



University of
Salford
MANCHESTER

Watching Brief Report

Rochdale Town Hall,
The Esplanade,
Rochdale

Client:

Rochdale Development
Agency

Planning Ref:

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20/00577/LBC (Phase 1
Enabling Works)

Technical Report:

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Summary

Rochdale Development Agency has obtained planning consent and listed building consent from Rochdale Council to carry out the proposed restoration and refurbishment of Rochdale Town Hall, a Grade I listed building of exceptional interest (List Entry No 1084275). The proposed scheme of works ultimately seeks to incorporate civic spaces together with ancillary functions, including events, exhibition and interpretation spaces, upgraded bar and cafe. This will be achieved in two phases. In the first instance, a programme of enabling works was carried out (Phase 1), which included an internal strip out, asbestos removal, structural works, installation of dry risers and a trial replacement window (Planning Refs: 20/00576/FUL and 20/00577/LBC).

In order to secure archaeological interests and offset the harm of any impact on internal of the building during its refurbishment, Rochdale Council attached a condition to the planning consent that required a scheme of archaeological investigation to be undertaken as part of the development. It was recommended that an appropriate scheme of archaeological works would comprise watching brief during phase 1 of the enabling of the historic building.

In July 2020, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Rochdale Development Agency to undertake the recommended investigation and fulfil the archaeological planning obligations.

Rochdale Town Hall was designed by William Henry Crossland in 1864, and is of the highest significance in terms of its historical and aesthetic values as one of the finest examples in Britain of a Victorian town hall, as reflected in its Grade 1 listed building status. Its original form as designed is recognised as an important early departure from High Victorian heaviness, and has survived into the 21st century with little alteration, with the exception of the later tower, itself a fine example of design by the noted architect, Alfred Waterhouse.

Internally, the surviving rooms with intact schemes are probably unmatched as examples of Victorian polychrome decorated interiors, with one of the most elaborate examples of pictorial and heraldic decoration of this era. The building had been divided to specific functional areas with justice, law and order to the west and south-east wing, civic entertaining to the north-east frontage, governance to the centre and north-east wing with a library located to the upper floor of the north-east wing. Additionally, a fire station was situated to the rear of the south-east wing.

The building has been in continuous public use for over 140 years and has a high evidential value founded in several major phases of alteration undertaken to reflect the changing aspirations and priorities of the Council; the layers of paint and other finishes in the decorative scheme hold evidence for the original appearance and composition of paint colours and are part of the building's significance.

The archaeological investigation of Rochdale Town Hall during the enabling works provided a valuable opportunity to record several rooms within the basement which will further enhance the Conservation Management Plans that had been previously undertaken in 2015 and 2019. This has mitigated any loss of historic fabric as part of the



redevelopment. It has also enabled a review of the available documentary material to be combined with the physical evidence embedded in the historic fabric to produce a narrative of the building's development.

1. Introduction

Rochdale Development Agency has obtained planning consent and listed building consent from Rochdale Council to carry out the proposed restoration and refurbishment of Rochdale Town Hall, a Grade I listed building of exceptional interest (List Entry No 1084275). The proposed scheme of works ultimately seeks to incorporate civic spaces together with ancillary functions, including events, exhibition and interpretation spaces, upgraded bar and cafe. This will be achieved in two phases. In the first instance, a programme of enabling works was carried out (Phase 1), which included an internal strip out, asbestos removal, structural works, installation of dry risers and a trial replacement window (Planning Refs: 20/00576/FUL and 20/00577/LBC).

The scope of the Phase 1 enabling works was focused largely on internal areas, predominantly in the centre and east of the building, and was anticipated that the delivery of these works will expose some historic fabric of the Town Hall that had been obscured from view behind modern materials, particularly in the basement. This had some potential to enhance the understanding of the building and thereby inform the Phase 2 technical design work, and would also maximise the opportunity to integrate and conceal services without impact on the significance of the building.

In view of the historic interest of the building, the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), in their capacity as Archaeological Advisors to Rochdale Council, recommended that a condition was attached to planning and listed building consent. The recommended wording of the condition attached to both phases of development works is:

1. *'No works shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological works. The works are to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) submitted to and approved in writing by Rochdale Planning Authority. The WSI shall cover the following:*
 - i. *A phased programme and methodology of investigation and recording to include:*
 - *an archaeological watching brief to record historic fabric exposed or impacted on during ground and structural works.*
 - ii. *A programme of post-investigation assessment to include:*
 - *analysis of the site investigation records and finds;*
 - *production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented.*
 - iii. *Dissemination of the results commensurate with their significance.*
 - iv. *Provision for archive deposition of the report and records of the site investigation.*
 - v. *Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.*

Reason:

In accordance with NPPF Section 16, Paragraph 199 - To record and advance understanding of the heritage asset impacted on by the works and to make information about the archaeological heritage interest publicly accessible.'

In order to address this recommendation Rochdale Development Agency commissioned Salford Archaeology within the University of Salford to undertake the recommended the archaeological watching brief in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Salford Archaeology.

1.2 Research Aims and Objectives

The principal aim of the archaeological investigation will be to record any historic fabric of the Town Hall that is exposed during the soft-strip activity, record any below-ground remains that are exposed during earth-moving works required to construct the proposed new services, and complete the detailed archaeological record of the historic building prior to any alterations. This will be achieved via targeted archaeological monitoring during the Phase 1 and Phase 2 works to the Town Hall. This approach to offsetting the impact of development on the archaeological resource of the development area is in accordance with national guidelines set out in the National Planning Policy Framework: Section 16 – *Conserving and enhancing the historic environment*.

The stated objectives of the archaeological investigation included:

- to maintain a targeted archaeological watching brief during the Phase 1 stripping-out works, and enhance the existing archaeological record of the Town Hall by recording any historic fabric that is exposed;
- to maintain a targeted archaeological watching brief Phase 2 restoration works, and monitor any ground-breaking works required for the installation of new services, etc;
- to undertake any post-excavation works required and create an appropriate site archive;
- to present the results of the watching brief in a fully illustrated report;
- to produce an archive for the project;
- to make available the results of the work in an appropriate format.

1.3 Phase 1 'Soft Strip Methodology

Whilst the items to be removed are modern additions, the fabric to which they are fixed is primarily historic fabric. The soft strip works will be carried out carefully by a competent contractor according to the specifications outlined in the planning application.

Due to the potential for damage to be caused to the historic fabric during the works, careful consideration has been given to the removal process with the following guidelines developed to minimise harm:

- Initial assessment undertaken by operatives to assess current fixing methodologies in order to determine the appropriate removal strategy. This strategy should then employ the following principles:
 - all items identified for removal should be dismantled carefully to avoid damage to the historic fabric to the rear;
 - if it is not possible to dismantle the item for removal, priority must be given to protecting the building fabric rather than the item to be removed;
 - if an item is screw fixed, the screws are to be unscrewed and the item removed; and,
 - dismantling of partitions / dry-lining / panelling should be undertaken with care in order to protect any historic fabric obscured to the rear.
- Clear guidance given to operatives on the extent of removal and what to do in the case of uncovering anything that is not as expected for that element of the works.
- All operatives to have a site induction on the heritage elements of the building to ensure a good understanding of how to work with a listed structure.
- When the item has been removed there will be a variety of making good to be undertaken.

All removals of modern fabric or low-quality alterations will be carried out in a way that minimises damage to the surrounding historic fabric.

The work will be monitored by an appropriately qualified archaeologist.

Watching Brief Methodology

Following consultation with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) it has been recommended that the implementation of an archaeological watching brief would be an appropriate strategy to offset any harm from the soft-strip activity (Phase 1) and any subsequent ground-breaking works (Phase 2).

The archaeological watching brief will be conducted following the relevant *CIfA Standards and Guidance* for an archaeological watching brief (2014).

