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MANCHESTER

Archaeological Desk-based Assessment

Town Hall Square,
Rochdale,
Greater Manchester

Client:

Rochdale
Development Agency

Technical Report:

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Report No:

2019/96



Site Location: The site encompasses the Town Hall in Rochdale town centre, and is bounded by The Esplanade, Packer Street and Vicars Gate, incorporating Town Hall Square

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Summary

The Rochdale Development Agency is preparing a planning application for a programme of refurbishment and landscaping works to the Town Hall Square in Rochdale (centred at NGR SD 89585 13255). In order to support the planning application, the Rochdale Development Agency commissioned Salford Archaeology in December 2019 to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment. This was intended to establish, as far as possible, the nature and significance of the archaeological resource across Town Hall Square and assess the potential impact of development on any below-ground archaeological remains.

One element of the proposals allows for the resurfacing of Packer Street to remove through traffic. Packer Street was an important thoroughfare from at least the later medieval period, providing a direct route between the 13th-century Church of St Chads and the original bridge across the River Roch. Indeed, there is circumstantial evidence to suggest that the medieval town was focused in this area, although firm evidence from archaeological excavation is wanting. There are also documentary indications that Rochdale was occupied during the 7th and 8th centuries with the present St Chads occupying the site of an earlier church, but the presence and extent of an associated Anglo-Saxon settlement is unknown.

Rochdale was a regional centre for the woollen-cloth trade by the 18th century, and became an important terminus for the associated cross-Pennine packhorse route. Cartographic evidence shows that a continuous row of buildings occupied the eastern part of the study area by the mid-18th century, lining Packer Street and Water Side on the south bank of the River Roch. These are likely to have provided domestic accommodation in addition to a suite of commercial services such as warehousing, stabling, blacksmithing and inns to support the cross-Pennine trade route. An iron and brass foundry, amongst the first to be established in Rochdale, had been erected to the rear of the Packer Street frontage by the end of the 18th century, whilst a large villa residence with extensive gardens occupied the largest part of the study area by the early 19th century. These buildings were all cleared by 1866, when the first foundation stone for the Town Hall was laid by John Bright.

Any archaeological remains in the central and western parts of the site are likely to have been removed entirely in the 1860s during the construction of the Town Hall. The remains of former buildings on Water Side are also likely to have been removed by later development, and particularly the construction of The Esplanade. Pending the extent of any earth-moving works that were carried out to create the associated Town Hall Square, however, there is considerable potential for archaeological remains of interest to survive *in-situ* across the eastern part of the study area, including the foundations of the buildings shown on 18th-century mapping. Map evidence suggests that none of these buildings had cellars, raising the potential for fragmentary remains of earlier buildings to survive along Packer Street. Any physical evidence for medieval land use would be of particular interest, together with any surviving remains of the late 18th-century iron foundry.

The proposed landscaping works are unlikely to necessitate any deep earth-moving works that would damage or remove archaeological remains. However, given the high archaeological interest of the Packer Street corridor, it would be appropriate to implement a programme of archaeological work that, as a minimum, would monitor any ground-breaking works in the eastern part of the site.

1. Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

In December 2019, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by the Rochdale Development Agency to undertake an archaeological desk-based assessment of Town Hall Square, bounded by Packer Street, The Esplanade and Vicars Gate in Rochdale town centre (referred to herein as the Site). The desk-based study was required to inform emerging design proposals for a scheme of public realm works, and aimed to identify as far as possible the nature, extent and significance of the archaeological resource within the Site in order to enable informed recommendations to be made for the future treatment of any surviving remains.

The Site currently comprises a swathe of hard surfacing that encompasses Rochdale Town Hall, the majority of which is used for car-parking purposes that detracts from the immense historic interest in the area, and does not achieve its full potential as public realm. Conversely, Rochdale Council has implemented a comprehensive refurbishment of the Town Hall, a Grade I listed building occupying the centre of the Site, having secured the first stage of funding to support an £8.9m restoration programme in 2018. It is proposed, pending the success of an application for the second stage of funding, that the scheme will include the restoration of historic features and improvement works to the building's exterior. As part of the works, Rochdale Council plans to open up areas to the public to use a museum, whilst the old library on the second floor will be redeveloped into a new space to be used for functions and educational events.

The proposals for the Town Hall form part of a wider £25m investment in heritage assets in the town, including the redevelopment of the area around Drake Street and the refurbishment of Town Hall Square to create high-quality public realm that befits the setting of the Grade I listed Town Hall. One element of the proposals allows for the resurfacing of Packer Street to remove through traffic and recreate Town Hall Square as a multi-functional space with outside terraces, high-quality stone paving, specimen trees and bespoke seating, whilst The Esplanade will be developed in tandem as an accessible promenade that can support temporary events such as farmers markets, art fairs, festivals and parades, with ornamental planting and light columns along its route.

Packer Street was an important thoroughfare from at least the later medieval period, providing a direct route between the 13th-century Church of St Chads and the original bridge across the River Roch. Indeed, there is circumstantial evidence to suggest that medieval Rochdale was focused in this area, although firm evidence from archaeological excavation is wanting. There are also documentary indications that Rochdale was occupied during the 7th and 8th centuries with the present St Chads occupying the site of an earlier church, and whilst the presence and extent of an associated Anglo-Saxon settlement is unknown, it is possible that the Site lay within the focus of medieval settlement in Rochdale.

In the light of the archaeological interest in the Site, the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), in their capacity as Archaeological Advisor to Rochdale Council, recommended that an archaeological assessment would be required to support a planning application for the works to Town Hall Square, in accordance with current planning policy.

1.1.1 National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

The significance of the archaeological resource identified within this report has been assessed as recommended in the revised *National Planning Policy Framework* (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, revised February 2019). The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies and outlines the presumption in favour of sustainable development, which is defined by three principles: economic, social and environmental. Of the core planning principles underpinning decision making, conserving heritage assets 'in a manner appropriate to their significance, so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of existing and future generations' is one. Section 16 specifically deals with this historic environment (paragraphs 184-202), and local planning authorities should consider:

- the desirability of sustaining and enhancing the significance of heritage assets and putting them to viable uses consistent with their conservation;
- the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits that conservation of the historic environment can bring;
- the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness; and
- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.

Paragraph 189 states that local planning authorities, when determining applications, should require the applicant to describe the significance of any affected heritage assets, including any contribution made by their setting. 'The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. As a minimum the relevant historic environment record should have been consulted and the heritage assets assessed using appropriate expertise where necessary.

Where a site on which development is proposed includes, or has the potential to include, heritage assets with archaeological interest, local planning authorities should require developers to submit an appropriate desk-based assessment and, where necessary, a field evaluation'.

Paragraph 197 states that the effect of a proposal on non-designated heritage assets (designated assets are covered in paragraphs 193-96) should be taken into account in determining a planning application.

Paragraph 199 states that local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of any heritage assets to be lost, in a manner appropriate to their importance and impact, and to make this evidence publicly accessible.

The NPPF also outlines the need for local planning authorities to create local plans and frameworks to implement the NPPF at a local level.

1.1.2 Local Development Framework

The future use and development of land and buildings in the borough is currently guided by the Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Unitary Development Plan (UDP). This document sets out a framework of policies to: control the location and quality of new development; encourage and stimulate development, where appropriate; protect and improve the environment; and safeguard the borough's most important natural and built assets. Adopted in 2006, the Secretary of State issued a saving direction on policies in 2009 including policies G/BE/9 and BE/10-19 relevant to the built and historic environment.

In determining applications, local planning authorities must be able to understand the significance of any heritage assets affected by the proposed development in order to assess its impact. This would enable the conservation of 'heritage assets in a manner suitable to their significance so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations', or else they can be recorded 'and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible'.

1.1.3 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

Where any development may affect designated heritage assets, there is a legislative framework to ensure proposed works are developed and considered with due regard to their impact on the historic environment. This extends from primary legislation under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

The relevant legislation in this case extends from Section 16 of the 1990 Act, which states that in considering applications for listed building consent, the local planning authority shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the listed building or its setting, or any features of special architectural or historic interest that it possesses. In addition, Section 72 of the Act states that in exercising all planning functions, local planning authorities must have special regard to the desirability of preserving or enhancing conservation areas.

2. Method Statement

The assessment considers the potential impact of future development upon any buried archaeological remains within the Site, and comprises a desk-based study and site inspection. The production of the assessment follows the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) standard and guidance for undertaking archaeological desk-based assessments (*Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk-based Assessment*, revised 2017).

2.1 Research Sources

The desk-based assessment made use of the following sources:

- Published and unpublished cartographic, documentary and photographic sources;
- The Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record, maintained by GMAAS;
- Archives and Local Studies Collections, based at Touchstones in Rochdale;
- The National Heritage List for England;
- Salford Archaeology's library of archaeological work carried out in the vicinity of the Site.

The aim of the research was to provide the relevant historical and archaeological background relating to the development of the Site. The available sequence of historical mapping was the principal source of information, as this provides evidence for the development of the Site since the mid-18th century.

2.2 Site Inspection

The aim of the site inspection was to relate the findings of the desk-based study to the existing land use of the Site in order to identify any evidence for surviving below-ground archaeological remains. This was undertaken in a single day in December 2019.

2.3 The Document

The following chapter presents the historical and archaeological evidence for the Site (Chapter 4). A gazetteer (Chapter 5) is presented of the heritage assets and sites of potential archaeological interest identified within the Site. This information, along with map regression (*Appendix 1*), is used to assess the significance of the remains (Chapter 6). A strategy for further investigation is outlined in Chapter 7, based on the assessment presented in the previous chapters.

3. The Setting

3.1 Site Location and Description

The Site (centred on NGR SD 89585 13255) encompasses the Town Hall in Rochdale town centre, and is bounded by Packer Street, The Esplanade and Vicars Gate. The Site currently consists of car-parking areas and thoroughfares around the Town Hall, a Grade I listed building on the south side of the recently uncovered River Roch.



Plate 1: Site boundary superimposed on a recent aerial image

3.2 Geology and Topography

The underlying solid geology consists of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures (Westphalian A) and millstone grit of the Carboniferous period. The predominant drift geology comprises glacial sands and gravels, with some alluvium (<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/beta.html>).

The development of Rochdale was in no small part due to the topography of the area, and the town developed at the junction of several key trade and communication routes. Important trans-Pennine routes via Blackstone Edge led to the north-east, with routes to the north heading off across the Rossendale Fells into central Lancashire, and westwards to Bury and Bolton. The valley of the River Roch narrowed around Rochdale, providing a convenient fording point for the route southwards to Manchester, which would undoubtedly have been of importance as packhorse ways by the medieval period (Tindall nd, 1).

3.3 Designations

3.3.1 Listed Buildings

Rochdale Town Hall, occupying the centre of the Site, is afforded statutory designation as a Grade I listed building (List Entry No 1084275). Inaugurated for the governance of the Municipal Borough of Rochdale on 27 September 1871, the Town Hall was built in the Gothic Revival style at a cost of £160,000. It is considered to be one of the finest municipal buildings in the country (Plate 2). The architect, William Henry Crossland, was the winner of a competition held in 1864 to design a new town hall. Originally, it had a 73m-high clock tower topped by a wooden spire with a gilded statue of Saint George and the Dragon, both of which were destroyed by fire on 10 April 1883, leaving the building without a spire for four years. A new 58m-high stone clock tower and spire in the style of Manchester Town Hall was designed by Alfred Waterhouse, and erected in 1887. The Town Hall currently functions as the ceremonial headquarters of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, and houses local government departments, including the borough's civil registration office.

The building has a roughly symmetrical E-shaped plan, and is broken down into three self-contained segments: a central Great Hall and transverse wings at each end, which have variously been used as debating chambers, corporation-rooms, trade and a public hall. The south-east wing used to houses the magistrates' courts, and the north-west wing the mayor's rooms. The frontage and principal entrance overlook the River Roch, and comprises a portico of three arches intersected by buttresses.



Plate 2: View looking south across the north-western part of the Site, showing Rochdale Town Hall and the Church of St Chad to the rear beyond Broadfield Park

The southern boundary of the Site coincides with the northern edge of Broadfield Park, a Grade II listed park and garden that covers approximately 6.8 hectares on a spur of the River Roch to the south of the Town Hall (List Entry No 1001522). The park incorporates three distinct areas: the formal layout of Broadfield Park on high ground to the south-west of Rochdale Town Hall; Sparrow Hill and Broadfield Slopes to the west of Manchester Road; and The Esplanade, Packer Spout and St Chad's Gardens lying between Rochdale Town Hall to the north and St Chad's church to the south. This public park was designed by Messrs Stansfield & Sons, landscape gardeners of Todmorden, and was laid out on former glebe land acquired by the Rochdale Corporation in 1860. It was designed to form a setting for Rochdale Town Hall, and opened in successive phases between 1870 and 1874. Broadfield Slopes had been added to the park by the 1890s, and were laid out to a design by Mr J Ogden Kilnerdeyne. The site of Packer Spout and St Chad's Gardens was presented to the town in 1893, but was not laid out until 1925 to a design by the Borough Surveyors Department.

Broadfield Park contains several designated structures, including the market cross in St Chad's Gardens. This Grade II listed structure lies 65m to the south-west of the Town Hall, and comprises a heavy moulded stone base with a tall shaft of probable 18th-century date (List Entry No 1031929). Situated 235m to the south-west of the Town Hall lies the statue of John Bright, another Grade II listed structure (List Entry No 1370017). The statue was designed by Sir William Hamo Thornycroft, and was located originally on the Town Hall Square, within the boundary of the Site; the original position is currently occupied by a statue to Dame Gracie Fields that was erected in 2016. The stone statue of John Bright stands on tapering square pedestal with cornice and moulded base, and is inscribed on all sides with various quotes and insignia including 'Rochdales greatest townsman'.

Immediately south of Broadfield Park, and 110m to the south-east of the Town Hall, lies the Church of St Chad, a Grade II* listed building (List Entry No 1370017). The tower is thought to have been built in the 13th century with later elements, and the top stage added in 1870. The nave arcade columns are partly of a 14th-century date, together with the arches in the south aisle, the clerestory was added in 1557, and the chancel and chapel were built in 1883-8. Situated immediately to the north of the Church of St Chad, lying along the edge of Broadfield Park, is a wall of uncertain date (List Entry No 1954859). This Grade II listed wall is some 24m long and 1m high and comprises 23 vertical stone posts, grooved on either side to accommodate 22 inserted flagstones. The wall was discovered partially buried in 1903, and re-erected by Dr Wilson who considered it to be of Anglo-Saxon origin, although firm evidence for this is lacking.

Along the eastern boundary of the Site, occupying the corner of Packer Street and Fleece Street, lies the former post office (List Entry No 1038535). Built in two phases, the first was completed in 1875 and the second phase of two bays was added after 1892 in matching style (Plate 3). It was probably built to a design by James Williams (1824-92), the first surveyor for post offices at the Office of Works, an office he held from 1859 to 1884. This post office was superseded when the new post office in the Esplanade opened in 1927; this latter post office lies just 50m to the north of the Town Hall and is also afforded statutory protection as a Grade II listed building (List Entry No 1346249). The building on Packer Street later became the County Court offices, but is currently in use as a public house. The building was afforded statutory designation as a Grade II listed building in 1982.



Plate 3: View across the north-western part of the Site towards the Grade II listed former post office at the corner of Fleece Street with Packer Street, showing the recent statue of Dame Gracie Fields

Lying to the north of the former post office, fronting onto South Parade beyond the north-eastern corner of the Site, is the former Union Bank (List Entry No 1405181). This was erected in c 1906-07 to a design by the Manchester-based architects Moulds and Porritt, and was designated as a Grade II listed building in 2012. Two designated structures lie to the north-west of the Town Hall on the north side of The Esplanade (Plate 4). These comprise the Rochdale Cenotaph, a Grade I listed First World War memorial by Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens, dating to 1922 (List Entry No 1084274), and four Grade II listed lamp posts of a similar date that lie at each corner of the War Memorial (List Entry No 1367099), and the Grade II listed Rochdale Bridge (List Entry No 1461917).



Plate 4: View across the Cenotaph looking towards the Town Hall

3.3.2 Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area

The Site lies in the heart of the Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area, which was first designated in 1980 with extensions added in September 2011. It encompasses the history of the town from medieval to modern times in five distinct historical character areas: Rochdale Parish Church of St Chad; the Old Town; Regency Drake Street; Rochdale Town Hall, Square and Esplanade; and the cenotaph and memorial gardens. The Site lies within the Rochdale Town Hall, Square and Esplanade character area.

