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MERE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

SLADEN MILL, HALIFAX ROAD

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

JUNE 2023

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MERE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

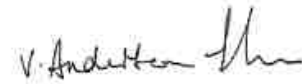
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JUNE 2023

PREPARED BY:

Victoria Anderton-Johnson Principal Heritage
Consultant



REVIEWED BY:

Mike Birtles Principal Archaeologist



APPROVED BY:

Lorna Goring Technical Director



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Wardell Armstrong

41-50 Futura Park, Aspinall Way, Middlebrook, Bolton, BL6 6SU

Telephone: +44 (0)1204 227 227 www.wardell-armstrong.com



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APPENDIX 1: DRAWINGS

DRAWINGS	TITLE	SCALE
GM12948-001	Figure 1: Trial Trench Location Plan	1:1,000
GM12948-002	Figure 2: Trial Trench Locations over 1910 OS 25-inch map	1:750

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1.1 Wardell Armstrong LLP (WA) has been commissioned by Mere Development Group (hereafter referred to as 'the Client') to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for a programme of archaeological work on land centred at National Grid Reference (NGR): SD 95017 17464 (Figure 1). The Site was formerly occupied by Sladen Mill, a textile mill.

1.2 Planning Background

1.2.1 Outline planning permission was granted in June 2018 (ref: 15/01235/OUT), subject to conditions. This WSI addresses the requirements of condition 11 associated with the permission.

1.2.2 Condition 11 states: *"No Development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or their successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme or archaeological works. The programme of archaeological works should be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The WSI shall cover the following:*

1. *A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording to include:*
 - *Geophysical evaluation;*
 - *Evaluation trenching i) targeting geophysical anomalies and ii) including targeted evaluation trenching of buildings identified in the desk-based assessment and iii) providing an adequate spatial sample of the development site; and*
 - *(depending upon the results of the evaluation) area 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, architectural and historical interest represented.*
3. *Provision for publication and dissemination of the analysis and report on the site investigation.*
4. *Provision for archive deposition of the report, findings 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.*

1.2.3 Conversations with Ian Miller (Greater Manchester County Archaeologist) on behalf of the client have confirmed there is no longer being a need for geophysical survey evaluation. This WSI therefore sets out the scope of works for archaeological trial trenching only.

1.2.4 Following discussion with Ian Miller the trenches are to target the former boiler house and engine room of Sladen Mill.

1.2.5 In the event that the trial trenching reveals archaeological remains for which further mitigation is required, for example excavation through strip, map and record and/or a watching brief, an addendum/update to this WSI would be required to stipulate the scope and extent of open area excavation and/or watching briefs, the results of which would be subject to the methodology for 'Reporting', 'Publication and Dissemination' and 'Archive Preparation and Deposition' as set out within this document. Excavation and/or a watching brief would only be undertaken should the results of the preceding trial trench evaluation specified here justify it.

1.3 **Standards and Guidance for this Written Scheme of Investigation**

1.3.1 The WSI conforms to guidelines and standards laid down in the following documents:

- *Standard and guidance for field evaluation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading (CIfA 2020a).
 - *An archaeological field evaluation will determine and report on, as far as is reasonably possible, the nature of the archaeological resource within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims on the project and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant regulations of CIfA.*
- *Standards and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Reading (CIfA 2020b).
 - *Collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (hereafter finds work) will result in an ordered, stable, accessible archive using appropriate methods and practices.*

Finds work will result in report(s) intended for dissemination. The methods and practices employed must satisfy the stated aims of any project of which finds work comprises all or part, and comply with the Code of conduct, and other relevant regulations of ClfA.

- *Management of Archaeological Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE), Historic England: London (HE 2015).*

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Location and Geological Context

2.1.1 The Site is located off Halifax Road on the north-east outskirts of Littleborough. It is bounded by the road to the south, open landscape to the east and south, and the Rochdale Canal to the west.

2.1.2 The underlying solid geology of the area consists of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone from the Millstone Grit Group. The sedimentary bedrock was formed approximately 313 to 326 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. The local environment was previously dominated by rivers. These rocks were formed from rivers depositing mainly sand and gravel detrital material in channels to form river terrace deposits, with fine silt and clay from overbank floods forming floodplain alluvium. Some bogs are depositing peat; which includes estuarine and coastal plain deposits mapped as alluvium. There is no recorded superficial deposits (BGS 2023).

2.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

2.2.1 Wardell Armstrong produced a desk based assessment in 2015 to understand the archaeological potential within the Site area. The following is not intended to be a comprehensive background but a summary of the background included within the desk based assessment.