Results of the watching brief will be recorded on *pro-forma* record sheets and will be accompanied with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and high-resolution digital photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. In the event of extensive historic fabric being exposed being encountered during the watching brief, works will be halted temporarily to enable an appropriate level of archaeological recording to be carried out.

Photographic Archive: a comprehensive photographic archive will be produced utilising a high-resolution digital camera. All frames, excluding general contextual views, will incorporate a graduated metric scale. A plan showing the view point directions will be produced, together with a full photographic index. Photography will be undertaken using high-resolution digital cameras, and in accordance with current Historic England guidance embodied in *Digital Image capture and File Storage Guideline for Best Practice* (Historic England 2015).

Site Drawings: a set of measured survey floor plans and elevations of the building has been prepared by Salford Archaeology at the design stage of the project. Any requirement for additional survey will be carried out utilising a combination of rectified photography, a reflectorless electronic distance meter (REDM), and manual survey techniques. The resultant data will then be used as the basis of CAD drawings, which will be included within the final report as figures.

Written Description: a description of any historic fabric revealed during the soft strip will be maintained Historic England Level 4 standard, as appropriate. The records will be essentially descriptive and provide a systematic account of the origin, development and use of the building, which will include a description of the plan, form, fabric, function, age and development sequence. The written description will comprise:

- an account of the building's past and present use;
- an account of the key architectural features, fixtures and fittings;
- a discussion of the relative significance of each individual element;
- a discussion of the relative significance of each individual component structure within the Town Hall complex.

In July 2020, Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Rochdale Development Agency to undertake the recommended investigation and fulfil the archaeological planning obligations. This report presents the findings of the archaeological watching brief, coupled with a summary of the documentary evidence.

2. The Setting

2.1 Location

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; Fig 1).



Plate 1: Recent aerial shot, showing the Site boundary looking north

2.2 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. Historical Background

3.1 Rochdale Town Hall Overview

The Conservation Management Plan of Rochdale Town Hall was undertaken by Architectural History Practice in 2015, and updated by Donald Insall Associates in support of the current planning applications. A detailed historical background was further produced by Salford Archaeology in 2019. This section summarises its findings.

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 2). 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'. 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 3). 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 2: Plan of the Rochdale Glebe in 1754-7, with arrow marking the location of the later Town Hall



Plate 3: 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, 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. 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 4). 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 as it crosses the Site, with the Roch Foundry to the rear, set in the large gardens of a villa residence known as The Wood. Buildings on Water Side are also shown, together with the footbridge across the River Roch.

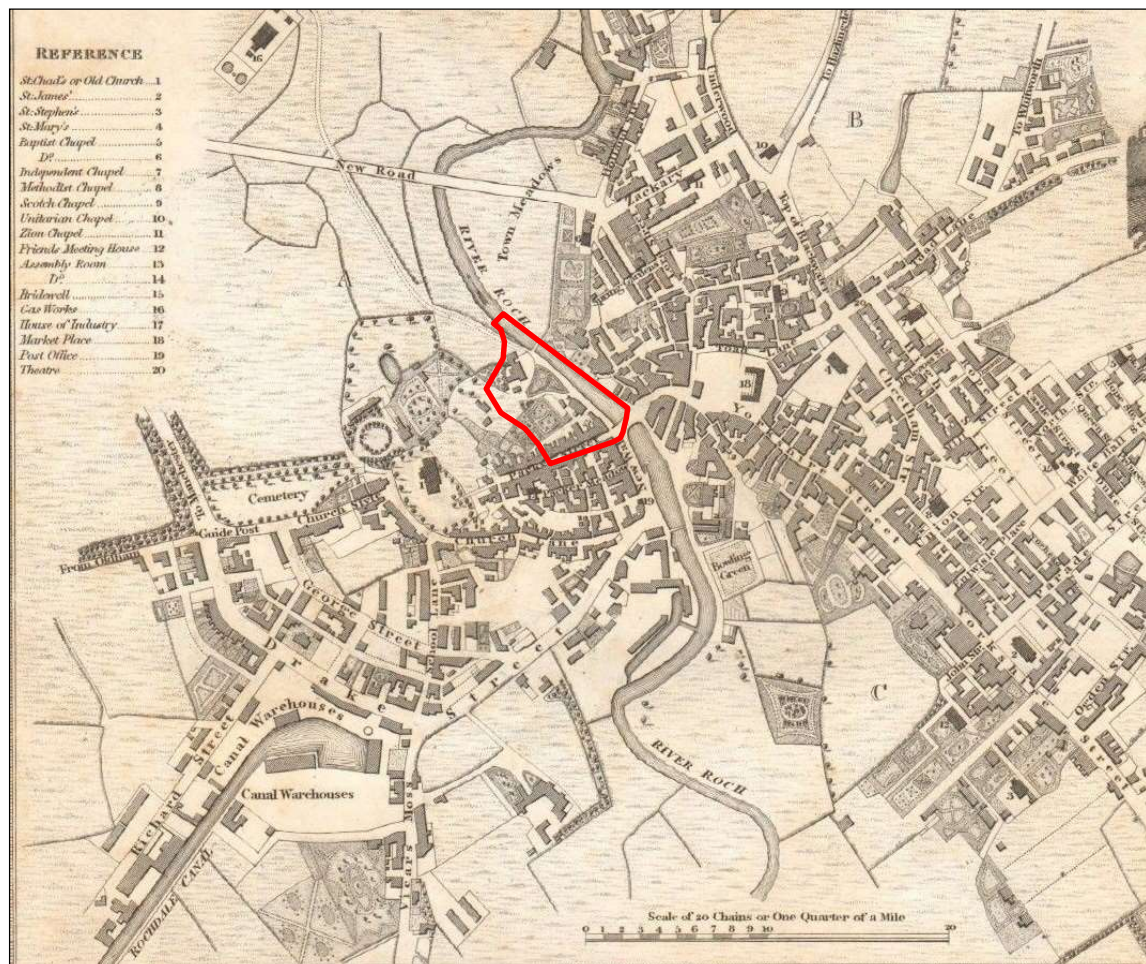


Plate 4: Swire's plan of Rochdale, surveyed in 1824

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. Greater detail of individual buildings, however, is provided by the 1844 tithe map for Castleton (Plate 5). 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 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, with a non-residential building to the rear probably representing a stable and coach house.