Lying on the south side of the River Roch, the Town Hall Square and The Esplanade (1864-71) was an artistic creation of the highest order with set-piece buildings in an expansive layout planned according to romantic and picturesque principles (Rowlinson 2011, 41). The simplicity and the visionary scale of the scene contrast with the adjacent Old Town.

Originally, Town Hall Square was a beautifully urbane and uncluttered space that formed part of Crossland's design. It joined all four parts of Victorian Rochdale together, the north, via Yorkshire Street, the east, via The Butts, the south, via Church Steps, and the west via The Esplanade, cumulatively forming a symbolic piece of town planning. The focus of the square was the statue of John Bright, created by the famous sculptor Hamo Thornycroft, which could be seen from all four directions. Commercial buildings were planned and built on the eastern side of the Square. Crossland and Crowther's enlargement of St Chad's Church enclosed the Square from the south. Crossland also doubled the width of Rochdale Bridge, transforming it into a wide platform so people could sweep down Yorkshire Street over the river and into the Square unhindered by any obstruction. Access from the south was via the ancient Church Steps which gave excellent views across the Square. However, excessive parking dramatically lowers the quality of the scene and the functionality of the plaza.

The buildings along Packer Street form an impressive frontage, the impact of which has been obstructed by a row of mainly purple ash trees, which although attractive in their own right cut these important buildings off from the square and are damaging their stonework.

South of the river, Rochdale Town Hall and the clock tower rise sublimely from a very large plaza connected to Manchester Road by a ceremonial way, The Esplanade. The scheme is completed by romantic gardens created on the valley slopes that for part of a Grade II listed registered park.

The Old Town is thought to have lay either side of the river crossing, developing around the 's' shaped route needed to navigate the steep banks of the River Roch. Georgian brick buildings replaced the stone and timber-framed structures of earlier generations, but the medieval footprint remains particularly in the 'ginnels.' These passageways are aligned from Yorkshire Street to the Butts on the north side of the river, and allowed the passage of stock to and from the ford.

3.3.3 Locally Listed Buildings

Several locally listed buildings lie along the eastern side of Packer Street, immediately beyond the eastern boundary of the Site. These include the Flying Horse Hotel and the adjacent building (the former Empire Cinema), and the NatWest bank at the corner of Packer Street and Fleece Street. Nos 1 and 3 South Parade, contiguous to the NatWest bank, are also locally listed buildings, together with Barclays Bank at the junction of Newgate and The Butts, immediately to the north-east of the Site.

3.4 *Heritage Action Zone*

The Site lies within a Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) initiative for central Rochdale, which aims to revitalise and regenerate the town centre, and encourage investment in historic buildings. The Rochdale Town Centre HAZ focuses on the approach from the railway via Maclure Road and Drake Street to the area around South Parade and Yorkshire Street. Historic England is working in partnership with Rochdale Borough Council, the Rochdale Development Agency, Link4Life, Rochdale Boroughwide Housing, Rochdale Town Centre Management Company, and the Cooperative Heritage Trust to deliver the aims of the HAZ.

3.5 *Site Description*

Town Hall Square was intended as a beautifully urbane and uncluttered space that joined all four parts of Victorian Rochdale together: the north, via Yorkshire Street; the east, via The Butts; the south, via Church Steps; and the west via The Esplanade. A statue of John Bright originally provided a focus of the square, being visible from all four directions. Commercial buildings were built on the eastern side of the square, whilst Crossland and Crowther's enlargement of St Chad's Church enclosed the Square from the south. Crossland also doubled the width of Rochdale Bridge, transforming it into a wide platform so people could sweep down Yorkshire Street over the river and into the Square unhindered by any obstruction.

Opposite the Town Hall, north of the river, Dearden's 'Manor House' was redeveloped in 1922 by Sir Edwin Lutyens as a cenotaph (Grade II listed) and garden formally set between two large buildings. The first of the classical buildings became the Post Office (Grade II listed) completed in 1927. The second of the two white classical buildings framing the Cenotaph has yet to be built; but the site has been faithfully retained for 90 years. The 32ft tall cenotaph was unveiled by The Earl of Derby. Lutyen's pale Cornish grey granite, white Portland stone and classical symmetry formed a brave counterpoint to Crossland's dark asymmetric, romantic scheme.

A proposal was put forward in the early 1930s to redevelop Town Hall Square as a new bus station, but this proved to be a very unpopular proposal and was abandoned before any construction work was started, although the statue of John Bright was relocated to Broadfield Park in anticipation that the area was to be redeveloped. Following the collapse of this development proposal, much of the square was given over to public car parking, a function that dominates its use today (Plates 5 and 6).

The ground level across the Site slopes gently upwards to the west, from approximately 120m above Ordnance Datum on The Esplanade in the northern part of the Site to 121.5m on Vicars Gate at the western edge of the Site, whilst the ground rises sharply to the south to a height of 141m at the Church of St Chad.



Plate 5: View north along Packer Street and the car-parking areas that dominate Town Hall Square



Plate 6: View west across the car-parking area to the rear of the Town Hall

4. Historical Background

This section of the report is based on cartographic and documentary research, and provides a framework to the present study, working chronologically through the periods listed below (Table 1). Key sites are summarized in the Gazetteer of Sites (Chapter 5).

Period		Date Range
Prehistoric	Palaeolithic	Pre-10000 BC
	Mesolithic	10000 – 3500 BC
	Neolithic	3500 – 2200 BC
	Bronze Age	2300 – 700 BC
	Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
Romano-British		AD 43 – AD 410
Early Medieval		AD 410 – AD 1066
Late Medieval		AD 1066 – AD 1540
Post-Medieval		AD 1540 – AD 1750
Industrial Period		AD 1750 – 1914
Modern		Post-1914

Table 1: Summary of British archaeological periods and date ranges

4.1 Prehistoric Period

4.1.1 Archaeological Evidence

Various remains dating to the prehistoric period have been identified across the borough of Rochdale. The earliest of these date to the Mesolithic period (c 8000-4000 cal BC) and comprise small scatters of stone tools, dominated by microliths, which are sometimes associated with hearths, areas of burning, and ephemeral structures (*cf* Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 27-8). However, these finds are largely confined to the upland areas of the southern Pennines, well outside of the study area (Pearson *et al* 1985, 105-8).

The region's primeval woodland appears to have been cleared progressively in response to the gradual adoption of farming and associated settlement during the Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Ages. With regard to Neolithic and Bronze Age (c 4000-600 cal BC), the direct evidence dating to these periods is sporadic and is generally based on the chance finds of dateable artefacts and, in the case of the Bronze Age, extant burial mounds. Neolithic finds across the borough principally comprise polished stone axes and flint tools, whilst Bronze Age finds include stone axe-hammers, flint tools, and metalwork (Pearson *et al* 1985, 105-11), including a socketed spearhead from Milnrow (Davey and Forster 1975, entry 107).

During the Iron Age (c 600 cal BC-AD 43) the Rochdale area may have lay within the tribal territory of the Brigantes, who are described in several proto-historic sources, such as the accounts of the Roman historian Tacitus and the geographer Ptolemy. The Brigantes, however, appear to have occupied a large territory covering much of northern England and parts of south-west Scotland, and it is therefore likely that this group formed a loose confederation of smaller tribal groups (Hartley and Fitts 1988, 1-2). Unfortunately, the evidence for Iron Age activity in the area is sparse (Middleton *et al* 1995, 141-89; Haslegrove *et al* 2001, 25), although it has been argued that several promontory sites in the Irwell and Roch valleys may represent settlement sites (Hodgson and Brennand 2006, 53).

Other finds from the borough dating to this period include a bronze torque of Iron Age date (Pearson *et al* 1985, 105-11) and, more tentatively, several Celtic-style carved-stone heads which have been discovered across the Pennine foothills. These include an example found at Castle Farm in Castleton, situated approximately 3km to the south-west of the Site Area. This egg-shaped head was carved in a Celtic style and possessed an open mouth, thick lips and a triangular flat nose with deep nostrils, with a deep hollow under the right eye (*ibid*). A Celtic-style head has also been discovered at St Chad's Church in Rochdale (HER 2376.1.2), and comprises a gutter spout of local stone with a face carved onto the spout. The face has large lentoid eyes with a block nose, and a simple mouth can be distinguished despite the face being rather worn. Similar stone heads have been discovered across the Pennine foothills and, although they are difficult to date, it has been suggested that a proportion might date to the Iron Age, which at a much later date were incorporated into post-medieval boundaries where they acted as charms to protect livestock (Nevell 1992; Redhead 2003, 76).

The distribution of these prehistoric finds and sites indicates that prehistoric settlement and activity was concentrated close to the River Roch, and its tributaries, with the known Bronze Age burial mounds being located in the upland areas. It is thus possible that the Site Area lay within a locality that was favourable for prehistoric activity, although any firm evidence is significantly lacking.

4.1.2 Archaeological Potential

The potential for buried archaeological remains deriving from prehistoric activity within the Site is considered to be low, although the possibility of isolated artefacts should not be dismissed entirely. It is considered most unlikely that any such artefacts will remain *in-situ*, however, given the intensive development of the area since the 18th century.

4.2 Romano-British Period

4.2.1 Archaeological Evidence

Although across Greater Manchester the general pattern of Iron Age settlement and land use may have changed comparatively little during the Romano-British period (AD 43-450), this period is typified by the appearance of Roman military installations, and a concomitant network of roads (cf Philpott 2006, 59). In addition, items of Roman material culture, such as coins, pottery, metalwork, and glass, are introduced into the region and the indigenous communities of the area gradually adopted some of these objects (*ibid*). Unsurprisingly, a small number of Roman artefacts are therefore known from the Rochdale area, though these are not seemingly associated with identifiable settlement sites. These artefacts include several Roman coin hoards that have been unearthed close to the River Roch, Roman stone and ceramic finds from the Milnrow area, and the arm from a small silver statue, possibly dedicated to the VI Legion Victrix, that was discovered at Tunshill to the east of the modern Kingsway Business Park (Fishwick 1889, 12; Pearson *et al* 1985, 111-12). Several objects have been discovered on the northern side of the River Roch, and it has therefore been suggested that a Roman road may have existed, which ran east/west approximately along the line of the modern A58 (Pearson *et al* 1985, 112-13).

However, the nearest known Roman military installations to Rochdale are the forts located at Manchester and Castleshaw, both of which were associated with an extra-mural settlement, or *vicus* (Redhead 2003) That at Manchester formed an auxiliary fort established in c AD 79 which may well have been garrisoned until the end of the Roman period (Gregory 2007). Similarly, the fort at Castleshaw began life as an auxiliary fort, which was established in c AD 79, though this was abandoned in the mid-AD 90s and was replaced by a smaller fortlet in AD 105, which was then abandoned in the AD 120s.

4.2.2 Archaeological Potential

The lack of Romano-British activity in Rochdale suggests that the area was sparsely populated and any potential evidence is likely to have been removed by intense development of the area over the past few centuries. The potential for remains to derive from this period is therefore considered to be very low.

4.3 Early Medieval Period

4.3.1 Archaeological Evidence

Evidence for early medieval activity in the region as a whole is drawn largely from place-names and the Domesday Survey of 1086 (Newman 1996). The Site lay within the parish of Rochdale during the medieval period. This parish formed the most extensive of the parishes contained within the Hundred of Salford, which formed a large Anglo-Saxon territorial unit immediately north of the River Mersey and including the Irwell Valley (Fishwick 1889, 1).

Although the origins of the parish of Rochdale are unclear, it is possible that it was created in the middle Anglo-Saxon period, when the wider area was incorporated into the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Northumbria (Pounds 2000, 3; Newman 2006, 91). The parish may eventually have been coextensive with the manor of Rochdale, which according to Domesday was held in 1066 by Gamel the Thane who still held some land here in 1086 (Morgan 1978).

The major Anglo-Saxon settlement within the Rochdale parish was probably located in the area now covered by the modern town. Rochdale is mentioned by name as 'Recedham' in the Domesday Survey, and the 'ham' element of the place-name is Old English in origin referring to a settlement, which was perhaps a product of Anglo-Saxon colonisation dating to the 7th or 8th century (Ekwall 1922, 55). Similarly, although the element 'Reced' might have been the Celtic name for the River Roch, it is also possible that it has an Old English origin meaning 'hall' (*ibid*). The presence of an Anglo-Saxon settlement at Rochdale also tallies well with the dedication of its parish church to St Chad, the late 7th-century Anglo-Saxon bishop of Lichfield (Fishwick 1889, 127).

4.3.2 Archaeological Potential

Whilst there is scant physical evidence for habitation in Rochdale during the early medieval period, a body of documentary references point to the existence of an Anglo-Saxon settlement. The Site occupies an area that would have been favourable to any such settlement, lying on level land close to a fording point of the River Roch in the shadow of the parish church. As this area does not appear to have been subject to major development, there is potential for remains deriving from the early medieval period to survive *in-situ*. Any such remains would be of considerable archaeological interest.

4.4 Medieval Period

4.4.1 Historical Evidence

By the late 12th century, a motte-and-bailey castle had been established at the northern end of the triangular spur of Castle Hill, half a mile to the south-west of the parish church. Whilst this site is now entirely destroyed and built over, 19th-century surveys show that it had consisted of an irregular bailey, some 30 x 35m, surrounded by earthen ramparts that were probably originally surmounted by a wooden palisade (GMAU 2010, 30).

By 1212, the whole manor had been assigned to the Lord of Clitheroe, and was held by Roger de Lacy, and several under tenants. By 1251, Rochdale had become important enough to have been granted a charter for a weekly market, and an annual fair on the feast of St Simon and St Jude in October. It has been suggested that the original market place was located in Church Stile, near the parish church, although firm evidence is lacking. It was probably during this period that a borough was also created (Fishwick 1889).

The Church of St Chad is thought to have served an enormous parish, rather than a substantial town. The oldest part of the existing church, which occupies high ground on the south side of the town overlooking the river, dates to the 13th century (Hartwell *et al* 2004, 588). However, there is some evidence to suggest that an earlier church occupied the same site, and fragments of Norman masonry are said to have been discovered during renovation in 1815 (Fishwick 1889, 12). It is certainly clear that considerable investment was expended in reconstructing the church during the 13th century, although there is some evidence to suggest that the 13th-century chancel was not notably bigger than its predecessor, which may thus have been comparatively large (Farrer and Brownbill 1911).

Following the death of Henry de Lacy, Earl of Lincoln, in 1311 Rochdale passed to the Earls of Lancaster who held the manor until the end of the 15th century (Fishwick 1889, 21). During the 15th century the manor was also leased to various stewards, and from 1462 until 1616 these were members of the influential Byron family with large land holdings across the area.

The focus of medieval activity in the area remains uncertain, and the pattern of settlement may have comprised a spread of innumerable folds, representing little clusters of agricultural and proto-industrial buildings (Hartwell *et al* 2004, 585). Whilst it is tempting to suggest that the centre of the medieval town probably lay on the south side of the River Roch, in proximity to the Church of St Chad, firm evidence is lacking. However, Packer Street is clearly associated with the medieval church, providing a direct route to Rochdale Bridge.

The date at which the first bridge across the River Roch in Rochdale was constructed is not known; it seems likely that it existed by 1324, as a document of that date refers to 'John of the Brig', which may be associated with a bridge (Taylor 1956). In addition, it is likely that there was a ford across the river at The Butts during the medieval period; a ford is referred to in early 17th-century documents (Curren 1610), and Sir Robert Heath's *Survey of the Manor* of 1626 (Fishwick (ed), 1913).

4.4.2 Archaeological Potential

There is some potential for buried archaeological remains deriving from medieval activity within the Site. Any such remains would be of considerable archaeological interest, and are likely to be focused in the eastern part of the Site, along the western side of Packer Street and the southern bank of the River Roch.

4.5 Post-medieval Period

4.5.1 Historical Evidence

In 1582, Camden described Rochdale as 'a market town well frequented'. The regional importance of the town at this time is implicit from the detail provided by Saxton's map of Lancashire, which was published in 1577, and marks the town in bold letters. Manufacturing and mining industries became of increasing importance to the local economy during this period; the confiscation of the lands that had belonged to Whalley Abbey, and the general suppression of religious houses following the Dissolution of the Monasteries, produced a new race of landlords, whose number was increased by the sale of Byron estates in the early part of the 17th century (Fishwick 1913). The town certainly began to expand significantly during the 1600s, indicated to some degree by the Hearth Tax Returns; in 1666, 228 hearths were recorded for Rochdale.

