centre for Applied Archaeology (C*f*AA), School of the Built Environment, University of Salford
Joule House, 1 Acton Square, The Cresent, Salford, M5 4NW
Telephone: 0161 295 3818 email: a.thompson@salford.ac.uk