

Land at Preston Street
Whitehaven
Cumbria

archaeological works
written scheme of investigation 25016

on behalf of
Aldi

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The development (Planning Reference 4/23/2314/0F1) comprises the erection of a discount food store with associated access, parking, hard and soft landscaping and associated works on land at Preston Street, Whitehaven (Figures 1-3; NGR Centre: NX 9731 1752). A desk-based assessment¹ has already been completed for the site. Two conditions have been attached to the planning permission in respect to archaeological requirements:

Condition 1:

No development shall commence within the site until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.

This written scheme of investigation will include the following components: i) An archaeological evaluation; ii) An archaeological recording programme the scope of which will be dependent upon the results of the evaluation.

Reason: To afford reasonable opportunity for an examination to be made to determine the existence of any remains of archaeological interest within the site and for the examination and recording of such remains

Condition 2:

Where significant archaeological remains are revealed by the programme of archaeological work, there shall be carried out within one year of the completion of that programme on site, or within such timescale as otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority: an archaeological post-excavation assessment and analysis, the preparation of a site archive ready for deposition at a store, the completion of an archive report, and the preparation and submission of a report of the results for publication in a suitable specialist journal.

Reason: To ensure that a permanent and publicly-accessible record is made of the archaeological remains that have been disturbed by the development.

- 1.2 This document comprises a written scheme of investigation in relation to Condition 1.

¹ Archaeological Services 2023 *Proposed Aldi, Preston Street, Whitehaven; archaeological desk-based assessment. Report 6070. Archaeological Services Durham University*

Historical and archaeological background

- 1.3 The desk-based archaeological assessment summarised the archaeological potential of the site as follows:
- 1.4 There is no direct evidence for prehistoric or Roman activity within the proposed development area. The site lay outside the medieval settlement of Whitehaven and may have been in use as arable or pasture at this time. Any archaeological resource relating to these periods is likely to have been removed by later development.
- 1.5 Documentary records and cartographic evidence indicate that the site began to be developed in the early 18th century, with a glass works constructed in the south of the site (Figure 4a). This had fallen out of use by 1819, when a fever hospital was established in its place (Figure 4b). A pottery was built in the northern part of the site by 1830 (Figure 4b). By the 1860s, the northern extremity of the site was in use as a stone yard, and the hospital had been replaced by a school (Figure 4c).
- 1.6 The northern part of the site was redeveloped in the late 19th century, with an extensive auction mart replacing the pottery and stone yard, and an inn was present near the south-west boundary (Figure 4d). The auction mart remained on the site until at least the 1960s, by which time the southern part of the site was mostly taken over by builders' yards and their access roads. The school was repurposed as a mission hall and a mortuary was constructed near the centre of the western boundary.
- 1.7 There is high potential for remains of post-medieval buildings to survive on the site, including the early 19th-century Preston Street Pottery in the north of the proposed development area and the 18th-century glass works in the south. Remains of the 19th-century fever hospital and colliery school are also likely to survive in the southern area. Glass works can have extensive systems of subterranean infrastructure which may survive to some depth on the site. It is possible that some of these buildings had cellars.
- 1.8 The late 19th-century auction mart in the northern part of the site may have removed the northern extent of the Preston Street Pottery (geotechnical investigations have indicated 1-3m of made ground in this part of the site), though remains of the central and southern parts of the complex are likely to survive. There was less redevelopment in the southern part of the site, with the school buildings surviving until at least the mid-20th century in an altered and extended form. The remainder of this area had sporadic small buildings dotted across it and it is unlikely that the foundations for these structures will have had much impact on any surviving remains of the glass works or fever hospital; some degree of truncation from previous developments or their subsequent removal is anticipated throughout the site.

2. Capability statement

- 2.1 Archaeological Services Durham University operates throughout northern England, specialising in the provision of services associated with planning permission. The Service has an established record of working with developers, architects, major industrial firms, and local and central government bodies. Archaeological Services incorporates a range of in-house services covering archaeological evaluation and mitigation schemes, including palaeoenvironmental archaeology, artefact conservation, geophysical survey and historic building recording.
- 2.2 Archaeological Services is a leading service provider in the northern region, where we conduct c.300 projects annually.

Standards

- 2.3 Archaeological Services project personnel will abide by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Code of Conduct* (2022) and conduct the works in accordance with the CIfA's *Standards and Universal Guidance* (2023).

