

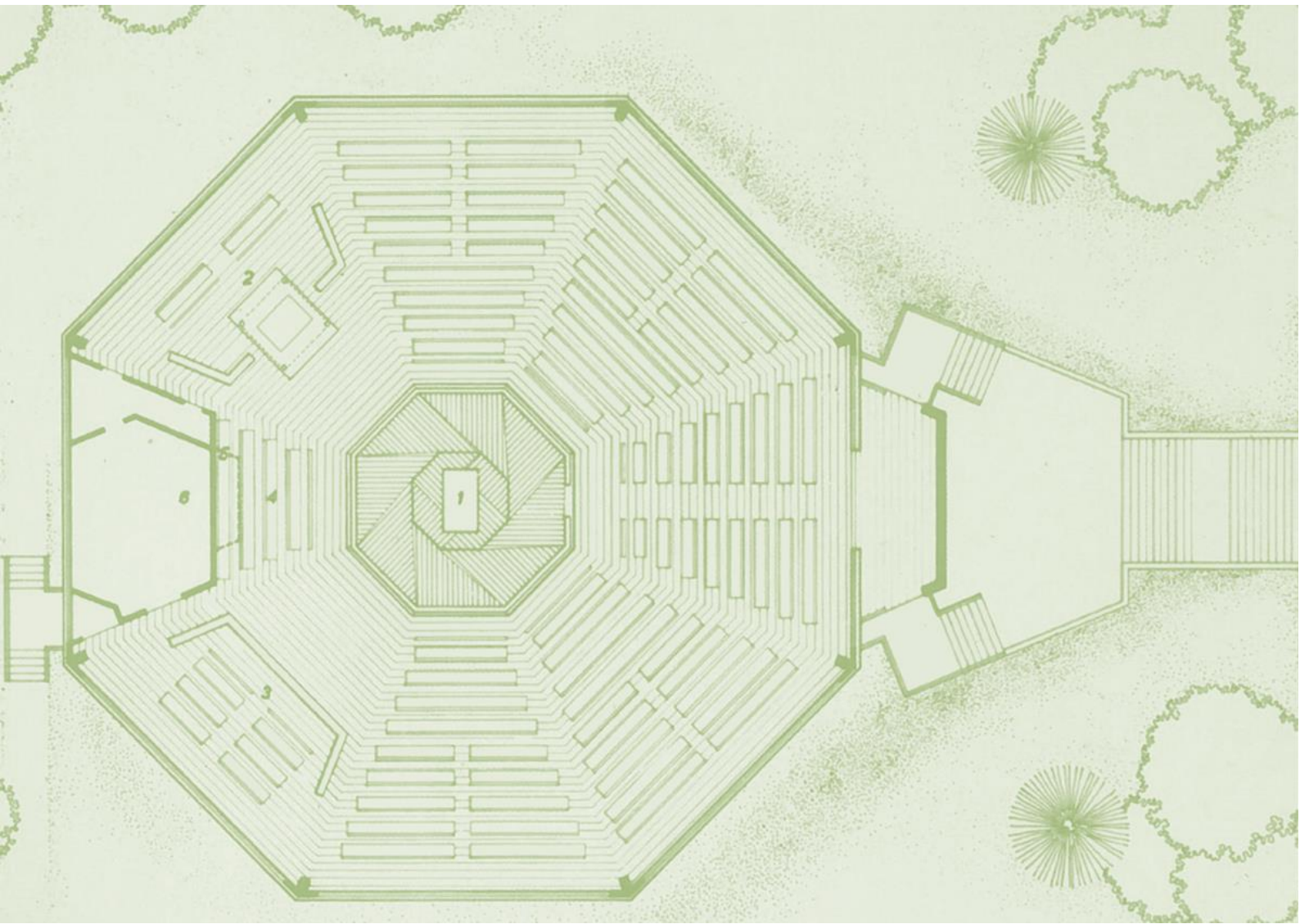
Hopwood Hall Chapel, Middleton

WSI: Watching Brief

JANUARY 2025

PREPARED FOR

Hopwood Hall College



Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

Project Name	Hopwood Hall Chapel
Report Type	Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief
Project Number	61064
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Client	Hopwood Hall College
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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

1.1.1. Overview of the Site

The site is situated within the grounds of Hopwood Hall College, Middleton Campus, Rochdale Road, Middleton (Fig 1; centred on NGR SD 87509 08193). The historical significance of the chapel (Milnrow Chapel), a Grade II listed building was assessed in a Heritage Statement and Historic Impact Assessment produced by Seven Architecture. The chapel was erected in 1964-5 as a place of worship for the De La Salle Teacher Training College.

