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**Land at Manchester Old Road,
Middleton, Rochdale Borough M24 4DY
(23/00335/FUL)**

**Project Design for Archaeological
Evaluation**

March 2026 v2.0



Project Code: A0611.1
Planning Ref: 23/00335/FUL



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1.0 INTRODUCTION	2
2.0 SITE LOCATION AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	4
3.0 EVALUATION - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS.....	6
4.0 METHODOLOGY	8
5.0 EVALUATION REPORT	9
5.1 Post-evaluation Assessment	9
5.2 Post-evaluation Report	9
6.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN	10
6.1 Type of study.....	10
6.2 Types of data	10
6.3 Format and scale of the data.....	10
6.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation	10
6.5 Data quality and standards	10
6.6 Managing, storing and curating data	10
6.7 Metadata standards and data documentation.....	11
6.8 Data preservation strategy and standards	11
6.9 Suitability for sharing.....	11
6.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data	11
6.11 Governance of access	11
6.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data	11
6.13 Restrictions or delays to sharing, with planned actions to limit such restrictions.....	11
6.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users	12
6.15 Responsibilities	12
6.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security.....	12
7.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)	13
8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES	13
9.0 HUMAN REMAINS	13
10.0 ARTEFACTS.....	13
11.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE	16
12.0 ARCHIVING	16
13.0 PERSONNEL	17
14.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON	17
15.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY	17
16.0 INSURANCE.....	17
APPENDIX I - ARTEFACT SELECTION STRATEGY	18

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Aeon Archaeology has been commissioned by AMS Surveys, hereafter ‘the Client’, to prepare a Project Design (PD) for the implementation of an archaeological evaluation on land at Manchester Old Road, Middleton, Rochdale Borough (NGR **SD 86276 05572**), hereafter referred to as ‘the Site’ (Figures 1–3).

Full planning permission (**23/00335/FUL**) was granted by Rochdale Borough Council on 30th January 2026 for the residential redevelopment of the site comprising *20 dwellings (Use Class C3) and an 80-bed care home (Use Class C2) including car parking, landscaping, open space and associated infrastructure following demolition of the existing Parkfield House office building.*

As part of the planning consent the Council attached Condition 7, requiring a programme of archaeological works to be undertaken prior to development. These works are to be implemented through a series of Project Designs approved by the Local Planning Authority.

The condition requires a phased programme of investigation including:

- Historic building recording of the existing Parkfield House building to Historic England Level 3 standard.
- Archaeological monitoring during soft strip or demolition works where concealed historic fabric may be exposed.
- Archaeological evaluation trenching across the footprint of the former Park Field House and associated outbuildings.
- Provision for further archaeological excavation where required following evaluation.

This Project Design addresses Condition 7 elements relating to archaeological evaluation trenching, together with the associated requirements for post-excavation assessment, reporting, archive deposition and dissemination.

The results of the evaluation will inform whether a further phase of archaeological mitigation excavation is required.

The requirement for archaeological evaluation arises from the presence of heritage assets both above and below ground within the site. The extant Parkfield House building (constructed in 1965 as municipal offices) has been identified by Rochdale Council as a Non-Designated Heritage Asset within the Manchester Road Conservation Area.

More significantly in archaeological terms, the site was previously occupied by Park Field House, a substantial country villa first depicted on the Middleton Tithe Map of 1839 and likely constructed during the late eighteenth century. Historic mapping indicates the presence of the principal house together with an expanding complex of outbuildings, stables and ancillary ranges located primarily to the north and north-east of the main building.

These structures represent the principal archaeological targets for evaluation and may survive as buried foundations or associated surfaces beneath later development.

Consultation with the Senior Planning Archaeologist (SPA) at the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) confirmed that archaeological evaluation is required in order to

determine the extent and survival of remains associated with the former Park Field House complex and its associated outbuildings.

The archaeological works will therefore be undertaken in accordance with:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) – particularly Paragraph 218 relating to archaeological investigation and recording.
- Historic England Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 2 (2015).
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2023).
- Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2023)