2.2.2 ***Prehistoric to Roman (up to c.AD 410):*** There is little evidence for the prehistoric period with only find spots in the form of stone-axes, flints and some metalwork. The finds within the study area include a quern stone. These finds are sporadic within the study area and therefore likely to represent transient activity rather than activity pertaining to settlement.

2.2.3 No Roman finds are recorded within the study area (presented within the 2015 report), as such there is negligible potential for remains from the Roman period.

2.2.4 ***Early Medieval to Medieval (c.AD 410-1540):*** Sladen is first referenced as a corn mill in the 14th century. It is recorded as being powered by water. The place name of Sladen is thought to mean 'valley' in Old English.

2.2.5 There is no historical or archaeological evidence for Sladen existing before the 12th century.

- 2.2.6 There is no known archaeological evidence of medieval occupation within the study area besides a medieval farmhouse which holds the datestones 1454 and 1706. As such there is judged to be low potential for remains from this period.
- 2.2.7 ***Post-medieval to Industrial/Modern Period (AD 1540-present):*** The majority of the heritage assets within the study area date between the 18th and 20th centuries during the period of the Industrial Revolution. The borough of Rochdale went through a period of urbanisation and industrial development in the 19th century; it was during this time the textile settlement of Littleborough developed and textile mills were established. The area became influential for textile manufacturing and finishing in the 19th century.
- 2.2.8 In 1789 an auction announcement dates to a farmhold and mill called 'Sladen Mill' which comprised of 25 acres of land. It is not certain this relates to the current Site however by the 19th century Sladen Mill was a specific name applied to the Site area only.
- 2.2.9 In the 1970s, the demolition of eight cottages, associated with Sladen identified a coin which is a local truck token dating to 1791. The earliest known building at the Mill was 1856 but this token suggests some earlier textile activity. It was concluded Sladen Mill was in existence by the last 18th century with the 1856 datestone suggesting an later rebuilding of the mill.
- 2.2.10 In 1901 the mill was subject to a fire which destroyed the carding and spinning department. The mill was rebuilt and although it continued its use as a woollen mill the floorplan did differ. A further fire, in January 1926, extensively damaged the mill destroying all buildings except the raised section. Until this point the mill was one of the largest employers in Littleborough.
- 2.2.11 In 1964 a bleaching and dying section was added to the rebuilt site. A cotton raising and finishing mill after another fire destroyed the second mill.
- 2.2.12 In 1980s the mill was closed and separated into several industrial units.
- 2.2.13 Although the Site has been flattened there is potential for archaeological remains pertaining to the multi-phase building of the mill to be present.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 The purpose of the required archaeological trial trench evaluation is to investigate the potential of the archaeological resource and, where present, to characterise, record and date it. The general preliminary aims of any archaeological trial trenching would be to:

- determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains within the site specifically any remains associated with the former boiler or engine rooms;
- determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits revealed as well as their potential significance;
- determine the likely impact on any archaeological deposits present from the consented scheme; and
- disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of recording.

3.1.2 Specific aims of the archaeological trial trenching may be as follows:

- Contribute to the North West Regional Framework specifically looking at:
 - Ind53: What can archaeology tell us about the production and use of consumer products and their typologies from the late 18th to early 20th centuries¹?
 - Ind56: How can we improve our understanding of 20th century factory organisation²?
 - Ind60: How can we make sense of the relative significance of historic industrial processes and building types perceived as poorly understood and recorded³?

¹ <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/researchframework/v1/question/question-5e1745f446fc4/>

² <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/researchframework/v1/question/question-5e1745f4481e1>

³ <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/researchframework/v1/question/question-5e1745f44ade2>