Prior to its construction, the site of chapel was occupied by a garden feature situated within the grounds of Hopwood Hall. The garden feature had a circular plan, quite possibly representing a fountain. It is shown on the Ordnance Survey 1st Revision 1:2500 map of 1910 (Figure 3), however by the time of the 2nd Revision map of 1929, the feature was enclosed by walling and accessed by paths to the north and south.

1.1.2. Circumstances of the project

The proposed development will encompass access improvement and repair works to the chapel. The works will also involve internal and external refurbishment along with the installation of new plant and services (Planning Ref: 24/00547/FUL).

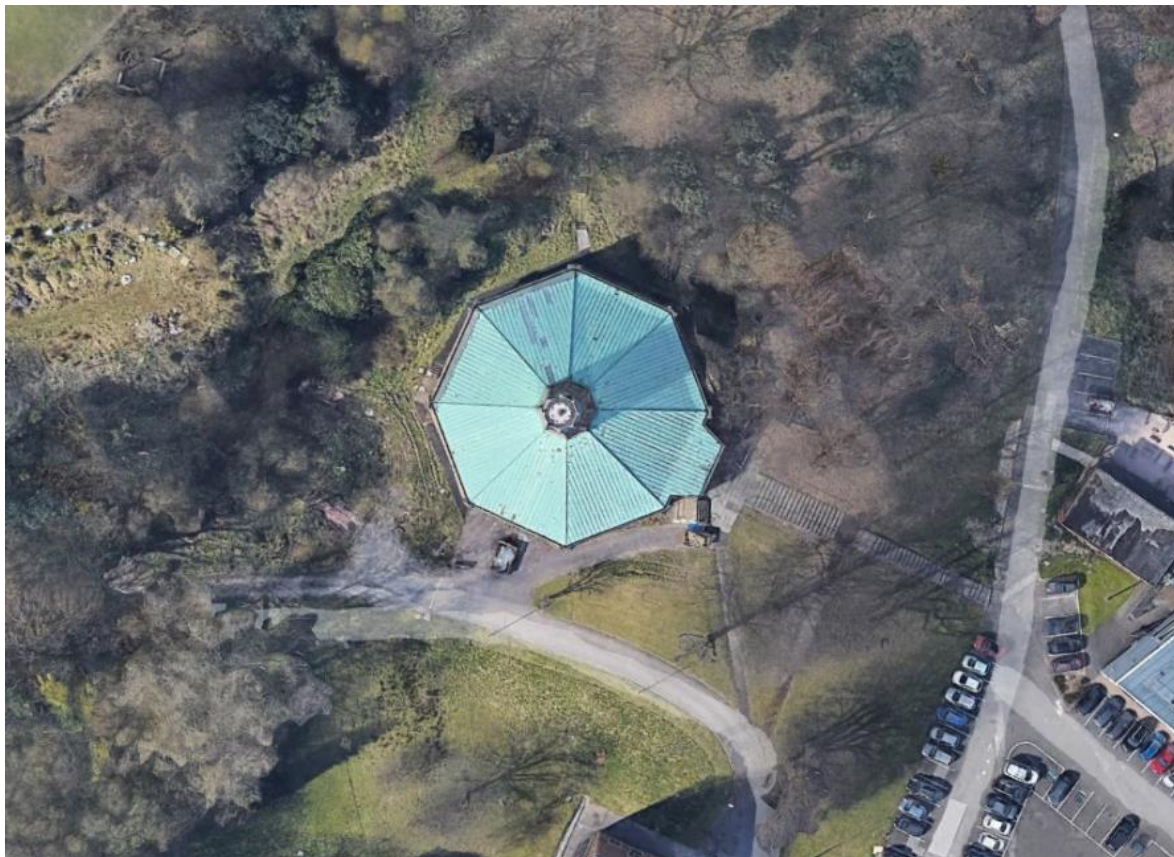


Plate 1: Recent satellite image of the site, showing the chapel

1.2. Setting

1.2.1. Location and description

Milnrow Chapel is located towards the North-West of the Hopwood Hall College grounds and elevated on a grassed bank with trees surrounding the site (centred on: NGR SD 87509 08193). The postcode for the site is M24 6XE. The red line development boundary encompasses the chapel and its approach. The works specified in this document will be limited to the area immediately around the chapel building.