Personnel

- 2.4 The project will be managed by Matthew Claydon BA, Senior Archaeologist for Archaeological Services, who has considerable experience of archaeological projects of this type gained in northern England over the last 25 years. The works will be conducted by suitably qualified and experienced members of our team.

Health & Safety

- 2.5 Archaeological Services abides by the 1974 Health and Safety Act, its subsequent applicable statutory amendments, including the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999, the 2015 Construction Design and Management Regulations, RIDDOR 2013, and the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2012. Archaeological Services is accredited by the CQMS and SMAS Safety Schemes.

3. Method statement

Scheme summary

- 3.1 The tasks this project comprises may be summarised as:
- production of a Written Scheme of Investigation
 - trial trench evaluation (5 trenches)
 - post-excavation assessment and reporting
 - archiving

Aims and objectives

- 3.2 The main aim of the evaluation is:
- to evaluate the nature, date and extent of any archaeological remains that are present
 - to provide data to enable the significance of any archaeological resource to be assessed
 - establish the depth of archaeological deposits such that the potential impact of the development can be assessed, and a suitable mitigation strategy subsequently designed where appropriate
- 3.3 Archaeological Services will complete works within the research priorities set out in *The North West England Regional Research Framework* (accessed 7/2/25) and its predecessor (2006-7). The specific agenda items this project has the potential to contribute to includes:

PM27: How do the industries associated with the North West evolve and develop during this period?

PM33: How can we identify a regional characterisation of kiln structures in the North West?

Ind53: What can archaeology tell us about the production and use of consumer products and their typologies from the late 18th to early 20th centuries?

7.37: Late 18th-20th century pottery production sites

Trial trenching

- 3.4 In the north of the site 2 x 15m trenches will be excavated within the footprint of the former potteries and a 10m trench excavated across the location of the associated kiln. In the south of the site 2 x 20m trenches will target the sites of the former glassworks and fever hospital. The trench locations may need to be adjusted on site due to health and safety or other considerations.

- 3.5 Topsoil and overburden will be removed by a mechanical back-acting excavator using a toothless ditching bucket wherever possible, under close archaeological supervision. The excavations will proceed until the top of the archaeological deposits or natural subsoil is reached, or to a maximum safe working depth. Where archaeological deposits are identified, excavation will proceed by hand. Sampling of features will be minimally intrusive. A CAT survey will be undertaken before the trenches are opened. In the interests of public safety, trenches will normally be backfilled as soon as is practicable after the archaeological works are complete.
- 3.6 Excavation of any archaeological deposits will proceed by hand, using standard archaeological procedures in accordance with our *Recording Manual* (v.5.6 2023). Areas where no archaeological features are present will also be recorded.
- 3.7 Archaeological features will be hand-cleaned, sectioned, sample excavated and recorded in plan and section. Archaeological deposits will be sampled as is necessary to establish their nature and extent. Field evaluation will be minimally intrusive and minimally destructive to archaeological remains in accordance with ClfA guidelines. Sampling will comprise up to 20% of linear features and 50% of discrete features.
- 3.8 Photography will be digital; images will be included in the report as appropriate. Digital images will be captured at a minimum resolution of 10 mega-pixels and saved in an appropriate format for long term storage in accordance with Digital Image Capture and File Storage (Historic England 2015).

Palaeoenvironmental sampling

- 3.9 Palaeoenvironmental sampling and subsequent assessment and analysis will be conducted by our in-house Palaeoenvironmental Archaeology Service, managed by Dr Charlotte O' Brien. It is Archaeological Services' policy to collect bulk samples from the fills of cut features, and from other deposits that have the potential to provide palaeoenvironmental or economic information. Deposits containing industrial residues and waste from craft and manufacturing processes will be sampled. The size of sample collected and assessed will depend on the apparent potential value of the deposits and their size and will be agreed with the English Heritage Regional Scientific Advisor where unusual sampling requirements are apparent where appropriate. Deposits with potential to contain contaminants such as asbestos will not be sampled.

Artefact recovery

- 3.10 Bulk finds such as pottery and animal bone will be collected by context. Where unusually large quantities of finds, or very small types of material are encountered (e.g. fish bones), such that recovery by hand is not practicable, soil samples may be retained for sieving in the laboratories at Durham. Artefacts will be removed from site to a secure location at the end of the working day. A discard policy may be implemented following assessment by artefactual specialists. All artefacts that are retained will be washed, marked, and bagged in a manner suitable for long-term storage. If any artefacts which fall under the *Treasure Act* (1996) and the *Treasure (Designation) (Amendment) Order 2023* are discovered then the appropriate procedures will be adhered to. Treasure will be reported to the Portable Antiquity Scheme Finds Liaison Officer within 2 weeks of excavation of treasure, or identification of it as treasure.

