

Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

ANNUAL REPORT FOR PERIOD APRIL 2012 - MARCH 2013

1.0 Introduction

Following the closure of Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit at the end of March 2012, the University of Salford were commissioned by AGMA to provide an interim archaeological advisory service for the ten GM Planning Authorities. The service was delivered by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS), operating under a new Service Level Agreement. During this interim period, which lasted for 8 months, AGMA put out to tender the provision of a longer term service for 3 years (plus 1 year plus 1 year). GMAAS won the tender process and commenced the new contract on 1st January 2013.

2.0 Staffing and Website

2.1 GMAAS is staffed by:

Norman Redhead – Heritage Management Director (Archaeology)

Andrew Myers – Senior Planning Archaeologist

Lesley Dunkley – Historic Environment Record Officer (half time post)

2.2 The team are based in Joule House, Acton Square, The Crescent, University of Salford, and is part of the Centre for Applied Archaeology within the School of the Built Environment.

2.3 An interim website has been set up pending development of a more comprehensive site: <http://www.salford.ac.uk/built-environment/research/applied-archaeology/greater-manchester-archaeological-advisory-service>.

3.0 Development Control/Planning

3.1 The last year has seen the implementation of new planning guidance in the form of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was issued in March 2012. Policies relating to the historic environment were previously set out in a separate guidance document, Planning Policy Statement No. 5 (PPS5). Most of the 12 policies from PPS5 have been included in the NPPF.

3.2 The new Service Level Agreement (SLA), under which GMAAS operates, has seen a change in approach to archaeology planning in Greater Manchester. Whereas in former years GMAU screened all applications for archaeological interest or potential impact, under the new SLA it is for the Local Planning Authorities (LPA) to consult GMAAS on planning applications to meet agreed criteria. GMAAS have been asked by AGMA to monitor the effectiveness of this new system over the first year. Monthly reports have been produced on the level of consultation and the types of response. The following table sets out the planning figures for the whole year.

3.3 GMAAS planning consultation work undertaken - 1st April 2012 to 31st March 2013

	Applications Screened on Planning Lists	Applications GMAAS would expect to look at in more detail	Applications Received from Local Planning Authority	Applications Identified from Lists actually Received
Bolton	1707	32	16	3
Bury	1032	22	4	3
Manchester	2668	67	55	24
Oldham	1326	35	34	15
Rochdale	1174	44	35	13
Salford	1291	29	17	5
Stockport	1887	18	17	7
Tameside	1025	28	9	9

Trafford	1455	13	34	8
Wigan	1369	38	13	6
	14934	326	234	93

Table 1: comparison of GMAAS Screening of Lists with Actual Consultations from LPAs (see separate attachment for Appendix with Excel spreadsheets giving more detailed information including plan ref numbers).