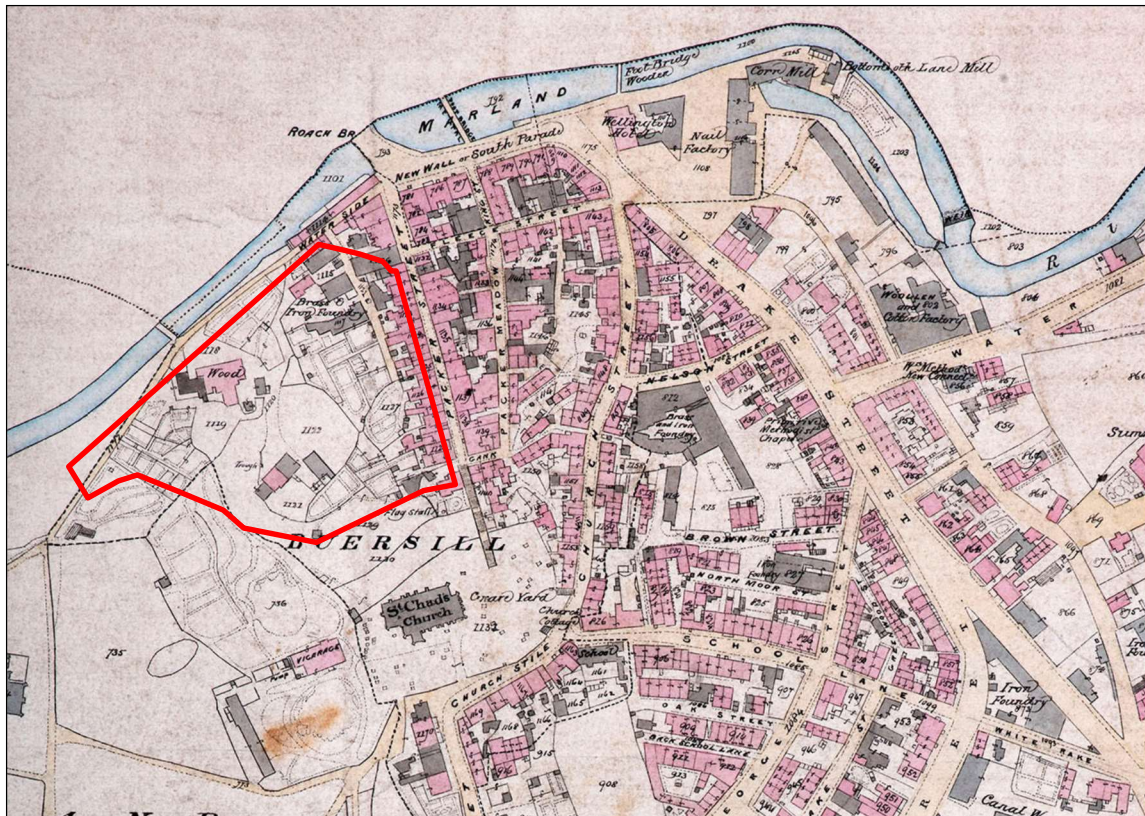


Plate 5: Extract from the 1844 tithe map for Castleton

Rochdale Town Hall was designed by William Henry Crossland in 1864, and is of the highest significance in terms of its historical and aesthetic values as one of the finest examples in Britain of a Victorian town hall, as reflected in its Grade 1 listed building status. Its original form as designed is recognised as an important early departure from High Victorian heaviness, and has survived into the 21st century with little alteration, with the exception of the later tower, itself a fine example of design by the noted architect, Alfred Waterhouse.

The north front and tower are of the highest architectural significance. Crossland utilised the form of the architecture and a hierarchy of decorative detail to express separate internal functions and create a unified interior and exterior scheme, with stone carvings and stained glass of the highest quality embellishing the building with symbolic sculpture and motifs by the leading craftsmen of each trade.

Internally, the surviving rooms with intact schemes are probably unmatched as examples of Victorian polychrome decorated interiors, with one of the most elaborate examples of pictorial and heraldic decoration of this era. The building had been divided to specific functional areas with justice, law and order to the west and south-east wing, civic entertaining to the north-east frontage, governance to the centre and north-east wing with a library located to the upper floor of the north-east wing. Additionally, a fire station was situated to the rear of the south-east wing.

By the Ordnance Survey second edition 1:1056 Town Plan of Rochdale (Plate 6), which was surveyed in the early 1890s, the new town hall occupied 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. The map also shows the tower to the north-eastern corner was detached from the main body of the building, which was the result of a subsequent rebuild during the 1880s. The original position of the tower is depicted on a painting by Edward Walker in 1875 (Plate 7).

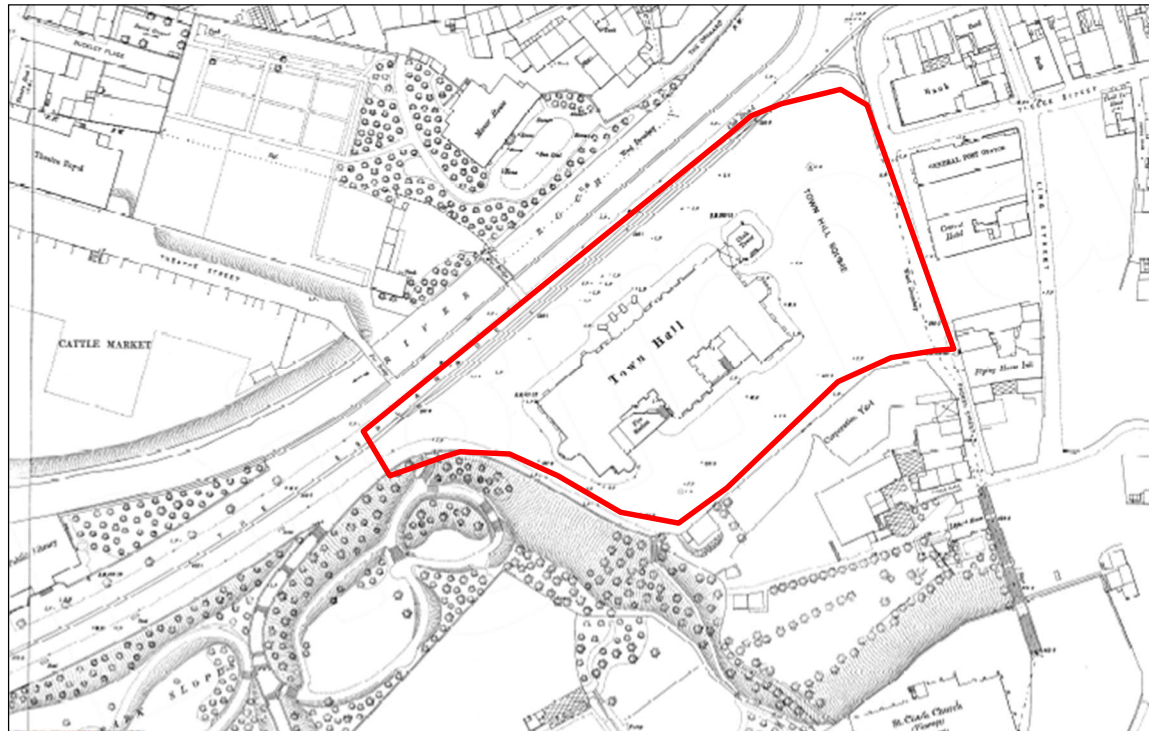


Plate 6: Extract from the Ordnance Survey Town Plan of 1892



Plate 7: Perspective of the Town Hall by Edward Walker in 1875

The original town hall tower had been destroyed by a fire on the night of April 10th 1883, which was reportedly caused by gas. The tower was at this time undergoing repair works due to dry rot being discovered in the spire. Following the fire, the tower had been demolished to within 30' (9m) of the ground and rebuilt under the architect Alfred Waterhouse, who was appointed by the Corporation. Waterhouse was one of the most successful, prominent architects of later Victorian England, and had designed of the Natural History Museum (opening in 1881), Manchester University (1869-87) and Manchester Town Hall (1867-77). Waterhouse recommended that the foundations of the tower were not adequate for re-use and that the tower should be re-built further east on a new site, with a new entrance to the Mayor's suite created in an arched carriage way between the tower and the main building. W.A.Peters and Sons were appointed main contractors and the foundation stone was laid in October 1885, together with a bottle of relics which was buried under a stone on the north side. The new tower was completed in 1887 with the topping-out ceremony on Queen Victoria's Jubilee Day on the 20th June 1887. The new tower was 50' (15.2m) lower than the original tower and more plainly decorated, consistent with Waterhouse's designs for other towers. However, as the tower was free-standing it had a more visual impact.

The building has been in continuous public use for over 140 years and has a high evidential value founded in several major phases of alteration undertaken to reflect the changing aspirations and priorities of the Council; the layers of paint and other finishes in the decorative scheme hold evidence for the original appearance and composition of paint colours and are part of the building's significance.

4. Watching Brief Results

4.1 Introduction

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the enabling works as part of Phase 1 of the redevelopment at Rochdale Town Hall. This archaeological investigation focused largely on the internal areas, predominantly in the centre and east of the building.