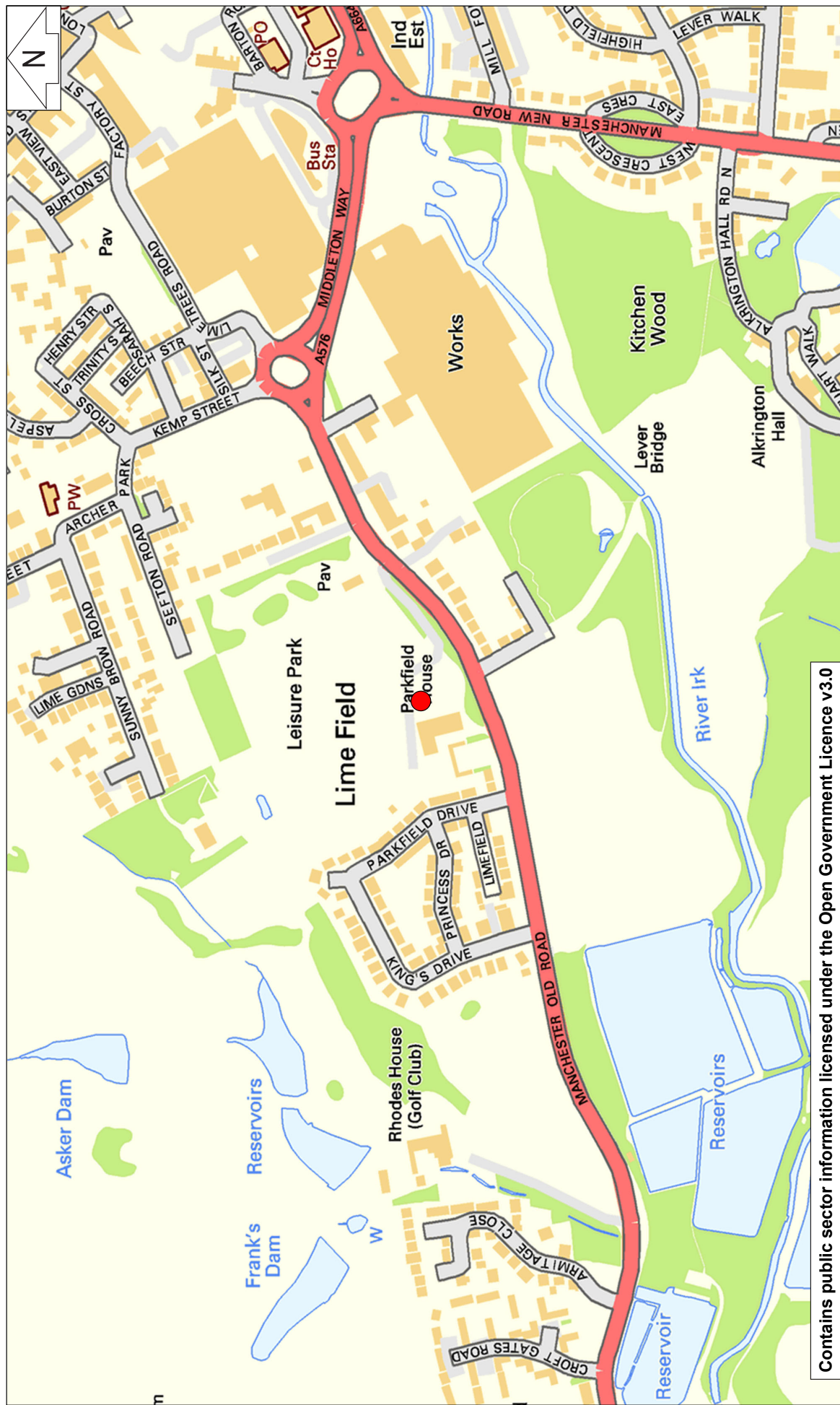


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Figure 01: Land at Manchester Old Road, Middleton, Rochdale Borough M24 4DY
(SD 86276 05572). Scale 1:20,000 at A4.



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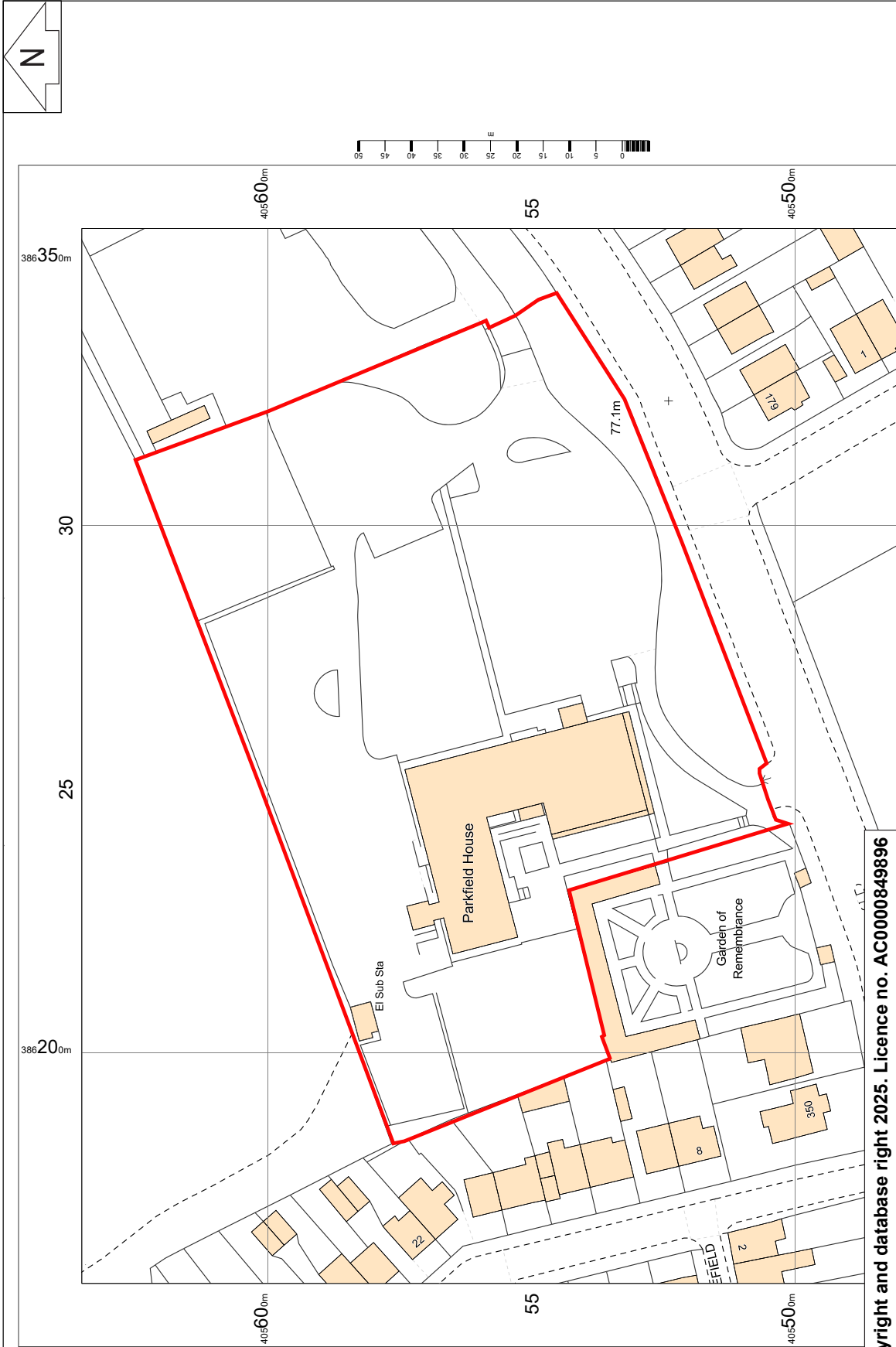