1.3. Proposed Development

1.3.1. Proposals

The proposed development will encompass:

- Renewal of existing steps and handrails leading from the main College site
- Removal of poor condition areas of paving and tarmac and replacement with new high-quality surfacing
- Front entrance steps previously altered to be replaced with new pre-cast concrete steps and balustrades more in keeping with the original design
- New sloping access route to the front entrance to allow an accessible route into the building
- Rear steps to be repaired in order to prevent further deterioration and allow these to be used as a means of escape
- New path to the perimeter of the building to facilitate access for future cleaning and maintenance
- New sensitively designed external lighting for amenity and escape • New sensitively designed signage to improve way finding
- Addition of new accessible car parking space
- New plant enclosure to the rear of the building
- Removal of overgrown vegetation and replacement with new soft landscaping

1.4. Recommended Activity and Scope

1.4.1. Recommended Activity

The proposed scheme for development works will involve breaking out and replacement of the existing external surfaces around the chapel and some areas of ground reduction and excavation. Ground reduction to the rear of the plant enclosure is also being considered. The works involve minor landscaping and earthmoving activity, which have the potential to cause loss or damage to any below-ground remains surviving within the site. Monitoring and recording of intrusive works in the form of an archaeological watching brief will be undertaken to ensure any archaeological remains encountered are appropriately recorded. This approach to mitigating against the loss or damage to heritage assets and potential heritage assets of archaeological interest follows the guidance of NPPF (Paragraphs 216-18).

1.4.2. Scope

The scope of the watching brief will include monitoring of groundworks relating to the access improvement and repair works to the chapel. It is anticipated that the works will comprise intermittent visits throughout the duration of the works with timed visits to coincide with specified groundworks in the areas flagged as having archaeological potential.

The archaeological watching brief shall be fully implemented in accordance with the approved Project Design (formerly referred to as a 'Written Scheme of Investigation') as stated in planning documentation (CIfA 2023).

Should significant remains be encountered, GMAAS will be informed. Detailed investigation of such remains would fall beyond the scope of the watching brief. In such a scenario, a revised Project Design for an archaeological mitigation and updated cost proposal would be required.

1.5. Historical Background

The background of the site and its broader context has been presented in a Heritage Statement produced by Seven Architecture (2024, 17-22, 25-6); this document should be referred to for more detailed information regarding the development of the site.

2. Aims and Objectives

2.1. Aims

The main aim of the archaeological watching brief will be to undertake a programme of archaeological watching brief, to accurately record the location, extent and character of any surviving archaeological features. More specific aims of the investigation are to:

- to establish, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed;
- to identify any garden features and to attempt to resolve the function of the circular feature visible on the historic mapping
- to ensure preservation by record of any archaeological remains encountered;
- to make available the results of the work

2.2. North West England Regional Research Framework

Further, more detailed research aims may be generated and developed from the results of the archaeological investigation, with specific reference to the North West England Regional Research Framework (NWERRF). It is envisaged that the investigation may potentially improve our understanding of the following research questions:

Industrial era

- **Ind12:** How did large houses and estates decline, especially during the early 20th century?
- **Ind14:** How can we establish a typology of and assess the significance of buildings and other structures associated with country and farming estates?

3. Method Statement

3.1. Archaeological Works

3.1.1. Watching Brief

The principal aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording will be to establish the presence or absence of any buried remains of archaeological interest and, if present, record the remains.