4 METHOD STATEMENT

- 4.1.1 This scheme for archaeological trial trenching has been designed in order to satisfy the stated objectives of the project as set out under Section 3 above in order to satisfy the requirement of Condition 11 of the outline approval.
- 4.1.2 This evaluation will comprise the excavation of 2 trenches targeting the boiler house and engine room of the former mill. Trench one is 30m x 1.8m and trench two is 20m x 1.8m – see Figures 1 and 2.
- 4.1.3 Notwithstanding any information on constraints already supplied, in advance of any fieldwork Wardell Armstrong must request that the Client has demonstrated that all reasonable measures have been taken to identify any constraints to ground disturbance and that they have been provided with all reasonable information regarding the confirmation of the presence of services, any ecological constraints, any areas of potentially contaminated land and/or any other known risks to health and safety.
- 4.1.4 Wardell Armstrong will undertake the opening of all trenches using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket to maximise the chance for identification of any archaeological remains should they be present. All mechanical works will be monitored by a suitably experienced archaeologist who will control the level excavated to and stop machining at the top of the first potentially significant archaeological horizon, or the top of the natural substrate, whichever is higher. Should substantial obstructions be encountered a toothed bucket may be employed on the understanding that it will be removed again once the obstacle is past.
- 4.1.5 All trenches will be cleaned by hand (where necessary), photographed and recorded as appropriate. Once cleaned all trenches will be inspected and potential features/deposits excavated to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual material, as well as determine their character, significance and date. Prior to backfilling, all deposits, including the trench sides will be again inspected for artefactual material to ensure that finds are recovered from as many contexts as possible regardless of date.
- 4.1.6 Any changes to the agreed method statement will need to be discussed with and agreed by the Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMAAS) before implementation.

4.2 Investigation and Sampling Strategy

- 4.2.1 Archaeological features will be sampled sufficiently to characterise, date them and determine their significance i.e. 10% of fills of linear features (unless the linear features are substantial or complex in nature, in which case an alternative sampling strategy will be discussed and agreed with GMAAS) and 50% of pit fills. Smaller discrete features such as postholes will be 100% sampled.
- 4.2.2 If structural features of buildings/structures of archaeological interest are identified, these will be cleaned, photographed and recorded in-situ, with sample excavation undertaken as necessary in order to determine their form, construction methods and dating. Any substantial structures may also be subject to a programme of photogrammetric recording where appropriate, and where it meet the project's objectives.
- 4.2.3 The locations of significant artefacts will be recorded where possible, whilst all other archaeological artefactual material will be collected in bulk where appropriate. Measures will be taken to protect particularly significant, valuable or sensitive archaeological remains from exposure, accidental damage and/or theft.
- 4.2.4 Upon the discovery of sensitive material (e.g., human remains or particularly significant features), all excavation shall cease, and the archaeological contractor will establish a clearly visible cordon around the area of discovery, to ensure protection from exposure, accidental damage and / or theft.
- 4.2.5 Measures, including fencing-off, will be taken to protect particularly significant, valuable or sensitive archaeological remains from exposure, accidental damage and/or theft. The Client and/or Principal Contractor, as well as GMAAS on behalf of the LPA will be notified to agree further measures of mitigation if required.
- 4.3 **Recording**
- 4.3.1 All fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with codes and practices outlined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation/field evaluation etc* (CIfA 2020a).
- 4.3.2 All recording undertaken during WA led projects will be in accordance with the *Wardell Armstrong Excavation Manual, Technical Manual No. 1* (WA 2020a).
- 4.3.3 All features will be recorded using a GNSS survey system (such as a Trimble R10 GNSS system with TSC3 controller or equivalent) with sub-centimetre accuracy with each point recorded in relation to the OSGB36 geod model and coded to an internal

database to provide a dataset that records feature type, context number, associated drawing numbers and any other feature specific information that may be relevant.

- 4.3.4 All written records will utilise the WA pro-forma recording sheets and registers.
- 4.3.5 A full digital photographic record of the work is to be kept, in accordance with guidance set out in Historic England's *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice* (Cole and Backhouse 2015). All images are to be taken using a digital SLR camera with a suitable megapixel resolution. A full photographic record of all contexts will be maintained in both .JPG and .TIFF digital formats. The photographic record is to be regarded as part of the site archive and the digital files will be labelled appropriately and cross-referenced in relation to a site-specific photography register. Wherever possible, photographs will include a clearly visible, graduated metric scale. A register of all photographs will be maintained.
- 4.3.6 All plans and sections will be levelled in respect to metres above Ordnance Datum (m aOD) and are to be drawn on water resistant, polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled. Plans will be drawn to a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. Trench plans and long sections can be drawn to 1:50 or 1:100 as appropriate, in accordance with the Wardell Armstrong Excavation Manual. A combination of multi and single context planning will be utilised where necessary, and a register of drawings and sheets will be maintained throughout.
- 4.3.7 Wardell Armstrong will ensure that the complete site archive including finds and paleoenvironmental samples is to be kept in a secure place throughout the period of fieldwork and post-excavation process.