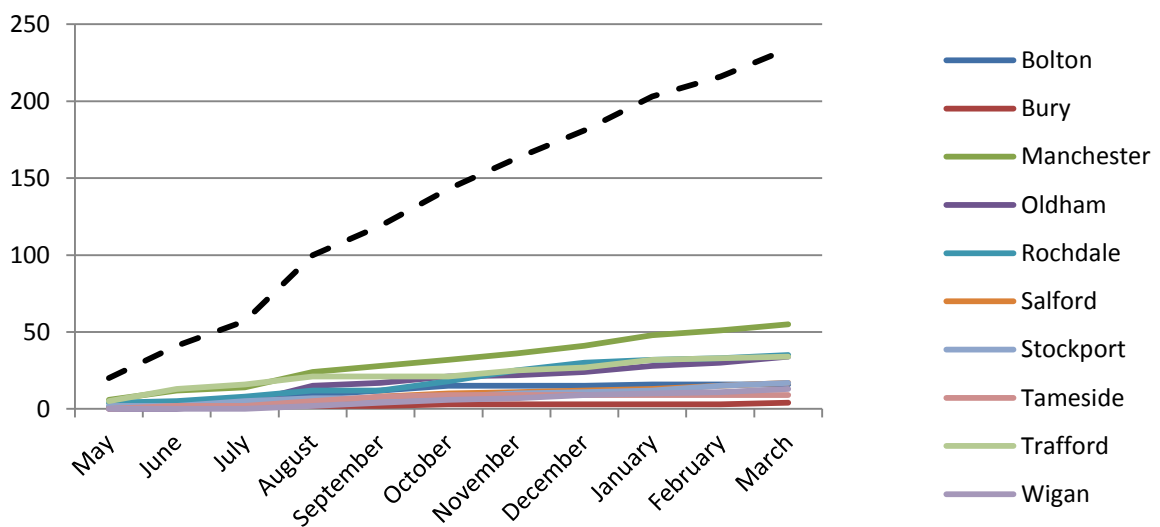


Fig 1: Numbers of Consultations Received from LPAs

3.4 GMAAS have identified some 326 applications from the weekly planning lists they would wish to have reviewed for their potential archaeological interest. This compares with the 234 planning application consultations GMAAS has actually received from the LPAs. In terms of simple numbers *the present consultation arrangements are producing 72% of the number of consultations that might be expected.*

3.5 Over the 12 months since GMAAS was established it can be seen (fig. 1) that in terms of numbers of consultations the rate of consultation has remained relatively constant at about 20 per calendar month.

3.6 In previous reports it was noted that consultation precision (*the comparison between applications GMAAS would have wished to be consulted upon and the number of those actually submitted for GMAAS' comments by the LPAs*) needs to be monitored. As a measure of the extent to which Greater Manchester's archaeological advisors were actually being consulted on those applications upon which they would choose to be consulted this was felt to be a fair index of the effectiveness of the service in protecting the archaeological heritage interest within the planning system. It was hoped that as more LPAs receive the HER point data and make it available on their constraint mapping levels of consultation precision would improve. It was also noted however that progress with integrating the HER into LPA constraint mapping does not rest solely with GMAAS.

3.7 Over the 12 months the service has been running *GMAAS have received just 29% of the applications GMAAS would have requested to be consulted upon from scanning the weekly planning lists (fig.2)*. The month-on-month level of consultation precision has fluctuated wildly (fig.3), achieving the highest rate of 49% in August and the lowest rate of 7% in October. Over the course of the whole year it might be possible to claim a modest improvement, but the figures still reveal a major discrepancy with the desired level of precision that might allow us to be confident that the archaeological heritage is receiving an adequate level of protection.

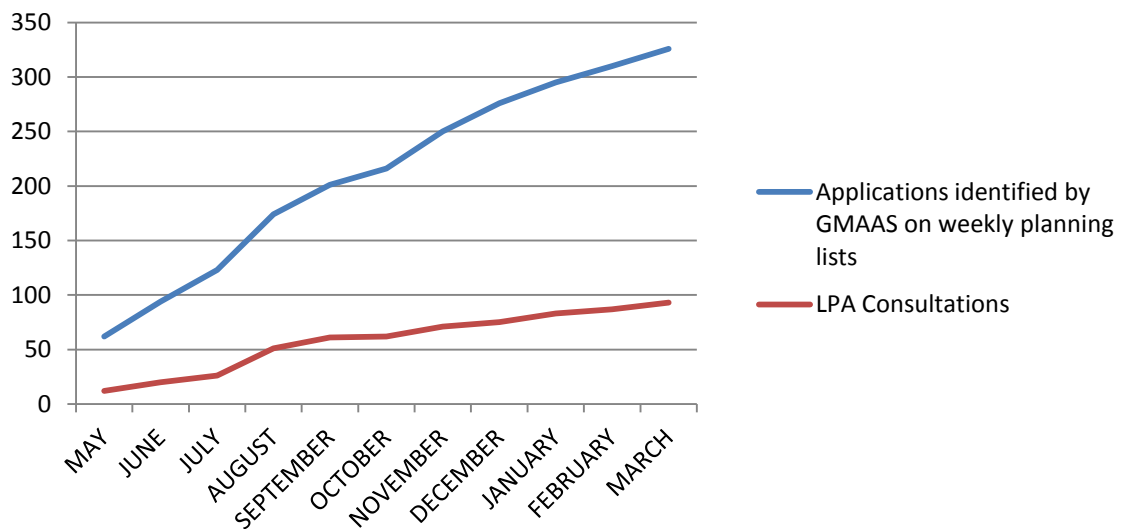


Fig. 2: Consultation precision: comparison of applications identified by GMAAS on the weekly planning lists with the number of those consultations actually referred by the LPAs to GMAAS