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Figure 02: Land at Manchester Old Road, Middleton, Rochdale Borough M24 4DY
(SD 86276 05572). Scale 1:5,000 at A4.



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Figure 03: Site Plan. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.



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2.0 SITE LOCATION AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The proposed development site lies immediately north of Manchester Old Road within Middleton, Rochdale Borough, Greater Manchester. The site is centred at National Grid Reference SD 86276 05572 and extends across approximately 1.13 hectares.

The site currently comprises a largely vacant plot containing the former municipal office building known as Parkfield House, together with associated areas of hardstanding, car parking and landscaped ground.

The site is bounded to the south by Manchester Old Road, to the west by the Manchester Old Road War Memorial and residential properties on Parkfield Drive, to the east by parking areas associated with Limefield Playing Fields, and to the north by Limefield Playing Fields.

The surrounding landscape is predominantly suburban in character and comprises residential development interspersed with areas of public recreation ground.

The underlying geology comprises Pennine Lower Coal Measures Formation, consisting primarily of mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of Carboniferous age. Superficial deposits consist of glaciofluvial sands and gravels of Devensian date, with soils characterised as freely draining slightly acidic sandy soils.

The archaeological baseline for the site has been established through an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment prepared by Nexus Heritage (2023). This study examined historical mapping, aerial photography, documentary sources and records held by the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GMHER).

The assessment identified approximately twenty archaeological records within a 1km radius of the site, although no previously recorded archaeological monuments lie within the site boundary itself.

Evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity within the wider landscape is limited to isolated artefact finds, including a Neolithic stone hammer and Roman pottery and coin discoveries elsewhere within Middleton. These finds demonstrate some early activity within the region but do not indicate settlement or activity within the development site.

The historic settlement of Middleton likely has early medieval origins, based upon place-name evidence derived from the Old English elements *middel* and *tūn*. However, the historic core of the medieval settlement lies to the east of the site and there is no evidence for early medieval activity within the development area.

During the medieval period the area formed part of the manorial estate of Middleton, historically associated with the Montbegon family and subsequently with the Barton and Ashton families. Despite this documented manorial history there is currently no direct archaeological evidence for medieval occupation within the site itself.

The principal historical development of the site occurred during the post-medieval period, when the land became occupied by Park Field House, a substantial villa likely constructed during the late eighteenth century. The house is first clearly depicted on the Middleton Tithe Map of 1839, which shows the property occupying a landscaped estate along Manchester Old Road.

Nineteenth- and early twentieth-century mapping demonstrates the progressive expansion of the estate complex. In addition to the principal house, a number of ancillary structures were constructed to the north and north-east of the building. At one stage these outbuildings formed an extensive complex of

ranges which appear on historic mapping to resemble an H-plan arrangement, likely comprising stables, coach houses, service buildings and other estate infrastructure.

The estate remained in residential ownership until the early twentieth century before being purchased by Middleton Council and used as Middleton Town Hall between 1925 and 1980. The original house was demolished in 1978 and replaced earlier by the present municipal office building constructed in 1965.

Although the original buildings no longer survive above ground, archaeological remains associated with Park Field House, its service ranges and landscaped grounds may remain preserved beneath later deposits. Historic mapping indicates that the earliest phases of the outbuilding complex may extend beyond the footprint of later twentieth-century development and may therefore survive in relatively undisturbed areas of the site.

