

SARTEX QUILTS & TEXTILES,
NORWICH MILL, NORWICH
STREET, ROCHDALE, OL11 1LF

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION: JUNE
2022

19/00041/FUL AND 19/00042/LBC ROCHDALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR : A programme of archaeological work related to proposed work at the former Sartex Quilts & Textiles, Norwich Mill, Norwich Street, Rochdale, OL11 1LF

SD 90224 12322

1. Summary

1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation details the phased programme and methodology of the archaeological work required to meet Condition 8 of a planning application (APPLICATION REFERENCE: 19/00041/FUL) and Condition 11 of a Listed Building Consent (11 (APPLICATION REFERENCE: 19/00042/LBC) issued by **Rochdale Borough Council** for proposed work at the above site.

1.2 The proposal includes the ‘Partial demolition of fire damaged building and full demolition of adjacent industrial unit’ therefore, in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) policy 16, paragraph 205, a programme of archaeological work is required: To record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible. This programme of work has been recommended by Rochdale Borough Council and the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS).

1.3 This specification has been prepared by the Chris Mace MA, Buildings Archaeologist t/ as Atelier 1882.

2. Architectural / Historical Interest

2.1 The former Sartex Quilts & Textiles building was built as a weaving shed with associated power source and ancillary buildings as an addition to the Norwich Street Mills of John Pilling and Sons around 1875.

2.2 John Pilling was a member of a cotton manufacturing family in Rochdale. After various initiatives with his father and brothers he went into business on his own account. The main complex of Norwich Street Mills was built as an integrated cotton mill, including spinning and weaving, alongside the Rochdale Canal in 1866-7. By 1872 the mill housed both throstle and mule spinning machinery, of 15,660 and 15,560 spindles, respectively. A weaving shed had the capacity for 674 looms. In a period of considerable boom for the local cotton industry finance was raised to allow the addition of further weaving capacity with the new shed expanding the site further to the north on the branch of the canal leading towards the Drake Street canal basin near Rochdale town centre.

2.3 The Norwich Street Mills is recognised as an important example of a canal side integrated mill and is designated at Grade II (List Entry Number: 1268012) first listed on the 4th of November 1996.

2.4 Ownership of the site is divided with Sartex Quilts and Textiles occupying the north weaving shed. Despite a major fire in 2011 which left the building partly derelict, it is still recognisable as an autonomous weaving shed built with its own power source, warehouse, and ancillary buildings.

3. Aims of the Project

3.1.1 The aim of the proposed work is to identify and objectively record any significant archaeological and architectural features and evidence for the original and subsequent historical form and functions of the former Sartex buildings, and to place this record in the public domain by depositing it with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record. This will be achieved through the implementation of a phased programme of archaeological work.

3.1.2 The programme will consist of the following phases.

1. A phased programme of archaeological building recording including
 - a) a historic building investigation (Historic England Level 3)
 - b) an intra demolition watching brief.
 - c) informed by the above, an archaeological watching brief during any ground-breaking works in the vicinity of the former engine and boiler houses.
2. A programme for post-investigation assessment to include:
 - a) analysis of the site investigation records and finds.
 - b) production of a final report on the significance of the heritage interest recorded.
3. Deposition of the final report with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.
4. Dissemination of the results of the site investigations commensurate with their significance.
5. Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds and records of the site investigation.

4. Methodological Statement

4.1 Historic Building Investigation

4.1.1 A Level 3 investigation is an analytical record and will comprise an introductory description followed by a systematic account of the building's origins, development, and use. The record will include an account of the evidence on which the analysis has been based, allowing the validity of the record to be re-examined in detail. It will also include all drawn and photographic records that may be required to illustrate the building's appearance and structure and to support an historical analysis. (Historic England 2016, 26).

4.1.2 Historical Research: a sufficient level of research will be carried out to place the results obtained from the building investigation in an appropriate historical context. This will include a review of relevant documentary evidence previously identified on the online catalogue of Lancashire Archives and consulted during a site visit. Historic mapping consulted on the National Library of Scotland's website and relevant copies were examined at Rochdale Local Studies as was other material such as Trade Directories. The British Newspaper Archive will be searched, and relevant material used within the report. Past surveys, in the form of published material, on the monument type in the region will be consulted.