4.4 Human Remains

- 4.4.1 In the event that human remains, both inhumations and/or cremations, are exposed during the course of the archaeological evaluation then all works are to cease immediately, and the local police and coroner informed. The area will be screened from view and discussions will be held with the Client and GMCA on options for their appropriate preservation in-situ or for their removal in accordance with professional standards and guidelines once the antiquity of the remains has been suitably proven.
- 4.4.2 Wardell Armstrong will have an appropriately qualified and experienced osteoarchaeologist available to supervise the excavation and removal of any human remains (where this is necessary) from the Site.

- 4.4.3 In the event that human burials are discovered, a Ministry of Justice Licence will be required (in accordance with Section 25 of the Burial Act 1857) before the remains can be lifted. The need for a Ministry of Justice Licence applies to both inhumation and cremated remains. Application for a Licence will be made by Wardell Armstrong.

4.5 **Finds Recovery and Processing**

- 4.5.1 All artefacts recovered during the course of the archaeological evaluation are the property of the landowner and/or Client however donation to a suitable local museum will be encouraged. The receiving museum is expected to be The Manchester Museum. They will be suitably bagged, boxed and marked in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (ClfA 2020b), the *Europae Archaeologia Consilium A Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe* (EAC 2014), and the standards and guidance provided by the recipient museum.
- 4.5.2 Artefacts from the trenches will be collected and labelled with the unique site code and context number of the deposit from which it was recovered.
- 4.5.3 Each 'significant find' (e.g., coins, metalwork, etc) will be recorded three dimensionally using electronic survey equipment to an accuracy of ± 100 mm and assigned a Small Finds number. A register of Small Finds will be maintained if such finds are encountered.
- 4.5.4 Similarly, concentrations of artefacts or artefact scatters should be recorded three dimensionally.
- 4.5.5 All artefacts revealed will be recovered regardless of date so that the provisional dating of as many contexts as possible can be ascertained. However, should excessive material be uncovered a specific Selection and Retention Strategy would be devised in discussion with the archaeological curator at The Manchester Museum. A useful reference in relation to the selective deposition of archival material has been produced by the ClfA (2022).
- 4.5.6 Finds retrieved will be suitably bagged, boxed, and marked in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials* (ClfA 2020b), the *Standard and Guide to Best Practice for Archaeological Archiving in Europe* (EAC 2014). On completion of the project, specialists will assess each artefact for selection and retention. Modern material, unstratified remains and objects that have been assessed as having no obvious

grounds for retention will be discarded after a period of six months, unless there is a specific request to retain them.

- 4.5.7 Once assessed, all retained material must be packed and stored in optimum conditions, as described in First Aid for Finds (Watkinson and Neal 1998).
- 4.5.8 The primary archive records will clearly state how all artefact assemblages have been recovered, sub-sampled and processed.
- 4.5.9 Any artefact assessment will be undertaken with appropriate reference to the regional type series and local specialists will undertake the finds assessment if the assemblage is believed to have potential significance. The finds assessment report must reference all ceramic to the county type fabric series. This will be discussed with the Client and GMAAS in the first instance if required.

4.6 Treatment of Treasure

- 4.6.1 Finds falling under the statutory definition of treasure (as defined by the Treasure Act of 1996 and its revision of 2023) will be reported immediately to the relevant Coroner's Office, the landowner/Client and GMAAS.
- 4.6.2 A treasure receipt (obtainable from either the FLO or the DCMS website) will be completed and a report submitted to the Coroner's Office and the FLO within 14 days of understanding that the find is treasure. Failure to report within 14 days of discovery is a criminal offence. The treasure receipt and report will include the date and circumstances of the discovery in addition to the identity of the finder (the Archaeological Contractor) and the location of the find in relation to Ordnance Survey Grid Reference.

4.7 Palaeoenvironmental Sampling

- 4.7.1 A structured programme of palaeoenvironmental sampling appropriate to the specific aims of the project will be implemented. The strategy and methodology for the sampling of deposits will be in accordance with Historic England guidance *Environmental Archaeology – A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation* (2011).
- 4.7.2 Where deposits are dry, bulk samples for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and finds, will be taken from sealed and datable features such as pits, ditches, hearths, and floors. Each context will be sampled in isolation. The size of the sample is expected to be in the range of 40-60 litres per context or 100% of smaller contexts.

Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features or where context horizons are not fully defined.