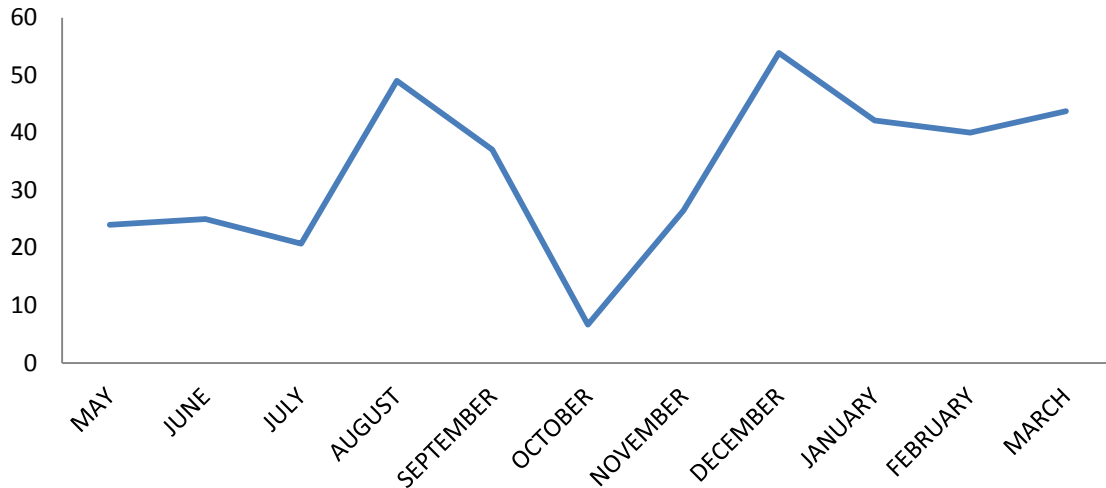


Fig.3: Monthly consultation precision - percentage of applications on the planning lists GMAAS would wish to have been consulted upon actually received.

3.8 Despite GMAAS' provision of presentations to each of the planning authorities the absence of clear progress in either the overall rate or the precision of local planning authority consultation is a concern.

4.0 Review of planning case work

4.1 Arising out of the above LPA planning consultations GMAAS have offered a range of recommendations in respect of the need or otherwise for further information or work:

Desk-Based Assessment	27
Building Recording	25
Evaluation	21
Area Excavation	11
Watching Brief	19
No Impact – no requirement	118

4.2 The following section describes examples of archaeological work related to the planning process undertaken over the last year. At least one case study per authority is given, with other important projects briefly described. All of these projects are undertaken within published archaeological research frameworks.

4.3 Bolton

GMAAS were consulted on a proposal to convert Smithills Coaching House to 8 dwellings and erect 21 new dwellings on adjacent land. The application was accompanied by a historic building assessment (the Coaching House is listed Grade 2) but not a detailed archaeological study, although there has been considerable archaeological research of the wider Smithills estate in the past. The area of land for proposed new housing is on a promontory site, of the type shown to be conducive for late prehistoric settlement elsewhere in Greater Manchester. GMAAS recommended that, should permission be granted, a historic building survey should be undertaken to record the historic fabric of the Coach House prior to development works commencing and that archaeological evaluation through trial trenching should be undertaken for the promontory site. If this demonstrates the existence of significant archaeological remains then a further phase of site investigation comprising targeted archaeological excavation will be necessary where those remains will be damaged/destroyed. As with all archaeological fieldwork, there would then need to be a phase of post excavation analysis and production of a report detailing the results, dissemination of those results, and deposition of an order archive with the local museum. GMAAS suggested wording for the phases of archaeological work that make up the condition. The work has not yet been undertaken.