4.1.3 A visual inspection of the buildings will be undertaken, and a description will be maintained to English Heritage (2016) Level 3 standard. The records will be essentially descriptive and provide a systematic account of the origin, development, and use of the building, which will include a description of the plan, form, fabric, function, age, and development sequence of the complex.

4.1.4 Photographic Archive: a photographic archive for the level of survey will be produced utilising a digital camera with a resolution of at least 12 mega pixels, using RAW format files for image capture, saved as 8-bit TIFFs for archive purposes. A full photographic index will be produced, and the archive of images will comprise the following:

- The external appearance and setting of the buildings, including a mixture of general shots and detailed views taken from perpendicular and oblique angles.
- General shots of the surrounding landscape.
- The general appearance of principal rooms and circulation areas.
- Any external or internal detail, structural or architectural, which is relevant to the design, development, and use of the buildings, and which does not show adequately on general photographs.
- Any internal detailed views of features of especial architectural interest, fixtures and fittings, or fabric detail relevant to phasing the buildings.

In addition to the digital files, hard copies of the images will be created on paper of appropriate archival quality and deposited as part of the paper archive.

4.1.5 Site Drawings: architectural plans (supplied by the client) will be annotated on site to produce the drawings. These drawings will then be used as the basis of CAD drawings, which will be included within the final report as figures:

- Floor plans for each building
- Cross-sections and elevations as considered appropriate

The drawings will usually be produced at a scale of 1:50. The existing drawings will be digitised into an industry standard CAD package for the production of the final drawings. Hand-measured survey techniques will be utilised to record areas that are not accessible for photographic survey.

4.2 Intra demolition watching brief

4.2.1. The destructive fire of 2011 and subsequent inactivity on the site as left it overgrown and partially filled with fire-damaged debris. This means that potential archaeological evidence is obscured or cannot be safely accessed for investigation. It is understood that some demolition or soft strip will be necessary to make the structures on site safe.

4.2.3 When this has been carried out an intra demolition watching brief is proposed to identify those elements of the site considered to hold archaeological evidence. These may include evidence of the structure, evidence of power production and transmission and evidence of processes including preparation, weaving, finishing and storage and distribution.

4.2.4 With regards to power, the engine house and boiler house have been altered and a chimney was removed before 1928. This area is particularly difficult to investigate at present and it is considered likely soft stripping will uncover evidence to inform the next phase.

4.3 Archaeological Watching Brief

4.3.1 Following the soft clearing of the site particular attention will be paid to proposed work to be carried out around the area of the former engine house and boiler house. At present evidence for the original power unit, thought to be a 40hp horizontal steam engine, is obscured, but includes elements on the ground floor and partially underground. The former boiler house has not been investigated and although altered may still retain underground evidence. The same applies to the removed chimney and probable associated economiser and flue. To the north of the engine house an entrance lodge and workers' entrance have been altered or removed and evidence of power transmission still remains. It is considered valuable evidence will be revealed during the demolition of this area that will need to be recorded to inform the next phase.

4.3.2 Watching Brief: a programme of field observation will accurately record the location, extent, and character of any surviving archaeological features during any ground-breaking works. This work will comprise observation during the excavation for these works, including building foundations and service trenches, the systematic examination of any subsoil horizons exposed during the course of the groundworks, and the accurate recording of all archaeological features and horizons, and any artefacts, identified during observation.

4.3.3 Any archaeological features identified by the machine ground-breaking works, together with the immediate vicinity of any such features, will be cleaned by hand tools, where appropriate, sections will be studied and drawn. Any such features will be sample excavated.

4.3.4 During this phase of work, recording will comprise a full description and preliminary classification of features or materials revealed, and their accurate location plotted. Features will be planned accurately at appropriate scales and annotated on to a large-scale plan previously provided by the client. A photographic record will be undertaken simultaneously.

3.1.7 A plan will be produced of the areas of groundworks showing the location and extent of the ground disturbance and one or more dimensioned sections will be produced.