- 4.7.3 Where deposits are dry, bulk samples for the recovery of charred plant remains, small bones and finds, will be taken from sealed and datable features such as pits, ditches, hearths, and floors. Each context will be sampled in isolation. The size of the sample is expected to be in the range of 40-60 litres per context or 100% of smaller contexts. Samples will not be taken from the intersection of features or where context horizons are not fully defined.
- 4.7.4 Mollusc samples of two litres each will be taken vertically from appropriate sections to investigate the changes of vegetation through time.
- 4.7.5 Where deposits are wet, waterlogged, or peaty, monoliths will be taken along cleaned vertical surfaces for the retrieval of pollen, diatoms, ostracods, and foraminifera. The numbers to be taken will be agreed with the Client and GMAAS. Where bulk samples are to be taken a minimum of 20 litres will be taken from visible layers or spits for the retrieval of plant macro-remains and insects.
- 4.7.6 Environmental samples from dry deposits will normally be processed by floatation following the fieldwork and the residues will be sorted to retrieve small bones, small finds and charcoal that has not floated. Environmental samples from wet deposits will normally be sent to specialists for processing in laboratory conditions.

4.8 **Backfilling**

- 4.8.1 Trial trenches will not be backfilled without the prior approval of a representative from GMAAS. However, some backfilling would be permitted if health and safety or ground stability reasons warrant this.
- 4.8.2 Waterlogged trenches must be drained appropriately prior to backfilling.
- 4.8.3 Unless instructed otherwise, topsoil and subsoil must be replaced as separate horizons with the subsoil below the topsoil in the order in which the material was excavated.
- 4.8.4 Backfilled trenches will be lightly compacted but not formally reinstated or reseeded.

4.9 **Monitoring and Liaison**

- 4.9.1 Reasonable notice will be provided to GMAAS prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

- 4.9.2 Wardell Armstrong will allow the site records to be inspected and examined at any reasonable time during or after the archaeological fieldwork by the Client or any designated representative of the LPA.
- 4.9.3 Wardell Armstrong liaise closely with GMAAS throughout the course of the project and will arrange for regular onsite monitoring meetings should they be required.

5 REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

5.1.1 All post-excavation reporting, publication and compilation of site archives will be undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2020c)*, as well as Wardell Armstrong's own internal policies outlined in the *WA Post-excavation Handbook, Technical Manual No. 2 (WA 2020b)*.

5.1.2 Reporting may be staged as follows;

- Assessment Report(s).
- Further Reporting (as necessary):
 - Updated Project Design (to set out the scope and extent of further fieldwork or reporting requirements such as specialist analysis).
 - Specialist Analysis Reports (to analyse finds and or samples).
 - Post Excavation/Archive Report (Grey Literature Report) (consolidating all of the above).
- Publication (for the purposes of public dissemination, for example a journal article).

5.1.3 The level of post-excavation analysis and reporting for the purposes of the work will be commensurate to the findings of the fieldwork and sufficient to establish the character, scale, date range, artefactual and palaeo-environmental potential in regard to the aims and objectives as set out in Section 3 and to assess the overall significance of the remains. The extent and scope of the reporting will be agreed with the Client and GMAAS prior to commencement.

5.1.4 The minimum level of reporting would be an Assessment Report for the trial trench evaluation.

5.1.5 The necessity for further reporting/further fieldwork after the trial trenching Assessment Report stage would be determined by the significance of the archaeology revealed and the finds assemblage/samples. GMAAS would determine the necessity for further fieldwork to mitigate the impact on any significant archaeology encountered following completion of the evaluation fieldwork within each phase. See Section 5.4.

5.2 Post-excavation Assessment Report

- 5.2.1 Upon completion of the archaeological trial trench evaluation, the archaeological contractor will undertake post-fieldwork assessment of the results and produce an appropriate report, a draft of which will be made available to the Client for comment in the first instance within two months of the completion of the fieldwork.
- 5.2.2 Once approved by the Client, a copy of the report will be forwarded to GMAAS for comment. The report will include stratigraphic information, a summary of all ecofacts and artefacts recovered from the fieldwork, which will be assessed for their potential for further (full) analysis in relation to the project's research aims and the broader context of regional and national archaeological research priorities. The report will identify the archaeological potential of the site, and present an assessment of the site, integrated with previous works carried out nearby and within the wider context of the archaeology of the area and an interpretation of its significance.
- 5.2.3 The Assessment Report will include:
- a location plan showing the areas of investigation, related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid;
 - the dates on which the project was undertaken;
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results;
 - a summary of the historical and archaeological background;
 - a description of the methodology employed, work undertaken, and results obtained;
 - a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location;
 - a description of archaeological features and deposits identified during the watching brief;
 - a context table, summarising the features and deposits identified on site;
 - digital photographs where appropriate;
 - plans and sections, if applicable, at an appropriate scale showing the position of excavated deposits;
 - a list of, and spot dates for, any finds recovered, and a description and interpretation of the deposits identified;

- a table summarising the classes and numbers of artefacts encountered and any spot dating of significant finds;
- a description of any environmental or any other specialist work undertaken, and the results determined;
- a concluding statement of the actual and potential significance of the archaeology; and
- recommendations for further work and/or analysis if applicable.