4.4 Bury

Ramsbottom Cottage Hospital was built at the end of the 19th century by a local philanthropist. An application came forward to demolish the hospital and erect executive houses. The hospital is not listed but has some architectural character and embellishment and has considerable social historical interest. A condition of consent was attached requiring a historic building survey to be undertaken to create an archive and research record of the hospital. The archaeological contractor appointed to carry out

the survey liaised with GMAAS over the scope of the works which led to a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation being approved by GMAAS. The survey has been completed and a report produced on the results. This will be lodged with the Historic Environment Record and the Ramsbottom Heritage Society.

4.5 Manchester

4.5.1 In fulfilling the requirements of an archaeological condition recommended by GMAAS, SLR Archaeology Consulting undertook an evaluation of the former Ashbury's foundry site in Gorton, part of a carriage works that operated here from 1841 producing carriages and wagons for railways and tramways until it was demolished and cleared in 1926. The evaluation found well-preserved remains of chimney bases, flues and the lower supporting courses for smithing hearths along with brick interior floors. This led to a second phase of site investigation – an open area excavation.



Open area excavation at Ashbury's site

4.5.2 The excavation produced extensive, well-preserved archaeological remains, including include a variety of iron furnaces, large slag deposits, flues, chimneys, steam engine and

Nasmyth hammer bases, the site of a travelling crane, and a regenerative furnace and associated flue system. This project has been exemplary in its partnership working between the professional archaeologists, the Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society (who have provided specialist knowledge), Network Rail (the developers) and Morgan Sindall (the groundworks contractor). As well as a detailed report on the results, the archaeological contractor will publish a popular booklet in the Greater Manchester Past Revealed series.

4.5.3 In accordance with NPPF paragraph 128 and pre-application advice from GMAAS, an archaeological desk based assessment was undertaken for the proposed new Graphene Institute site at Booth Street East, University of Manchester. This identified potential buried remains of archaeological interest which were then evaluated by trial trenching. The evaluation (by Oxford Archaeology North – OAN) demonstrated that well preserved remains were present, relating to a row of c 1830 early workers’ housing with unusual plan form, a German club frequented by Engels in the 1840s, and one of Manchester’s first Turkish Baths. A final phase of site works saw a large open area excavation revealing and recording extensive archaeological remains. An open day to view the excavation was attended by many staff and students at the University.

4.5.4 OAN undertook an open area excavation of the former greenhouses and yard area at the rear of Manchester Art Gallery, ahead of the extension of that building. This was in accordance with the archaeology condition attached to planning consent. Well-preserved remains of the 19th century yard and associated buildings were recorded. A number of adult volunteers took part in the dig, which follows on from a recent community archaeology project in the adjacent Whitworth Park.



Graphene Institute site archaeological excavation open day

4.5.6 Manchester Cathedral has obtained approvals to renew the underfloor heating system. As part of the new floor works, a sunken dais platform will be established in front of the medieval rood screen in the core of the historic church. Outside the Cathedral a system of ground source heat pumps will be inserted. All of this work has significant implications for archaeology especially burials. GMAAS have worked closely with the Cathedral architect and Chapter to identify an appropriate scheme of archaeological mitigation.

4.6 Oldham

At London Road, Derker, GMAAS were consulted on a housing regeneration scheme. GMAAS concluded that archaeological sites relating to the 19th century Dirt Car settlement would be impacted on by the development but that they were of local significance and could therefore be dealt with through a negative condition. This led to a desk based assessment identifying the location of sites of archaeological interest and

informing a scheme of trial trenching. Archaeological Research Services undertook the field work, liaising closely with the developer Keep Moat. The evaluation found that most of the targeted sites were badly disturbed by previous ground works; however, there were better preserved remains of two sets of early workers' housing that warranted further excavation and recording. This has been done and GMAAS have signed off the whole site for development ground works whilst the post excavation report is produced.

