



Paul Butler Associates

Planning, Development & Heritage Consultants

Cassel & Fletcher

42-46 Drake Street, Rochdale, OL16 1NU

Archaeological Desk Based Assessment

05 March 2024

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Professional Planning, Development & Heritage Advisors since 1992.

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1. Introduction

1.1 Paul Butler Associates were instructed by to carry out an archaeological desk-based assessment of the plot of land at 42 – 46 Drake Street, Rochdale. The survey was carried out by Steven Price BA (Hons.) MA, MPhil, PCIfA. The site was developed in the early 19th century with Drake Street constructed at this time. Numbers 42 – 46 were constructed at this time as shops. In the early 20th century 44 – 46 were rebuilt as Trafalgar buildings, and the former houses to Nelson Street were replaced by a Warehouse. The site has a high potential for remains related to the early 19th century shop at 42 Drake Street as well as the early 20th century Trafalgar buildings and Iveson's warehouse to Nelson Street.

1.2 This statement has been prepared in accordance with the policies and procedures of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). GMAAS was consulted regarding HER data and grey literature for the site. Touchstones Rochdale was closed for redevelopment at the time of the assessment.

1.3 This statement includes:

- A description of the application site's location;
- A summary of the application site's archaeological and historical background;
- A summary of the heritage planning policy guidance context, and;
- An assessment of the archaeological potential of the site

1.4 This statement is not intended to be a full or complete record of the site.

2. Aims and Objectives

- 2.1 The purpose of this desk-based assessment is to gain information from existing historical records, cartographic sources and site investigation to determine the nature of the potential archaeological resource within a specified area. An assessment can then be made of its value in context and recommendations made, to determine future strategy/mitigation and management of the resource. In the case of development/re-development, also to define the impact of any proposed development on recorded archaeological and historical resources on the periphery of the development area

3. Methodology

- 3.1 The historical and archaeological background to the area was studied via a variety of media. Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service was consulted for the grey literature and Historic Environment Data. This assessment considered all the archaeological information relevant to the study area and makes reference to any important sites in the vicinity.
- 3.2 The site was visited on 30 January 2024 to enable a visual inspection of the site and surrounding area to be carried out. The project was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of The Management of Archaeological Projects 2nd ed. 1991 and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists "Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment" (2020). This assessment should not be regarded as a full archaeological record.

4. Site Location and Setting

- 4.1 The site is located on the west side of Drake Street, with Nelson Street forming the southern boundary and an unnamed alleyway forms the western boundary, Number 40 Drake Street forms the northern boundary. The address is 42 – 46 Drake Street, Rochdale, Greater Manchester OL16 1NU and the NGR is SD 89814 13285.
- 4.2 The site lies within the Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area, following its extension in 2011. The Trafalgar Building at 42 – 46 Drake Street and the adjoining Iveson's warehouse on Nelson Street are mentioned in the Conservation Area Appraisal (2011), where it noted that at this time both buildings were facing problems of dereliction due to almost 20 years of vacancy. They were demolished by 2016.
- 4.3 The site contains no Historic Environment Records entries itself, but lies close to Rochdale Town Core (HER No. 5217.1.0) which mainly lay to the north of the river, but extended to the southern side the St Chad's Church. To the west of the site, at the corner of Nelson Street and Church Lane is the Institute for the Deaf (HER No. 16549.1.0). This was built in 1907 by Butterworth and Duncan of Rochdale. To the east of the site, at the junction of Water and River Streets, is the site of Water Street Mill (HER No. 15500.1.0), shown on a plan from 1824. A total of 78 further HER entries lie within 300m of the site, with 57 of those lying to the northside of the river. The vast majority of the entries date to the 19th century.
- 4.4 An archaeological watching brief was carried out on the nearby River Street Car Park in 2007, This revealed the remains of a water channel and a demolished building, as well as evidence of extensive releveling of the site (Faber Maunsell 2007).

5. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 5.1 Mesolithic and Neolithic activity has been documented around Rochdale, chiefly on the higher ground. From the Mesolithic period the most notable discovery was of a workshop on Blackstone Edge. (Marshall n.d., 6-7). Worked flints have been found in the Littleborough area and 'Fishwick' records another twenty-five sites around Rochdale where Neolithic flints have been found in quantity. Recently two collapsed stone circles have been discovered on the moors above Rochdale on Hamer Hill. Both are made of local stone and probably date from the Bronze Age. In 1832, a bronze torque was found by workmen in Calderbrook and believed to date from the late Iron Age (Fishwick, p5). Further Bronze and Iron age evidence exists in the form of several axe heads found around Rochdale, as well as burial mounds, including Hades Hill barrow, excavated in 1895 (Marshall n.d., 8).
- 5.2 A possible Roman road runs over Blackstone Edge, although its purpose and origins are unclear, and a known Roman road that connected Manchester to Aldborough is known to run to the east of Rochdale. In 1804, an iron box was unearthed at Underwood containing a number of bronze coins of the later empire. The arm of a silver statue of Victory, along with numerous other coins of the Roman period have also been found in the area (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, p187-201).
- 5.3 During the Saxon period Rochdale was frequently invaded by the Danes. Initially penetrating the area and settling, as some local place-names confirm. Athelstan became the first true King of England when he gained victory over the Vikings at the Battle of Brunanburh in 937, and his kingdom for the first time included the Danelaw and effectively ended Danish control of the area. A castle, from which nearby Castleton has its name, but of which there are no traces, was one of the twelve Saxon forts probably destroyed in the frequent conflicts that occurred between the Saxons and Danes in the 10th and 11th centuries (Hradill, 2007).
- 5.4 Initially after the Norman Conquest, the parish of Rochdale appears to have been a single Lordship. The church of Rach (Rochdale) is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 and the area is recorded as the Manor of Recedham. Prior to the Norman invasion of 1066 the lands around the area of Rochdale were held by a Saxon Thane named Gamel, one of the

twenty one Thegns of the Salford Hundred, who was free from all customs except six; his holding was originally accessed as two hides or twelve ploughlands (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 187-201). At the time of the Domesday Book entry, the lands in the area of Rochdale were held by Roger De Poitou, who later fell out of favour with the crown and was stripped of his property. By 1178, John De Lacy Constable of Chester held the manor of Rochdale and divided lands in the area amongst his retainers. De Lacy also founded the Cistercian abbey of Stanlaw and endowed it with some local land. More gifts of land followed when the abbey was subsequently moved to Whalley in 1295 where it prospered for the next 250 years. By 1251, Rochdale had received a Royal Charter and grew into the centre of the woollen trade in the North of England (Farrer & Brownbill 1911).

- 5.5 In 1311 the last male heir of the De Lacy family died, and the manor of Rochdale passed to the Dukes of Lancaster and eventually reverted to the crown. In 1625 Charles I sold the manor to trustees for the Earl of Holderness, who immediately sold it to Sir Robert Heath, the Attorney General. He first mortgaged the manor then subsequently sold it to Sir John Byron in 1638. The manor remained in the Byron family until the poet Lord Byron sold it to James Dearden in 1823 (Farrer & Brownbill 1911).
- 5.6 Great changes occurred during the 16th century with the confiscation of Whalley lands during the reformation producing new landlords. According to an act of 1565, Rochdale was one of the towns in which the aulnager was to have a resident deputy. Manufacturing and mining industries growing in importance as the Lower Coal Measures extended over the southern and central portions of the parish, with some patches of the Middle Coal Measures around the town of Rochdale. Camden in 1582 described it as a 'market town well frequented'. Some idea of the importance of the parish can be ascertained from the hearth-tax returns of 1666, which record a total of 1,267 hearths, with the largest house having 10. At the time of the Civil War Lord Byron declared for the King, joining him at York and taking part in the battle of Edgehill. He was later created Baron Rochdale for his services to the King but after Charles' defeat he was subsequently declared a rebel and died in exile in 1652, his land confiscated to the Commonwealth (Fishwick 1889, 27). The vast majority of the people in Rochdale sided with Parliament and some early Royalists, belonging to the local gentry, appear to have reached peaceful agreement with the Parliamentarians early

in the conflict. The protestation of 1641-2 was signed by almost 2100 inhabitants 'none refusing' (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 187-201). The manor was then leased to Sir Thomas Alcock of Middlesex and was managed by several stewards until the Byron family regained the manor after the Restoration.

