

PROJECT DESIGN

Archaeological Evaluation

TACK LEA WORKS,
HEYWOOD,
ROCHDALE

Client: Ainsworth Projects

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1. INTRODUCTION

Tack Lea Works stands in a rural location, just to the north of Heywood, in the valley of the Tack Lea Brook. A dyeworks was established here in the second half of the 19th century, this was successively expanded well into the 20th century. It became disused some years ago, and a proposal has been submitted to demolish the buildings, and to construct a number of houses here. Two previous archaeological assessments have been undertaken, one in 2009 by the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, and one in 2017 by L-P: Archaeology.

Previous site investigation has revealed that made ground exists around the mill site, to a maximum depth of 4.8m. These great depth are assumed to represent recent infilling of the valley base of the Tack Lea Brook, which ran just to the south of the mill buildings. It is possible that the earliest buildings on the site are partially or wholly buried within these fills.

A below-ground archaeological evaluation is now required to mitigate against any loss of historic material, and to assess the possibility of any surviving below-ground archaeology. The proposed development has received both planning permission, and planning condition (No.7) applied by GMAAS states:

“No works of demolition or development shall take place until the implementation of a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been secured and which has been prepared by the appointed archaeological contractor and submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development shall not be occupied until the site investigation has been completed in accordance with the approved WSI. The WSI shall cover the following:

(a) A phased programme and methodology of site investigation and recording to include:

- targeted field evaluation trenching (depending upon the evaluation results) a strip map and record exercise targeted open area excavation.

(b) A programme for post investigation assessment to include:

- analysis of the site investigation records and finds

- production of a final report on the significance of the archaeological and historical interest represented.

(c) Provision for publication and dissemination of the analysis and report on the site investigation.

(d) Provision for archive deposition of the report, finds and records of the site investigation.

(e) Nomination of a competent person or persons/organisation to undertake the works set out within the approved WSI.

Reason: To protect the significance of any archaeological remains on the site in accordance with Policy P2 of the adopted Rochdale Core Strategy and the National Planning Policy Framework.

Reason for pre-commencement condition: There is a risk of disturbance to below ground features of archaeological importance on commencement”.

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Detailed survey work is required to be undertaken on the building. The required stages to achieve this are as follows:

- (1) Site-based evaluation trenching
- (2) Reporting and archive production
- (3) Archive deposition

3. METHOD STATEMENT

In line with the objectives and stages of the archaeological work stated above, the following work programme is submitted.

3.1 Site-based evaluation trenching

3.1.1 Trial Trenching

It is proposed to machine excavate No.6 trial trenches, each measuring 1.8m by 20m, across the site of the buildings, following demolition.

All trenches would be excavated either to natural, or to the surface of archaeologically-significant deposits. The uppermost levels would be machine-excavated, followed by manual cleaning and recording. Plans and sections would be drawn at 1:10 or 1:20 scales; and digital colour photos taken following cleaning. Pro forma context records would be compiled, and any finds recorded by context.

Where archaeological remains were encountered, further machine stripping, cleaning and planning would be undertaken. Following the work, trenches would be backfilled to leave the site in a safe condition, although the original surfaces would not be reinstated.

3.1.3 Drawn records

The drawn field records would be created in AutoCAD 2019, then drawings produced in accordance with the guidance and drawing conventions outlined within Historic England’s *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to good recording practice* (2016); and *Recording Archaeological Field Monuments: A Descriptive Specification* (1999). However, with regard to CAD layering conventions within the former guide, it is proposed to use **nine** CAD layers, as follows:

These designated layers would be as follows:

LAYER NAME	LAYER CONTENT	LINE TYPE	LINE THICKNESS
(1) BORDER	Drawing borders	Solid black	0.40mm
(2) TEXT	All text, scales, compass points	Solid black	0.20mm
(3) CENTRELINE	Section lines, centre lines (machinery etc)	Dashed & dotted red	0.00mm
(4) ONCUT	Wall lines	Solid black	0.30mm
(5) BELOW CUT	Detail below or beyond cut line	Solid black	0.00mm
(6) ABOVE CUT	Detail above or in front of cut line	Dashed black	0.00mm
(7) FORMER CUT	Line of demolished or projected wall	Dashed black	0.30mm
(8) PLANNED CUT	Planned wall line, but never built	Dashed blue	0.30mm
(9) HATCH	Phasing cross-hatching	Solid black	0.00mm

Where possible, the drawings would be colour-phased, to indicate any perceived construction-period variations. Additionally, components would be colour cross-hatched to indicate material types, ie grey for iron/steel; light brown for timber; black stipple for gritstone; red stipple for red sandstone.