The 1626 *Survey of the Manor* notes that the bridge across the River Roch to the west of the ford was 'in decay', although it was not known who was responsible for the repairs (Fishwick (ed) 1913). Records in the Lancashire Quarter Sessions dated 23 July 1663 make further reference to the perilous state of the bridge (LRO/QSP/244/1), but in 1676 Gabriel Gartside and Joseph Dearden are reported to have expended £75 5s 2d on repairs to the bridge (QSP/457/7). The bulk of the costs incurred were for transporting 'free stone', indicating that the bridge was of stone construction.

Celia Fiennes, writing in c 1700, described Rochdale as 'a pretty neat town, built all of stone', whilst some 25 years later Defoe considered it 'a good market town, and of late much improved in the woollen manufacture, as are also the villages in its neighbourhood' (Furbank *et al* 1991). By the end of the 18th century, Rochdale had developed a formidable reputation as a centre for the production of woollen cloth, and the town benefited from a lucrative export trade in woollen goods to Holland, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Russia and Germany (Aiken 1795, 248).

Rochdale also became an important centre for the cross-Pennine trade in woollen cloth, represented by the numerous merchant's houses, warehouses and inns that were established in the town during the late 1700s to service this trade. An important group of these buildings survives along Yorkshire Street and connected streets, reflecting the position of the area at the terminus of the Georgian trade route across the Pennines to Yorkshire. The surviving warehouses in the town centre span the 1790s to the 1850s, and will thus incorporate the innovative design features that were adopted during this key period in the evolution of structural engineering. The evidence available, however, suggests that another important group of warehouses and buildings connected with the pack horse trade occupied the Site, focused along Packer Street on the approach to Rochdale Bridge and the southern bank of the River Roch.

In 1771, Samuel Curwen visited Rochdale, and noted that it was 'remarkable for (its) many wool merchants; it has a large woollen market, the merchants from Halifax etc, repairing hither weekly'. He also noted that 'every considerable house is a manufactory, and is supplied with a rivulet or little stream, without which the business cannot be carried on' (Fishwick 1889, 57-8). The River Roch was also exploited as a source of power during this period, although it was subject to sudden flooding (Robertson 1875, 265-6).

A useful description of Rochdale Bridge during this period is provided by Edmond Holme in 1787. The bridge formed part of the road from Manchester to Halifax, and consisted of three arches. Holme also noted that there was a very dangerous turn from Church Lane on the New Wall (South Parade), although 'Mr Thomas Smith, a lessee under the vicar, offered to take down the old buildings and remove them so far back as to make the road easy and convenient for £30'. An undated footnote added subsequently to Holmes' transcript notes that, in 1802, 'the north-east wing was totally taken down and a new one made in lieu thereof' (Holme 1787, 54).

The extent of the town at this time is depicted on William Yates' map of Lancashire, which provides the earliest reliable map of the town, albeit published at a small scale (Plate 7); it is likely that the layout of the town as depicted by Yates reflected the medieval street pattern. This map shows that the core of the 18th-century town was focused to the north of the parish church, around St Mary's Gate and what is now Drake Street, and by the river crossing at The Butts. The eastern part of the Site is shown to have contained a continuous row of buildings along Parker Street, with a riverside frontage to the north.



Plate 7: Approximate Site boundary on an extract from Yates' map of Lancashire of 1786

4.5.2 Archaeological Potential

There is high potential for buried archaeological remains deriving from post-medieval medieval activity to survive within the Site. Any such remains are likely to be focused in the eastern part of the Site, beneath the modern car-parking area along the western side of Packer Street.

4.6 Industrial Period

4.6.1 Historical Overview

Rochdale became a boomtown of the Industrial Revolution during the late 18th century, and amongst the first ever industrialised towns. The Rochdale Canal, one of the major navigable broad canals of Great Britain, was a highway of commerce during this time used for the haulage of cotton, wool, and coal to and from the area. The canal was opened between Rochdale and Manchester by 1799, and was completed as the first trans-Pennine route in 1804 (Hadfield 1994).

The growth of the population as Rochdale became a manufacturing centre led to the enlargement of the parish church; and the building of new ones: St Mary's, Wardleworth, was consecrated in 1744; St James's, Wardleworth, in 1821; St Clement's, Spotland, in 1835; and Christ Church, Healey, in 1850 (Farrer and Brownbill 1911).

A flavour of the character of the settlement on the north bank of the River Roch, know as The Butts, in the late 18th and early 19th century, is provided by a painting of c 1780 (reproduced in Taylor 1956; Plate 8) and print of c 1810 (Plate 9). These depict an array of building types, including small cottages, large Georgian town houses, warehouses, public buildings and industrial premises. Yorkshire Street and Toad Lane represented the main thoroughfares to Yorkshire and central Lancashire respectively.

The market was held on the north bank of the river from at least the 16th century, and there were also water-powered corn mills and fulling mills in the area; it is possible, although unconfirmed, that both occupied the sites of medieval predecessors (Tindall nd, 13). The precise location of these mills is uncertain, although Water Side is one possible site.



Plate 8: Partial view of Rochdale Bridge in c 1780 from the south-west corner of South Parade

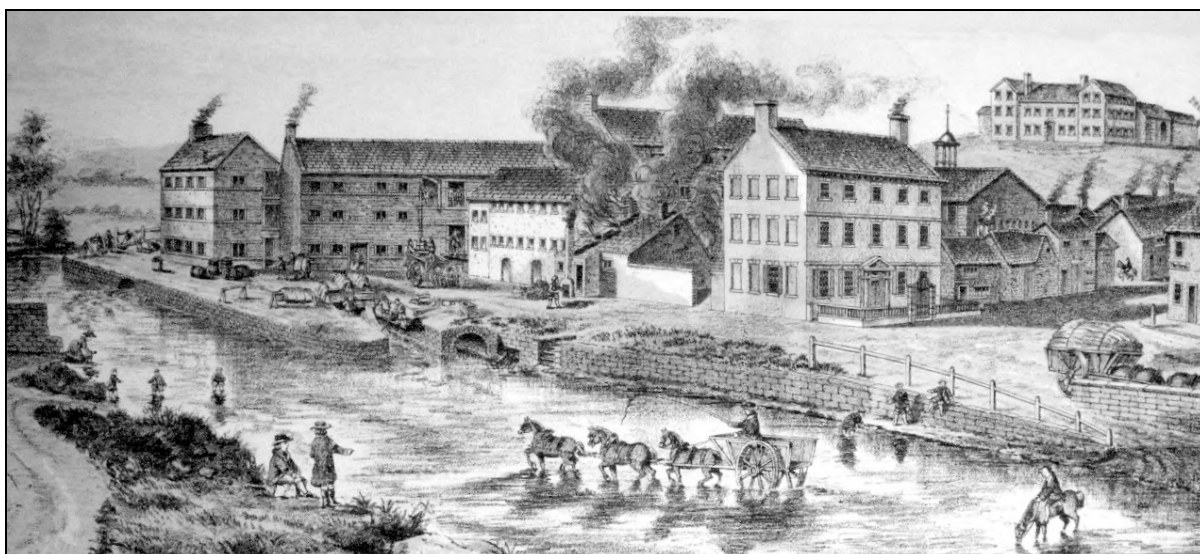


Plate 9: The ford across the River Roch at The Butts, c 1810

Rochdale rose to prominence during the 19th century as an important centre for the production of cotton goods, whilst maintaining a strong woollen industry, focusing in particular on the manufacture of flannel and baize. New cotton mills were established along the River Roch and, with the advent of steam power, throughout the town along the river valleys and canal banks. However, the town enjoyed a 'golden age' during the Cotton Famine of the 1860s, when woollens became once more price-competitive with cotton goods; the population of the town increased by over 60% during this period (Williams with Farnie 1992, 43; Pigot 1822).

In 1858, the newly elected Council raised the idea of building a new town hall. Land was purchased on the south bank of the River Roch in November 1863 and, in January 1864, a competition was announced for the designs of the building. This competition was won by William Henry Crosland of Leeds, and the foundation stone was eventually laid by John Bright in March 1866. The grand building was provided with a spacious esplanade in front, and a steep wooded slope as a backdrop (Sharples nd, 1). During this period, the Council decided to construct an elaborate drinking fountain adjacent to the south bank of the river at the bottom of Drake Street. The fountain was erected in 1863, and comprised a square base covered with stone-coloured canvas, with the monogram 'A.E' exhibited in block letters on two sides, and 'A.C.' placed on the opposite sides (*Rochdale Observer* March 1863).

The magnificent gothic hall was completed in 1871, and set the tone for Rochdale's town centre. However, this new symbol of the town's civic pride overlooked the River Roch, which was little more than an open sewer by the late 19th century; a prominent visitor to Rochdale in 1857 described the town as having 'a little bridge that spans like a rocking horse an imaginary stream in which there is nothing liquid but mud...the town is in the shape of a tea-cup, with a gutter at the bottom' (quoted in Milne 1977). In redressing this situation, a decision was taken to gradually cover the river and, by July 1904, the first phase of this ambitious project, from Yorkshire Street to Wellington Bridge, was completed (Cole 1988, 35). The entire scheme was completed in 1924, combining seven bridges. The covering of this entire area also allowed the council to build a tramway centre.

4.7 Development of the Site

The following section presents an overview of the development of the study area from the based on an analysis of the available historical maps and other primary documents that date from the mid-18th century onwards. There are no accounts that elucidate the medieval land use of the Site, although it seems likely that timber buildings may have lined Packer Street as an important thoroughfare by the end of the medieval period; Packer Street is recorded as 'the leading business street' in 1600 (Mattley 1899, 4).

The layout of the town on the southern side of the River Roch is depicted on a *Plan of the Rochdale Glebe*, which was produced in 1754-7 (Plate 10). This shows the core of the town to have been focused on the parish church, around what is now Drake Street, King Street, and Packer Street, the latter probably deriving its name from its medieval use as a packhorse route between the Church of St Chad and the Rochdale Bridge. This is annotated as 'A Stone Bridge', with a second river crossing a short distance to the west named 'Capt Ogden Bridge' (HA 07). The town is shown to have a similar layout on *A Plan of the Vicarage* of 1764, which also shows the 'new' settlement on the north bank of the river, with ribbon development extending northwards along Whitworth Road and north-eastwards along Yorkshire Street (Plate 11). These plans also show Church Lane as a principal thoroughfare; this lane probably superseded Packer Street as the medieval packhorse road northwards from the parish church. Church Lane provided a gentler gradient for wheeled traffic, although its broad sweep north-eastwards from the church necessitated a sharp westward dog-leg at the river, in order to connect with Yorkshire Street at Rochdale Bridge.

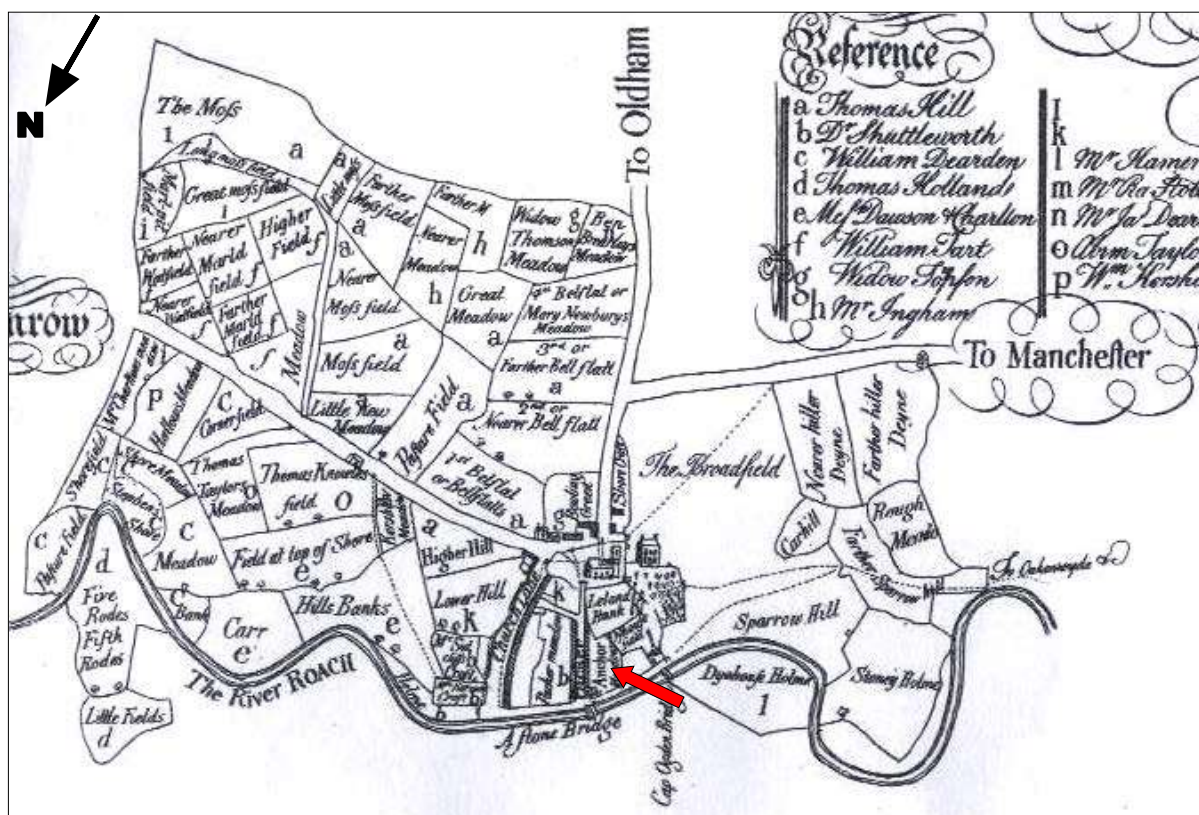


Plate 10: Plan of the Rochdale Glebe in 1754-7, with arrow marking the location of the later Town Hall Square



Plate 11: Extract from *A Plan of the Vicarage, 1764*

A notice printed in 1793 advised that a John Ashworth, described as a bread baker and grocer of Packer Street in Rochdale, had assigned his estate and effects to Benjamin Meanley, an iron monger, Robert Holt, a butcher, and James Holt, innkeeper (*The Leeds Intelligencer*, 15 April 1793).

A further notice printed in newspapers in 1797 advertised the sale by auction of the estate of Mr Richard Gore, deceased. This comprised 'several cottages or dwelling houses, shops, warehouses and premises standing and being at the Waterside in Rochdale (HA 08), now in the several possessions or occupations of Mr T Gore, Mr Benjamin Meanley, Mr John Bowcock, Widow Collier, Richard Whitworth and others, together with a large plot of very eligible building land adjoining, containing 1,581 square yards, being part of the Anchor Meadow, and now divided into several gardens' (*The Leeds Intelligencer*, 15 May 1797); this plot was developed subsequently as the Roch Brass and Iron Foundry (HA 02). Other properties advertised for auction 'cottages or dwelling house situate at the lower end of the Packer Street used as a public house, and called the Lower Anchor, with stabling and appurtenances thereto belonging' and another cottage on Packer Street that was used as a public house known as the Higher Anchor, with outbuildings. The latter was said to be in the possession of Mrs Stott, a widow, at the annual rent of £8 plus two-yearly ground rents. All of the properties were held by lease under the Vicarage of Rochdale.

The first detailed map of Rochdale is provided by Swire's survey of 1824, which was produced at a scale of 9": 1 mile (Plate 12). This map shows Rochdale Bridge to have been the principal thoroughfare connecting the medieval core of Rochdale on the south bank of the river with the expanding settlement on the north bank. A row of commercial / residential properties line the side of Packer Street (HA **01**) as it crosses the Site, with the Roch Foundry to the rear (HA **02**), set in the large gardens of a villa residence known as The Wood (HA **06**). Buildings on Water Side are also shown (HA **08**), together with the footbridge across the River Roch (HA **07**).