- 5.7 Around 1724 Daniel Defoe described Rochdale as 'a good market town, and of late much improved in the woollen manufacture, as are also the villages in the neighbourhood' (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 187-201). During the 18th century the town grew, with bigger roads needed. Church Lane became too narrow and Drake Street, named after the then Vicar was constructed around 1810 to bypass it in the early 19th century. This road was a significant achievement for the period and allowed rapid development south of the river (Morris et al 2011).
- 5.8 Greenwoods map of 1818 shows Rochdale at this time, with Drake Street present, although it is unclear if any of the buildings shown were on the site at this time. The same situation was also shown on Hennet and Bingley's map of Lancashire from 1828. The site is first clearly shown on the Rochdale Town Plan of 1851. Here, three buildings are shown fronting Drake Street (42 – 46), with the corner building to Nelson Street being Trafalgar House. Four small houses also lie to the west, on Nelson Street. A passageway between two of the houses leads to a rear yard. Three further houses lie to the west side of the site, on the alleyway.
- 5.9 In 1854 number 42 Drake Street mentioned in the Manchester Times (28/10/1854) in an advert for "Self-Ventilating Waterproof Overalls" where Mr. Gledhill was mentioned as an appointed agent selling them at 42 Drake Street. By 1860 however, it appears that Henry Metcalfe, boot maker was operating from number 42 (Rochdale Observer 08/12/1860) and the following month "London and French paper Hangings, China, Glass and Earthenware Establishment" was listed as 42 Drake Street (Rochdale Observer 05/01/1861).
- 5.10 James Shaw, Wholesale and Retail Brush manufacturer is recorded at number 44 Drake Street in 1862 (Rochdale Observer 25/01/1862) and in 1864 John Taylor was listed at number 42 as an auctioneer. Both remained there throughout the 1860's and in 1869 number 42 was also noted as "Mrs Taylors Registry office" (Rochdale Observer 23/01/1869). The following

year an advert was placed for two rooms to let at 46 Drake Street, unfurnished. (Rochdale Observer 16/04/1870).

- 5.11 By 1877 number 42 was home of the Rochdale Public Coffee House Co. Ltd (Rochdale Observer 28/07/1877), with rooms above being let for committee or club meetings. It is described as “A large room ... that will accommodate upwards of 100, fit up with tables and very convenience for tea meetings or suppers” (Rochdale Times 20/04/1878). Over this period James Shaw continued his Brush Making Business, becoming Shaw and Bentley. However, this company was dissolved in 1889, still at 44 (Rochdale Times 20/07/1889). The same year, number 46 is noted as being Mrs. Iveson’s, where ladies dresscutting classes were taught. An identical advert was placed the previous year (Rochdale Observer 15/09/1888), although here Mrs Iveson was recorded at number 49.
- 5.12 The 1892 Rochdale town plan shows the site much the same as previous. Number 46 had extended to encompass the house to the west of it on Nelson Street, and the three houses shown on Nelson Street are shown as a single building. In 1900 Boots Chemist opened a shop at number 42 (Manchester Courier 25/06/1900) and the following year Trafalgar house at 44 – 46 was remodelled (Morris et al 2011). Trafalgar House is named as such in an Advert for the Iveson Brothers Carpet and Cork Lino Specialists at 46 Drake Street in 1902 (Rochdale Observer 17/12/1902).
- 5.13 The Rochdale Observer (03/01/1903) advertised the “Independent Labour Party. Trafalgar Buildings, 46 Drake-Street (Entrance Nelson-Street. D. B. Foster of Leeds will Address the Meetings”. The 1910 OS map shows the remodelled 44 – 46, with both combined into a single building. The rest of the site remained unchanged however. Boots continued to operate at number 42 Drake Street through the early part of the 20th century (Rochdale Observer 05/01/1910; 03/12/1927), with Iveson’s continuing at 44 – 46 (Rochdale Observer 10/07/1920; 14/09/1927). Over the 1920’s the houses to the west side of Nelson Street were demolished, and a large warehouse built for Iveson’s comprising the whole of the houses and former rear yard, as shown on the 1930 OS map.
- 5.14 Number 42 is mentioned as a Recruiting Centre in 1942 (Rochdale Observer 21/01/1942), but Iveson’s continued at the Trafalgar Building until the late 20th century (Rochdale Observer

28/02/1979). The buildings were still standing in 2009 (google street view) but were demolished by 2016.

Site Visit

- 5.15 The site was visited on the 30th of January 2024 when it was visually assessed and photographs taken. The site is currently open ground and overgrown.