5.3 National and Regional Research Agenda

5.3.1 The research questions applicable to the site, deposits and finds will also be included in any report produced from the results of the project, in order that the work contributes to the relevant national and regional research agendas (Brennand 2006 & 2007), and period updates and research questions to the online North West Regional Research Framework (NWRRF 2023). The results of this project will look to address questions relevant to the observed archaeology as suggested within the Aims and Objectives listed in this WSI. At this stage, it is expected that there will be a focus on post-medieval and industrial research questions.

5.4 Further Work

5.4.1 GMAAS would determine the necessity for further fieldwork and/or analysis of finds and samples (in addition to processing and assessment undertaken at the Assessment stage), following completion of the evaluation fieldwork. In this event, an Updated Project Design (UPD) would be prepared as necessary to set out the scope of further fieldwork and/or specialist reports. Multiple UPDs may be required depending on the archaeological findings and sequence of fieldwork. For Client information, all UPDs would incur an additional fee and each UPD would set out the scope and extent of specific required additional work, providing a document against which a subsequent cost estimate could be acquired.

5.4.2 Further fieldwork to mitigate the impact may take the form of extension to trenches or strip, map, and record of targeted areas. Such mitigation would likely be within the area surrounding trenches targeting the footprint of the mill.

5.4.3 Following this there would be the need for a detailed post-excavation assessment report with a contingency for post-excavation analysis and appropriate publication, the scope of which would be set out within the UPD.

5.5 Dissemination

- 5.5.1 This project will be registered with the Online Access to the Index of archaeological investigations (OASIS) and a digital copy of the archaeological report will be made available upon its completion. The digital archive will be uploaded to the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) as required.
- 5.5.2 Upon approval of the report, a digital .pdf copy of the report must be provided to the HER within 6 months of completion of fieldwork.

5.6 Confidentiality

- 5.6.1 All internal reports to the Client are designed as documents for the specific use of the Client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project brief and project design and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.

5.7 Site Archive and Deposition

- 5.7.1 The archaeological contractor will make provisional arrangements for the deposition of the site archive with The Manchester Museum. Wardell Armstrong will follow the latest *Guidance for the Deposition of Archaeological Archives*, for the deposition of the site archive.
- 5.7.2 The site archive will include all project records and cultural material produced by the archaeological watching brief and will be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavated archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990), and in compliance with Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (CIfA 2020c and CIfA 2020d) and those recommended by Brown (2011).

6 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 6.1.1 The archaeological contractor will be fully compliant with HSE guidance and legislation. It is the duty of all personnel, under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc. 1974, to take reasonable care for the health and safety of themselves and other persons who may be affected by their acts or omissions at work. They must also co-operate with the Technical Director or Associate Director regarding any duty or requirement imposed by the Technical/Associate Director or any other person by, or under, any of the relevant statutory provisions so far as it is necessary to enable that duty or requirement to be performed or complied with. Any personnel contravening relevant statutory provision may be prosecuted in a Magistrates' Court.
- 6.1.2 All personnel taking part in fieldwork have a responsibility to adhere to sensible standards of behaviour. Personnel are made aware that fieldwork activities have inherent hazards which staff members minimise with appropriate safety precautions. However, the potential dangers make it imperative that personnel co-operate by behaving responsibly in order to reduce the risk of accidents.
- 6.1.3 Risk assessments are undertaken prior to any fieldwork taking place and staff are fully briefed regarding on-site hazards and safe working procedures. Full consideration will be given to health and safety issues during all fieldwork for this project.
- 6.1.4 The Client will be asked to provide all information reasonably obtainable on contamination and confirm the location of services before the archaeological works commence.
- 6.1.5 Site staff will have an appropriate level of training to enable them to carry out fieldwork safely. Appropriate (Personal Protective equipment (PPE) as directed by the Client will be worn by field staff at all times.
- 6.1.6 The Client will be requested to provide details of their own risk assessment and specify PPE required before fieldwork commences.
- 6.1.7 The archaeological contractor will abide by the Client's health and safety methodology as well as producing their own internal risk assessment and method statement document. If there is conflict between the Client's risk assessment and that of the archaeological contractors, then the Client's will take priority unless it is perceived to be placing the field team at greater risk.