4.2 Room G6

During the enabling works, the timber floor to Room G6 had been removed, uncovering the blocked upper section of a staircase affording vertical access into the basement, Rooms B118 and B117 (Fig 2). The staircase comprised 9" (0.23m) wide stone treads which had been laid upon a single brick $3\frac{3}{4}$ " (0.09m) high (Plate 8). The upper step was of concrete with three $1\frac{1}{4}$ " (0.03m) wide timber straps. The staircase had a quarter turn into the basement which entered a doorway comprised bullnose brick jambs and a rolled steel I-beam lintel.



Plate 8: The upper section of the staircase below the removed floor within Room G6

A dumb-waiter had been constructed to the eastern side of the staircase. The ground-floor section had been removed; however, the basement section had been retained. The shaft was constructed in brick with the northern wall having been clad in tongue and groove timber boards. The timber batten lintel for the hatch door had been visible, however the door and any other fixtures had been removed (Plate 9). The dumb-waiter had been powered by an electric motor with a 19" (0.48m) pulley wheel. This had been bolted to a concrete plinth with $\frac{1}{2}$ " (13mm) bolts (Plate 10).



Plate 9: The remains of the dumb-waiter



Plate 10: The electric motor that powered the dumb-waiter

4.2 Room B110

During the removal of the concrete floor within Room B110 within the basement, a small brick structure was revealed that contained a small saddle boiler (Fig 3). The boiler was of cast-iron construction with each section measuring 38" (0.96m) wide by 33" (0.84m) high. Each section had been connected by three 4" (0.1m) diameter cast-iron pipes (Plate 11). The boiler bed was of standard brick, faced with refractory brick linings (Plate 12). Evidence for the rear flue into a chimney within the wall to the south was also clearly identified (Plate 13). This chimney would have also served the larger original boilers for the building, which were situated in the adjacent room to the west. However, the two systems appear to have not been connected, as there was no evidence for any apertures in the intervening thick stone wall, strongly suggesting that the boiler was added in the late-nineteenth century for a specific individual role so as to avoid compromising the main heating / hot water supply of the wider complex.



Plate 11: The saddle boiler and boiler bed within Room xx



Plate 12: Detail of the cast-iron sections of the saddle boiler



Plate 13: Detail of the rear flue to the saddle boiler

4.3 Room B120

The western wall of the room had two infilled doorways each having a two rowlock segmental arched lintel (Fig 4). The openings had been infilled with early-20th-century brick laid in a three stretcher English Garden Wall bond. The south and east walls of the room are of dressed stone, while the other internal walls are in brick. At the centre of these walls was a splayed reveal cellar light with a stone sill 0.26m above the replaced floor level. The southern cellar light had been remodelled with a sloping vent inserted at some point externally, possibly forming a coal chute into the basement.

During the removal of the concrete floor within Room B120, a series of 18" or 19" wide walls was uncovered. Each wall was a mixture of a standard and refractory brick bonded in dark grey black sooty mortar with the interior of the main section whitewashed and painted with dolly Blue. The full depth was not determined but had been excavated to a depth of 0.35m (Plate 14; Fig 4).



Plate 14: The brick walls discovered below the floor of Room B120

After the removal of the plaster to the northern wall, an inserted fireplace had been revealed. This had been constructed in two phases with the original opening measuring 1.33m wide with the later opening measuring 0.7m wide. The western end had been infilled with brick and a later inserted sandstone lintel to the eastern side. The flues associated with the earlier fireplace had been infilled with refractory brick, all capped with a concrete band (Plate 15; Fig 4).



Plate 15: The fireplace within the southern wall of Room B120

4.4 Room B119

Room B119 was located to the north of B120 and comprised a vaulted ceiling with the partitions in English garden wall Bond (Fig 4). The ceiling contained the original cast iron central ceiling beam; however, this had been altered by the insertion of a riveted steel beam to the south, set lower above the partition wall.

The stone east wall contained a splayed reveal to the window and contained a cast-iron lintel inserted into an earlier, probably comprising of a four rowlock brick arched lintel. The northern wall had a blocked boxed flue with a sandstone capping and base from an inserted brick fireplace with 3'2" (0.96m) infilled opening below segmental brick lintel. Two fragments of flagstone within the wall face possibly represent a mantle.

The western wall contained a further blocked doorway. This had been infilled with machine-made brick; however the four course rowlock brick arched lintel had been retained.

During the removal of the stone flag floor a 1.9m wide base set against north wall was exposed to a depth of 0.40m. This was a machine made brick construction with black sooty mortar. The structure consisted of a 19" (0.48m) central pit and measured 4'9" (1.44m) long with a 3' (0.91) depth onto flagstone base at its northern end. The southern end contained a steep sloping mortar ramp with refractory brick capping (Plate 16 & 17).



Plate 16: The brick structure below the floor of Room B119



Plate 17: Detail of the brick structure below the floor of Room B119

5. Discussion

5.1 Introduction

The archaeological watching brief during phase 1 of the enabling works of Rochdale Town Hall has provided a valuable opportunity to record several rooms within the basement to which will further enhance the Conservation Management Plans that had been previously undertaken in 2015 and 2019.

Rochdale Town Hall was designed by William Henry Crossland in 1864, and is of the highest significance in terms of its historical and aesthetic values as one of the finest examples in Britain of a Victorian town hall, as reflected in its Grade 1 listed building status. Its original form as designed is recognised as an important early departure from High Victorian heaviness, and has survived into the 21st century with little alteration, with the exception of the later tower, itself a fine example of design by the noted architect, Alfred Waterhouse.

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The building has been in continuous public use for over 140 years and has a high evidential value founded in several major phases of alteration undertaken to reflect the changing aspirations and priorities of the Council; the layers of paint and other finishes in the decorative scheme hold evidence for the original appearance and composition of paint colours and are part of the building's significance.

During the enabling works Rooms B110, B117, B118, B119 and B120 within the basement and G6 on the ground-floor had been the focus of this watching brief. The basement rooms had uncovered several historical features including infilled fireplaces. Several brick structures had also been uncovered within these rooms beneath the replaced flooring.

During the removal of the concrete floor within Room 110 a small brick structure was revealed that housed a small cast-iron saddle boiler. This was a flued type of saddle boiler, which is saddled over a furnace. The heat from a fire strikes the watery end of the boiler, which was situated at the rear, then ascends into the central flue. The steam is then deflected into flues to either side then rises into the upper flue which is situated above (Plates 18 & 19). The rear flue fed into a chimney within the wall thickness to the north, which also served the larger original boilers for the building, which were situated in the adjacent room to the east. However, the two systems appear to have not been connected, as there was no evidence for any apertures in the intervening thick stone wall, strongly suggesting that the boiler was added in the late-nineteenth century for a specific individual role so as to avoid compromising the main heating / hot water supply of the wider complex.