6. Assessment of Archaeological Potential

Prehistoric

- 6.1 The surrounding area indicates a background level of prehistoric activity for the area, which has yet to have any defined foci. The potential for the site to contain any archaeology from the period is low.

Roman

- 6.2 The site lies outside the known area of Roman occupation. The potential for the site itself to contain Roman archaeology is low.

Medieval

- 6.3 The surrounding area was occupied during this period, although the main focus of Rochdale was located to the north side of the river. There is a low potential for archaeology from the period.

Post Medieval

- 6.4 The surrounding land began to become developed in during this period, with the settlement spreading to the south side of the river. However, due to later site development there is a low potential for artefacts from the period.

Industrial

- 6.5 Drake Street was constructed in the early 19th century with shops being built along it soon afterwards. Number 42 appears to have remained in situ until the 21st century, appearing relatively unchanged on the OS mapping through the 19th and 20th centuries. 44 & 46 Drake Street were also built at the same time, although these were replaced by the Trafalgar building in 1901. The buildings to Nelson Street and the alleyway to the west were also

replaced in the 1920's, by Iveson's warehouse. There is a high potential for archaeology relating to these buildings.

Site	Significance of Setting	Significance	Potential
Prehistoric remains	<i>Regional</i> The surrounding area indicated a background level of occupation	<i>Regional.</i> Artefacts found from the period will add to the body of information about the occupation of the region	<i>Low</i> It is unlikely that any artefacts from the period to be recovered on the site.
Roman remains	<i>Local.</i> The surrounding area has revealed Roman occupation of Manchester, although little evidence for Rochdale	<i>Local.</i> Artefacts found from the period will add to the body of information already present about Roman Manchester	<i>Low</i> It is unlikely that any artefacts from the period to be recovered on the site.
Medieval	<i>Regional.</i> The surrounding area is known to have been occupied during the period, but little archaeological evidence has been found.	<i>Regional.</i> Material culture for this period in Greater Manchester has lagged behind other areas. Artefacts found from this period will add to the small but growing body of evidence for forms and types produced and manufactured in Manchester.	<i>Low</i> There is a low potential for archaeology from the period
Post-medieval	<i>Local.</i> The area was agricultural throughout this period although development to the south side of the river began during this period.	<i>Local.</i> Artefacts found from this period will add to the small but growing body of evidence for forms and types produced and manufactured in Manchester.	<i>Low.</i> There is a low potential for archaeology from the period development due to later development

Industrial	<i>Local</i> The area grew rapidly at the start of the 19th century, with Drake Street and associated building constructed around 1810.	<i>Local</i> Evidence found will add to the growing body of archaeological information for this period.	<i>High</i> The building at number 42 Drake Street was erected in the early 19th century and appeared to have been relatively unchanged throughout its life, until it was demolished in the 21st century. At 42 – 46 Trafalgar building was constructed in 1901 which likely removed most of the previous buildings in this location. The Iveson warehouse to Nelson Street also likely also removed any trace of the previous housing.

7. Conclusions and Mitigation Recommendations

- 7.1 The site was developed during the early 19th century, with shops to Drake Street and houses to Nelson Street and the alleyway to the west. Due to the later Trafalgar Building and the Iveson Warehouse, the earlier buildings will likely have been destroyed to the south side of the plot. No survey of the buildings was undertaken prior to their demolition and no other archaeological work has been undertaken on the site. Excavations in the surrounding area have shown archaeology to be present, and given the recent demolition date of the buildings there is a high potential for archaeology of these to be present. As such some archaeological mitigation may be deemed necessary, either through trial trenching to establish the depth and condition of the remains or a watching brief during groundworks.

8. Copyright

- 8.1 Full copyright of this commissioned report and other project documents shall be retained by the author of the report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 Insert

9. Bibliography

DCMS – Department for Culture, Media and Sport

HER – Historic Environment Record

NPPF – National Planning Policy Framework

OS – Ordnance Survey

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<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk>