Consequently, the principal archaeological potential of the site relates to the possible survival of post-medieval structural remains associated with the Park Field House estate complex.

The archaeological significance of these remains should also be considered within the context of the North West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Brennand 2006; 2007).

The framework highlights the importance of understanding the role of country houses and their associated estates during the post-medieval and industrial periods, particularly in relation to:

- estate organisation and landscape design
- domestic and service infrastructure
- the relationship between elite residences and expanding industrial settlements.

Archaeological investigation of the Park Field House complex therefore has the potential to contribute to broader research questions concerning the development of estate landscapes and country residences within the industrialising landscapes of north-west England.

3.0 EVALUATION - ARCHAEOLOGICAL AIMS

Prior to commencement of the archaeological works an agreed programme of trench locations, excavation timing, surface reinstatement and health and safety measures will be agreed with the Client and the SPA at GMAAS.

The evaluation will comprise the excavation of five trenches measuring approximately 30m by 1.8m, strategically positioned to investigate areas of archaeological potential identified through the desk-based assessment and historic mapping (Figures 4–6).

Particular emphasis will be placed on targeting:

- the footprint of the former Park Field House villa
- the north-eastern outbuilding complex

The broad aims of the archaeological evaluation are:

- To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the development area.
- To establish the location, extent, date, character, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits.
- To assess the degree to which later twentieth-century development has disturbed or truncated earlier archaeological deposits.
- To provide sufficient information to enable the SPA at GMAAS to determine the need for further archaeological mitigation works.

The detailed objectives of the evaluation are:

- To identify structural remains associated with Park Field House and its ancillary buildings, including foundations, floor surfaces, yard areas and service features.
- To investigate the development and organisation of the outbuilding complex identified on historic mapping.
- To establish chronological relationships between structural phases where preservation permits.
- To identify any archaeological deposits that may contribute to the regional research priorities outlined in the North West Historic Environment Research Framework.
- To determine whether any archaeological remains identified warrant preservation in situ, further archaeological excavation, or preservation by record, in consultation with the SPA at GMAAS.

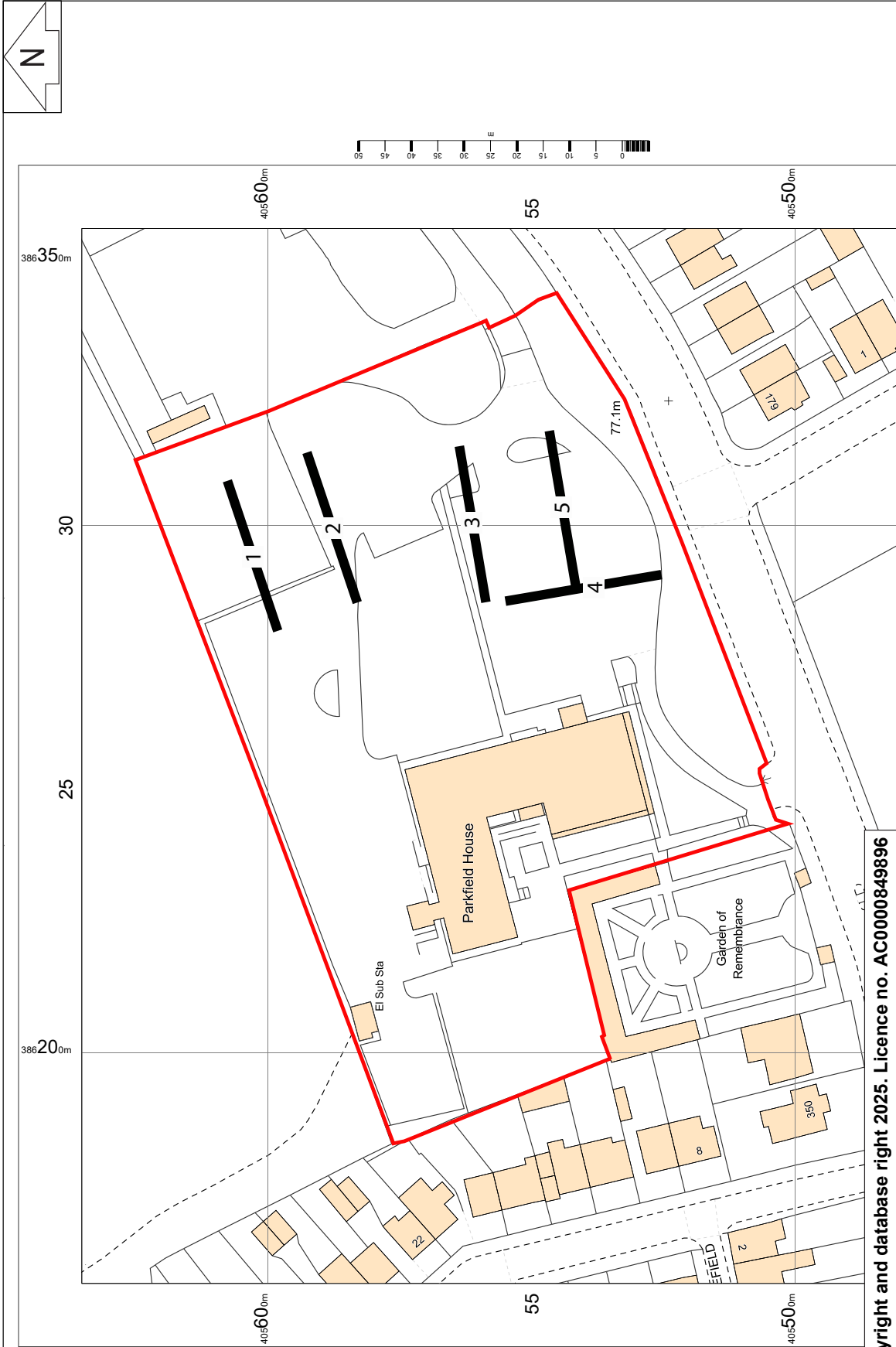
Should evaluation identify significant structural remains associated with the early phases of the Park Field House complex, the results may inform a subsequent programme of archaeological excavation.