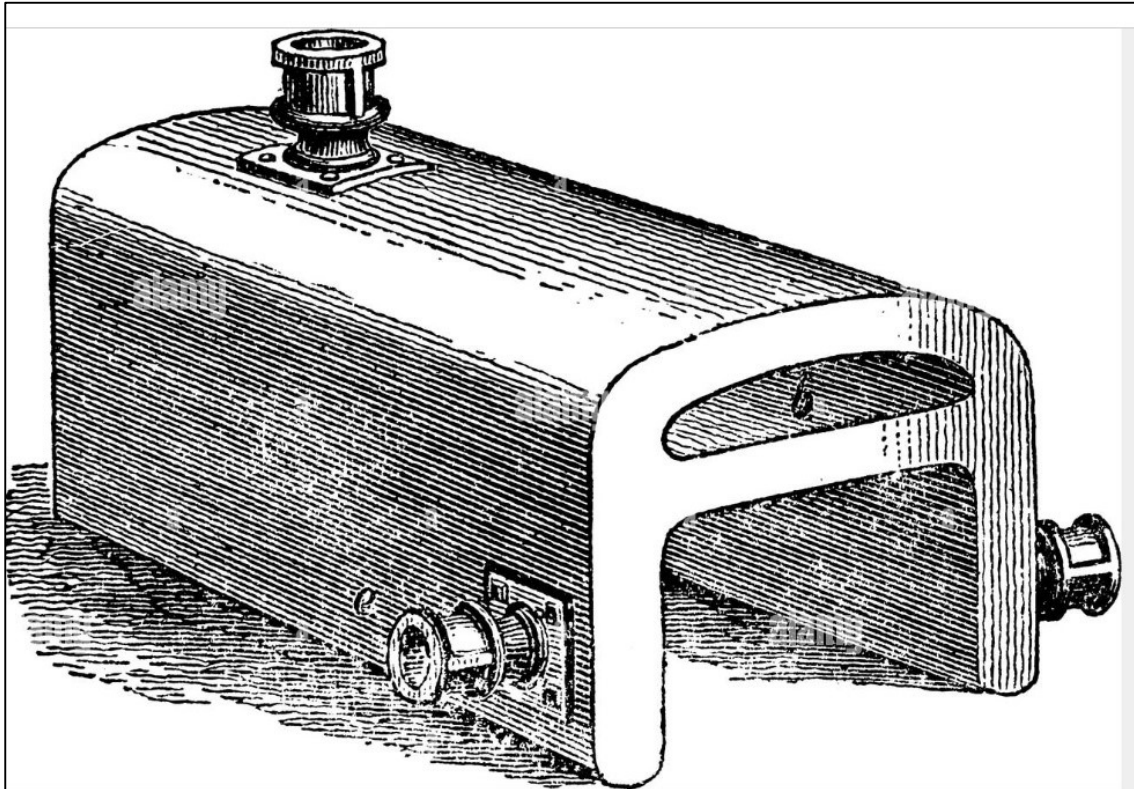


Plate 18: A sketch of a saddle boiler

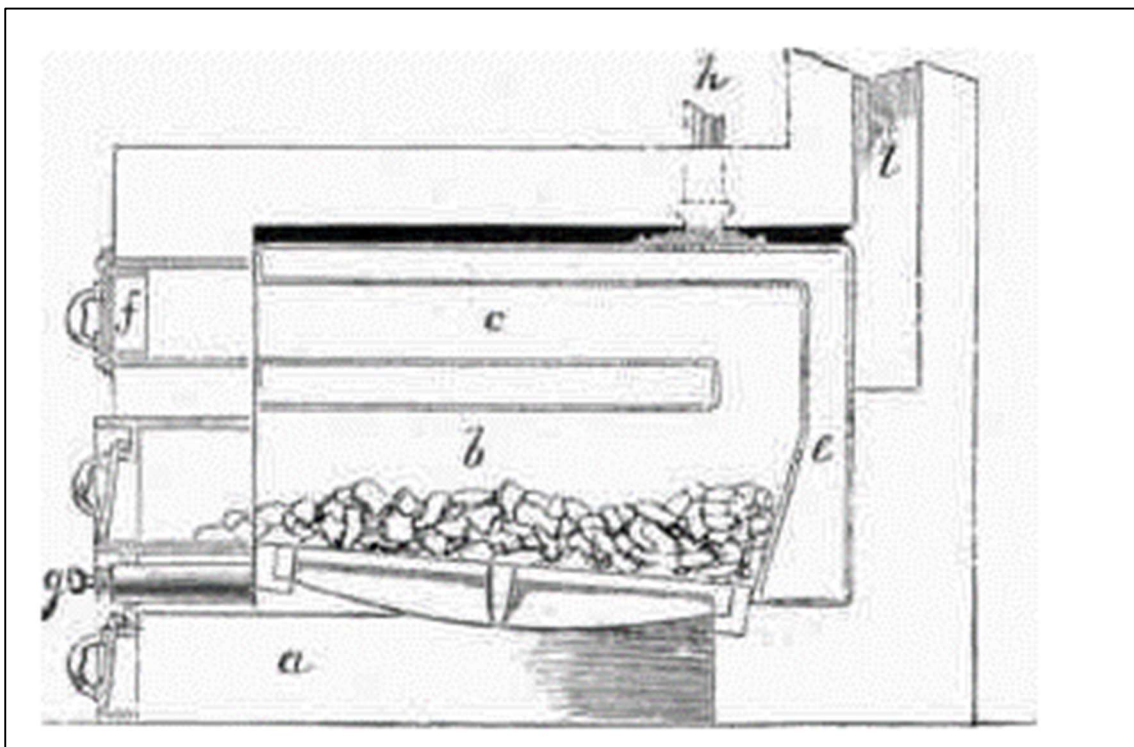


Plate 19: Detail cross section of a saddle boiler

The staircase that had been uncovered during the removal of the timber floor to Room G6, had previously been partially recorded during the measured survey of the town hall, however the upper section had been blocked. The staircase comprised 9" (0.23m) wide stone treads which had been laid upon a single brick 3¾" (0.09m) high with the upper step having been replaced with concrete. This gave access between the ground-floor and basement but did not extend to any of the upper floors. The dumb-waiter to the eastern side of the staircase, suggests that this would have served as a service staircase. The dumb-waiter was served by an electric motor that had been replaced during the mid-20th-century. By the latter half of the century this had become redundant and was partially demolished during the refurbishment of the room.

5.2 Conclusion

The conclusion drawn by the archaeological watching brief of Rochdale Town Hall provided an excellent opportunity to record un-documented historical features that add to the buildings development. The features that have survived have been recorded and the loss during their removal has been adequately mitigated by this survey.

6. Archive

6.1 Archive

The results of the archaeological investigation form the basis of a full archive that has been prepared to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines, the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990), and current ClfA standards and guidance for the creation, compilation, transportation and deposition of archaeological archive. The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data and material gathered during the course of the project. The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the ClfA in that organisation's code of conduct.

The documentary and digital archive generated from the watching brief is currently in the possession of Salford Archaeology. A copy of this report will be submitted to the Greater Manchester Historical Environmental Records in digital and hard copy formats. A digital copy of the report will be publicly available on the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) website.

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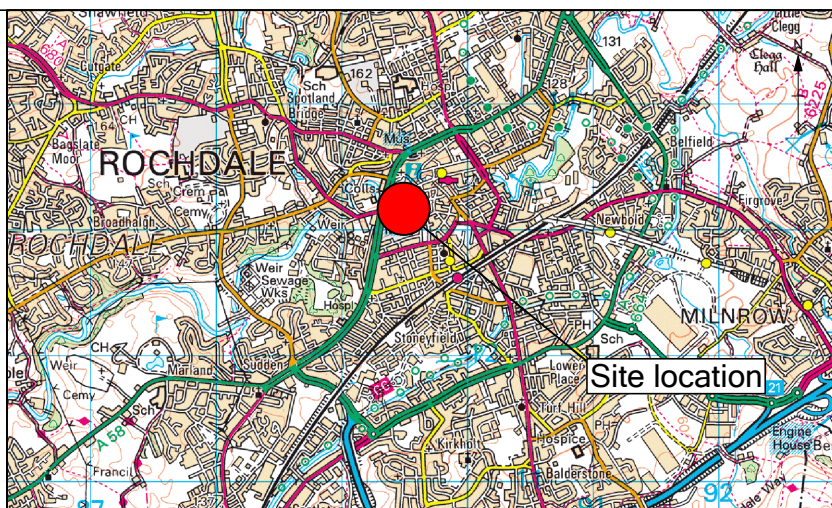
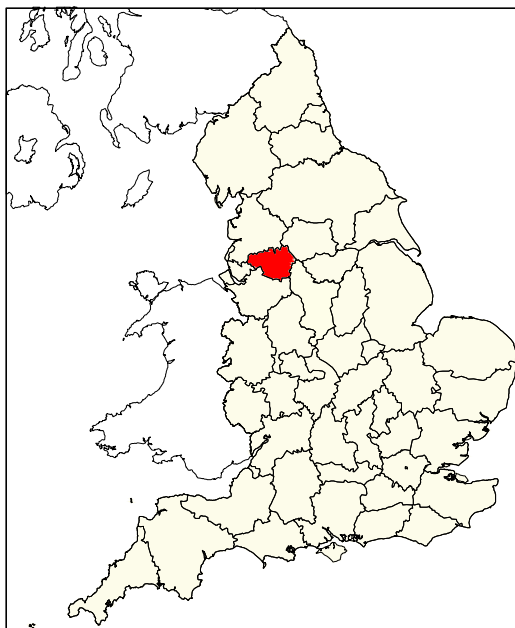
Acknowledgements

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The archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Lewis Stitt and Chris Wild. Lewis also compiled the technical report and accompanying illustrations. The report was edited by Chris Wild, who also was responsible for the project management.