Appendix 1: Mapping

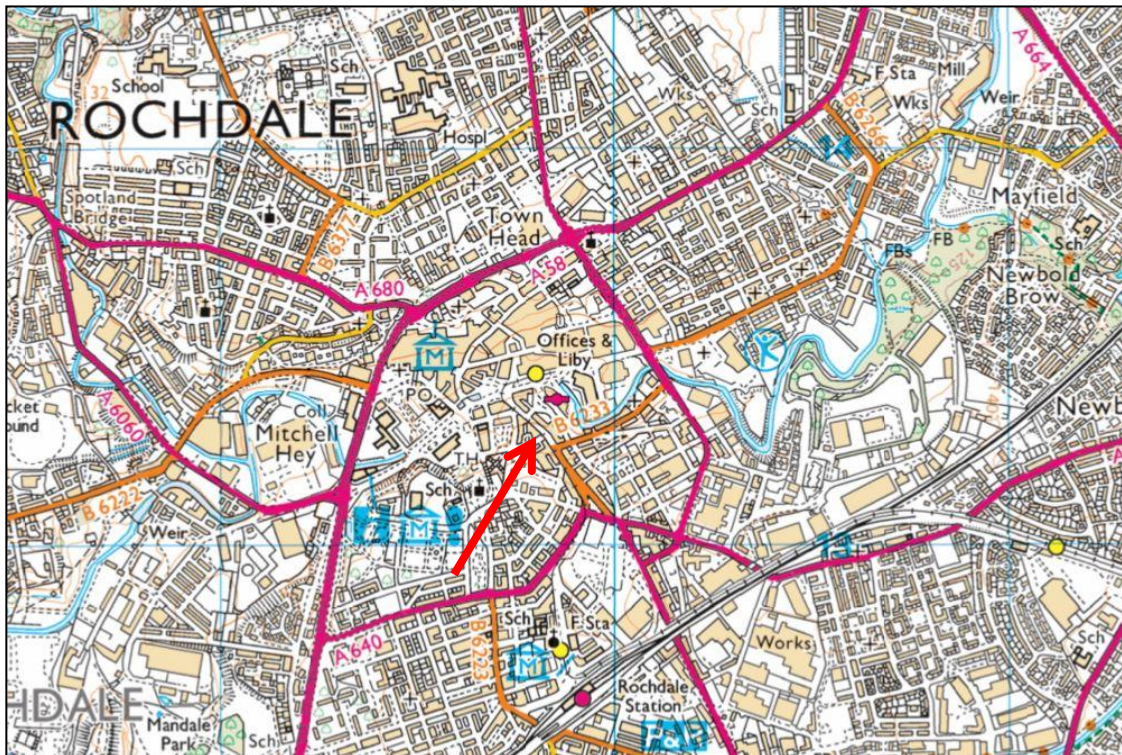


Figure 1: Location Plan



Figure 2: Site plan



Figure 3: 1818 Greenwoods map of Lancashire showing approximate site location



Figure 4: 1828 Hennet and Bingley's map of Lancashire showing approximate site location



Figure 5: 1851 Rochdale Town Plan Sheet 8



Figure 6: 1892 Rochdale Town Plan Lancs Sheet LXXXIX.1.16



Figure 7: 1910 OS M ap Lancs Sheet LXXXIX.1.16



Figure 8: 1930 OS Map Lancs Sheet LXXXIX.1.16

Appendix 2: Plates



Figure 9: Trafalgar Buildings at the corner of Drake Street and Nelson Street c. 2008 (Google Street View)