4.7 Rochdale

4.7.1 A large, single wind turbine application at Wind Hill, Heywood, was deemed by GMAAS to be close to a Bronze burial cairn partly excavated in the 1980s. Following advice from the GMAAS, the planning officer instructed the applicant to move the turbine site by 20 metres to avoid and protect the Heritage Asset.

4.7.2 GMAAS welcomed the proposal to remove 20th sections of Rochdale Bridge to expose the River Roch and the original medieval to 17th century bridge fabric. There has already been considerable archaeological research and survey work to inform the scheme. Further recording will be required during demolition and exposure, relating to previously hidden ancient bridge fabric and excavating down to the surface of the bridge.

4.8 Salford

4.8.1 At Chapel Street in Salford, the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CfAA) have undertaken a large-scale excavation of workers' housing in an area described by Engels in the 1840s as on a par with the worst slum areas of Manchester. Well-preserved remains of some back-to-back cellar dwellings were recorded as well as a large area of larger houses fronting onto Chapel Street with various courtyards at the rear. This is the first development plot of the Salford Central regeneration scheme. The local primary school and a wider network of adult volunteers took part. The work was undertaken in response to an archaeological condition placed on the scheme.



Chapel Street open area excavation

4.8.2 Assessment undertaken several years ago by the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit ahead of a community stadium and road construction project near Barton Aerodrome, Salford, identified a slightly elevated triangular block of land in the midst of the local wetland floodplain. Evaluation trenching revealed a series of features cut into the sand/clay subsoil. Although finds were few, two worked flints and part of a quern stone indicative of prehistoric/ Roman activity were recovered. As this site is to be removed by the Port Salford enhanced access road, GMAAS requested an

archaeological condition to strip, map and record the archaeology of the site ahead of destruction by development ground works. CfAA have undertaken the excavation, with several site visits required from GMAAS staff to monitor progress and advise on methodology. The site is unique in Greater Manchester, appearing to be a Romano-British ritual landscape characterized by cremation burials with grave goods, rectilinear enclosure ditches, and small circular enclosures. Post excavation analysis of finds and comparative sites is now underway to aid our understanding of this interesting site.



Promontory by Salford Stadium (Port Salford excavation site), show a circular enclosure during excavation, a Roman glass bead and broken stone mould deposited as grave goods

4.8.3 OAN have excavated the site of a former Unitarian Free Church and its associated graveyard (built in 1855, and demolished in 1984), located in the car park of Swinton Shopping Centre. The graveyard had to be removed to facilitate an ASDA store development. GMAAS identified the archaeological interest of the graveyard and advised that an archaeological condition be attached to consent to secure appropriate recording. There are good records for over 300 burials, around 120 of which have been identified as dating to the 19th century and worthy of further examination to understand the impact of industrialization.

4.8.4 As part of the Salford Building Schools for the Future scheme, Wentworth High School in Eccles is being re-built. An archaeological desk based assessment identified the line of the Manchester to Wigan Roman road running through the school playing fields in an area that will be affected by development ground works. An archaeological evaluation (by CfAA) located remains of the Roman road, which was found to seal an ancient soil. Palaeo-environmental analysis of the soil will allow an understanding of how the landscape looked when the Romans arrived in the area. An open area excavation will now be undertaken to expose and record the archaeology ahead of development. School pupils will be given the

opportunity to take part in the excavation. The Head Teacher and Salford CC representatives are very keen to develop a follow-up Heritage Lottery Project 'The Romans Walked This Way' and GMAAS have been providing advice on this.

4.9 Stockport

4.9.1 A large scale housing scheme is being proposed for the former Woodford Aerodrome. As part of the pre-application assessment works, an archaeological desk based assessment and heritage assessment of standing buildings has been undertaken, following advice from GMAAS. This has led to a further piece of work involving a large scale geophysical survey to test for evidence of below-ground remains of archaeological interest. The heritage assessment has provided an informed understanding of the relative significance of the Aerodrome's many structures. All of this will inform development design and a heritage mitigation strategy.