Appendix 1: Illustrations

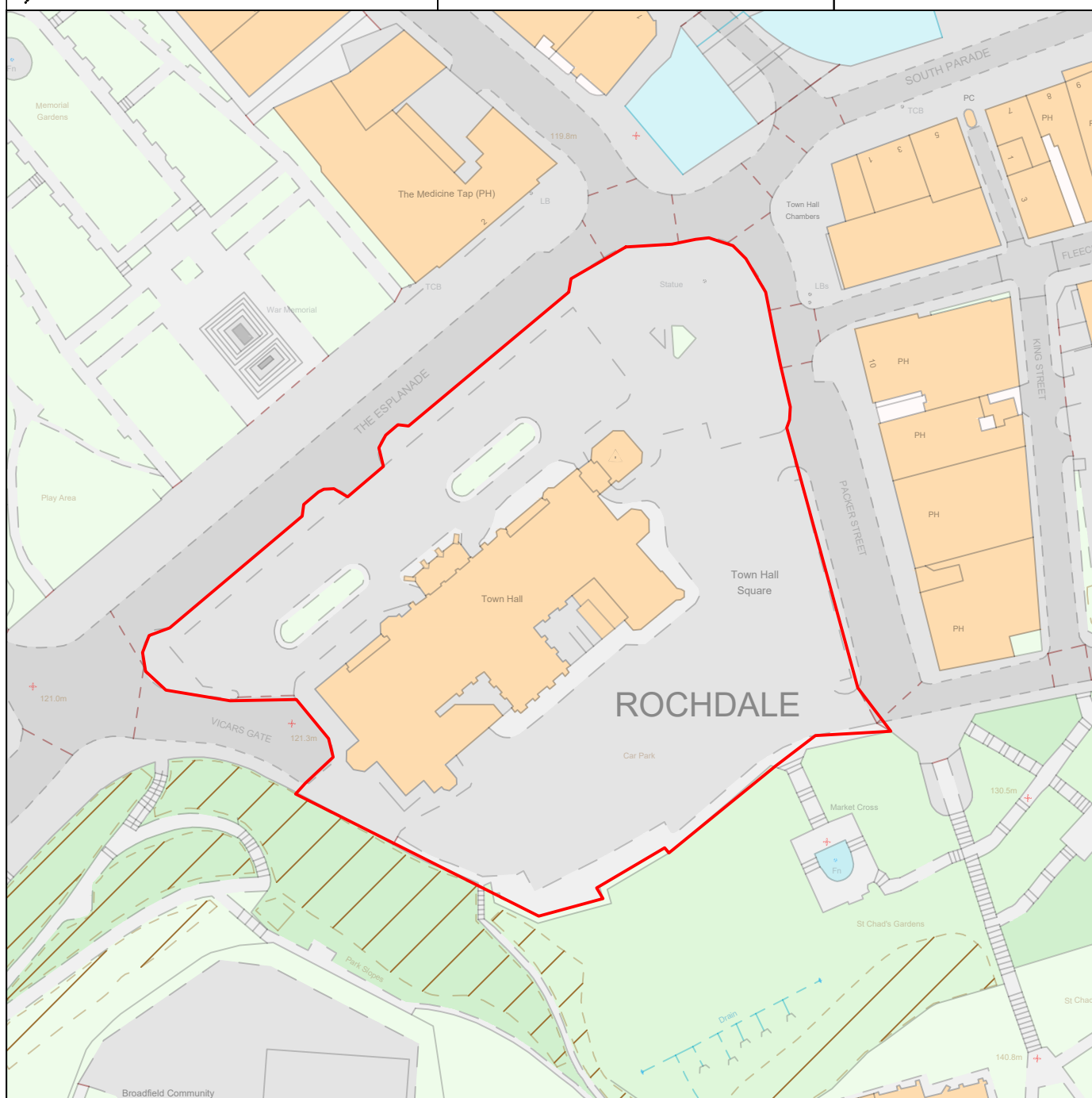
- Figure 1: Site location plan
- Figure 2: Location of the staircase within Rooms G6 and B118/B117
- Figure 3: Location of the saddle boiler within Room B110
- Figure 4: Detail plan of Rooms B119 and B120