Conservation

- 3.11 All field personnel are trained in artefact first aid and procedures for the recovery, packing and transportation of artefacts, following *First Aid for Finds* (2nd Edition). Where delicate artefacts are uncovered, appropriate immediate measures will be taken, and the artefacts will be transferred to the Conservation Laboratory at Durham for stabilisation. Should particularly

complex conservation requirements become apparent, an appropriately qualified and experienced expert will be called to site to excavate and package the artefact.

Scientific dating

- 3.12 Samples of material suitable for scientific dating techniques including AMS C14 dating, archaeomagnetism (for example, charred seeds or *in situ* burnt clay from appropriate contexts) or thermoluminescence will be collected where appropriate. Recommendations for dating may be made in the assessment report. Advice on dating will be sought from the Historic England Regional Science Advisor where necessary.

Human remains

- 3.13 It is considered unlikely that human remains will be encountered at this site. Where it is essential that articulated bones are lifted, the Ministry of Justice will be informed and permission for the work obtained. The client and the Historic Environment Officer for Cumberland Council will be informed.

Liaison and monitoring

- 3.14 Records will be kept of the date, time and duration of all site visits, together with the number of personnel involved and any actions taken. Reasonable access will be provided by Archaeological Services to the client, and the Historic Environment Officer for Cumberland Council or their representative, for monitoring purposes during fieldwork and any other stage of the works as required. As soon as Archaeological Services are asked by the client to attend site then the Historic Environment Officer will be informed so that a site monitoring visit can be arranged as required.

Further mitigation works

- 3.15 Dependent on the results of the evaluation trenching, further recording works on site may be required. The nature and extent of any such works will be determined during or on completion of the trenching and will be dependent on the requirements of the archaeological advisor to the planning authority. Works may include the stripping and excavation of larger areas and / or an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the development. A revised written scheme of investigation may be required detailing the scope of the works.

4. Reporting and archiving

- 4.1 At the end of the work on site an assessment of the excavated material will be made, following the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) guidance* (Historic England 2015). Each class of artefact recovered from the site, together with site records, will be examined to determine the potential of the material for further analysis, and to establish any conservation requirements. Assessment reports will state the potential of each class of artefact or ecofact; they will also set out the storage and conservation requirements of the assemblage and make recommendations for a discard policy if this should be appropriate.
- 4.2 The following specialists may be called on, as necessary, to examine, process and assess the excavated material. In the first instance the artefactual assemblage will be assessed by the Archaeological Services post-excavation manager and following this, other specialists employed by Archaeological Services may be called on as required.
- medieval /post-medieval pottery Dr Chris Cumberpatch
 - Roman pottery Alex Croom
 - prehistoric pottery Dr Rob Young
 - animal bone Dr Louisa Gidney

• coins and tokens	Richard Brickstock
• other artefacts / fuel residues	Jennifer Jones
• post-excavation manager	Jennifer Jones
• palaeoenvironmental remains	Dr Charlotte O'Brien
• conservation	Dr Emily Williams
• human bone	Dr Anwen Caffell

The report

- 4.3 The report will be prepared in a form suitable for use by the client and the planning authority. Draft reports or interim statements can be provided on request. A pdf copy of the report will be supplied to the Historic Environment Record (HER). The report will include:
- a plan showing the location of the site
 - plans and sections of archaeological features
 - a summary statement of results
 - a table summarising, the deposits and features and the classes and numbers of artefacts encountered, together with spot dating of significant finds
 - trench descriptions
 - specialist assessments
 - reference to the aims and objectives of the work and any specific research aims
 - conclusions

Archive

- 4.4 The project archive will be prepared to the standard specified in Appendix 3 of *MAP2* (English Heritage 1991); in accordance with the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Archaeological Archives for Long Term Storage* (UKIC 1990) and *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007). The archive will be deposited with Beacon Museum in Whitehaven in accordance with their requirements.

OASIS and ADS

- 4.5 Archaeological Services Durham University is registered with the **Online AccesseS** to the **Index** of archaeological investigationS project (**OASIS**). An OASIS form will be completed for this project, and copies of the report will be provided in pdf format to the HER. The final report for the works will be uploaded to the Archaeology Data Service as a publicly accessible document.