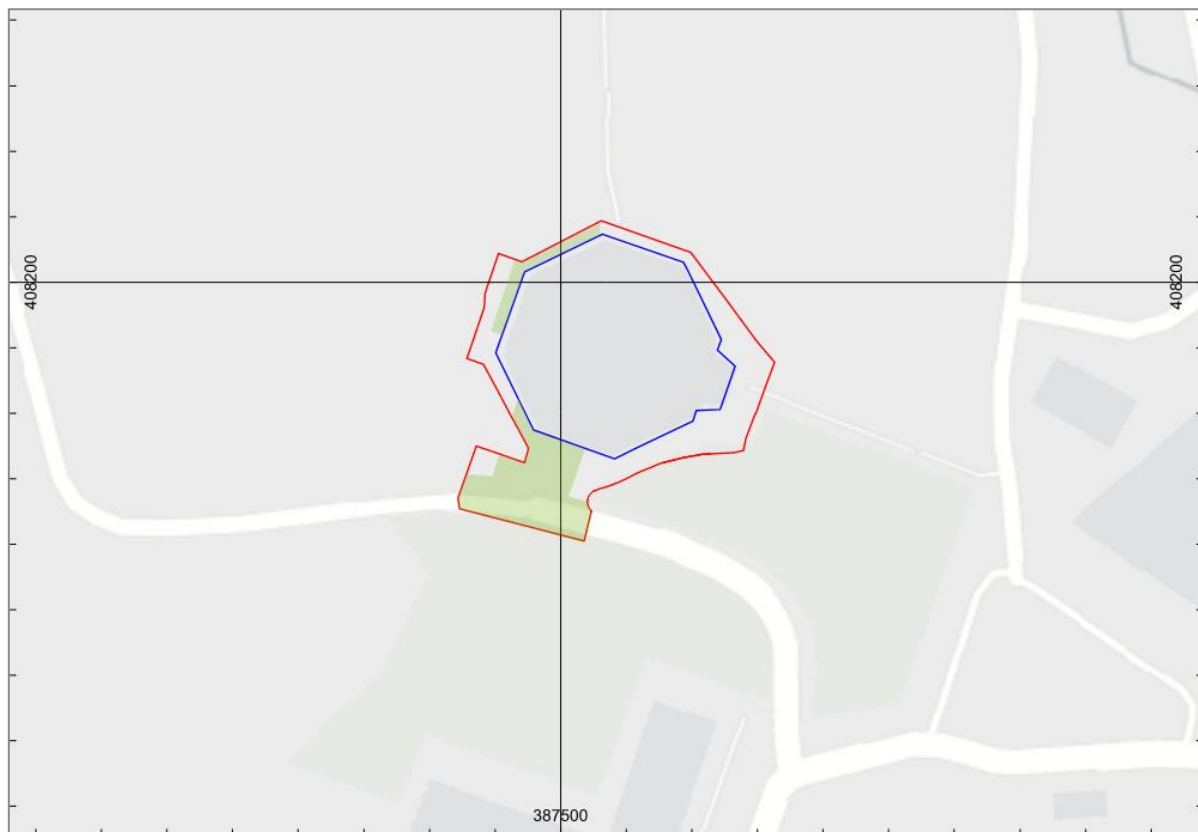


Plate 2: Watching Brief monitoring zone (red) and areas of potential (green)

3.1.2. Rationale

The rationale for the watching brief areas is outlined below and will include monitoring and recording of groundworks around the chapel building, including:

- Excavation/breaking out works to bring in new services to the rear of the Chapel
- Excavations to upgrade existing footpath to the perimeter of the Chapel and form new accessible parking space
- Excavations for installation of new external lighting and signage
- Excavations to form new ground slab for the external plant enclosure to the rear of the Chapel

The watching brief zone (Plate 4; Figs 2 and 6) encompasses the walkways around the chapel and the renewed carparking space to the south. It is envisaged that a presence will be required during intrusive works in the areas of potential (as indicated by the historic mapping, Figs 3-

5), which include the paths approaching the garden and part of the supposed wall enclosing it on its north-western side. Any machine or hand-dug excavations needed in these locations will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist.

3.1.3. Pre-commencement

Production of this Project Design has been undertaken by Civic Heritage. Any changes to this agreed PD will only be made in consultation with GMAAS acting on behalf of the local planning authority. In addition to the completion and approval of the Project Design prior to on-site commencement of activity, the nominated Project Manager will:

- Liaise with the client to ensure mutual understanding of the project deliverables, timeframes, access, health and safety, aims and resources.
- Liaise with the archaeological curator or their representative.
- Obtain background information necessary for the project (topographic surveys, service plans, proposed groundworks/drainage and building designs, previous reports)
- Ensure the production of relevant documentation such as Risk Assessments and Method Statements (RAMS) taking into consideration the archaeological methodology.
- Ensure adequate staffing and resources (e.g. plant and welfare) are programmed.

3.1.4. Methodology

General Methodology

All archaeological work shall be conducted following the Standards for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (ClfA 2023a) and Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording (ClfA 2023b). Before commencement all interested parties will agree an acceptable method of proceeding. Prior to the commencement of any works, the location of the trial pits to be monitored archaeologically will be laid out accurately with respect to the Ordnance Survey national grid.

Permanent Presence Watching Brief:

A suitably qualified archaeologist will be in attendance for the duration of any intrusive below ground works. It is expected that attendance will be required during specified groundworks, as stipulated above (3.1.2).

The purpose of this work will be to create a record of the survival, thickness and characteristics of the archaeological deposits, and to establish the survival of any surviving features or structural remains, particularly those that can be dated to the post-medieval or earlier occupation of the site.

If archaeological remains are encountered, the monitoring archaeologist will have the opportunity to halt the excavation. Adequate time will be afforded to allow cleaning and recording of any exposed archaeology. In the eventuality that significantly complex or unexpected remains (e.g. complex medieval or earlier stratigraphy, medieval masonry etc.) are encountered that would incur a noticeable delay to the programme of works, Civic will immediately contact the client (Hopwood Hall College) and GMAAS to agree an acceptable course of action. This may involve discrete areas of controlled mitigation to fully record any remains present or where this is not practical, the relocation or redesign of

trenching/excavations to avoid damage or loss to sensitive remains.

If it proves necessary for excavations to exceed more than 1.2m and / or if the trench sides appear to be loose or unstable at any depth, then provision may be made to widen and step the trenches to facilitate access. In instances where no archaeological remains are present, excavations exceeding 1.2m below ground level will be inspected from the trench edge.

Context Recording

All contexts will be recorded using pro-forma sheets, allowing details to be incorporated into a Harris matrix. All written records of survey data, contexts, photographs, artefacts and ecofacts will be cross-referenced from record sheets using sequential numbering.