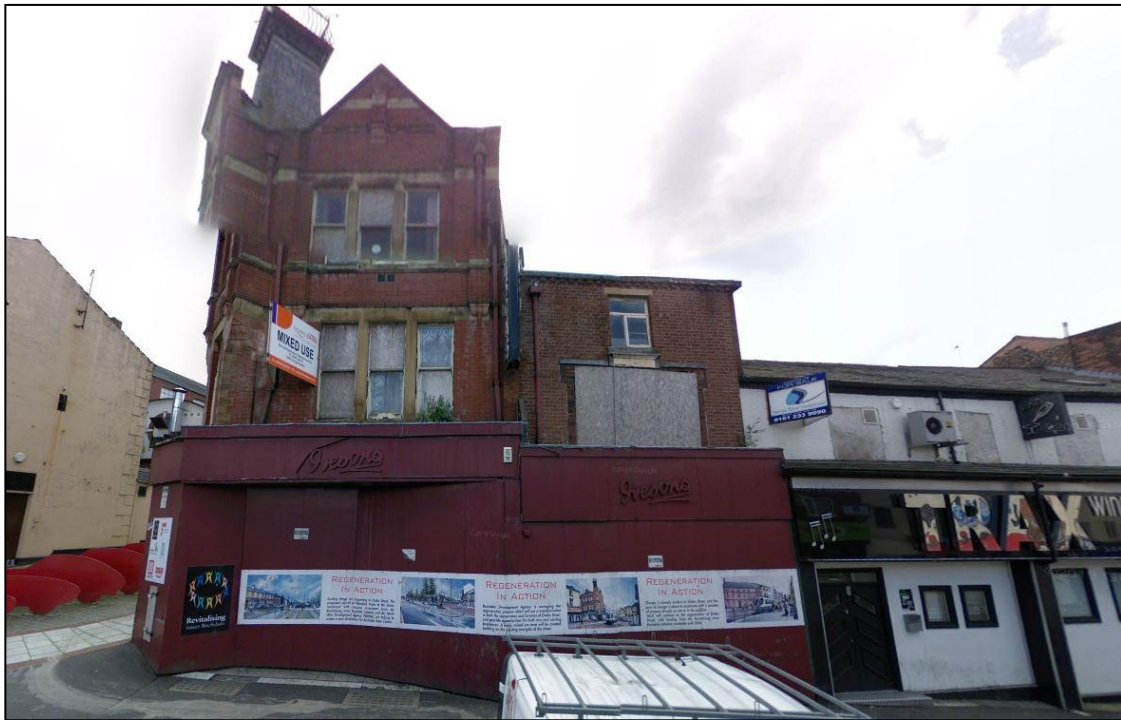


Figure 10: 42 – 46 Drake Street c. 2008 (Google Street View)

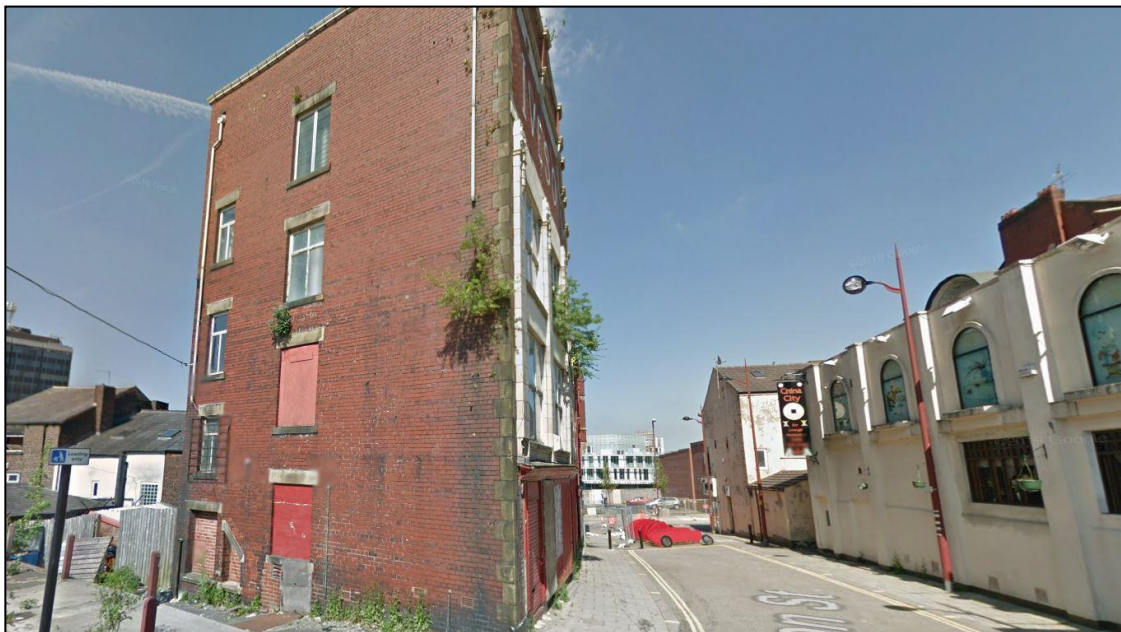


Figure 11: Warehouse to Nelson Street c. 2008 (Google Street View)



Plate 1: Site as seen from corner of Nelson Street and alley to the west



Plate 2: Overgrown site from the west



Plate 3: Site from the corner of Dake Street and Nelson Street



Plate 4: General shot across site



Plate 5: General shot across site towards Drake Street