Publication

- 4.6 Following completion of the works (including any further schemes of works), a report may be submitted for publication to a regional archaeological journal. The nature and extent of the publication will be dependent on the results of the work.

Programme

- 4.7 The project can be completed to the following programme:
- following agreement of the WSI the fieldwork can start at anytime
 - fieldwork is anticipated to be completed within 1 week
 - following completion of the trial trenching a report can be provided within 15 working days
 - An alternative programme can be arranged.

Matthew Claydon BA, Senior Archaeologist

Figure 1: Site location

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site boundary

0 1km
scale 1:20 000 for A4 plot

0 50m
scale 1:1000 for A4 plot

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DURHAM UNIVERSITY

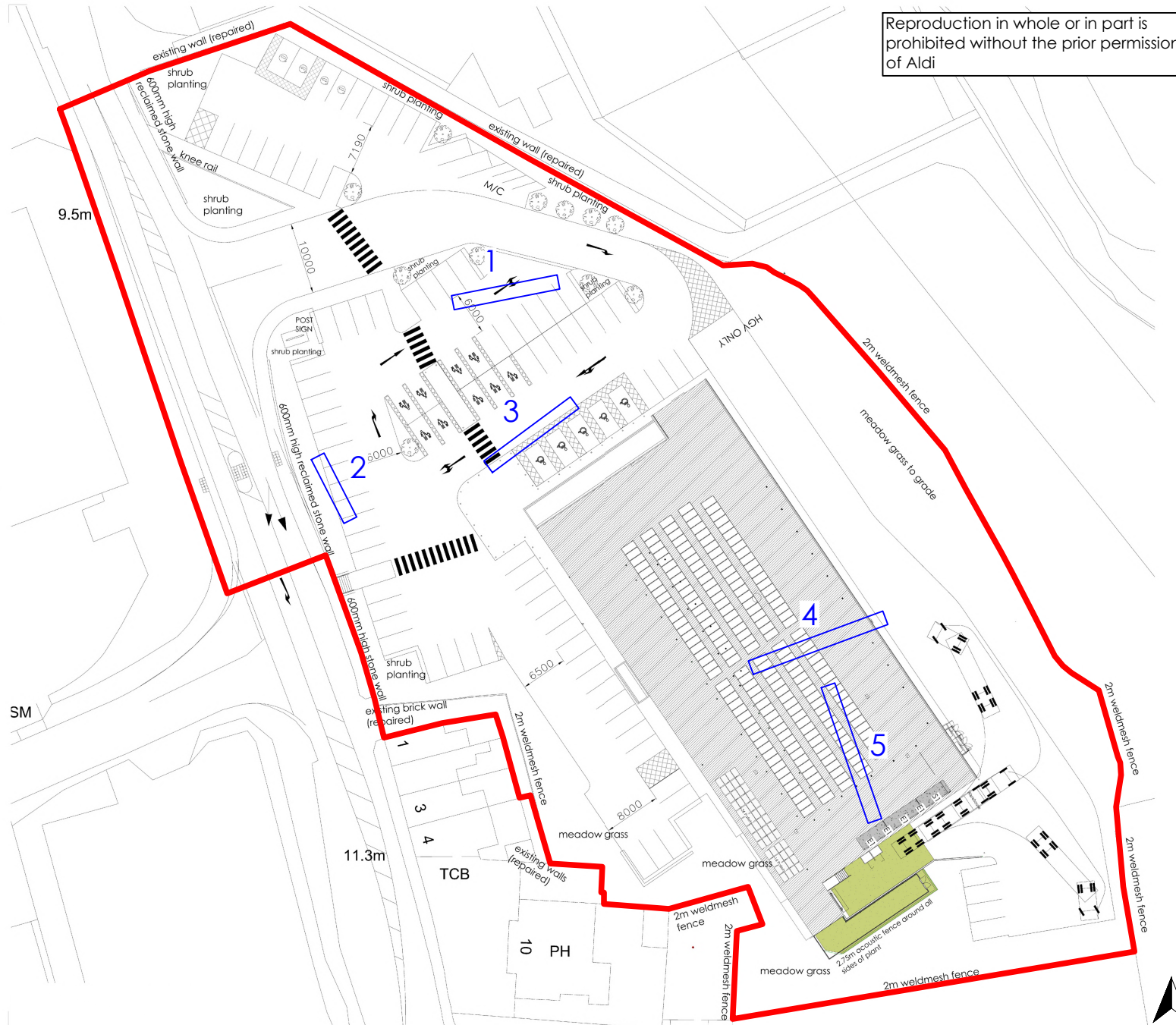
Land off Preston Street
Whitehaven
Cumberland