Photography

A full and detailed photographic record of individual contexts will be maintained and similarly general views from standard view points of the overall site at all stages of the excavation will be generated. Photography will be undertaken in accordance with HE *guidance, Digital Image Capture and File Storage Guidelines for Best Practice* (July 2015). All frames will include a visible, graduated metric scale. Photographs records will be maintained on photographic pro-forma sheets.

Planning

The location of all the excavated trenches and any archaeological remains encountered therein will be surveyed using a combination of manual drawing (supplemented by total station/GPS survey, as required). This process will generate scaled plans within AutoCAD, which will then be subject to manual survey enhancement. The drawings will be generated at an accuracy appropriate for 1:20 scale but can be output at any scale required. All information will be georectified to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and all levels will be tied into Ordnance Datum.

Human Remains

If in situ human remains and/or graves are encountered these will not be removed. A Ministry of Justice Licence will be obtained. The presence will be recorded and a mitigation strategy developed, most likely to be moving the drainage/service trenches or excavations away from the burial area.

Finds Policy

Finds recovery and sampling programmes will be in accordance with best practice (following current Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' guidelines, Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials, CIfA 2020) and subject to expert advice in order to minimise deterioration. Finds storage during fieldwork and any site archive preparation will follow professional guidelines (UKIC). Any artefacts identified as grave goods will not be removed. The recovery of a large or significant finds assemblage during the works may require further stages of analysis and reporting, beyond the scope of a watching brief report.

Any gold and silver artefacts recovered during the course of the excavation will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act, 1996.

Deposit Sampling

Samples will be collected from any suitable deposits encountered during the watching with the aim of identifying any residual evidence of the past environment or industrial processes and potential dating. The samples should be collected, in as close to sterile conditions as feasibly possible.

3.2. Report and Archive

3.2.1. Report

A draft copy of the watching brief report will be submitted for comment to the client and GMAAS within eight weeks of the completion of the final phase of investigation fieldwork. This will present the results obtained from the archaeological investigation, and will include:

- a title page detailing site address, NGR, author/originating body, client's name and address;
- full content's listing;
- a non-technical summary of the findings of the fieldwork;
- a description of the archaeological background;
- an account of the historical development of the site;
- a description of the findings of the fieldwork;
- detailed drawings (plans and relevant sections) at appropriate scales of the excavated trenches, showing the archaeological features exposed;
- photographs with a good depth of field, appropriately lit and in clear focus of the trial pits and any archaeological features of potential significance;
- a catalogue and assessment of each category of artefact recovered during the investigation and biological samples, including the potential for further analysis;
- a summary, assessment, and interpretation of the results of the archaeological investigation;
- a consideration of the importance of the archaeological remains present on the site in local, regional and national terms;
- recommendations for any further work and dissemination, made in consultation with GMAAS

The client will be provided with a digital copy of the report (pdf format), printed copies will be available upon request and may be subject to an additional fee.

3.2.2. Archive

The results of the archaeological investigation will form the basis of a full archive to professional standards, in accordance with current Historic England guidelines, and current ClfA guidance (Standards and Guidelines for the Creation, Compilation, Transportation and Deposition of Archaeological Archives ClfA 2020). The project archive represents the collation and indexing of all the data 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. Following the guidelines of the LCCMS (LCC 2022, 4-5), the digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). As part of the archiving process, the on-line OASIS (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations) form will be completed. In preparation for this an OASIS number will be obtained and the initial record set up at the beginning of the site investigation.

The site archive will be so organised as to be compatible with the other archaeological archives produced in Greater Manchester. All drawn records will be transferred to and stored in digital format, in systems which are easily accessible. The integrity of the site archive will be maintained upon completion of the archaeological works with a digital copy of the archive ultimately being deposited on-line with the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

Finds

The integrity of the finds assemblage (if generated by the works) will be maintained upon completion of the archaeological works with the archive ultimately being deposited with a suitable recipient museum.

3.2.3. Dissemination

The results of the investigation will ultimately be disseminated through deposit of the findings of the investigation in a technical report, together with some form of publication, if required.

- The report will be submitted to the relevant HER within three months of production of the completed report.
- Civic Heritage will register the report with OASIS (On-line Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations).
- Civic Heritage may utilise social media to communicate the discovery of archaeological findings and any artefacts of interest at any time. Discretion will be taken not to disclose such information or make site locations anonymous if specifically asked to do so by the client.
- The Project Archive, including artefactual material will be deposited as outlined above.

4. Programme

4.1. Timetable

4.1.1. Fieldwork

The project will commence on a date mutually agreed between the Client and Civic Heritage. Monitoring visits will require a notice period of at least 5 working days to mobilise. The programme of archaeological works will be dependent on the duration of the groundworks and overall construction programme.