Such a programme may provide opportunities for public engagement and community participation, reflecting the local historical interest in the former Park Field House estate and its role in the civic development of Middleton. The potential for such engagement will be considered during subsequent project design stages where appropriate.

The archaeological investigation also has the potential to contribute to broader research priorities outlined within the North West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment (Brennand 2006; Brennand & Chitty 2007; updated framework). In particular, the framework highlights the importance of improving understanding of the role of country houses and their associated estates within the social, economic and technological development of the region during the post-medieval and industrial periods. Archaeological evidence relating to the layout, construction and function of Park Field House and its associated service buildings may therefore contribute to wider research themes concerning the organisation of estate landscapes and their relationship to the expanding industrial settlements of Greater Manchester.



Figure 04: Areas of potential archaeological impact. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.



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Figure 06: Proposed trench array. Scale 1:1,000 at A4.



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4.0 METHODOLOGY

The positioning of the evaluation trenches has been informed by the historic mapping and analysis presented within the Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment prepared by Nexus Heritage (2023). Historic cartographic sources, particularly those reproduced in Figures 5–11 of the assessment, illustrate the progressive development of the Park Field House complex from the early nineteenth century onwards. These maps demonstrate that the principal villa was located centrally within the site, while a complex arrangement of ancillary buildings developed to the north and north-east of the house. By the later nineteenth century these service buildings appear to form a substantial range of structures, including what may represent an H-plan configuration of outbuildings.

The evaluation trench layout has therefore been designed to target both the footprint of the former main house and the areas associated with the ancillary service ranges, with particular emphasis placed on areas where the earliest phases of these structures are most likely to survive beyond the footprint of later twentieth-century redevelopment. This strategy aims to maximise the likelihood of identifying surviving structural remains, floor surfaces, yard areas or associated features relating to the original Park Field House estate complex.

The evaluation trenches will be excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, operating under continuous archaeological supervision.

Topsoil and modern overburden will be removed in controlled spits until the first archaeologically significant horizon or natural geology is encountered.

All archaeological deposits will be cleaned manually and recorded in accordance with standard archaeological recording procedures.

Where archaeological features are identified they will be investigated through targeted hand excavation in order to establish their character, extent and date.

Provision will be made for:

- excavation of up to 100% of any feature where necessary
- expansion of trench areas by up to 20% of the original trench area in order to clarify the extent or relationships of archaeological features.

All features and deposits will be recorded using Aeon Archaeology recording pro-formas.

The site will be surveyed relative to the Ordnance Survey National Grid and OS datum and plans and sections will be prepared at appropriate scales.

A full photographic record will be maintained using a digital SLR camera, with images captured in RAW format and subsequently archived as TIFF files.

Upon completion of the archaeological works the trenches will be backfilled using the excavated material and the site left in a safe and tidy condition.

5.0 EVALUATION REPORT

5.1 Post-evaluation Assessment

A report on the results of the evaluation, in accordance with the recommendations in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment Project Manager's Guide (English Heritage 2006; 2015); and in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Universal Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (2023) will be required to be produced upon conclusion of the archaeological fieldwork. The report will be completed within a maximum of two to four weeks of completion of work on site (depending on the results of further analysis) and may include examination and quantification leading to the identification of function, form, date, method of manufacture, material/fabric type, source, parallels, attributes and condition of artefacts; of the exploitation of wild or domesticated resources; the reconstruction of environments; and the nature of human populations.

Full analysis of the results of the project, including: dating and interpretation of excavated features; pottery and other finds analysis; analysis of industrial residues by an appropriate specialist or specialists; analysis of samples for environmental data (including pollen, plant macrofossils and beetles) by an appropriate specialist or specialists; radiocarbon dating; discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context, including relating the excavated features and palaeoenvironmental data to evidence from nearby sites, and discussion of the results in their local, regional and national context may be required.