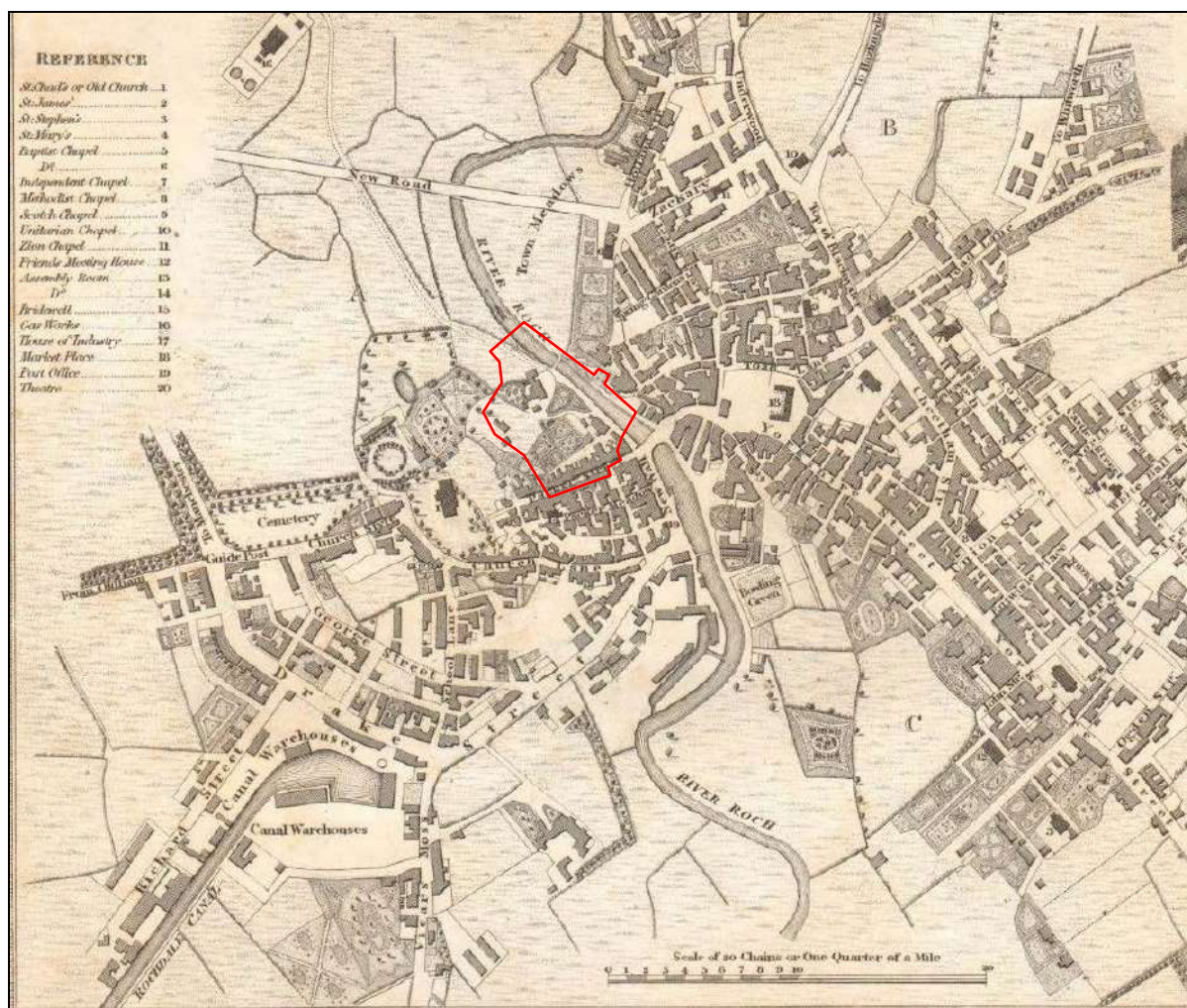


Plate 12: Swire's plan of Rochdale, surveyed in 1824

The next available plan of Rochdale is that provided by Murphy's survey of 1831, which was produced at a scale of 1": 5 chains, and shows broadly the same configuration of buildings shown by Swire (Fig 2). Greater detail of individual buildings, however, is provided by the 1844 tithe map for Castleton (Plate 13). This shows that the properties lining the west side of Packer Street within the Site boundary to have comprised 20 houses, all of slightly different sizes and plan forms, many with outshuts and yards to the rear. The Roch Foundry (HA **02**) is shown to have been expanded to comprise three main buildings set at a right angle to Packer Street. The villa residence in the centre of the Site is identified as The Wood (HA **06**), with a non-residential building to the rear probably representing a stable and coach house.

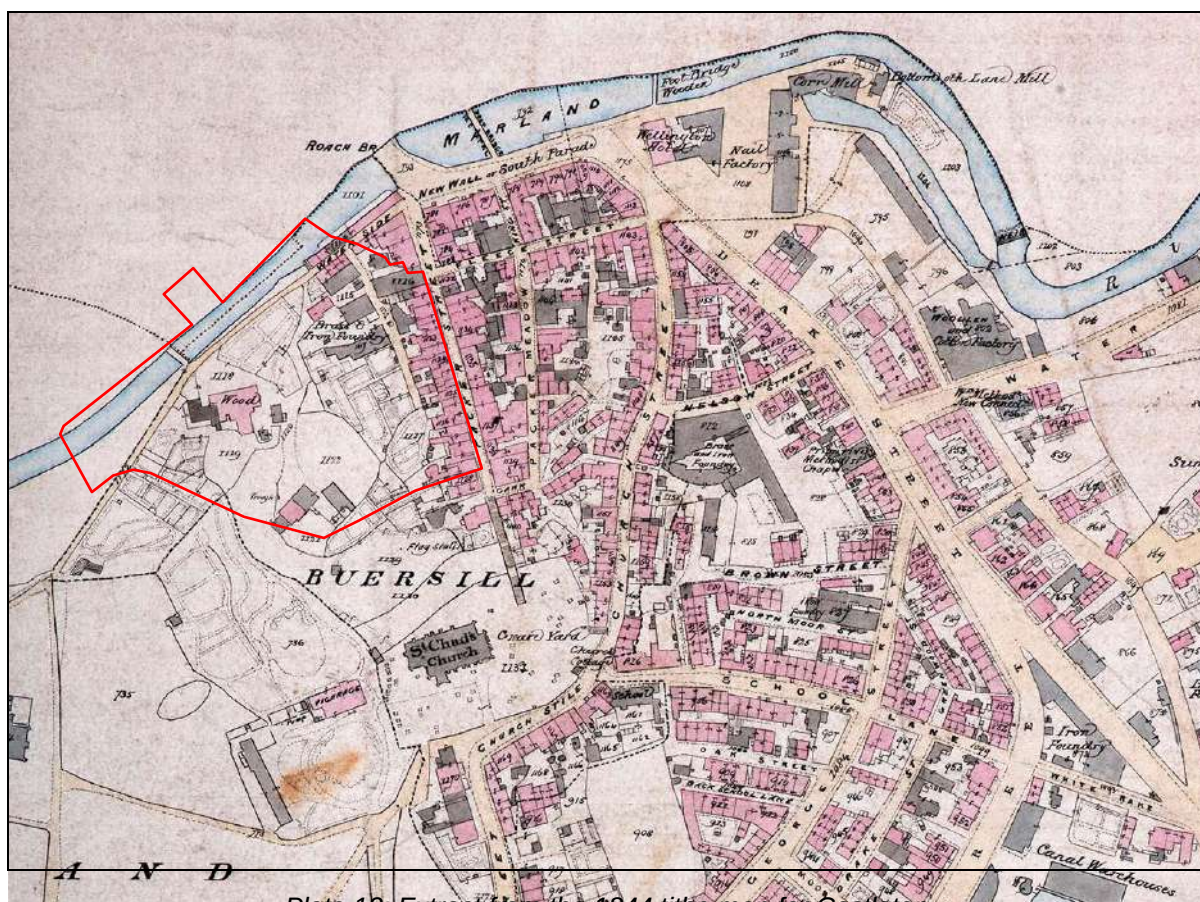


Plate 13: Extract from the 1844 tithe map for Castleton

In 1851, the Ordnance Survey published the first edition 1:1056 Town Plan of Rochdale, provides further detail of the buildings occupying the Site, although essentially replicates the configuration shown on the 1844 tithe map (Fig 3). This again shows the layout of the Roch Brass and Iron Foundry (HA 02) to have comprised three main buildings broadly aligned north-east / south-west, separated by two yards that were both served by gated entrances that providing access via a narrow lane to Water Side. A furnace shown against the southern elevation of the central building will almost certainly have been a cupola. This type of furnace developed in its modern form in the 1790s, and typically consisted of a barrel that was approximately 1m in diameter and 3m high, frequently made of cast-iron staves held together with wrought-iron hoops. It is likely that the casting area was housed adjacent to the cupola.

The next available detailed mapping is provided by the Ordnance Survey second edition 1:1056 Town Plan of Rochdale (Plate 14), which was surveyed in the early 1890s. This shows the new town hall occupying the centre of the Site. This magnificent building was completed in 1871, although its construction evidently necessitated the clearance of all the other buildings within the boundary of the Site, including The Wood, the properties along Packer Street and the Roch Foundry. Similarly, buildings lining the southern bank of the River Roch along Water Side to the west of Rochdale Bridge were also cleared and replaced with The Esplanade, which opened in 1871. The scale of the Town Hall, its associated square and The Esplanade reflect the considerable civic pride of Rochdale at this time (Plate 15).

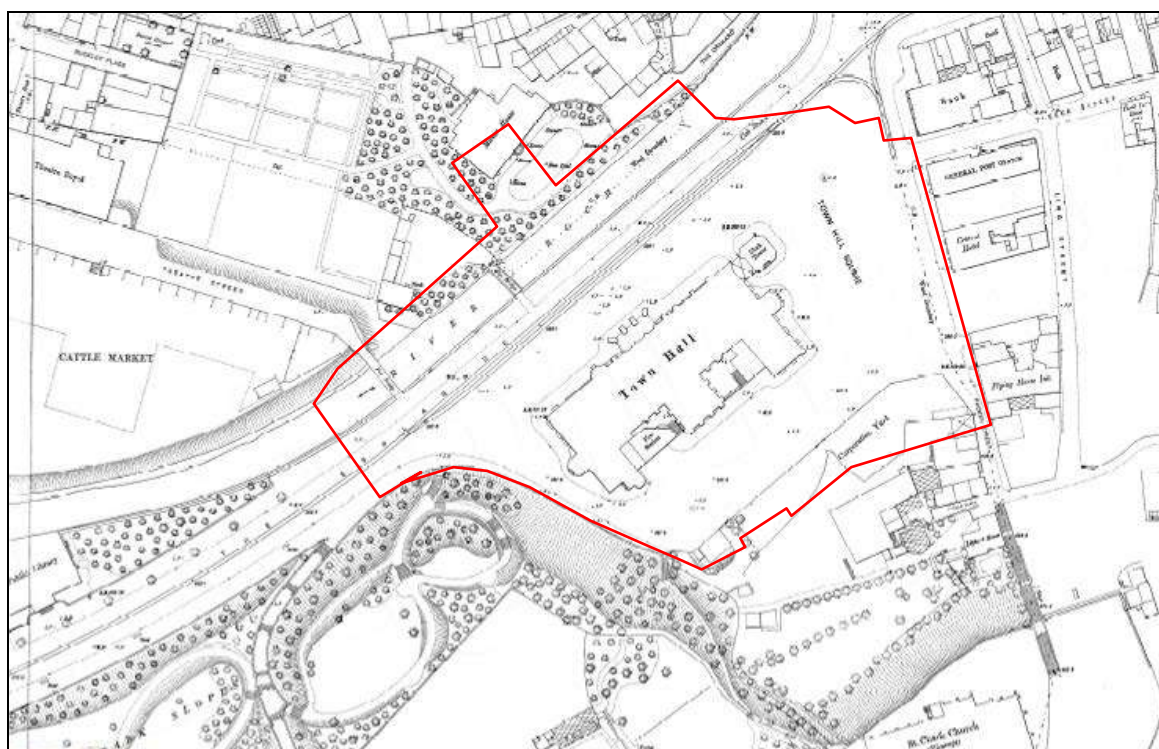


Plate 14: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1892



Plate 15: Perspective of the Town Hall by Edward Walker in 1875

In 1868, the Ecclesiastical Commissioners sold several plots of land on the glebe to the Corporation, including Broadfield and Sparrow Hill. They were landscaped and opened as Broadfield Park on 1 August 1874, complementing the splendour of the new Town Hall. Similarly, the buildings along the east side of Packer Street were steadily rebuilt from 1870 onwards, with a mixture of civic and commercial buildings such as a bank of 1870, the Post Office of 1875, the Central Hotel of 1880 and the Empire Hall of c 1904. Another public building established during this period was a mortuary, which was opened along the southern boundary of the Site in 1894 (Mattley 1899, 110).

The Town Hall Square was also created in the early 1870s as the principal centrally located public space of Rochdale. It connected areas north of the Roch with those to the south and it is enclosed by commercial buildings to north and east, the Town Hall to west and the Church of St Chad to the south. Access from the south was via Church Steps, and the focal point was a statue of John Bright statue, which was created by the famous sculptor Hamo Thornycroft, which could be seen from all four directions (Plate 16). The statue was unveiled in October 1891, and was nine feet high, atop an 11-feet high pedestal, and cost £2000 to erect (Mattley 1899, 104). It was relocated to Broadfield Park in the 1930s as part of a proposed scheme to redevelop Town Hall Square as a bus station, although this was a hugely unpopular proposal that was abandoned before any development work commenced.



Plate 16: A view looking north across Town Hall Square in c 1900, showing the John Bright statue

The Ordnance Survey second edition 25": 1 mile map of 1910 (Fig 6) shows further changes to the townscape in the area, specifically the covering of the River Roch between Rochdale Bridge and Wellington Bridge. This ambitious scheme was implemented in 1904 and was eventually completed in 1924. The resultant surface over the river was developed immediately as a new tramway centre, with new shelters for passengers to replace those that had formerly overhung the river (Plate 17). The Ordnance Survey map of 1910 also shows the mortuary along the southern edge of the Site.

One of the first building projects in Rochdale after the First World War was a war memorial designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens (HA 11). This monument was erected on the site of the former manor house opposite the Town Hall, and comprised a cenotaph with a 'war stone' in front that was unveiled by the 17th Earl of Derby in November 1922.



Plate 17: Town Hall, The Esplanade and the Cenotaph in c 1930

The interwar period was one of mixed fortunes for Rochdale. The borough's population increased from 87,189 in 1906 to 95,370 in 1933, and several important buildings were constructed during the period. Conversely, a rapid decline in the nation's textile industry after the First World War was further aggravated by the international depression of the 1930s, leading to mill closures and high unemployment. The second largest industry in Rochdale was textile-machinery engineering, which also suffered during this period.

4.8 Previous Archaeological Investigation

No known previous archaeological work has taken place within the Site boundary, with the exception of a comprehensive survey of Rochdale Bridge and an associated watching brief that was maintained during the opening-up of the river in 2011-12. The survey was undertaken by laser scanning in November and December 2011, coupled with an analysis of the bridge structure that identified 12 bridge constructions. The earliest Rochdale Bridge was potentially constructed during the medieval period. This was then progressively extended with the additions on either side. A new curved bridge section was constructed in 1821 following a disaster the previous year, when part of the parapet collapsed during a bull bait. The Rochdale Bridge was then expanded further in 1864. A new bridge, Wellington Bridge, was constructed in the late 19th century, and comprised a flat deck carried on eight substantial I-section wrought iron beams of riveted plate construction. In the early 20th century the area between the Rochdale and Wellington Bridges was in-filled, together with sections to the west and east, rendering a 450m long sealed river culvert through the centre of Rochdale. The bridges were constructed of reinforced concrete using a pioneering technique of structural engineering, and although clearly distinct phases of construction, between 1909 and 1923, they were all of a broadly comparable design (OA North 2011).

In January 2018, Salford Archaeology carried out an archaeological evaluation and subsequent excavation of Rochdale Riverside Phase 1 around Baillie Street in the town centre. The initial evaluation comprised the excavation of eight trenches, which demonstrated that three areas towards John Street in the east of the study area merited further investigation in the form of archaeological excavation. The excavations that were carried out subsequently recorded the remains of 18th-century field systems, early to 19th-century back-to-back and blind-back workers' houses, and a 19th-century church (Salford Archaeology 2018).

More recently, Historic England carried out an historic area assessment as part of the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) initiative for central Rochdale. This aimed to provide a better understanding of the historic development of the area and its buildings, and inform future decisions on the enhancement of the two conservation areas in the town centre (Roethe and Williams 2019).

4.9 Historic Environment Data

The Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER) was consulted as part of the desk-based research. This county-wide database contains a total of 73 records of known heritage assets and sites of archaeological interests within a 250m radius of the Town Hall, although the only records within the Site boundary are the designated heritage assets of the Town Hall (HER 11543.1.0), the Cenotaph (HER 11560.1.0) and four Grade II listed lamp posts and each corner (HER 11559.1.0), and the bridge across the River Roch (HER 17239.1.0).