Civic Heritage will have notified GMAAS one week prior to commencement of the onsite activities, allowing them to schedule monitoring visits during the course of the watching brief and to arrange a permanent presence watching brief during specific intrusive works.

4.1.2. Report

A draft report will be submitted to GMAAS and the Client for comment within eight weeks of completion of the final phase of fieldwork. The project archive will be deposited with the receiving museum (where applicable) within six months of completion of the fieldwork.

4.1.3. Project Monitoring

Civic Heritage will notify GMAAS of any discoveries of archaeological significance so that site visits can be made, as necessary. Any changes to this agreed PD will only be made in consultation with GMAAS acting on behalf of the local planning authority.

5. Staff Proposals

5.1. Team Structure

5.1.1. Responsibilities

The project will be overseen and managed by Oliver Cook (Director, Civic Heritage). Oliver is an experienced field archaeologist with over 11 years' experience and has undertaken many investigations and excavations across the country. Oliver holds current valid CSCS certification.

His role will be to ensure that the Project Design is implemented within the framework of the Project Objectives and will be responsible for all aspects of staff and resource logistics, ensuring the smooth running of the project programme.

5.1.2. Fieldwork Staff

It is not possible to provide details of specific archaeologists that will be involved with the fieldwork at this stage, but all shall be suitably qualified archaeologists with proven relevant experience

5.1.3. External Specialists

The following list of internal and external specialists can be called if required:

- Medieval and post-medieval pottery - Jeremy Bradley (independent specialist)
- CBM - Jeremy Bradley (independent specialist)
- Clay tobacco pipes - Jeremy Bradley (independent specialist)
- Glass - David Dungworth (independent specialist)
- Iron/Steel objects - David Dungworth (independent specialist)
- Industrial residues - Gerry McDonnell (independent specialist)
- Animal bone – Hannah Russ (Archaeology.biz)
- Leather - Quita Mould (independent specialist)
- Conservation - Karen Barker (independent specialist)

Bibliography

Cartographic Sources

- 1893 Ordnance Survey 25-inch to 1-mile plan
- 1910 Ordnance Survey 25-inch to 1-mile plan (1st revision)
- 1929 Ordnance Survey 25-inch to 1-mile plan (2nd revision)
- 1932 Ordnance Survey 25-inch to 1-mile plan
- 1947 Ordnance Survey 6-inch to 1-mile plan

Secondary Sources

Seven Architecture. 2024. Heritage Statement – Enabling Works – Conversion of Former Chapel - .
Seven Architecture, unpubl.

ClfA, 2020. *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials*, Reading

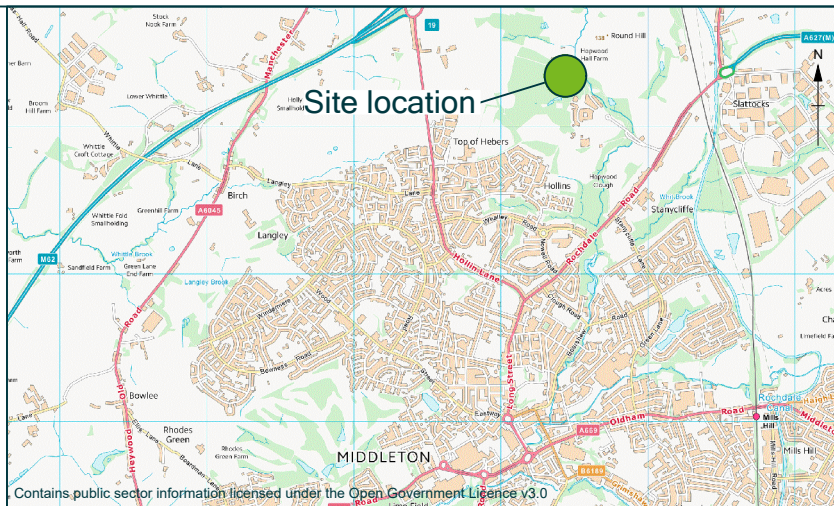
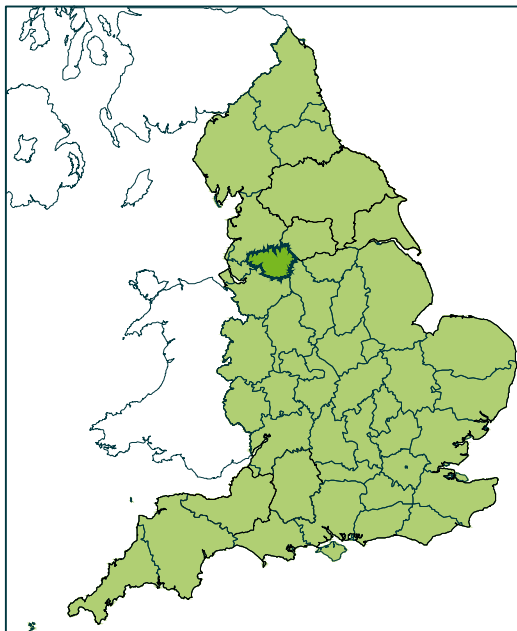
ClfA, 2020. *Standards and Guidelines for the Creation, Compilation, Transportation and Deposition of Archaeological Archives*, Reading