5.2 Post-evaluation Report

Following completion of the stages outlined above, a report will be produced that will include:

- A non-technical summary.
- A table of contents.
- An introduction with acknowledgements, including a list of all those involved in the project and the location and description of the site.
- A statement of the project aims.
- An account of the project methodology undertaken, with an assessment of the same to include a statement on preservation bias and the means of data collection and sampling strategies.
- A factual summary of the history, development and use of the site.
- A statement setting out the nature, quantity and condition of the material archive (artefacts and ecofacts) including commentary on any bias observed due to collection and sampling strategies and commentary on long-term storage requirements.
- A statement setting out the nature and quantity of the documentary archive (notes, photographs, drawings, digital data).
- A general site plan indicating the position and size of the areas subject to evaluation and the locations of archaeological deposits identified and recorded during the works.
- Plans and sections at appropriate scales, augmented with appropriate photographs. All plans and sections will be related to the Ordnance Survey datum levels and to the National Grid.
- Other maps, plans, drawings, stratigraphic matrices and photographs as appropriate.
- A discussion of the location, extent, date, nature, condition, quality and significance of any archaeological deposits and finds identified during the project.
- A discussion of any research implications arising from the archaeological work.
- A bibliography of sources consulted.
- An updated Data Management Plan (DMP) and an archive content list with updated archive Selection Strategy will be included.

6.0 DIGITAL DATA MANAGEMENT PLAN

6.1 Type of study

Evaluation on land Manchester Old Road, Middleton, Rochdale Borough M24 4DY (SD 86276 05572).

6.2 Types of data

- Photographs (RAW)
- Context sheets (paper)
- Photographic register (paper)
- Drawings (drafting film)
- Misc registers (paper)
- Compiled report

6.3 Format and scale of the data

Photographs taken in RAW format and later converted to TIF format for long term archiving and JPEG format for use in the digital report, converted using Adobe Photoshop. All photographs renamed using AF5 freeware with the prefix (project code_frame number) and a photographic metadata created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or Access (.accdb).

Compiled report (including figures and plates) as .PDF files.

6.4 Methodologies for data collection / generation

Digital data will be collected / generated in line with recommendations made in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) Standard and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives (2014. Rev 2020). Sections 3.3.1 and 3.3.3 are relevant:

3.3.1 Project specifications, research designs or similar documents should include a project specific Selection Strategy and a Data Management Plan.

3.3.3 Project designs or schedules of works etc should outline the methodology used in recording all information, in order to demonstrate that all aspects of archive creation will ensure consistency; for instance in terminologies and the application of codes in digital data sets, highlighting relevant data standards where appropriate

6.5 Data quality and standards

Consistency and quality of data collection / generation shall be controlled and documented through the use of standardised procedure as outlined in the PD. This will include the use of standardised data capture file formats, digital proformas, data entry validation, peer review, and use of controlled vocabularies.

6.6 Managing, storing and curating data.

All digital data will be organised into Aeon Archaeology proforma project file systems and backed up to the cloud using *Crashplan* with additional copies made to external physical hard drive.

6.7 Metadata standards and data documentation

Digital metadata created using Microsoft Excel (.xlsx) or Access (.accdb) of all photographic plates.

Paper metadata created from Aeon Archaeology proformas for contexts, artefacts, environmental samples, archaeological monitoring and recording day sheets, trench sheets, and basic record sheets and then scanned to create digital .PDF copies.

6.8 Data preservation strategy and standards

Long term data storage will be through the submission of digital (.PDF) reports to the regional Historic Environment Record (HER); submission of digital (.PDF) reports and a project completion form to the Oasis database; and retention of copies of all digital files at Aeon Archaeology on physical external hard drive and uploaded to Crashplan.

6.9 Suitability for sharing

All digital data will be placed within the public realm (through the channels in 5.8) except for where project confidentiality restricts the sharing of data. All data sets will be selected / discriminated by the Senior Archaeologist at Aeon Archaeology and written permission will be sought from all project specific Clients prior to the sharing of data.

6.10 Discovery by potential users of the research data

Potential users of the generated digital data (outside of the organisation) will be able to source the data and identify whether it could be suitable for their research purposes through access granted via the Oasis website. Requests can also be made for data through the regional HER's and directly to Aeon Archaeology (info@aeonarchaeology.co.uk).

6.11 Governance of access

The decision to supply research data to potential new users will be via the associated website request (Oasis, HER) or via the Senior Archaeologist when made directly to Aeon Archaeology.

6.12 The study team's exclusive use of the data

Aeon Archaeology's requirement is for timely data sharing, with the understanding that a limited, defined period of exclusive use of data for primary research is reasonable according to the nature and value of the data, and that this restriction on sharing should be based on simple, clear principles. This time period is expected to be six months from completion of the project however Aeon Archaeology reserves the right to extend this period without notice if primary data research dictates.

6.13 Restrictions or delays to sharing, with planned actions to limit such restrictions

Restriction to data sharing may be due to participant confidentiality or consent agreements. Strategies to limit restrictions will include data being anonymised or aggregated; gaining participant consent for data sharing; and gaining copyright permissions. For prospective studies, consent procedures will include provision for data sharing to maximise the value of the data for wider research use, while providing adequate safeguards for participants.