archaeological evaluation
WSI 25018

Figure 3: Proposed development

0 40m
scale 1:800 for A4 plot

-  site boundary
-  proposed trench



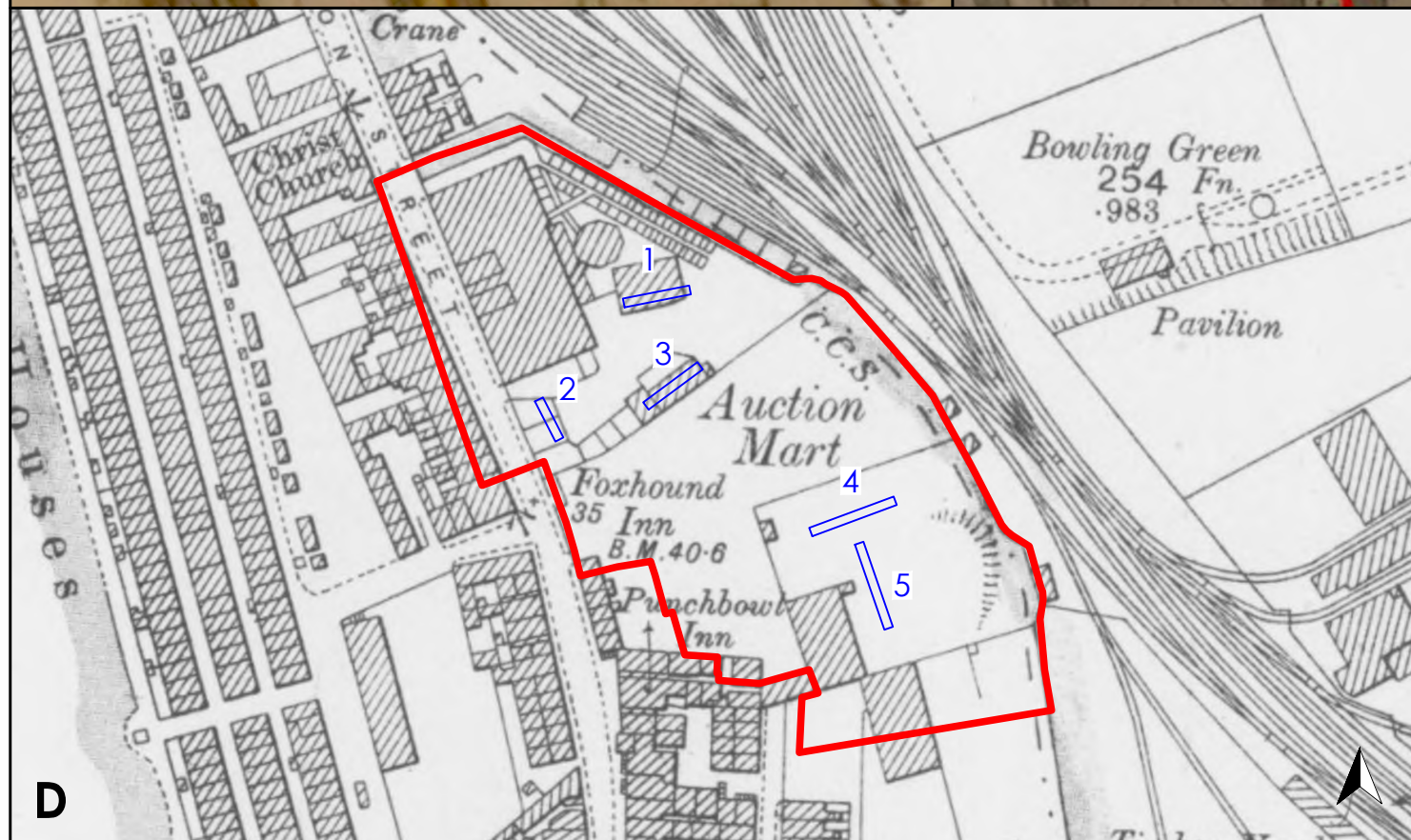
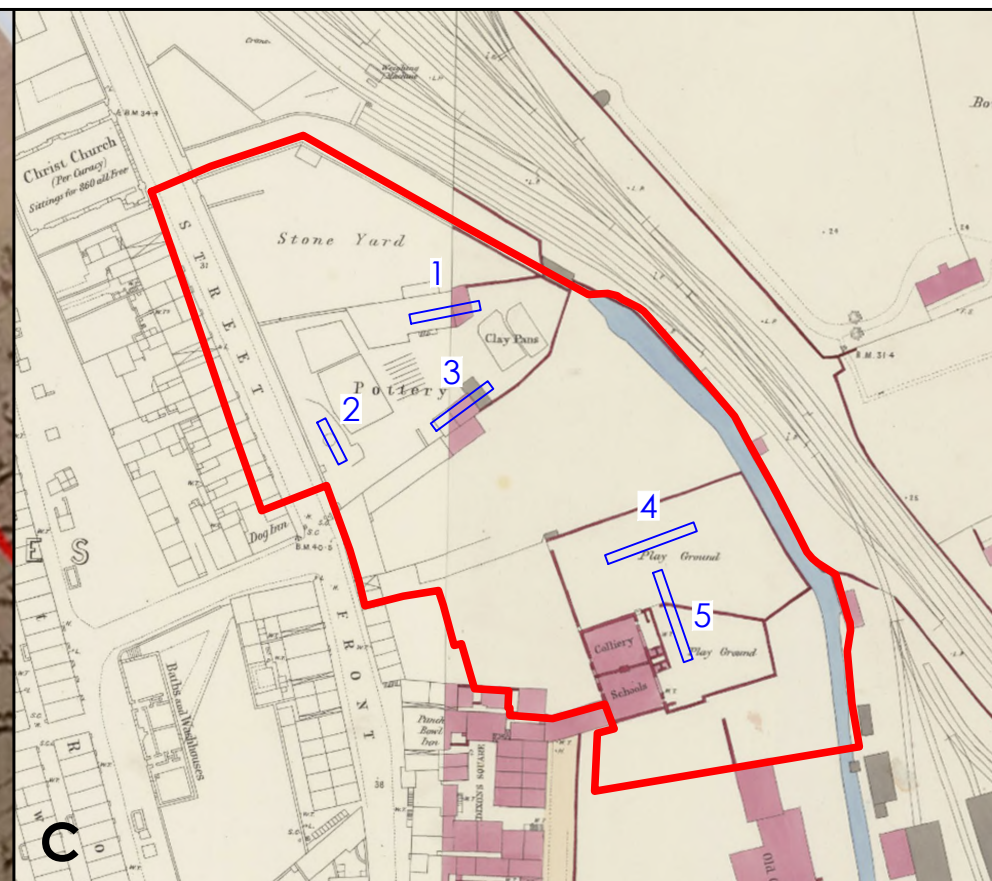