ClfA, 2023a *Standards for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*, Reading

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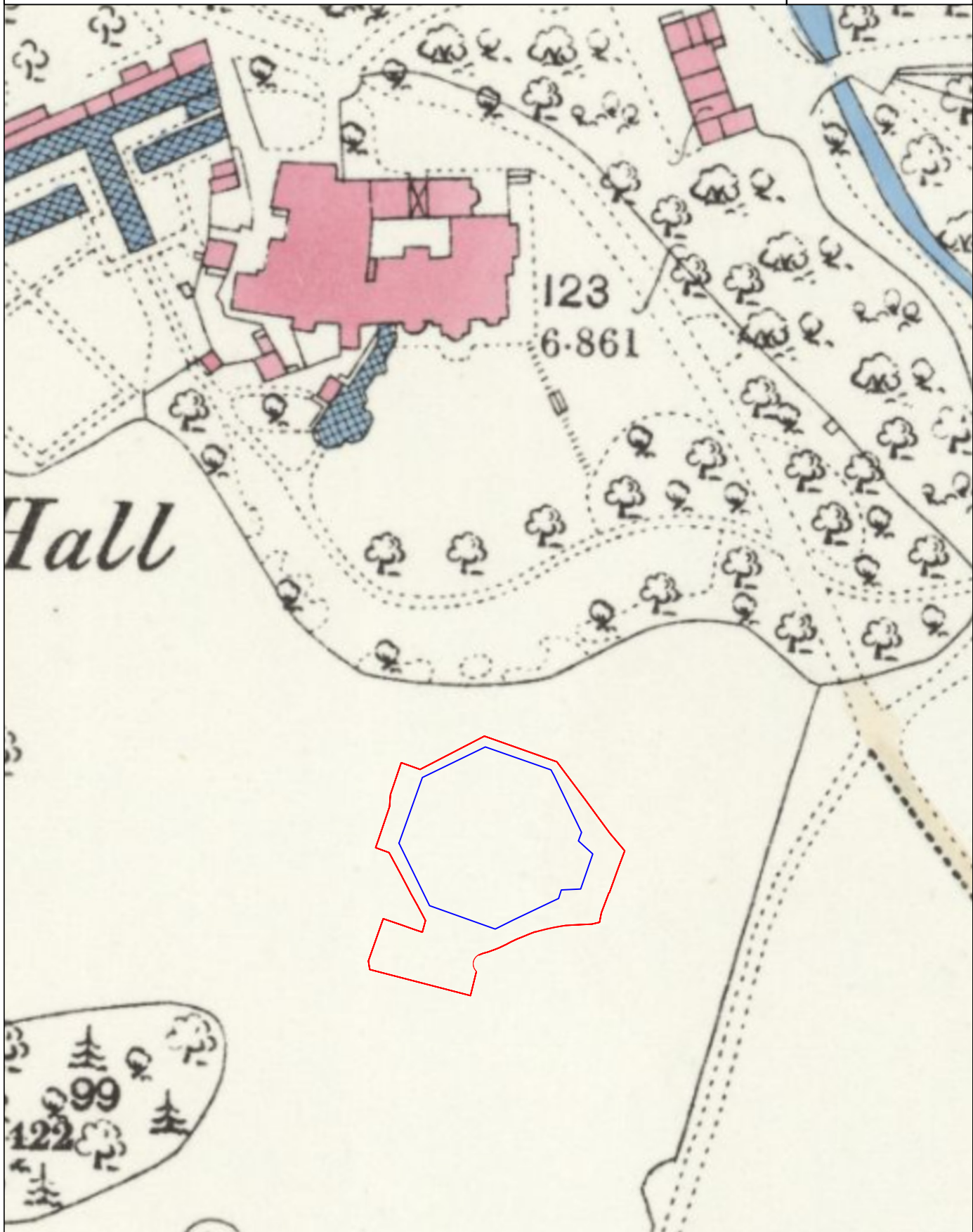
Appendix 1 - Figures

- Figure 1** Site boundary boreholes superimposed onto modern mapping
- Figure 2** Outline of the chapel superimposed on the 1893 Ordnance Survey 25-inch to 1-mile plan
- Figure 3** Outline of the chapel superimposed on the 1910 Ordnance Survey 25-inch to 1-mile plan
- Figure 4** Outline of the chapel superimposed on the on the 1932 Ordnance Survey 25-inch to 1-mile plan
- Figure 5** Outline of the chapel superimposed on the 1947 Ordnance Survey 6-inch to 1-mile plan
- Figure 6** Outline of the chapel and monitoring area for watching brief superimposed on modern mapping