4.9.2 Archaeological mitigation for the demolition of Cherry Tree Hospital in Great Moor was established in collaboration with the Stockport Conservation Officer. This comprised a programme of historic building recording and limited evaluation. This work provides an archival record for an infectious diseases hospital of a small size and kind that is increasingly rare.

4.10 Tameside

4.10.1 A proposal to demolish and redevelop part of the early 19th and later 19th century Carrfield Mills in Dukinfield required an archaeological desk based assessment, building assessment followed by a historic building survey, undertaken by Museum of London Archaeology. These works were carried out according to specifications drawn up by GMAAS. An archaeological watching brief will be undertaken during development ground works to record any features of interest relating to the construction of the earlier mills.

4.10.2 At Nook View Farm near Droylsden in Tameside an application was submitted without an archaeological assessment or adequate heritage statement. GMAAS pointed out the development affected the remains of a rare anti-aircraft battery from World War

2. Contrary to NPPF paragraph 128, there had been no consultation with the HER nor a desk based assessment to identify and understand the significance of the Heritage Asset and the proposal's impact. The application was deferred until the study was undertaken. This showed that the site was quite degraded and had lost important features; however, a concrete magazine block was recorded and a proposed pond relocated to protect the site of the command bunker. No further archaeological works are required in relation to the proposal but the site is now much better understood and key elements have been protected from the development.

4.10.3 Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel is a listed grade 2* 17th century ruin set within a builder's yard at Globe Square, Dukinfield, Tameside. The remains are currently inaccessible but ownership is being transferred to a Friends Group. Repairs were proposed to consolidate the ruin and at the same time undertake archaeological trenching to understand the below-ground remains to inform future management and presentation of the site. GMAAS provided a brief for the works at the request of English Heritage who are funding the repair programme. The evaluation by CfAA found several graves relating to the Dukinfield family and evidence for a former medieval chapel. Further EH grant aid and Heritage Lottery funding will be sought to allow a community archaeology excavation and facilitate better access/presentation of the site.



Dukinfield Old Hall Chapel during the archaeological evaluation

4.11 Trafford

4.11.1 The National Trust are building a new Visitor Centre at Dunham Massey Park. GMAAS have worked with the NT archaeologist to minimise impact on the historic landscape and below-ground archaeology. A condition of consent secured an archaeological watching brief to be undertaken during ground works and the publication of a Greater Manchester's Past Revealed booklet on the various archaeological projects that have been undertaken in the Park in recent years.

4.11.2 As part of the Altrincham Interchange regeneration project, the original Victorian passenger bridge is being dismantled and replaced with a modern bridge. GMAAS have advised on the recording of the bridge prior to and during dismantling.

4.12 Wigan

4.12.1 An archaeological desk based assessment for a large scale housing development at Gibfield Phase 2 was submitted to GMAAS, who advised on appropriate archaeological mitigation. A first stage of this has been to undertake geophysical survey of available land. Further evaluation in the form of trial trenching is required.

4.12.2 GMAAS commented on proposals for conversion and demolition at the grade 2 listed Collier Brook Bolt Works in Atherton, for a new housing scheme. Recommendations were made to retain certain historic building elements for incorporation into the housing scheme. Buildings being altered or demolished will be archaeologically recorded. GMAAS advice led to a re-consideration of the scheme to retain more of the historic fabric.

5.0 Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record

5.1 At the end of March 2012, the paper archive element of the HER was transferred from Manchester University to the basement of Joule House at the University of Salford. This paper archive comprises the following:

- Around 1,500 'grey literature' (unpublished) archaeology reports including desk based assessments, evaluations, excavations, watching briefs, and historic building surveys
- A substantial photographic and map archive
- Paper archive from archaeological sites and projects around Greater Manchester, including the Greater Manchester Textile Mills Survey, GM Historic Parks and Gardens Survey, Relict Industrial Landscape Survey, etc.
- A library with local history and archaeology publications
- Recently acquired vertical aerial photographs of GM from 1948 to 1989.