3.1.4 Textual description of features

Drawn plans and sections would be supplemented by pro-forma context sheets, which would individually describe all contexts encountered, whether deposits, or structures.

3.1.5 Photographic record

A full photographic record of the trenches and exposed features will be undertaken. This will be undertaken in colour digital, with a minimum of six megapixels, using a wide angle lens, with scales in photographs where appropriate.

3.2 Archive and report

3.2.1 Archive

The results of Stages 3.1 - 3.4 will form the basis of a fully integrated archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide* (2015).

The digital archive drawings will be presented in AutoCAD 2010, in dwg files. All drawings will be produced in AutoCAD, at A3 format. Each sheet will be fully titled. Drawing conventions for plans and sections will follow the general guidelines as issued

by Historic England in *Understanding Historic Buildings: A Guide to good recording practice* (2016) .

Digital photographic images will be titled, and will be included within the report as part of the fabric survey. These will also be provided digitally, in JPEG form. It is anticipated that somewhere around 30-50 photographs will be presented.

The textual archive will be provided both as a printed document and on USB penstick in Word and PDF format.

3.2.2 Reports

Two bound and a digital copy reports would be prepared for submission to the client. Each report would be in two sections; firstly the textual report at A4 format, and secondly the drawings and photographs, at A3 format. These reports will present, summarise, and interpret the results of the programme detailed above, and include appropriate illustrations, including site plans and section drawings, reduced to an appropriate scale (although drawings are field recorded at 1:20 or 1:50, it may not be always appropriate to reproduce them at this scale). The report will summarise the history of the site, and include a full text recording the significance of the archaeological evidence. Recommendations will be produced to highlight potential for any further recording or watching brief works. Paper and digital copies of the reports would be submitted to Rochdale Borough Council and GMAAS.

The report layout will be as follows:

Abstract Summary

- (1) Introduction, explaining background to work
- (2) Scope & methodology
- (3) Location, including geology, geomorphology, aspect & soils
- (4) Historical background of the site, with reference to available historical maps and material derived from desk-based research.
- (5) Full trench descriptions, on a feature by feature basis, including all structures, and deposits.
- (6) Site interpretation, including reference to similar known sites within the Manchester area.
- (7) Sources & bibliography
- (8) Index to photographic archive

Trench location plan, based upon the detailed topographic survey.

Trench plans and sections, with archaeological details indicated.

Plates – digital photographs reproduced in colour, in excess of 1200 dpi. The plates will include copies of any historical images.

All work would be undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's 'Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation', 2014; and 'Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives', 2014.

3.3 Other Matters

3.3.1 Project monitoring

Any proposed changes to this project design will be agreed with the client prior to commencement of any fieldwork. A preliminary meeting could be arranged at the outset of the project, if necessary. Further meetings to review the progress of work could occur during the programme. Rochdale Borough Council and GMAAS would be informed before commencement of fieldwork.

3.3.2 Health and Safety

Full regard will, of course, be given to all Health and Safety considerations. Matrix Archaeology fieldwork conforms to all the provisions of the SCAUM (Standing Conference of Unit Managers) Health and Safety manual. Risk assessments are undertaken as a matter of course for all projects.

3.3.3 Access

Matrix Archaeology and sub-contractors should be provided with unrestricted access to the site for the duration of the archaeological works. The client's engineer should advise on any areas which are deemed unsafe for working.

3.3.4 Independence

Matrix Archaeology is a limited company, taking full employment responsibility for all of its employees and sub-contractors.

4. TIMETABLE

- 4.1 Evaluation fieldwork is expected to take up to ten days, including backfilling to make safe.
- 4.2 Production of report within eight working weeks following completion of fieldwork. An interim report for planning purposes could be produced within two weeks of completion of fieldwork.

5. STAFFING

The fieldwork will be undertaken by **Mark Fletcher, BSc, MAAIS** (Matrix Archaeology Director). He has worked as a professional archaeologist since 1985.

His former employment posts are as follows:

Supervisor and Project Officer with ***Trust for Wessex Archaeology***, 1985-87; Project Manager with ***Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit***, 1987-94; Senior Project Manager with ***Lancaster University Archaeological Unit***, 1994-1997; Senior Managing Archaeologist with ***West Yorkshire Archaeological Service***, 1997-2000. Set up ***Matrix Archaeology*** of Manchester as a commercial contracting and consulting body in March, 2000.