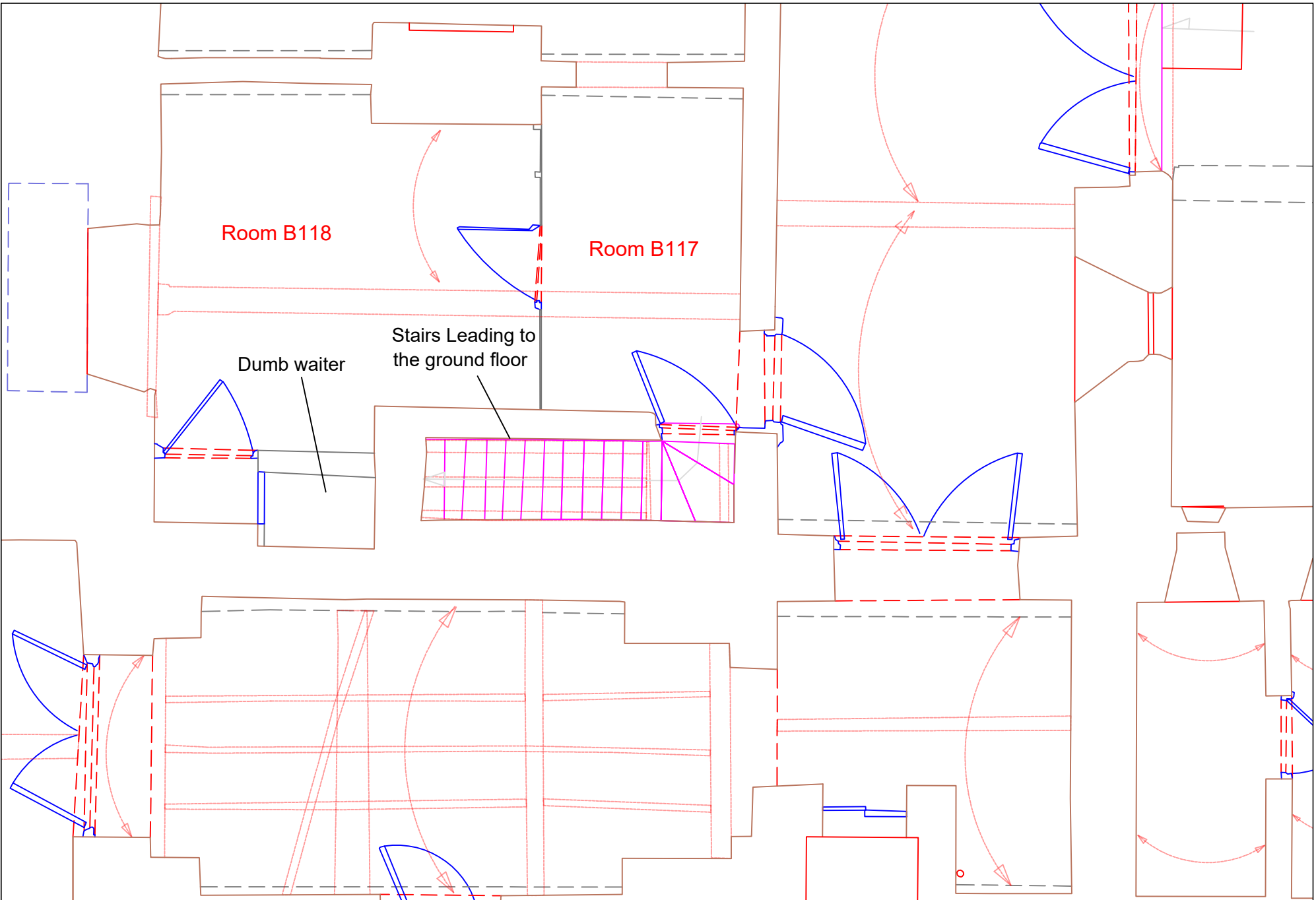


Rochdale Town Hall, The Esplanade, Rochdale

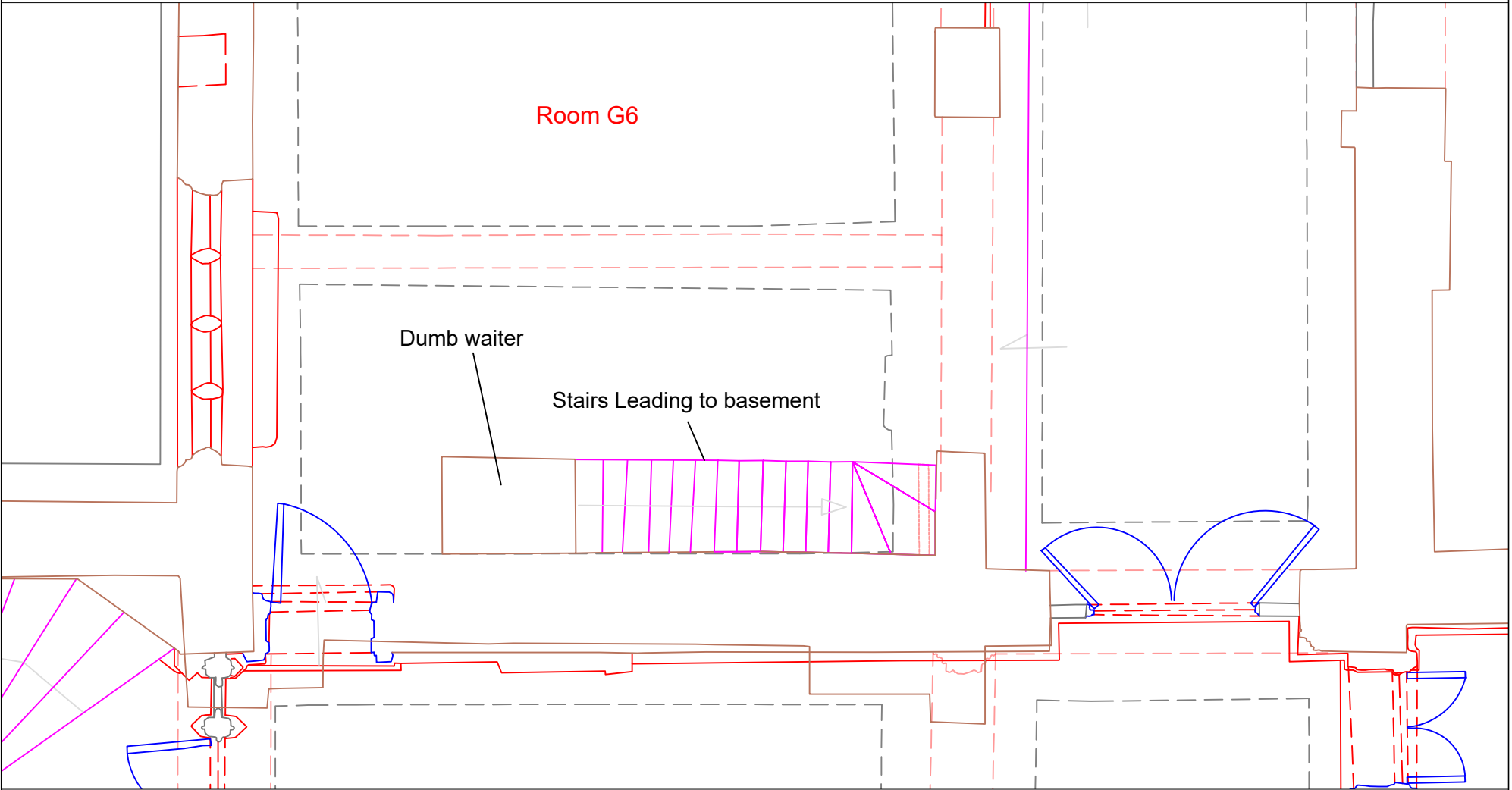
Figure 1: Site Location

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Basement plan



Ground floor plan

Rochdale Town Hall, The Esplanade, Rochdale

Figure 2: Location of the staircase recorded within Room G6 and B118/B117

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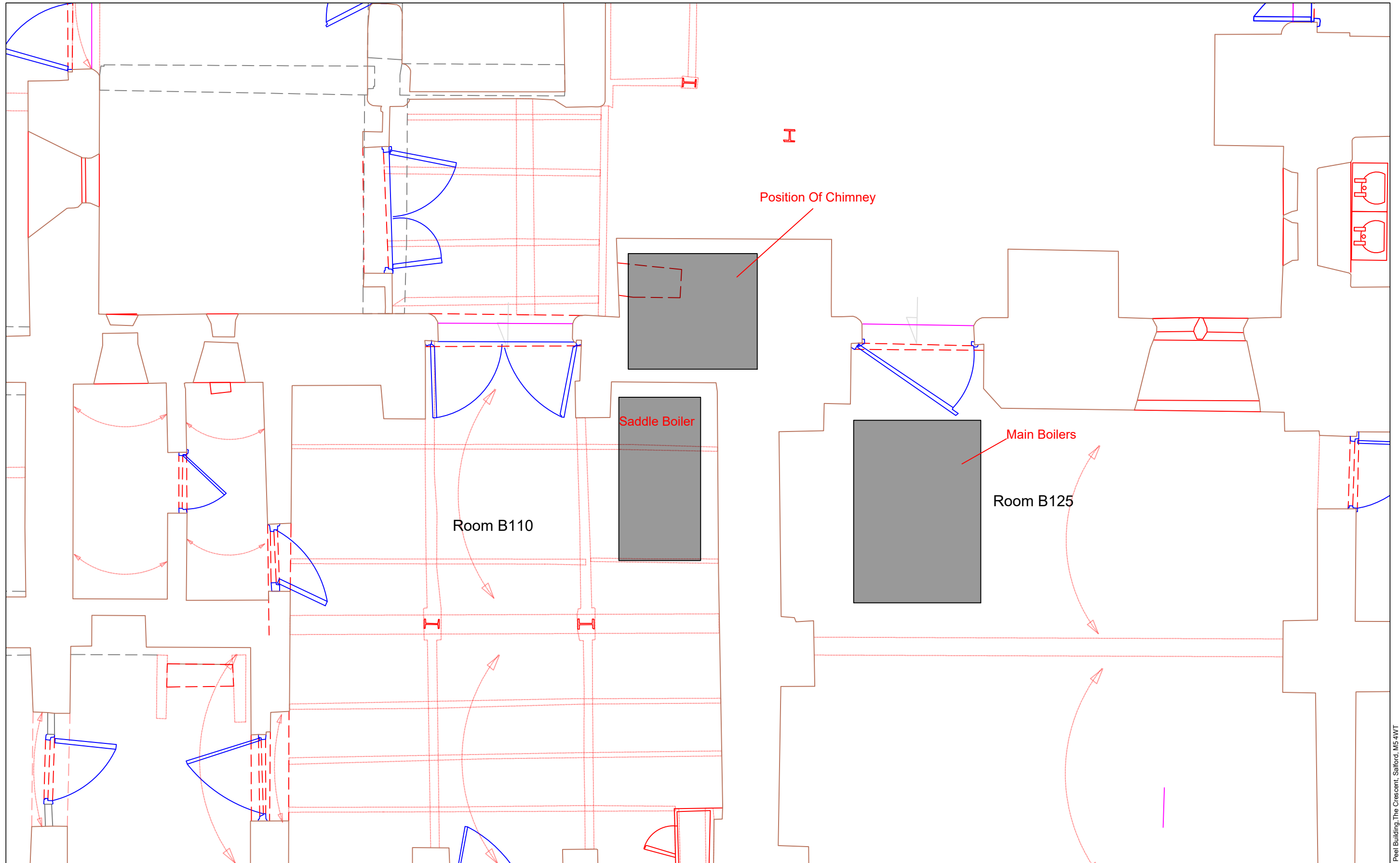
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Scale at A3 1:50