5.2 GMAAS have started to compile a detailed inventory of the archive to inform a Heritage Data Audit, commissioned by English Heritage and, ultimately to aid a bid for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant to digitise the archive, enhance the database and place it online.

5.3 The paper archive is complemented by the HER database. This was re-established by the start of May 2013 and is operated on 3 computers used by GMAAS. The system uses Exegesis software under licence (as do 70% of English HERs). It allows GMAAS to enter data across several modules, including monuments, events, and consultations. The dataset currently holds around 18,000 monument records and 54,000 entries for the GM Historic Landscape Characterisation Project, which was completed in March 2012 and which forms a separate module.

5.4 The results of archaeological investigations undertaken by contractors are set out in technical reports commonly referred to as 'grey literature'. These provide the evidence that archaeological conditions have been satisfied, with copies being lodged for public/research consultation with the Greater Manchester HER. Local archaeology societies and researchers are also encouraged to deposit reports on their work with the HER. GMAAS holds around 2,000 such reports. Whilst many of these have been entered onto the HER database there is still a considerable backlog to deal with, estimated at about 800 reports. Each year around 100 new reports on archaeological field work are generated. A crucial role for the HER Officer is to enter report summaries as 'events' on the database, and to update existing monument entries and compile new monument records arising from these archaeological investigations. Over the past year

67 grey literature reports have been entered, plus 17 new event records. Other sources of data have been used to update the HER. These include 237 entries for listed buildings and 18 for Conservation Areas. English Heritage have consulted GMAAS on 42 proposals for listing buildings

5.5 GMAAS have worked closely with agents for Farming Environment Plans to provide a heritage input to countryside stewardship schemes. The HER Officer has dealt with a number of consultations from agents but GMAAS have also undertaken a project for DEFRA to identify 131 designation records for the Selected Heritage Inventory for Natural England (SHINE).

5.6 The GM HER comprises around 18,000 individual records. Many of these entries have very limited information or/and are wrongly located. This is due to the ad hoc way in which records have been added over the last 32 years. Local authority grant aid, such as that provided by Stockport MBC several years ago to enhance their HER dataset, is no longer available so it is important that the HER Officer checks and improves existing entries as an ongoing maintenance task. In this year 3,727 records were updated.

5.7 A key role of the HER, as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework, is to advise applicants and their agents on the location and character of known heritage assets within a proposal area. GMAAS have provided HER data to 75 development enquirers; additionally advice has been provided on appropriate archaeological mitigation. Where there is an archaeological interest, the developer will often appoint an archaeological consultant to compile a report; this usually involves a visit to GMAAS to seek information in the HER library of archaeology reports and publications which supplement the HER database.

6.0 Advice and Dissemination

6.1 GMAAS plays an important role in providing advice on archaeology in Greater Manchester. This often takes the form of development site meetings to offer advice on archaeological best practice and mitigation, but also includes monitoring visits to check on progress of archaeological works. GMAAS representatives attend peer group

meetings and provide an input to AGMA meetings as appropriate, as set out in the SLA. Overall, GMAAS staff have attended **155** meetings over the last year.

6.2 Dissemination of research, making sense of the archaeological work being undertaken across Greater Manchester, and providing training sessions and workshops to enhance understanding of archaeological practice, are all part of the remit of GMAAS. For instance, over the last year an archaeology and planning workshop has been given to staff at each GM LPA. Rochdale and Salford have had two workshops. The workshops explained the HER, NPPF and the role of archaeology in planning, illustrated by local examples. **37** lectures and presentations have been given by GMAAS staff in 2012-3. GMAAS staff are invited to give talks to local heritage groups on a range of topics related to Greater Manchester's archaeology.