4.10 Recent Planning Applications

There have been very few previous planning applications of relevance within the boundary of the Site, although Conservation Area Consent was obtained in April 2000 for the demolition of the late 19th-century mortuary to the rear of the Town Hall and the clearance of the site (Planning Ref: 00/D37585).

More recently, in February 2016, planning consent was obtained to install a statue of Dame Gracie Fields in Town Hall Square (Planning Ref: 16/00240/FUL). This has been located close to the position of the former John Bright statue, which was relocated to Broadfield Park in 1933.

5. Gazetteer of Sites

The following gazetteer provides a list of the sites of potential below-ground archaeological interest identified within the boundary of the Site. This has been compiled from the dataset gathered from previous archaeological investigations of the site, together with a study of the historical map sequence and information held by the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (HER).

Site Number	HA 01
Site Name	Packer Street
Designation	Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area
HER Number	-
Site Type	Commercial / Residential
Period	Post-medieval
NGR	SD 89655 13275
Source	<i>Plan of the Rochdale Glebe 1754-7; A Plan of the Vicarage 1764; Murphy's survey, 1831; OS Town Plan, 1851; Robertson 1876, 330; Taylor 1956, 74; Mattley 1889, 37</i>
Description	The evidence available raises the possibility that Packer Street formed part of the medieval settlement of Rochdale, providing a direct route between the Church of St Chads and Rochdale Bridge. Similarly, there is circumstantial evidence to suggest that there was an early medieval settlement in Rochdale, and whilst its precise location and extent is unknown, it may be suggested that the area around Packer Street may have been conducive to early settlement as it occupied level ground close to a fording point of the River Roch. Packer Street was certainly a major thoroughfare in the Castleton township prior to the construction of Drake Street and Manchester Road, and was described as the 'leading business street' in 1600. Buildings are shown lining the west side of the street within the Site on plans produced in 1757 and 1764. Some, if not all, of these buildings may be referred to in an auction sale in 1797. The detailed Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1851 does not show any pavement lights against any of the buildings, suggesting that none contained cellars. The buildings were cleared for in the early 1860s to enable the construction of the Town Hall and associated square, whilst those on the east side of Packer Street were rebuilt with higher status civic and commercial buildings. One of the latest references to the buildings on the east side of Packer Street is provided by the electoral register for 1863, which identifies Robert Jackson as the owner of leasehold land and the building at N° 11 Packer Street.
Assessment	The site of the post-medieval buildings on the west side of Packer Street has formed part of the Town Hall Square since the early 1860s, and does not appear to have sustained any earth-moving works other than hard-surfacing. There is good potential for the foundations of the post-medieval buildings to survive <i>in-situ</i> below ground. Given the apparent lack of cellars, there is a possibility that evidence for any earlier buildings or medieval land use may survive beneath the post-medieval buildings.

Site Number	HA 02
Site Name	Roch Foundry
Designation	Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area
HER Number	-
Site Type	Brass and Iron Foundry
Period	Late 18 th / early 19 th century
NGR	SD 89655 13275
Source	<i>A Plan of the Vicarage</i> 1764; Murphy's survey, 1831; OS Town Plan, 1851
Description	The iron foundry was occupied by 1792 by the ironmonger Benjamin Meanley, and was amongst the earliest foundries to have been established in Rochdale. It is still shown on the 1844 tithe map as a brass and iron foundry, but the buildings were cleared in the early 1860s to enable the construction of the Town Hall and the associated Town Hall Square. Other than the landscaping works necessitated to create the new square, the site of the former iron foundry does not appear to have been subject to any substantial earth-moving works since the 1860s.
Assessment	The footprint of all the foundry buildings and associated yards lie beneath modern hard landscaping in the eastern part of the Site, with some potential for structural remains to survive <i>in-situ</i> below ground.

Site Number	HA 03
Site Name	Roch Smithy
Designation	Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area
HER Number	
Site Type	Smithy
Period	Post-medieval
NGR	SD 89637 13273
Source	<i>A Plan of the Vicarage</i> 1764; Murphy's survey, 1831; OS Town Plan, 1851
Description	A small building identified as a smithy on the Town Plan of 1851, situated on Packer Street immediately to the south of the Roch Foundry. The building is not easily apparent on earlier surveys, although this is likely to reflect the small scale of the mapping rather than showing that the smithy had not been established. The smithy is likely to have been N ^o 9 Packer Street, which is recorded in the 1851 Census as the premises of John Nealey, a 'tin-plate worker master' who employed two men and two apprentices (HO 107/2244). The smithy was cleared in the 1860s in advance of constructing the Town Hall and Town Hall Square. Other than the landscaping works necessitated to create the new square, the site of the former smithy does not appear to have been subject to any substantial earth-moving works since the 1860s.
Assessment	The footprint of the smithy lies beneath modern hard landscaping in the eastern part of the Site, with some potential for structural remains to survive <i>in-situ</i> below ground.

Site Number	HA 04
Site Name	The Wood Gardens
Designation	Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area
HER Number	
Site Type	Private Gardens
Period	Late 18 th / early 19 th century
NGR	SD 89630 13250
Source	Murphy's survey, 1831; OS Town Plan, 1851
Description	A large formal garden associated with The Wood (HA 06), as shown on the Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1851.
Assessment	The footprint of the gardens lies beneath modern hard landscaping in the eastern part of the Site, although physical remains are likely to have been removed entirely during the landscaping works associated with the construction of the Town Hall and Town Hall Square, and there is no potential for archaeological remains to survive <i>in-situ</i> .

Site Number	HA 05
Site Name	Well
Designation	Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area
HER Number	
Site Type	Well
Period	Post-medieval
NGR	SD 89605 13254
Source	OS Town Plan, 1851
Description	A well shown on the Ordnance Survey of 1851, lying with the extensive gardens associated with The Wood (HA 04).
Assessment	The well lies within the footprint of the Town Hall, and is likely to have been infilled / destroyed during redevelopment in the early 1860s and there is little potential for archaeological remains to survive <i>in-situ</i> .

Site Number	HA 06
Site Name	The Wood
Designation	Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area
HER Number	
Site Type	Villa Residence
Period	Late 18 th / early 19 th century
NGR	SD 89565 13250
Source	Swire's survey, 1824; Murphy's survey, 1831; OS Town Plan, 1851
Description	A large villa residence that was erected in the centre of the Site in the late 18 th or early 19 th century. The building is not shown on the survey of 1764 or Yates' map of 1786, but is clearly visible on Swire's survey of 1824, together with a range of buildings to the south-west that may have formed a stables and coach house. However, the Census returns for 1863 indicate that the house was in multiple occupancy, with three families residing there. Nearly all the members of each of these three families worked in various branches of the textile industry.

Assessment The buildings were cleared entirely to enable the construction of the Town Hall in the 1860s, although much of the footprint of the villa and the putative coach house to the south lie beyond the Town Hall, raising the potential for archaeological remains to survive *in-situ*.

Site Number HA 07
Site Name Capt Ogden's Bridge
Designation Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area
HER Number
Site Type Footbridge
Period Post-medieval
NGR SD 89536 13275
Source OS Town Plan, 1851; Robertson 1881
Description A wooden footbridge crossing the river downstream of Rochdale Bridge was in place by the mid-18th century, and is annotated 'Capt Ogden's Bridge' on the *Plan of the Rochdale Glebe in 1754-7*. It was known subsequently as Hamer's Bridge (Robertson 1881, 5-8). The bridge survived throughout the 19th century, but was eventually replaced by the covering of the river between 1904-24.
Assessment The bridge has been destroyed, and there is no potential for archaeological remains to survive *in-situ*.

Site Number HA 08
Site Name Water Side
Designation Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area
HER Number
Site Type Warehouses / Shops
Period Post-medieval
NGR SD 89608 13321
Source *A Plan of the Vicarage* 1764; Murphy's survey, 1831; OS Town Plan, 1851
Description A range of buildings shown on 18th- early 19th-century mapping occupying the south bank of the River Roch on the north side of Water Side. The most detailed plan of the buildings is provided by the Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1851, which shows a long, rectangular range extending south-westwards from Rochdale Bridge, with a second, slightly shorter, rectangular range continuing to the south-west, straddling the north-eastern boundary of the Site. The south-west end of this row of buildings comprised two small buildings, probably representing workers' houses, lying within the boundary of the Site. The Ordnance Survey Town Plan does not show any pavement lights against these houses, suggesting that they did not contain cellars.
Assessment The buildings were cleared in the 1860s and their footprint subsumed by the construction of The Esplanade in 1871, and overlain subsequently by tram lines. These developments are likely to have removed all physical remains of the buildings shown on historical mapping, and there is little potential for archaeological remains to survive *in-situ*.

Site Number	HA 09
Site Name	Anchor Meadow
Designation	Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area
HER Number	
Site Type	Houses
Period	Late 18 th / early 19 th century
NGR	SD 89610 13313
Source	OS Town Plan, 1851
Description	A row of four small buildings lining the south side of Water Side, as shown on the Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1851; earlier mapping is insufficiently detailed to confirm whether the buildings existed at an earlier date. The size of the buildings suggests that they may have formed workers' housing. Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1851 does not show any pavement lights against the buildings, implying that they did not contain cellars.
Assessment	The buildings were cleared in the 1860s, although the footprint of the buildings does not appear to have been subject to significant earth-moving works subsequently, and there is some potential for archaeological remains to survive <i>in-situ</i> .

Site Number	HA 10
Site Name	Rochdale Town Hall
Designation	Grade I listed building; Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area
HER Number	11543.1.0
Site Type	Civic Building
Period	1870
NGR	SD 89580 13253
Source	OS Town Plan, 1892
Description	Inaugurated for the governance of the Municipal Borough of Rochdale on 27 September 1871, the Town Hall was built in the Gothic Revival style at a cost of £160,000. It is considered to be one of the finest municipal buildings in the country. The building has a roughly symmetrical E-shaped plan, and is broken down into three self-contained segments: a central Great Hall and transverse wings at each end, which have variously been used as debating chambers, corporation-rooms, trade and a public hall. The south-east wing used to house the magistrates' courts, and the north-west wing the mayor's rooms. The frontage and principal entrance overlook the River Roch, and comprises a portico of three arches intersected by buttresses. The Town Hall functions as the ceremonial headquarters of Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council, and houses local government departments, including the borough's civil registration office.
Assessment	The Town Hall occupies the centre of the Site, but will not sustain any physical impact from the delivery of the development proposals. However, the proposed landscaping works will improve the quality of the public realm, enhancing the setting of the heritage assets within the Site boundary. The development is therefore likely to have a positive effect on the Town Hall.

Site Number	HA 11
Site Name	Manor House / The Cenotaph
Designation	Grade I listed building; Rochdale Town Centre Conservation Area
HER Number	11560.1.0
Site Type	Manor House / War Memorial
Period	Late 19 th century
NGR	SD 89527 13314
Source	OS mapping, Rowlinson 2011
Description	A large residence known as 'The Orchard' was built in 1702, and was acquired in 1745 by Simon Dearden, and became the home of the lords of the manor after 1823. It was described as 'a red-brick building of no architectural distinction, on the north side of the river opposite the town hall', and sometimes referred to as the Manor House. It was demolished in 1922, and part of its footprint redeveloped as a First World War memorial erected in 1922 to a design by Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens. Identified as 'The Orchard' on mid-19 th -century mapping, and 'Manor House' on the OS Town Plan of 1892.
Assessment	The footprint of the Manor House straddles the northern boundary of the Site, although this area was redeveloped in 1922 as the Cenotaph (a Grade II listed building). This will not sustain any physical impact from the delivery of the development proposals.

6. Significance of the Remains

6.1 The Policy Context of Heritage Assets

The archaeological resource of an area can encompass a range of assets, including below-ground remains, earthworks, and standing buildings and other structures. Some of these remains may have statutory protection, such as Scheduled Monuments or Listed Buildings. Others do not, but may nevertheless be of archaeological significance. Under both national and local planning policy, as outlined below, both statutory and non-statutory remains are to be considered within the planning process.

The updated NPPF (National Planning Policy Framework, revised February 2019) sets out the Secretary of State's policy on planning and includes a section on the conservation of the historic environment (including historic, archaeological, architectural and artistic heritage assets, NPPF paras 184-202), and its wider economic, environmental and social benefits. The NPPF places particular emphasis on assessing the development proposals in line with an up-to-date local plan.

In determining applications, local planning authorities must be able to understand the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposed development in order to assess its impact. This enables the conservation of heritage assets in a manner suitable to their significance so that they can be enjoyed for their contribution to the quality of life of this and future generations, or else they can be recorded and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence publicly accessible.

6.2 Assessment Methodology and Significance Criteria

One methodology for assessing archaeological significance is the Secretary of State's criteria for the scheduling of ancient monuments, outlined in Annex 1 of *Scheduled Monuments: identifying, protecting, conserving and investigating nationally important archaeological sites under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. These criteria have all been utilised in this assessment and are:

- Period
- Rarity
- Documentation
- Group Value
- Survival/Condition
- Fragility/Vulnerability
- Diversity
- Potential

6.3 Significance Assessment

6.3.1 Period

The Site is considered to have significance in relation to the medieval, post-medieval and industrial periods, incorporating an area that potentially formed part of the medieval settlement of Rochdale and a terminus of the post-medieval cross-Pennine trade route for woollen goods. Many of the buildings shown along the east side of Packer Street on historic mapping are likely to have been associated with this trade route, and may have been extant in 1600 when Packer Street was referred to as 'the leading business street' (Mattley 1899, 4). Later sites of potential interest include an early 18th-century mansion that became the residence for the lord of the manor, the late 18th-century Roch Foundry, an associated smithy, and an early 19th-century villa residence and its associated outbuildings.

There is very little potential for buried archaeological remains deriving from the prehistoric or Romano-British periods. Archaeological remains deriving from these periods are poorly represented in the Rochdale area, and any such remains that did exist within the Site or its vicinity are likely to have been damaged or removed entirely by the intensity of later activity.

6.3.2 Rarity

Any remains deriving from the early medieval period would have a very high rarity value, as virtually no physical remains from this period have been recovered from the Rochdale previously, despite compelling documentary references that point to the town having been the site of an Anglo-Saxon settlement. Similarly, the focus of the later medieval town is uncertain, although it seems likely that Packer Street was an important thoroughfare from the 13th century. Any physical remains in Rochdale deriving from the late medieval period would have a high rarity value, and would throw significant light on the location, extent and character of the medieval settlement.

Desk-based research has shown that the Roch Foundry (HA 02) originated in the late 18th century, and was amongst the earliest foundries to have been established in Rochdale. The buildings were cleared and the area landscaped to create Town Hall Square in the 1860s, and thus any physical remains that do survive will be representative of iron-foundry practice up to the mid-19th century with no later modifications and adaptations for new technology. Very few iron foundries of this date have been investigated archaeologically across the Greater Manchester region, with one notable exception being the River Street Iron Works in Rochdale. This had been established by the early 1820s as an iron foundry, but was substantially remodelled in the mid-19th century, when it was taken over by John Petrie, a textile-machinery manufacturer of repute and a cornerstone in Rochdale's 19th-century acclaim as an important centre for heavy engineering, iron founding and the production of textile machinery. However, there are very few accounts of these key components of the iron industry, and their importance on a local and regional platform is poorly represented in published histories of the town. The archaeological excavation of the River Street Works in 2007 revealed numerous artefacts from the iron-founding process, particularly casting, together with physical remains of the later 19th-century buildings, but no firm evidence for the foundry's early infrastructure (OA North 2009). In contrast, the site of the Roch Foundry offers a rare opportunity to examine iron-working technology in the early 19th century, a crucial period in the industrialisation of north-west England, and any remains may have a significant rarity value.

6.3.3 Documentation

The landscape history of the site has been recovered from the historic map base and other available archival material. More detail could undoubtedly be gleaned about the development and use of the former buildings across the Site through the examination of further documentary sources, but these are unlikely to significantly alter the archaeological and historical importance of the sites identified in this report.

6.3.4 Group Value

The group of assets, as identified through historic map regression, relate to the development of Rochdale from the medieval period through to the late 19th century, and therefore there is significant group value. In particular, the former buildings along the east side of Packer Street (HA 01) and Water Side (HA 08) may have been a broadly contemporary group of structures associated with the development of Rochdale as an important terminus in the early cross-Pennine pack horse trade route for woollen goods. Whilst an impressive group of this type of building survives along Yorkshire Street on the north side of the River Roch, these are of a later date to those on the south side of the river, around Packer Street, which seemingly formed the early focus for the trade route terminus.