4.3.5 Contingency plan: in the event of significant archaeological features being encountered during the watching brief, discussions will take place with GMAAS as to the extent of further works to be carried out. All further works would be subject to a variation to this project design. Any further work required could also mean additional days added to the original quote as specified.

5 Post-investigation Assessment

5.1 Analysis of the site investigation records and finds. A programme of post-investigation work, leading to the production of a fully illustrated report and project archive will be carried out on completion of the fieldwork.

5.2 Report production: the report will fully conform with guidance for a Level 3 record issued by Historic England in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to Good Recording Practice* (2016) and will contain:

- A title page detailing the precise location of the building as an address and in the form of a National Grid reference, author/originating body, client's name and address and a site location plan related to the national grid.
- A note of any statutory designation (that is, listing, scheduling, Register of Historic Parks and Gardens, conservation area).
- The date when the record was made, the name(s) of the recorder(s) and the location of any archive material
- A contents list; a list of illustrations or figures.
- A summary of the building's form, function, date, and sequence of development. The names of architects, builders, patrons, and owners.
- An introduction briefly setting out the circumstances in which the record was made, its objectives, methods, scope and limitations, and any constraints.
- Acknowledgements to all those who have made a significant contribution to the making of the record, or who have given permission for copyright items to be reproduced
- An analysis of historic map evidence (map regression) and a critical evaluation of previous records of the building and primary documentary sources
- An account of the building's past and present use, and of the uses of its parts, with the evidence for these interpretations. An analysis of a circulation pattern or of a decorative or liturgical scheme. An account of any fixtures, fittings, plant, or machinery associated with the building, and their purpose. A sequential account of the way in which materials or processes were handled

- Any evidence for the former existence of demolished structures or removed plant associated with the building.
- A discussion of the architectural or historical context or significance of the building locally, regionally, or nationally, in terms of its origin, purpose, form, construction, design, materials, status or historical associations
- Copies of historic maps, drawings, views, or photographs illustrating the development of the building or its site, as appropriate
- Any further information from documentary sources, published or unpublished, bearing on any of these matters, or bearing on the circumstances of its building, designer, craftsmen, ownership, use and occupancy, with a note on the sources of the information
- An outline of the significance of the building. This can seek to identify both the significance of different features or phases of development in the building relative to each other, and also set important aspects of the building in a regional or national context
- Full bibliographic and other references and a list of the sources consulted
- a copy of this written scheme of investigation, and indications of any agreed departure from that design.

6. Deposition of the final report with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER), dissemination of the results and provision for archive deposition of the report.

6.1 The report will be supplied to the client and to the local planning authority and an identical copy supplied to the Greater Manchester HER in full compliance with their recommendations and guidelines.

6.2 With due permissions the report and archive will be added to the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project with the Archaeology Data Service, York. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork.

6.3 Dependent on the significance of the findings of the Investigation the report may be deposited with a Local History library. A note on the fieldwork may be prepared for inclusion in Post Medieval fieldwork in Britain, Ireland and the Channel Islands which is published annually in Post-Medieval Archaeology by the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology. A similar note or longer article may also be supplied to the Council for British Archaeology's North West's Group publications.

7 Other matters

7.1 Insurance: Chris Mace (t/as Atelier 1882) has Professional Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance, evidence of which can be provided prior to the commencement of any work.

7.2 Health and Safety: The building recorder on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. Prior to the commencement of work carry out a Risk Assessment on the building / structure in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations will be carried out.

7.3 **Chris Mace** MA, BA (Hons) will carry out the work required with this project. He holds a MA in Buildings Archaeology from the University of York. He has carried out building investigations of textile mills and other industrial sites in the region. He may be assisted on site by a colleague who he has worked closely with for several years. Chris Mace has previously investigated this site.

7.4 Work timetable: **1 DAY** has been allocated for an intra demolition watching brief and consultation with the demolition contractor

2 + DAYS, for the archaeological watching brief during any ground-breaking works in the vicinity of the former engine and boiler houses this includes a contingency for extra work if agreed with GMAAS

2 DAYS for a programme for post-investigation assessment and production of a final report. This schedule is as per submitted fee proposal.