6.14 Regulation of responsibilities of users

External users of the data will be bound by data sharing agreements provided by the relevant organisation or directly through Aeon Archaeology.

6.15 Responsibilities

Responsibility for study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be through the Senior Archaeologist (Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA) at Aeon Archaeology when concerning data generation and early/mid-term storage. Upon deposition with digital depositories the study-wide data management, metadata creation, data security and quality assurance of data will be the responsibility of the specific organisations' themselves.

6.16 Organisational policies on data sharing and data security

The following Aeon Archaeology policies are relevant:

- Aeon Archaeology Archive Deposition Policy 2025
- Aeon Archaeology Quality Assurance Policy 2025
- Aeon Archaeology Conflict of Interest Policy 2025
- Aeon Archaeology Outreach Policy 2025
- Aeon Archaeology Digital Management Plan 2025

7.0 FURTHER ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORKS DESIGNS (FAWDs)

The discovery of substantial archaeological remains and/or features during the archaeological works may result in the requirement for an extended programme of archaeological mitigation. This may require the submission of revised quotes to the client as well as a new specification which will be required to be approved by the SPA at GMAAS prior to implementation.

Should archaeological evaluation identify well-preserved structural remains associated with Park Field House or its associated outbuildings, any subsequent mitigation excavation may present opportunities for public engagement and community participation. The former Park Field House estate forms part of the historic development of Middleton and has local historical interest through its association with the town's civic history and its later use as Middleton Town Hall. If significant remains are identified, the potential for incorporating elements of community engagement, such as supervised site visits, volunteer participation or collaboration with local heritage groups, will be considered in consultation with the SPA at GMAAS and the Local Planning Authority. Any such programme would be developed as part of a subsequent Project Design should further excavation be required.

8.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

Relevant archaeological deposits will be sampled by taking bulk samples (a minimum of 10.0 litres and maximum of 30.0 litres) for flotation of charred plant remains. Bulk samples will be taken from waterlogged deposits for macroscopic plant remains. Other bulk samples, for example from middens, may be taken for small animal bones and small artefacts.

Bulk environmental samples will also be taken from any fills, deposits or structures which yield archaeological artefacts, charcoal flecks/ fragments, bone, or any other historic remains.

Advice and guidance regarding environmental samples and their suitability for radiocarbon dating, as well as the analysis of macrofossils (charcoal and wood), pollen, animal bones and molluscs will be obtained from Oxford Archaeology.

For guidance purposes the following volume criteria represent the minimum feature sampling requirements:

- 50% of each discrete feature (e.g. pits and postholes)
- 25% of the exposed areas of each linear feature and all terminals/intersections
- 50% of structural features (e.g. beamslots, ring-ditches)
- 50%-100% of domestic/industrial working features (e.g. hearths and ovens)

9.0 HUMAN REMAINS

Any finds of human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, and both the coroner and the SPA at GMAAS informed. If removal is necessary it will take place under appropriate regulations and with due regard for health and safety issues. In order to excavate human remains, a licence is required under Section 25 of the Burials Act 1857 for the removal of any body or remains of any body from any place of burial. This will be applied for should human remains need to be investigated or moved.

10.0 ARTEFACTS

See Appendix I

All artefacts and ecofacts will be retrieved for identification and recording and will be treated in accordance with Guidelines for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020).

All artefacts are the property of the landowner but it is recommended that finds are deposited with the rest of the project archive within an appropriate museum. Furthermore, the client agrees to granting access to all artefacts recovered by Aeon Archaeology for analysis, study and publication as necessary. All finds would be treated according to advice provided within *First Aid for Finds* (Rescue 1999). Aeon Archaeology staff will undertake initial identification, but any additional advice would be sought from a wide range of consultants.

The recovery policy for archaeological finds will be kept under review throughout the archaeological works. Any changes in recovery priorities will be under guidance from an appropriate specialist and agreed with the SPA at GMAAS. There will be a presumption against the disposal of archaeological finds regardless of their apparent age or condition.

All finds will be collected and processed including those found within spoil tips. Their location and height will be plotted; finds numbers attributed, bagged and labelled as well any preliminary identification taking place on site. Where specialist advice is required provision will be made to do so at the earliest possible convenience.

After processing, artefacts which are suitable will be cleaned and conserved in-house. Artefacts requiring specialist cleaning and conservation will be sent to the relevant specialist. All artefacts will then be sent to a specialist for analysis, the results of which will then be assessed to ascertain the potential of the finds assemblage to meet the research aims of the project. The value of the finds will also be assessed in terms of the wider educational and academic contributions.