- 6.1.8 All staff will assist the Client in maintaining the Site in a safe condition. Hazards will be appropriately identified and managed including identification of buried and above ground services/utilities.
- 6.1.9 In addition to the risk assessment and method statement, where appropriate a Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessment will also be undertaken. Once on-site, these documents will be assessed, and any variations will be highlighted and added to the appropriate assessment. These will be re-evaluated periodically during the course of the fieldwork to make sure that they remain consistent to the Site-specific risks.
- 6.1.10 All staff and visitors will be required to be inducted and sign the Risk Assessment documents on first arrival to Site to show that they have read and understood the contents and any variations will be communicated as required.
- 6.1.11 Unless instructed otherwise, the archaeological contractor will take no responsibility for site security. The Client will be expected to provide for this as required. No provision has been made for fencing individual trenches or securing the site perimeter.

7 STAFFING AND WORK TIMETABLE

- 7.1.1 The appointed archaeological contractor will adhere to the ClfA *Code of Conduct* (ClfA 2021) at all times.
- 7.1.2 The fieldwork will be undertaken by competent archaeologists with appropriate experience, relevant to the methodologies outlined in this WSI. Details of the fieldwork staff including specialists will be provided to the Client and GMAAS on commission, should they be requested.
- 7.1.3 The appointed on-site archaeological contractor, will keep the Client informed on the progress of work.
- 7.1.4 Exact timescales for the works have not been confirmed at this time.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: DRAWINGS

STOKE-ON-TRENT

Sir Henry Doulton House
Forge Lane
Etruria
Stoke-on-Trent
ST1 5BD
Tel: +44 (0)1782 276 700

BIRMINGHAM

Two Devon Way
Longbridge Technology Park
Longbridge
Birmingham
B31 2TS
Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909

BOLTON

41-50 Futura Park
Aspinall Way
Middlebrook
Bolton
BL6 6SU
Tel: +44 (0)1204 227 227

BRISTOL

Desk Lodge
2 Redcliffe Way
Bristol
BS1 6NL
Tel: +44 (0)117 203 4477

BURY ST EDMUNDS

Armstrong House
Lamdin Road
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk
IP32 6NU
Tel: +44 (0)1284 765 210

CARDIFF

Tudor House
16 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ
Tel: +44 (0)292 072 9191

CARLISLE

Marconi Road
Burgh Road Industrial Estate
Carlisle
Cumbria
CA2 7NA
Tel: +44 (0)1228 550 575

EDINBURGH

Great Michael House
14 Links Place
Edinburgh
EH6 7EZ
Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GLASGOW

24 St Vincent Place
Glasgow
G1 2EU
Tel: +44 (0)141 428 4499

LEEDS

36 Park Row
Leeds
LS1 5JL
Tel: +44 (0)113 831 5533

LONDON

Third Floor
46 Chancery Lane
London
WC2A 1JE
Tel: +44 (0)207 242 3243

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

City Quadrant
11 Waterloo Square
Newcastle upon Tyne
NE1 4DP
Tel: +44 (0)191 232 0943