Hopwood Hall Chapel
Project Code: 61064
Figure 1: site boundary





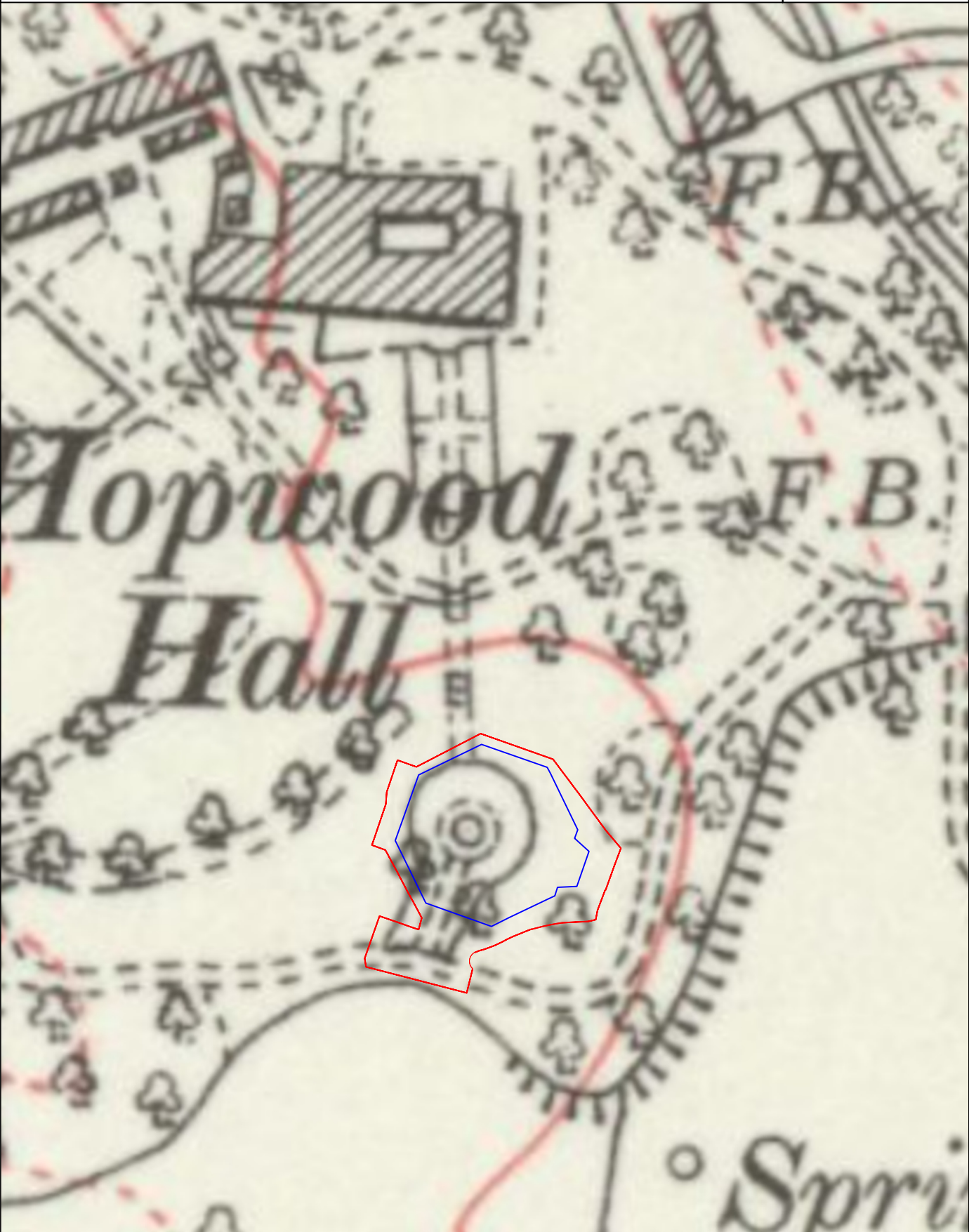
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Key:
Outline of chapel
Watching brief monitoring area



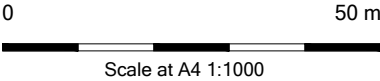
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Key:  Outline of chapel
 Watching brief monitoring area



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Key:
Outline of chapel
Watching brief monitoring area



Key:

-  Outline of chapel
-  Watching brief monitoring area



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50 m



Scale at A4 1:1000

Key:

-  Outline of chapel
-  Watching brief monitoring area
-  Zone of archaeological potential

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