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation of waterlogged material:

- Organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)
- Non-organic material: Mr Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services (tel: +44(0)29 2087 5628)

Depending upon the material of the remains the following experts will be consulted regarding the conservation and analysis of artefacts:

- Bone: Nora Bermingham
- Glass: Hilary Cool, Barbican Research Associates.
- Metal artefacts: Phil Parkes, Cardiff Conservation Services, Cardiff.
- Slag, burnt clay, hammerscale: Dr. Tim Young, Geoarch, Cardiff.
- Stone artefacts: George Smith, Gwynedd Archaeological Trust, Bangor.
- Wood artefacts: Jane Foley, Foley Conservation, Builth Wells.
- Leather: Quita Mould, Barbican Research Associates.
- Environmental Material: Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology.
- Numismatics: Peter Guest, Barbican Research Associates.
- Ceramics: Dan Garner

If well preserved materials are found it may be necessary to employ additional staff. Furthermore, it may be necessary to suspend work within a specific region of the site, or across the whole site, while conservation and excavation/recording takes place.

Upon written approval from the Client all finds will be offered to the Greater Manchester Museums Service for archiving.

11.0 UNEXPECTED DISCOVERIES: TREASURE TROVE

Treasure Trove law has been amended by the Treasure Act 1996. The following are Treasure under the Act:

- *Objects other than coins* any object other than a coin provided that it contains at least 10% gold or silver and is at least 300 years old when found.
- *Coins* all coins from the same find provided they are at least 300 years old when found (if the coins contain less than 10% gold or silver there must be at least 10. Any object or coin is part of the same find as another object or coin, if it is found in the same place as, or had previously been left together with, the other object. Finds may have become scattered since they were originally deposited in the ground. Single coin finds of gold or silver are not classed as treasure under the 1996 Treasure Act.
- *Associated objects* any object whatever it is made of, that is found in the same place as, or that had previously been together with, another object that is treasure.
- *Objects that would have been treasure trove* any object that would previously have been treasure trove, but does not fall within the specific categories given above. These objects have to be made substantially of gold or silver, they have to be buried with the intention of recovery and their owner or his heirs cannot be traced.

The following types of finds are not treasure:

- Objects whose owners can be traced.
- Unworked natural objects, including human and animal remains, even if they are found in association with treasure.
- Objects from the foreshore which are not wreck.

All finds of treasure must be reported to the coroner for the district within fourteen days of discovery or identification of the items. Items declared Treasure Trove become the property of the Crown.

The British Museum will decide whether they or any other museum may wish to acquire the object. If no museum wishes to acquire the object, then the Secretary of State will be able to disclaim it. When this happens, the coroner will notify the occupier and landowner that he intends to return the object to the finder after 28 days unless he receives no objection. If the coroner receives an objection, the find will be retained until the dispute has been settled.

12.0 ARCHIVING

A draft copy of the report will be produced within two months of the completion of the fieldwork and sent to the Client and the SPA at GMAAS for comment prior to finalisation of the report and dissemination. Digital copies of the report will be sent to the regional HER, and the Oasis online database for long term archiving. Furthermore, a summary of the project will be sent to a relevant journal for publication if required.

13.0 PERSONNEL

The work will be managed and undertaken by Richard Cooke BA MA MCIfA, Archaeological Contractor and Consultant at Aeon Archaeology.

14.0 MONITORING AND LIAISON

Regular liaison and site monitoring meetings will take place during all stages of work. The SPA at GMAAS will be informed of the start date and of discreet subsequent stages.

15.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Aeon Archaeology has a Health and Safety Policy Statement which can be supplied upon request. Furthermore, site-specific Risk Assessments and Method Statements are compiled and distributed to every member of staff involved with the project prior to the commencement of works.

16.0 INSURANCE

Liability Insurance

Employers' Liability: Limit of Indemnity £5m in any one occurrence

Public Liability: Limit of Indemnity £5m in any one occurrence

Legal Defence Costs (Health and Safety at Work Act): £100,000

The current period expires 26/08/26

Professional Indemnity Insurance

Limit of Indemnity £1m any one claim

The current period expires 26/08/26

APPENDIX I - ARTEFACT SELECTION STRATEGY

Aeon Archaeology Artefact Selection Strategy	
Project:	Manchester Old Road, Middleton, Rochdale Borough M24 4DY
Location:	NGR SD 86276 05572
Client:	AMS Surveys
Curator:	SPA at GMAAS
Receiving Institution:	Greater Manchester Museums Service
Landowner:	TBC

Stone		
Period	Retain	Dispose
<i>Prehistoric</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for specific knapping debitage, encompassing all collections, whether stratified or not, that enhance our understanding of prehistory or lithic technology.	Unstratified artefacts
<i>Roman</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All stratified and unstratified.	None
<i>Medieval</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
Ceramic		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All stratified and unstratified.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All stratified and unstratified.	None

<i>Medieval</i>	Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy for stratified assemblages.	Selected elements of common unstratified material.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
Construction Material (CBM)	Building	
<i>Prehistoric</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Roman</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Early medieval</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Medieval</i>	Not usually retained. Consultation with both a museum curator and an expert will be undertaken to devise a selection strategy.	Majority.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Usually not retained.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Usually not retained.	Majority.
Metal		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.
Glass		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.

Bone, antler and ivory		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.
Wood		
<i>Prehistoric</i>	All.	None.
<i>Roman</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Medieval</i>	All.	None.
<i>Early Post Medieval or Later Post-Medieval and Industrial</i>	Only rare or unusual examples.	Majority.
<i>Modern</i>	Not normally retained.	All.