6.3.5 Survival/Condition

The current survival and condition of the archaeological resource is currently unknown. Any remains across the central and northern parts of the Site, such as the well (HA 05), part of The Wood (HA 06) and its associated gardens (HA 04), will undoubtedly have been removed completely during the construction of the Town Hall in the 1860s, or later resurfacing of the modern thoroughfare. All physical remains of the buildings on Water Side (HA 08) and Anchor Meadow (HA 09) are also likely to have been largely, if not entirely, removed during their clearance in the early 1860s and redevelopment as The Esplanade in 1871. The early 20th-century development of Rochdale Bridge, and the works required for the recent uncovering of the river, may also have impacted on the site of Water Side.

The eastern part of the Site, however, has greater potential for archaeological remains to survive. Despite the 19th-century landscaping works carried out to create Town Hall Square, physical remains of the post-medieval buildings along the east side of Packer Street (HA 01) and the Roch Foundry (HA 02) may survive as below-ground remains. As the buildings along Packer Street do not appear from cartographic evidence to have contained cellars, there is also some potential for physical remains deriving from the medieval period to survive beneath their footprint, although the existence of any such remains awaits confirmation.

There is similarly some potential for the foundations of the possible coach house and stables associated with The Wood to survive in the southern part of the Site, pending the extent of ground-breaking works that were carried out for the construction of the mortuary in 1894, and its clearance in 2000.

6.3.6 Fragility/Vulnerability

Any buried archaeological remains, should they be present and survive *in-situ*, are vulnerable to damage or destruction during any earth-moving works beneath the levelling of the modern hard surfacing across the Site.

6.3.7 *Diversity*

The potential archaeological remains across the Site pertain to several historical periods and represent a range of activity, including infrastructure associated with the cross-Pennine trade route, workers' housing, an early iron foundry and an 18th- and a 19th-century villa residences. As such, the Site has some diversity value.

6.3.8 *Potential*

Pending the extent to 19th-century landscaping works associated with the creation of Town Hall Square, there is potential for buried remains deriving from the medieval period through to the early 20th-century use of the Site. There is no potential for any archaeological remains deriving from the prehistoric and Roman periods to survive on the Site.

6.4 *Significance*

6.4.1 *Significance of the Buried Remains within the Site*

Using the above criteria, and particularly period, rarity and group value, it can be concluded from the desk-based research that the Site as a whole is of some archaeological interest, depending on the full extent, survival and condition of any remains. These have potential to yield important physical evidence for the development of Rochdale from the medieval period onwards.

Any surviving physical remains dating to the medieval period are likely to be of at least high local/regional significance. Any remains of the Roch Foundry that can elucidate iron-foundry practice and process in the early 19th century will similarly be of at least high local/regional significance.

Any surviving physical remains of the post-medieval houses along Packer Street are likely to be of high local significance.

7. Impact of Development

7.1 Heritage Assets

Where the loss of the whole or a material part of a heritage asset's significance is justified by a development, the developer should be required to record that asset and advance understanding of its significance, and to make this evidence publicly accessible. This approach applies to designated and non-designated heritage assets.

None of the known below-ground archaeological remains identified within the Site are considered to be of national importance that would require preservation *in-situ*. However, there is some potential for non-designated heritage assets of lesser archaeological significance to survive, albeit in a fragmentary condition, which would merit preservation 'by record'.

7.2 Impact of Development

The proposed landscaping works are unlikely to necessitate any deep earth-moving works that would damage or remove archaeological remains. However, the eastern part of the Site has potential to retain archaeological remains of considerable interest, which may lie at a shallow depth beneath modern hard surfacing. It is thus possible that any ground-breaking works in this area may have some impact on archaeological remains of interest.

7.3 Further Investigation

The requirement for any further archaeological investigation in advance of, or during, development works will be decided by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), in their capacity as archaeological advisor to Rochdale Council. However, pending the design detail of the development plans, and the extent of any ground-breaking works proposed, it may be anticipated that a programme of archaeological work will need to be carried out.

As a minimum, any ground-breaking works in the eastern part of the site will require archaeological monitoring to ensure that any below-ground remains of interest are recorded appropriately. However, the proposed works also offer a significant opportunity to implement a community-based archaeological investigation, ranging from the excavation of small test pits to the opening up of a larger area across the car-parking spaces in the eastern part of the Site. This would enable members of the local community working under the supervision of trained archaeologists to engage directly in Rochdale's rich heritage, and be involved in uncovering potential significant evidence for the character of this part of the town from the medieval period onwards.

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9. Acknowledgements

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The archive comprises a historical map regression, photographs and historical research notes. This archive is currently held by the Centre for Applied Archaeology and a copy of this report will be forwarded to the client and deposited with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.

Appendix 1: Figures

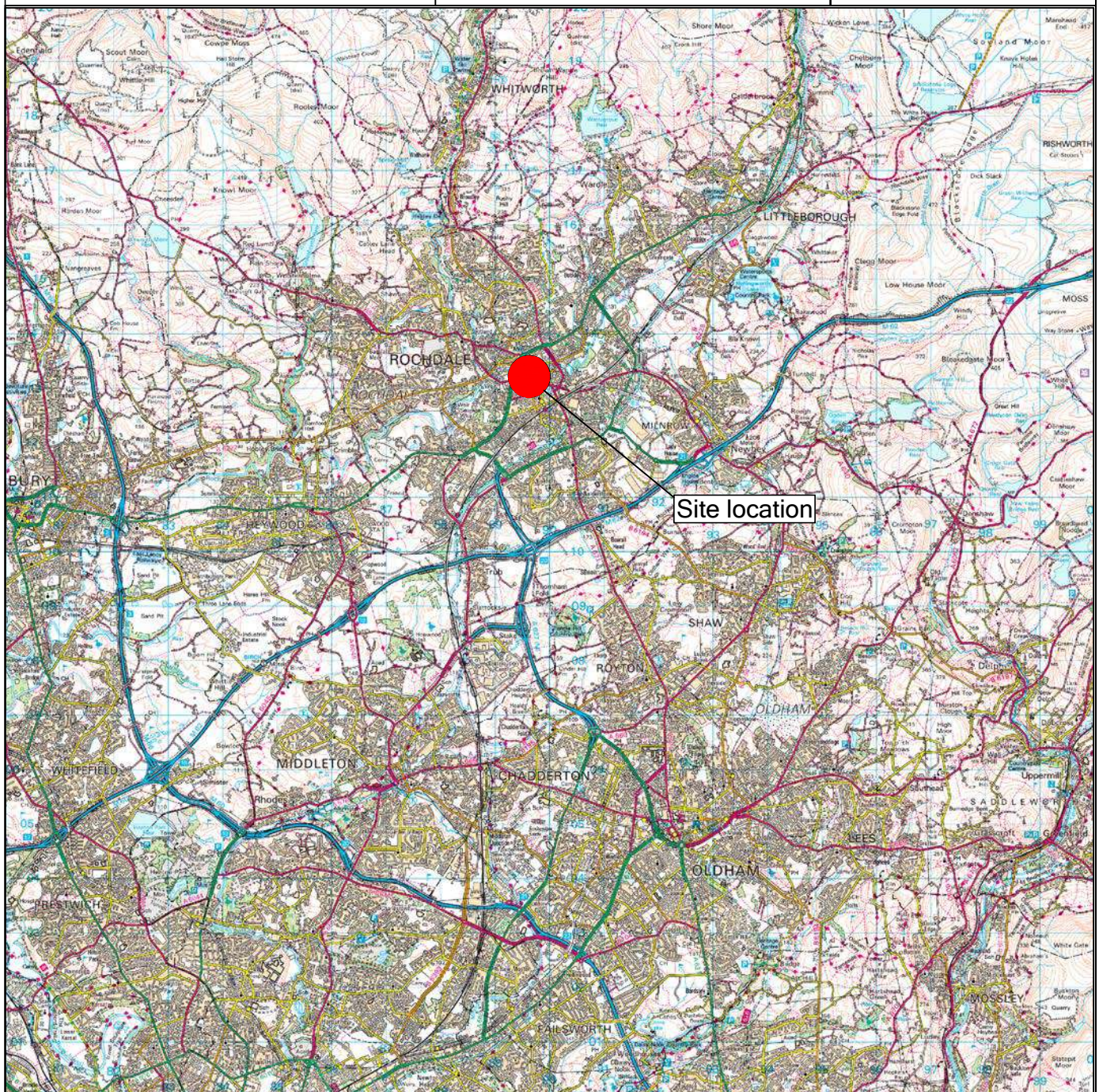
- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Site boundary superimposed onto Murphy's plan of Rochdale of 1831
- Figure 3: Site boundary superimposed onto the 1:1056 Town Plan of 1851
- Figure 4: Site boundary superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series map of 1893
- Figure 5: Site boundary superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series map of 1910
- Figure 6: Site boundary superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series map of 1930
- Figure 7: Site boundary superimposed onto the 1:1250 National Grid map of 1958
- Figure 8: Site boundary superimposed onto the 1:1250 National Grid map of 1975
- Figure 9: Site boundary superimposed onto modern mapping
- Figure 10: Gazetteer of Sites superimposed onto the 1:1056 Town Plan of 1851
- Figure 11: Area of Archaeological Potential superimposed onto modern mapping
- Figure 12: HER data superimposed on the modern Ordnance Survey map



Figure 1:

Site Location

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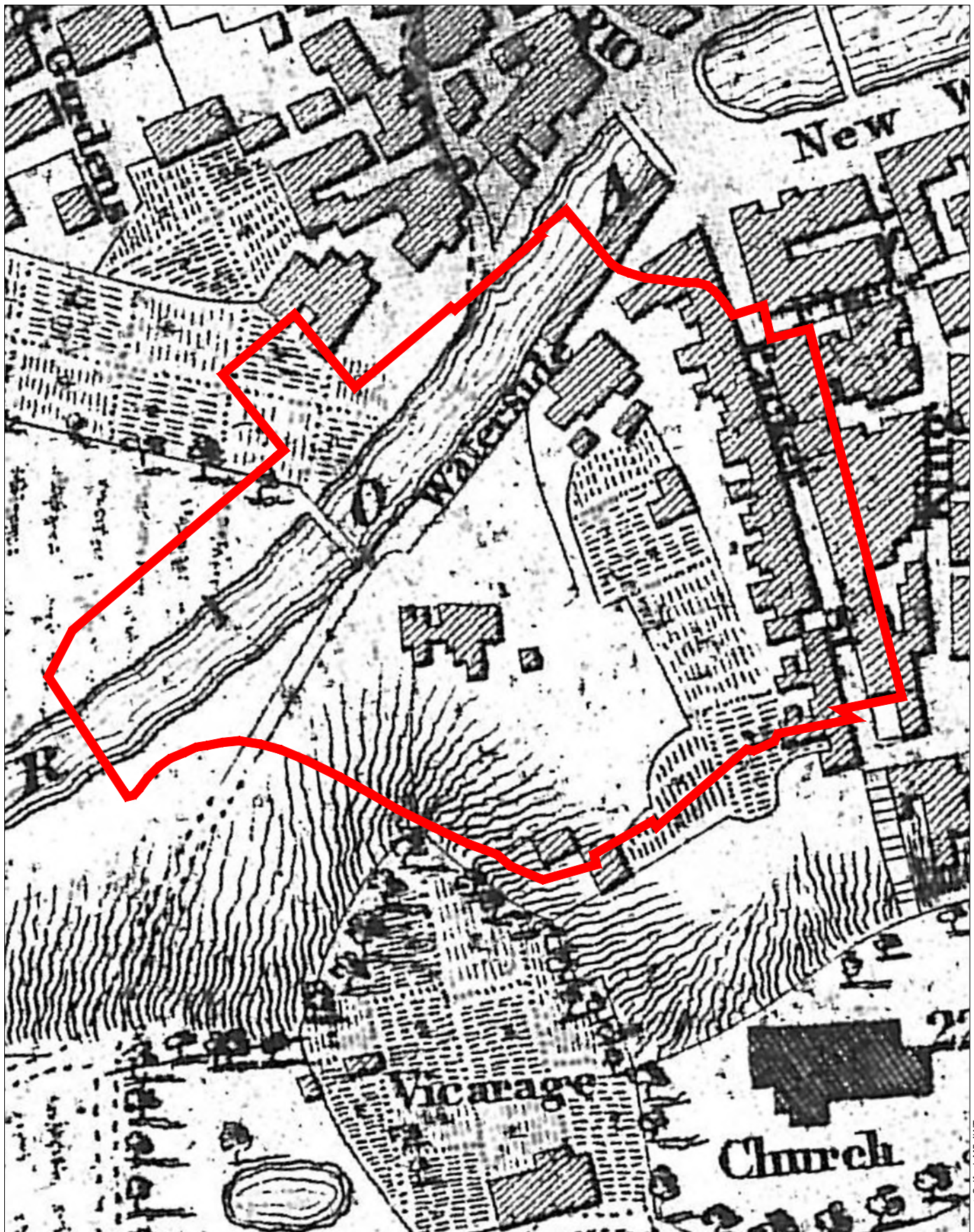


Figure 2:

Site boundary superimposed onto Murphy's plan of Rochdale of 1831



Key:

— Site Boundary



**SALFORD
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0 50 m



Scale at A4 1:1250

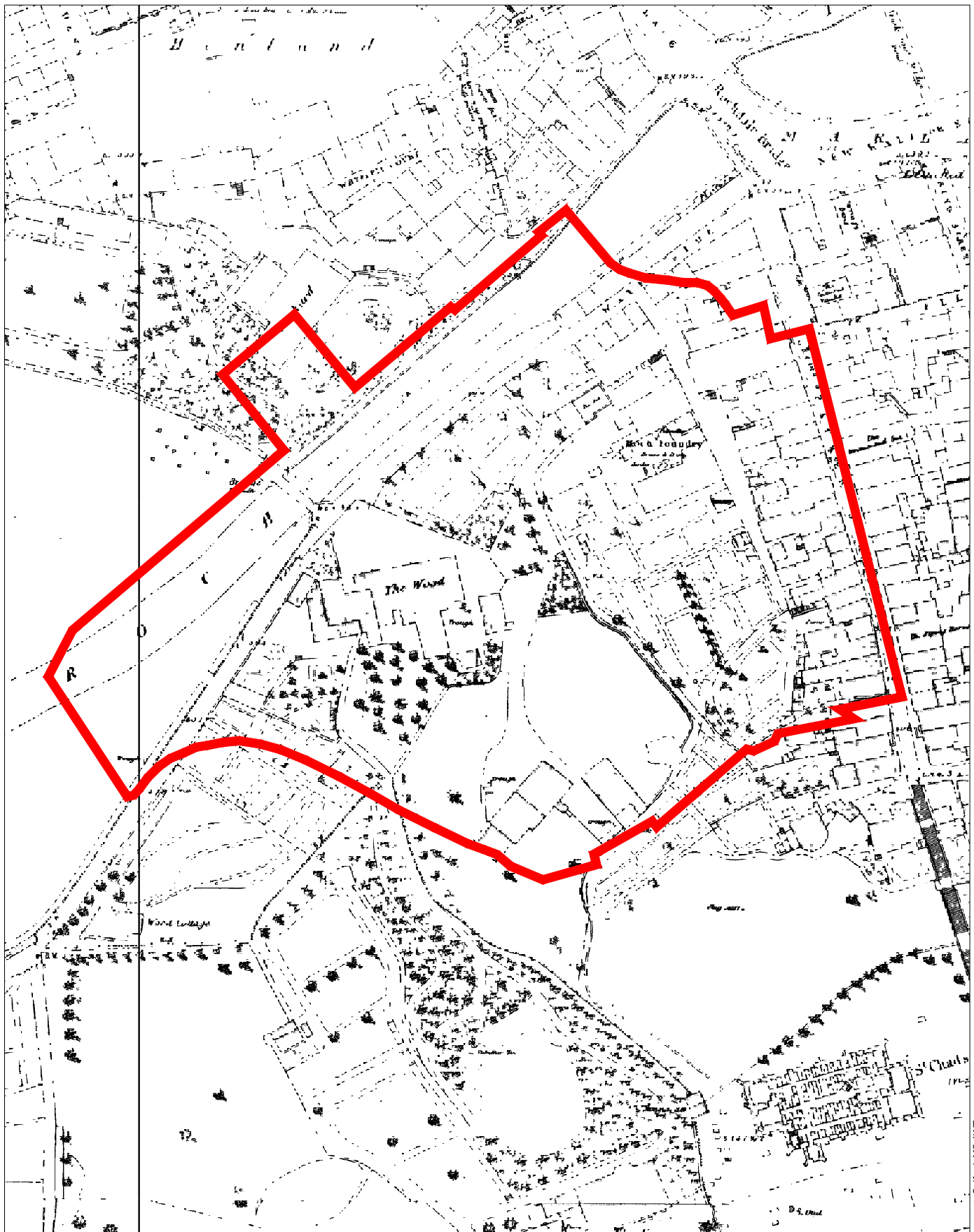


Figure 3:

Site boundary superimposed onto the 1:1056 Town Plan of 1851

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Key:

— Site Boundary



SALFORD
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0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:1250

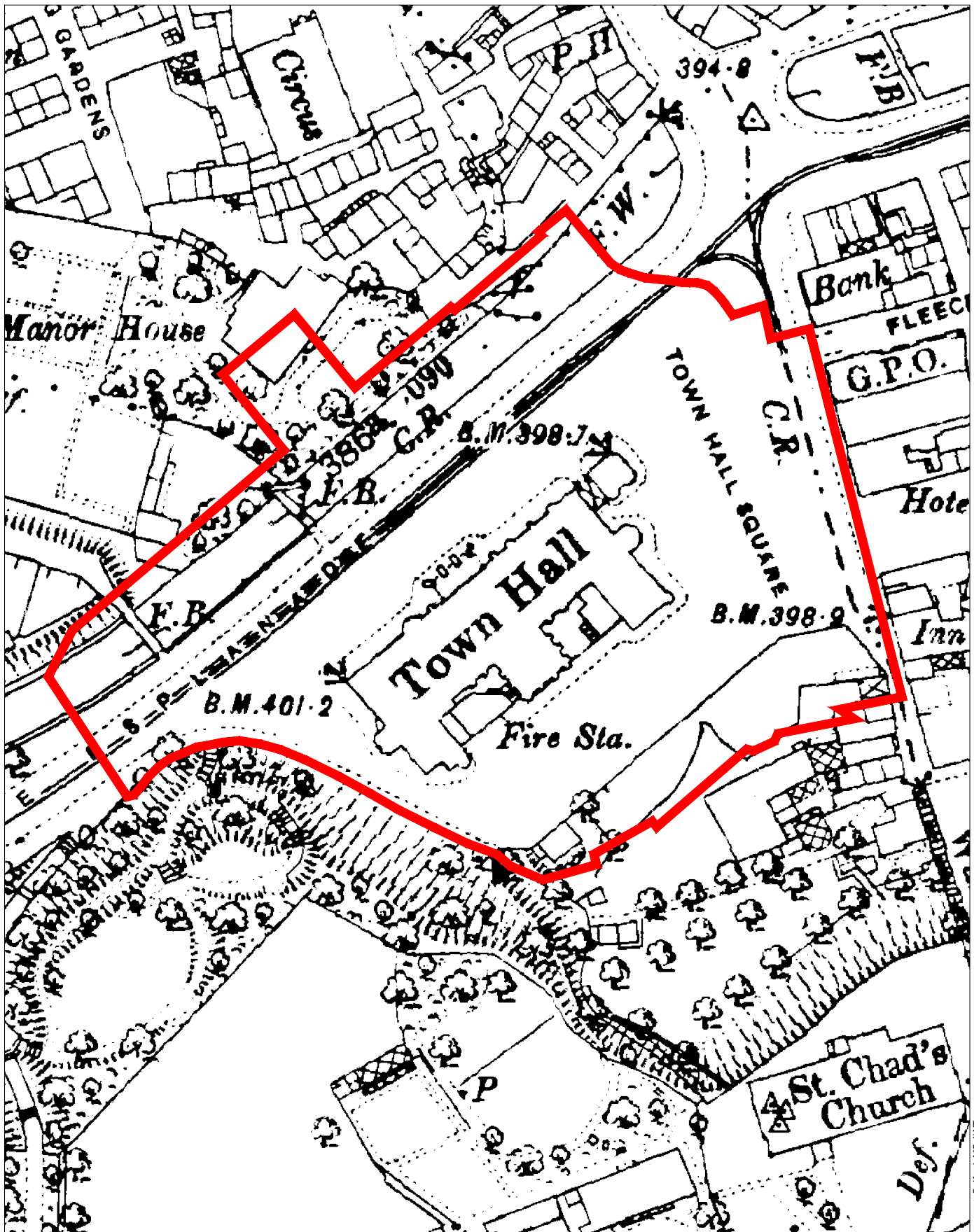


Figure 4:

Site boundary superimposed onto the 1:2500 County Series Map of 1893

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Key:

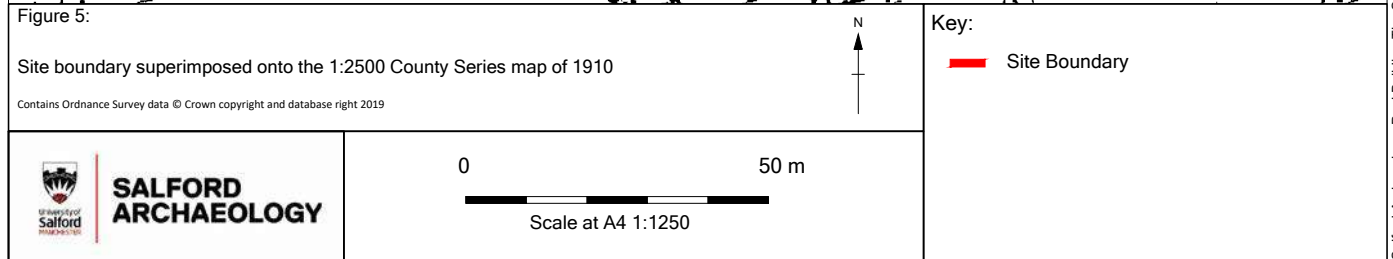
— Site Boundary

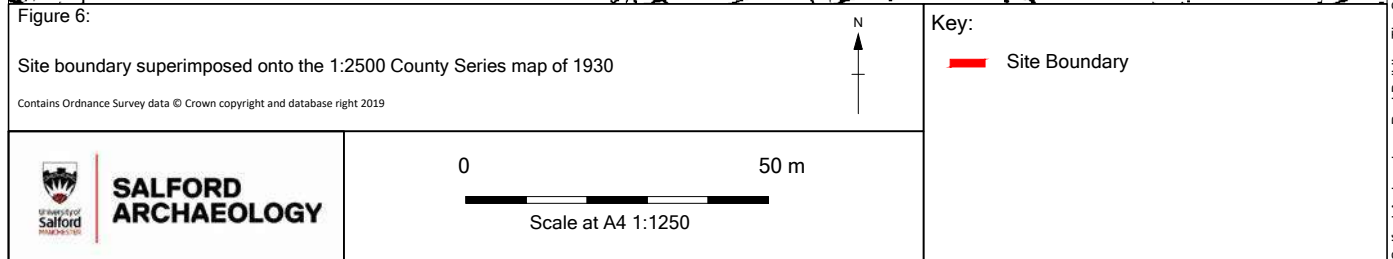


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0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:1250





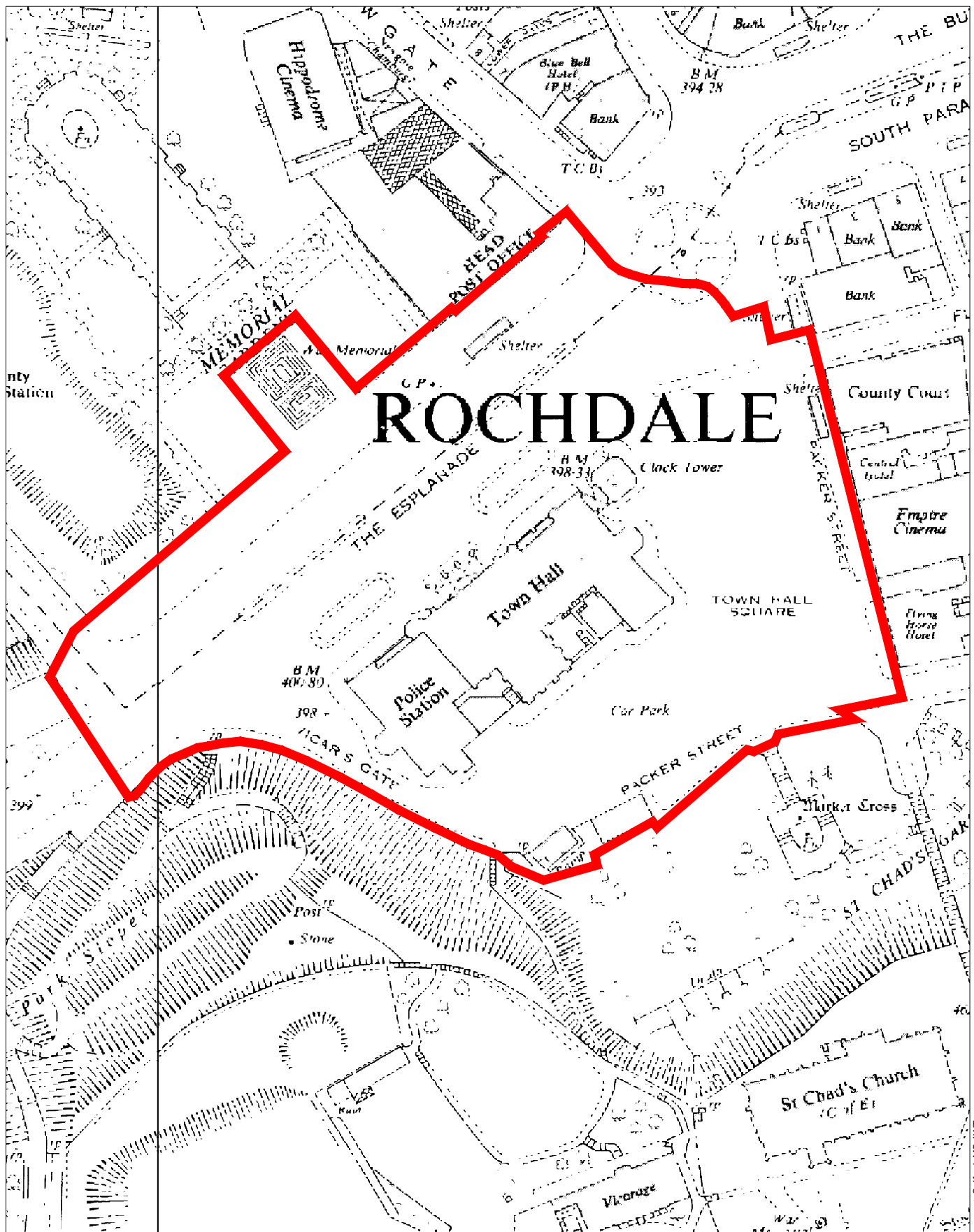


Figure 7:

Site boundary superimposed onto the 1:1250 National Grid map of 1958

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019

Key:

— Site Boundary



**SALFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY**

0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:1250

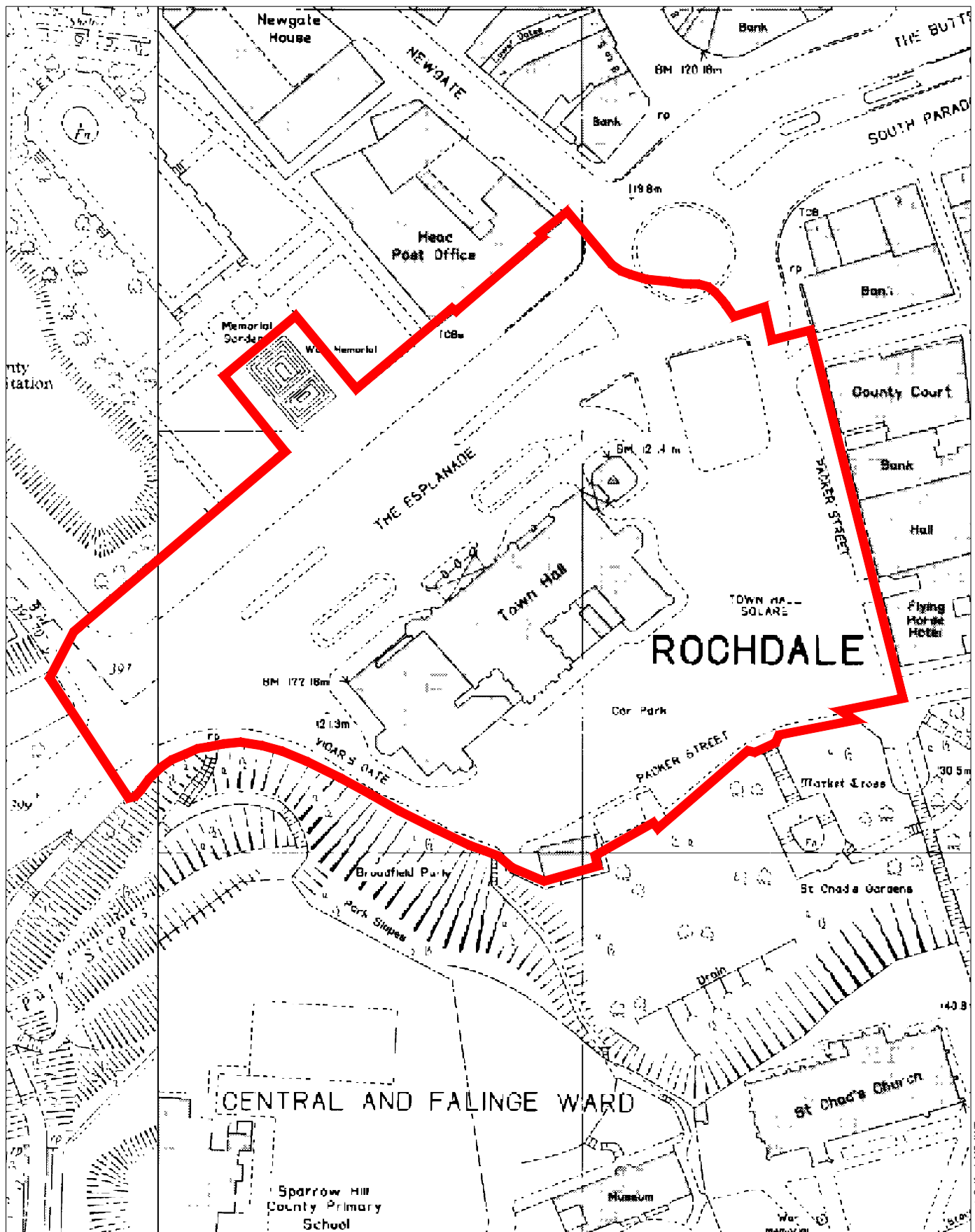


Figure 8:

Site boundary superimposed onto the 1:1250 National Grid map of 1975

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019

Key:

— Site Boundary



**SALFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY**

0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:1250

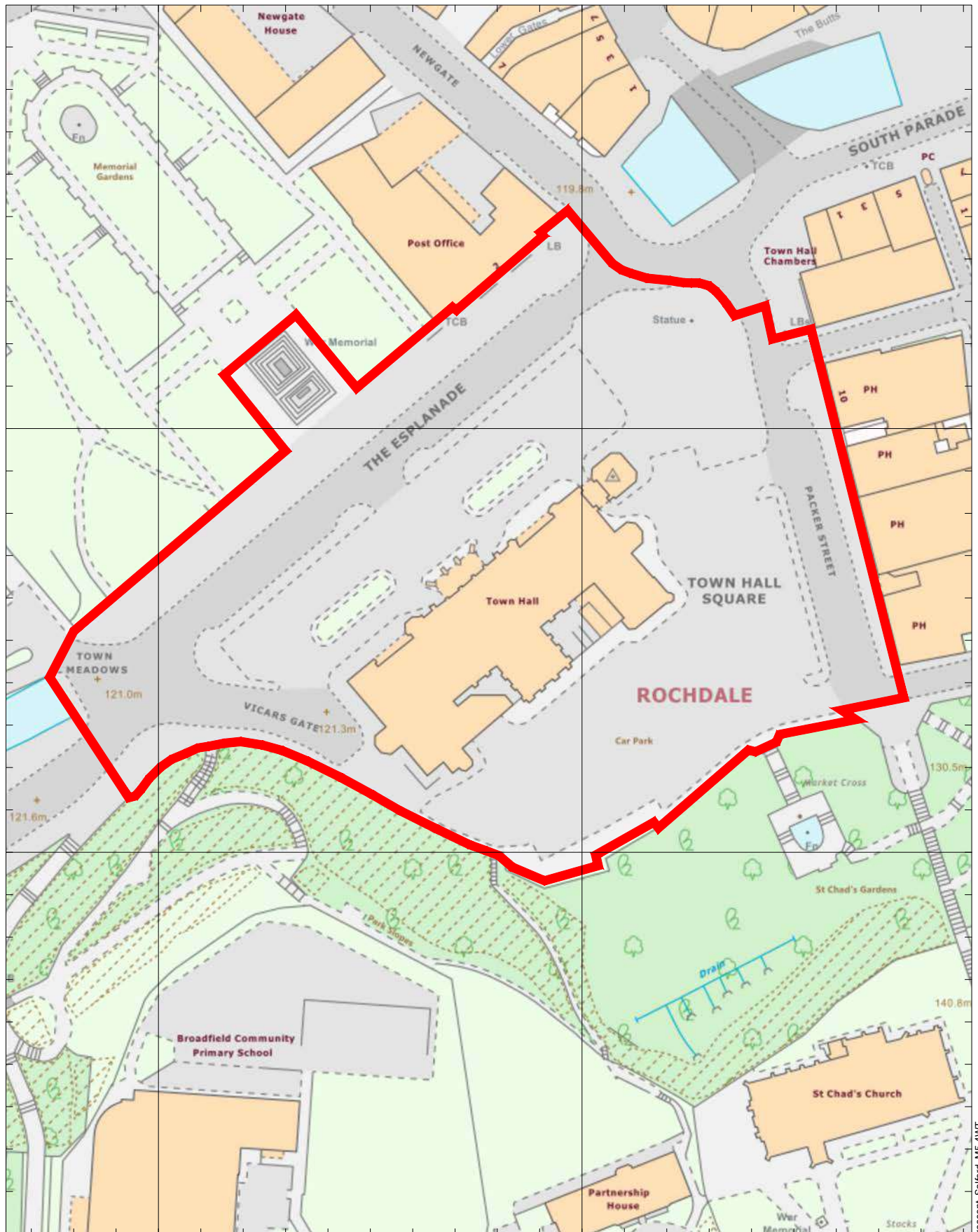


Figure 9:

Site boundary superimposed onto modern mapping

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019



Key:

 Site Boundary

SALFORD
ARCHAEOLOGY

0

50 m

Scale at A4 1:1250

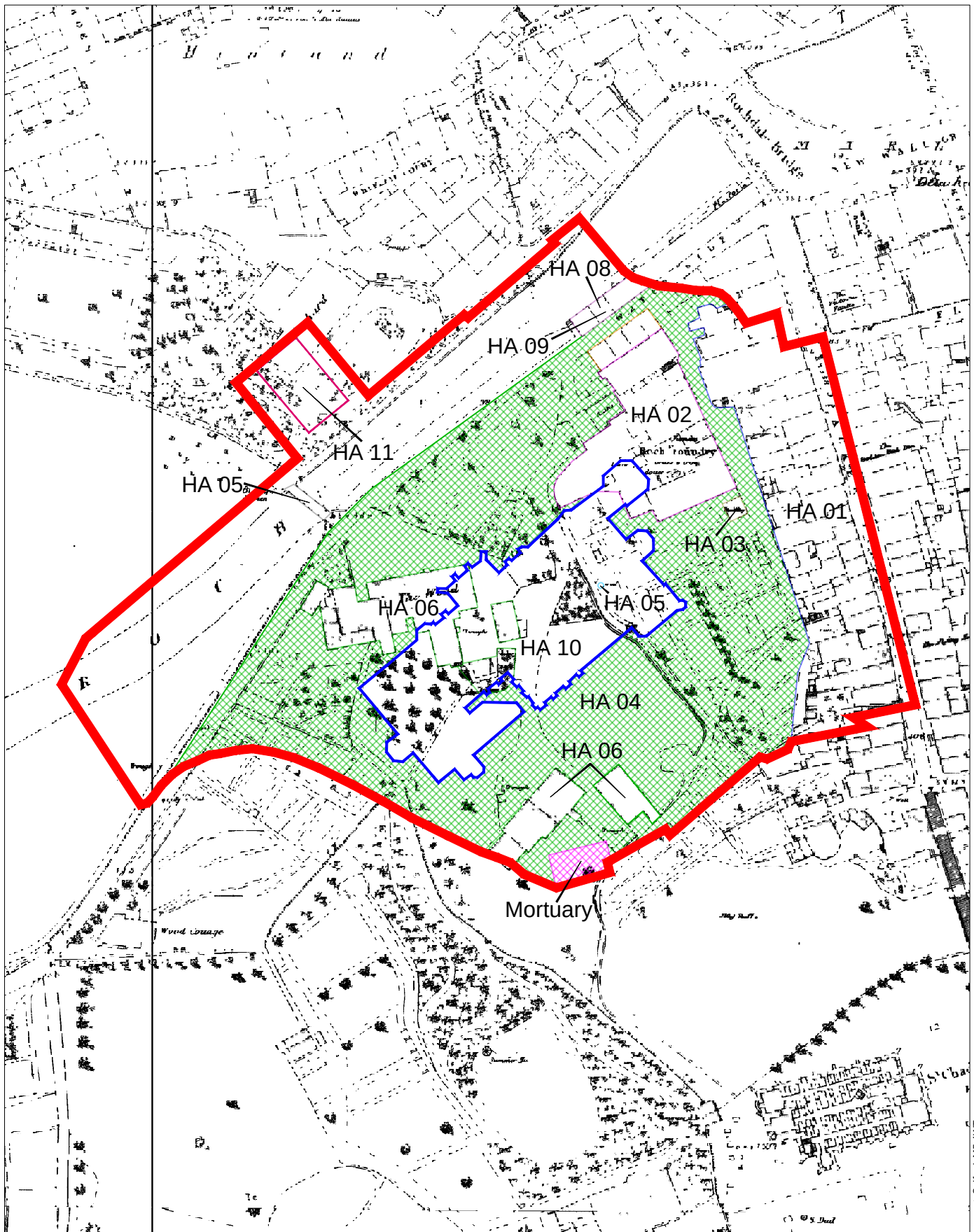


Figure 10:

Gazetteer of Sites Overlain onto the 1:1056 Town Plan of 1851

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2019



0 50 m

Scale at A4 1:1250

Key:

- | | |
|---|---|
| — Site Boundary | HA 06 The Wood |
| HA 01 Parker St Houses | HA 07 Footbridge |
| HA 02 Foundry | HA 08 Waterside Buildings |
| HA 03 Smithy | HA 09 Houses |
| HA 04 Gardens | HA 10 Footprint of the Town Hall |
| HA 05 Well | HA 11 Footprint of the Cenotaph |
| Mortuary | |

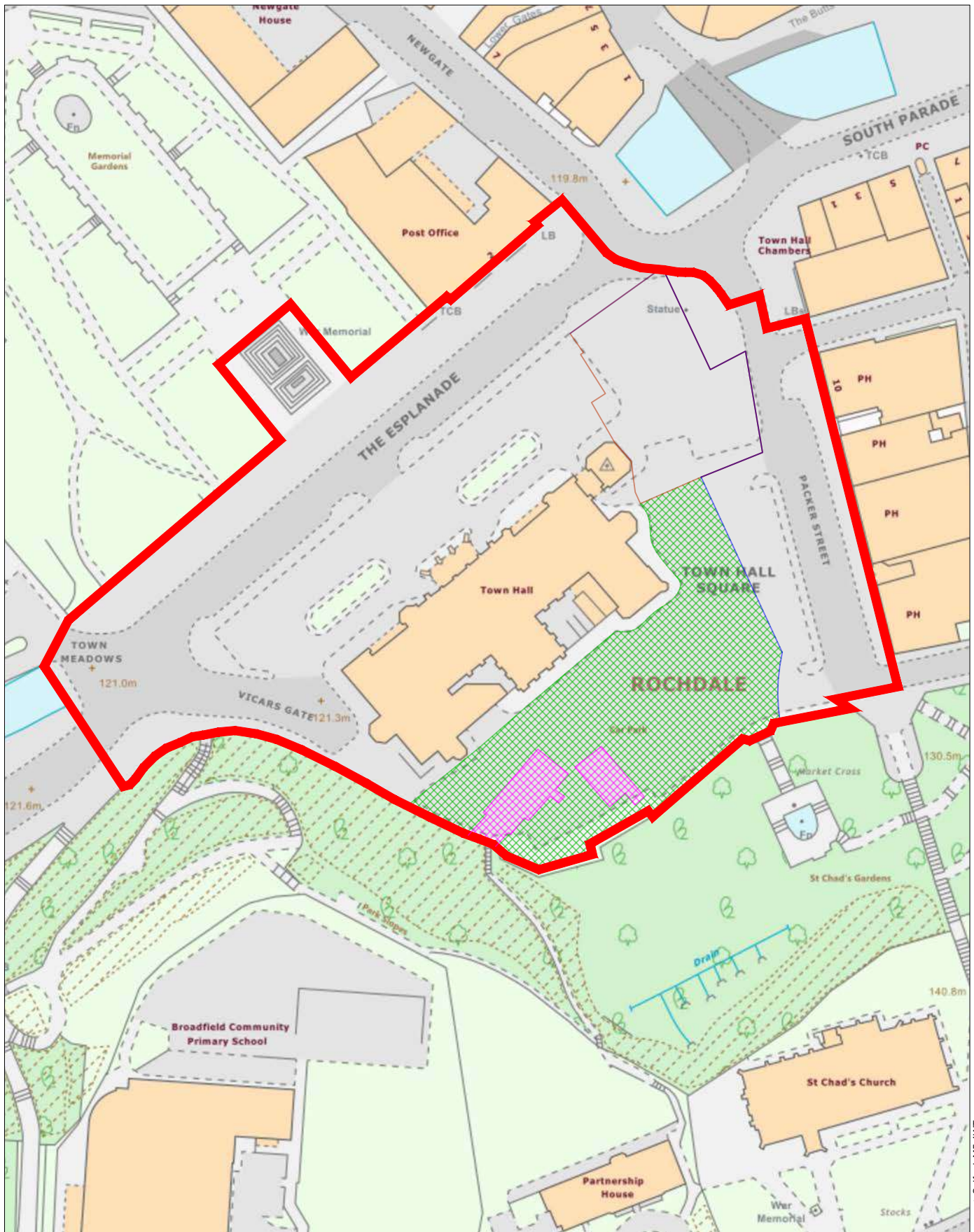


Figure 11:

Area of Archaeological Interest Overlain onto Modern Mapping

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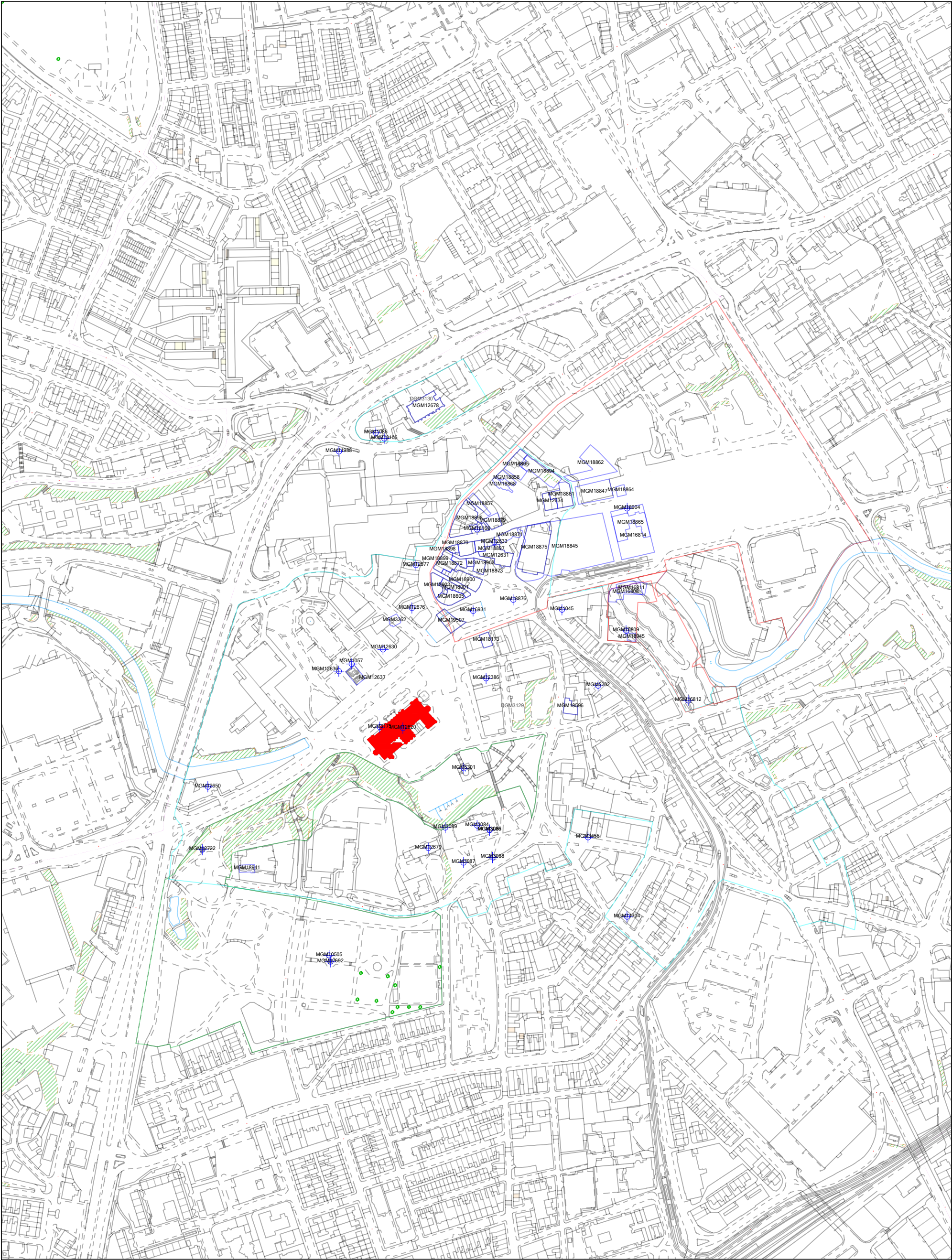


0 50 m

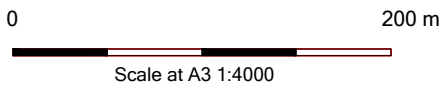
Scale at A4 1:1250

Key:

- Site Boundary
- Area of High Archaeological Interest (Medieval/Post-Medieval)
- Area of High Archaeological Interest (Industrial)
- Area of Some Archaeological Interest (Medieval/Post-Medieval)
- Area of Some Archaeological Interest (19th Century)

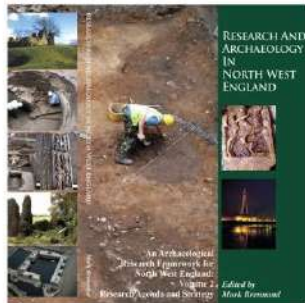


Rochdale Town,
HER data superimposed on the modern Ordnance Survey map



- Key:
- Rochdale Town Hall
 - HER Registered Park
 - HER Registered Park
 - HER Conserve Area

CONSULTANCY



DESK BASED ASSESMENTS



WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION



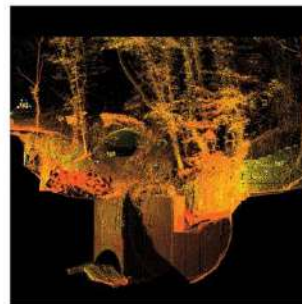
EXCAVATION



BUILDING SURVEY



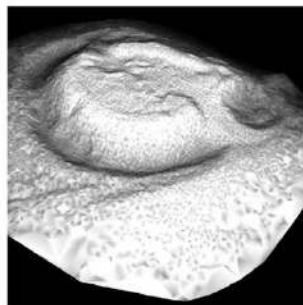
3D LASER SCANNING



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



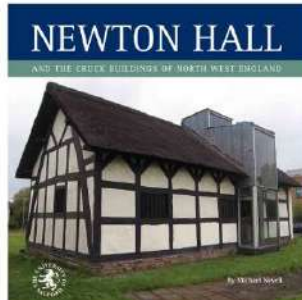
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WORKSHOPS & VOCATIONAL TRAINING



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CPD EVENTS**