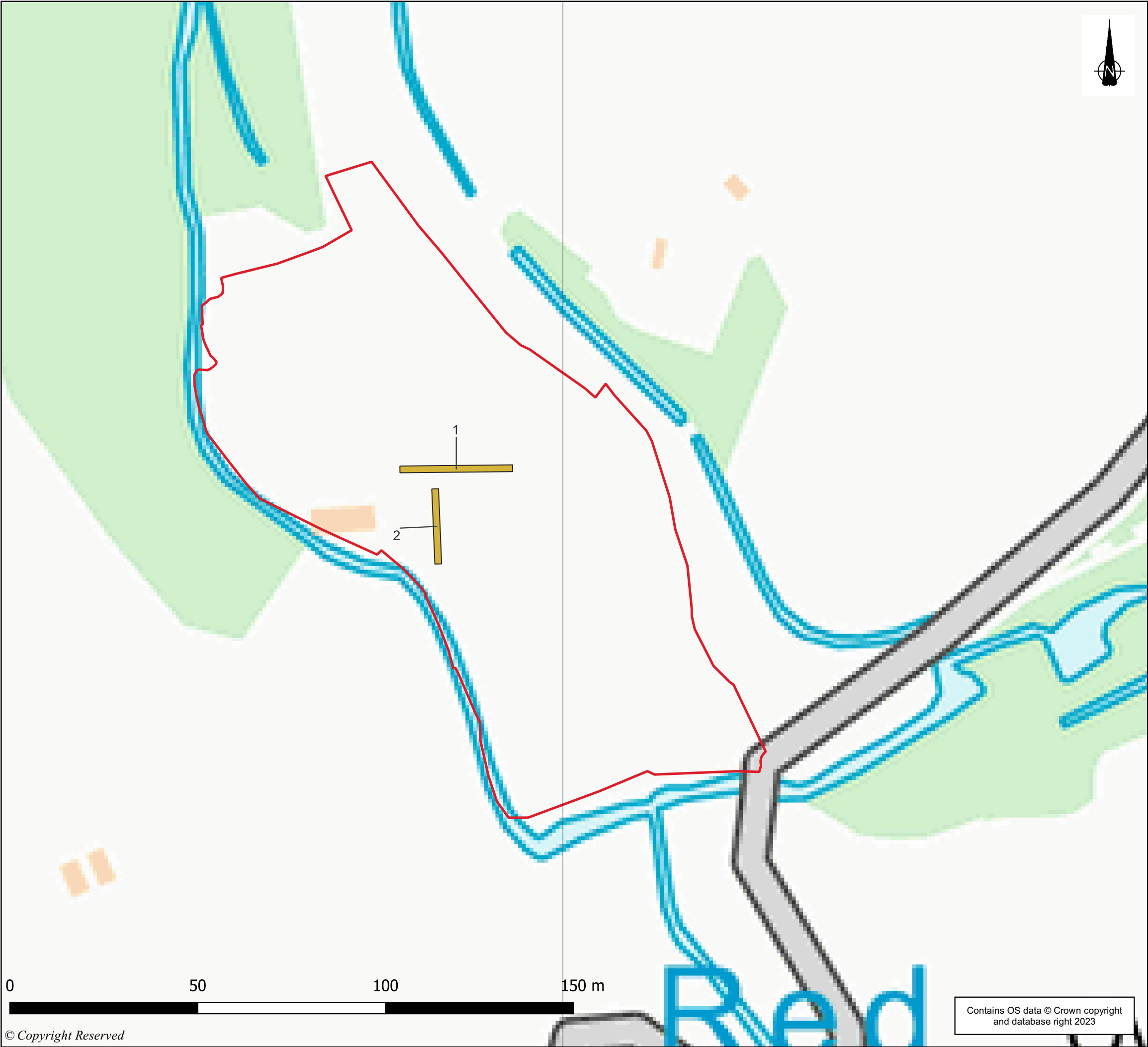
TRURO

Baldhu House
Wheal Jane Earth Science Park
Baldhu
Truro
TR3 6EH
Tel: +44 (0)187 256 0738

International office:

ALMATY

29/6 Satpaev Avenue
Hyatt Regency Hotel
Office Tower
Almaty
Kazakhstan
050040
Tel: +7(727) 334 1310



DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

- KEY
- Site Boundary
 - Trial Trenches
 - Trench 1: 30m x 1.8m
 - Trench 2: 20m x 1.8m

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRN	CHKD	APPD
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CLIENT

MERE DEVELOPMENT GROUP

PROJECT

SLADEN MILL, HALIFAX ROAD

DRAWING TITLE

FIGURE 1: TRIAL TRENCH LOCATION PLAN

DRG No.	GM12948-001	REV	A1
DRG SIZE	A3	SCALE	1:1,000
DRAWN BY	VA-J	CHECKED BY	MB
		APPROVED BY	LG



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DO NOT SCALE FROM THIS DRAWING

- KEY
- Site Boundary
 - Trial Trenches
 - Trench 1: 30m x 1.8m
 - Trench 2: 20m x 1.8m

Map from National Library of Scotland - Re-use: CC-BY

REVISION	DETAILS	DATE	DRN	CHKD	APPD
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CLIENT	MERE DEVELOPMENT GROUP
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PROJECT	SLADEN MILL, HALIFAX ROAD
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DRAWING TITLE	FIGURE 2: TRIAL TRENCH LOCATION PLAN OVERLAYING THE 1910 ORDNANCE SURVEY MAP
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DRG No.	GM12948-002	REV	A1
DRG SIZE	A3	SCALE	1:750
DATE	June 2023	CHECKED BY	MB
DRAWN BY	VA-J	APPROVED BY	LG



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