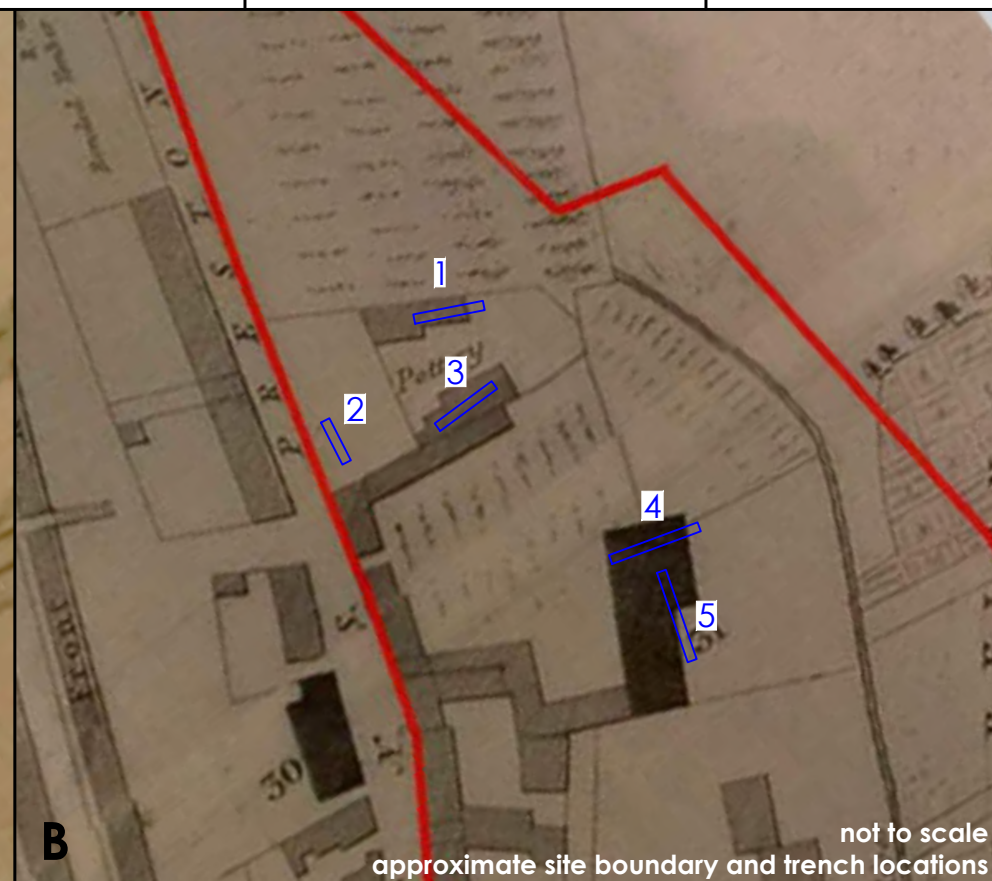
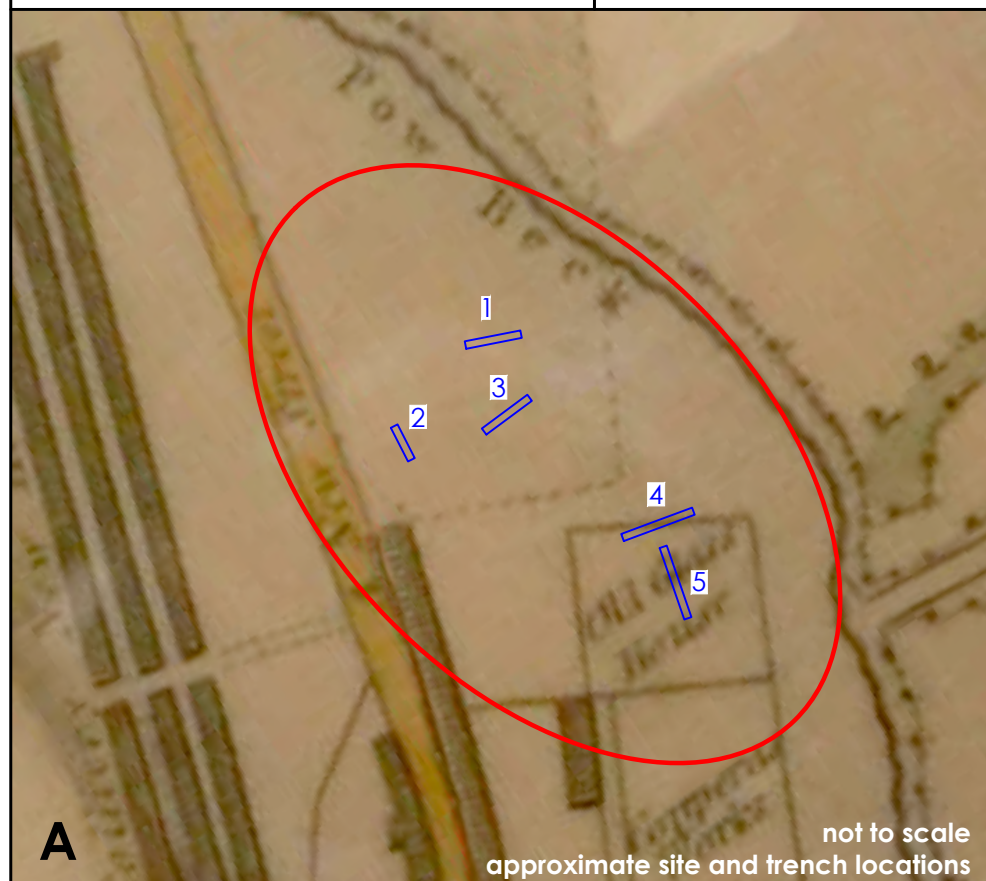


Figure 5: Proposed trenches on Google Earth image