Key:

- Wall
- Door
- Boiler
- Beam
- Stairs
- Fireplace

North arrow pointing up



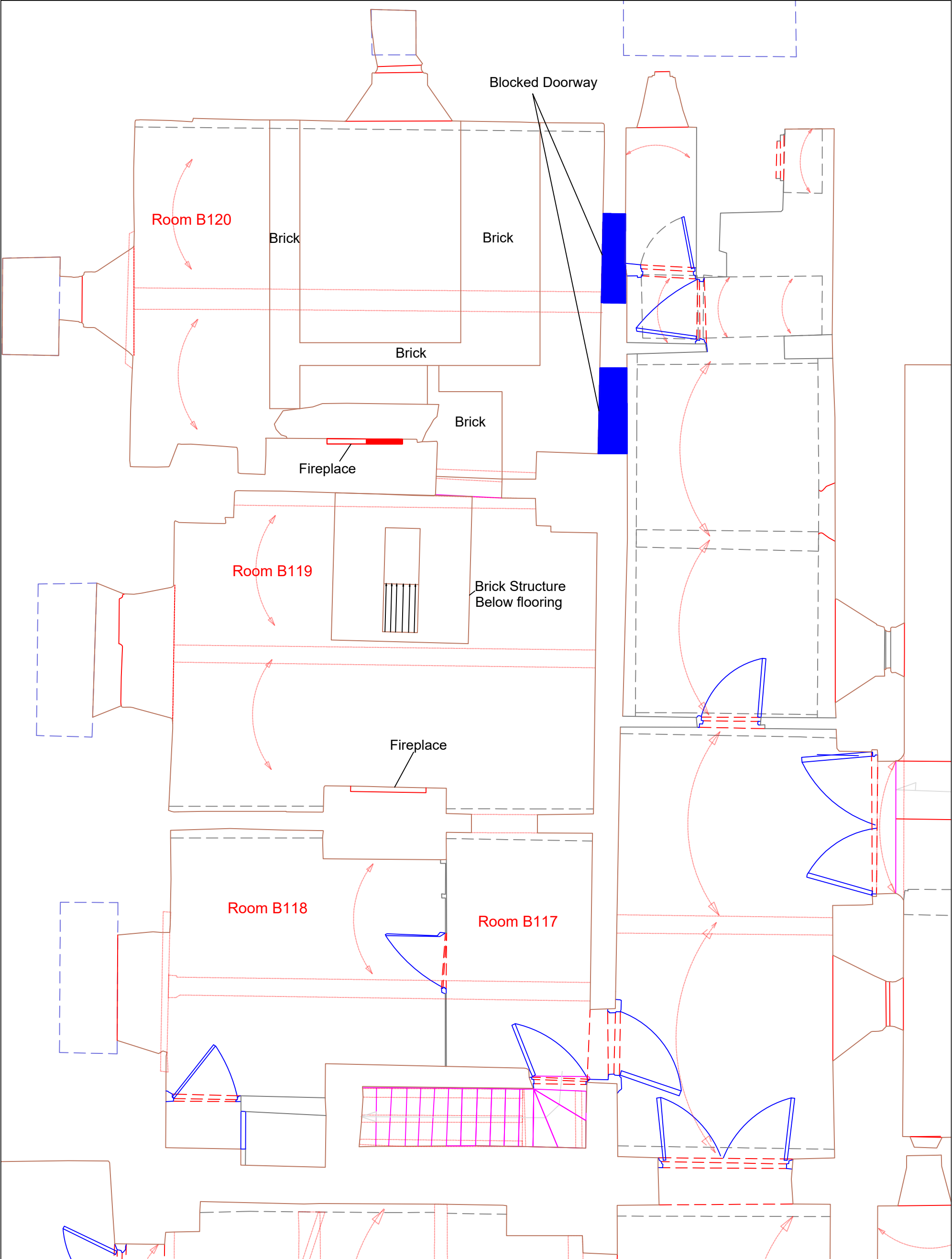
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Scale at A3 1:50

Rochdale Town Hall, The Esplanade, Rochdale
Figure 3: Location of the Saddle Boiler within Room B110



Key:
 Wall
 Door
 Boiler
 Beam



Rochdale Town Hall, The Esplanade, Rochdale

Figure 4: Detail Plan of Rooms B119 and B120

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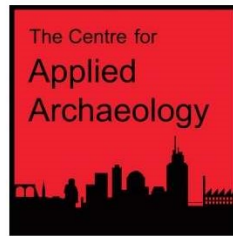
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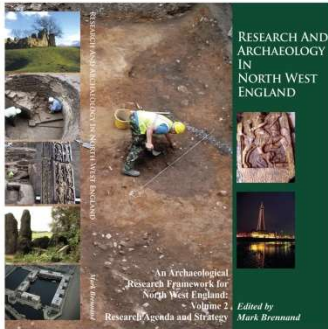
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 Door	 Stairs
 Boiler	 Fireplace



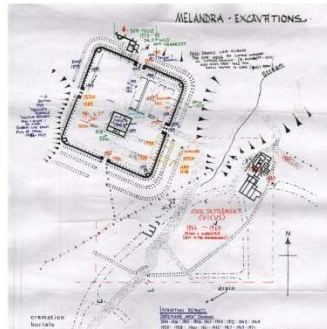
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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS



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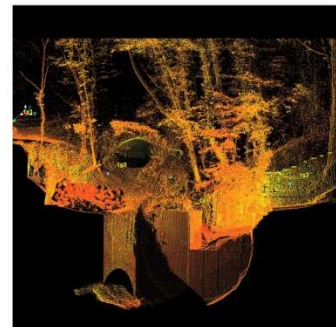
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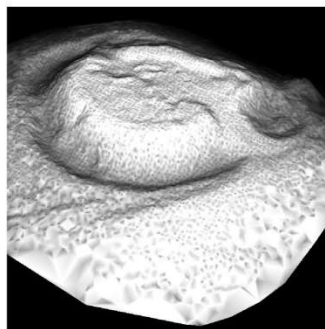
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LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



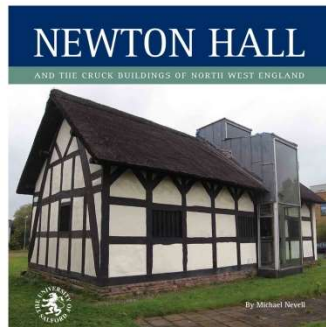
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