DISTRICT	Meetings	Lectures & Presentations	Telephone Enquiries	HER consults – Data provided
Bolton	3	3	3	4
Bury	7	2	8	2
Manchester	35	2	87	15
Oldham	13	9	29	3
Rochdale	5	3	41	12
Salford	27	2	30	5
Stockport	18	4	59	8
Tameside	5	2	16	3
Trafford	5	1	11	9
Wigan	1	2	12	9
Multi-district/general	40	10	51	5
TOTAL	155	37	347	75

Table 2: Meetings, talks, and consultations

6.3 GMAAS dealt with 347 telephone enquiries over the year, most commonly these derived from archaeological contractors. Telephone enquiries were broken down into archaeology consultants/contractors (117), Conservation Officers (14), developer agent

(45), developer (13), environment agency (3), academic (12), Local Planning Authority (45), local heritage group (29), public (14), national heritage body (10), other (45).

6.4 Dig Greater Manchester

6.4.1 This is a 4.5 year community archaeology project funded by the ten GM authorities and Blackburn with Darwen. It is being delivered by the University of Salford through its Centre for Applied Archaeology. There will be 11 smaller scale excavations, one in each authority, followed by two show case larger-scale digs. The excavations have typically involved around 300 school children, 150 adult volunteers and a range of disadvantaged groups. The smaller excavations last for 2 weeks and culminate in a public open day. A range of workshops are delivered to provide training beyond that given on site.

6.4.2 Project field work began in early 2012 at the site of Etherstone Hall at Leigh Sports Village, Wigan, followed by Radcliffe, Bury. The latter is informing project development work for a larger scale HLF project which will focus on the Radcliffe Tower site. This will include consolidation of the Scheduled remains of the late medieval tower, investigation and presentation of associated buried archaeological remains to create a heritage park, and a range of community engagement activities.

6.4.3 In September Dig Greater Manchester undertook community excavation on the site of the 17th century hall in Chadderton Park, Oldham. An Open Day took place on Saturday and was attended by many hundreds of people.

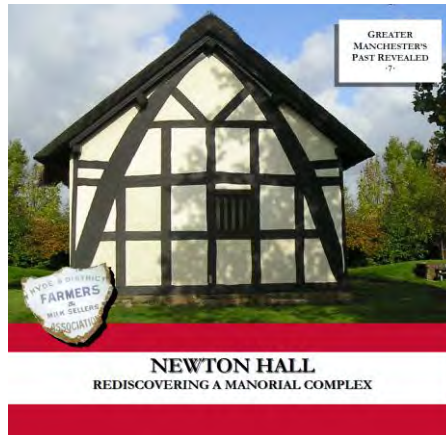
6.4.4 Dig Greater Manchester saw its 4th project completed at the site of Wood Hall in Reddish Vale Park, Stockport, in October. Well-preserved remains of the farmyard and associated buildings were found, along with part of the cellared hall. Several well-preserved fire-places were recorded, and a number of Minton floor tiles were discovered.

6.4.4 The 2013 Dig GM season commenced with a project, in March, at Moss Bank Park, north of Bolton, which uncovered substantial remains of a mansion, home of the Ainsworth family who ran the neighbouring Halliwell Bleach Works site.



The site of Moss Bank House being excavated

6.5 The 7th Greater Manchester's Past Revealed booklet to be published is on the history and archaeology of Newton Hall, Tameside, where a successful HLF-sponsored community archaeology project took place in May last year, run by Tameside History Forum and CfAA.



6.6 Archaeological Research Services have helped Oldham and Rochdale Groundwork Trust explore the remains of a well-preserved 19th century colliery and coke oven site at Jubilee Colliery, Shaw, Oldham. Trainees under the HLF scheme cleared vegetation, learnt archaeological skills and carried

out research on the site which includes a spectacular set of back-to-back coke ovens. GMAAS advised on excavation methodology and provided HER training workshops.



Revealing the remains of a coke oven at Jubilee Colliery

6.7 GMAAS have been asked to provide archaeological advice on major Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) proposals in Stockport MBC. The Oldknow's Legacy project is a partnership between the Canal and Rivers Trust and Mellor Archaeological Trust to explore, consolidate, present and raise awareness of the industrial heritage of Samuel Oldknow, involving the key late 18th century sites of Marple Aqueduct, Marple Lime Kilns, and Mellor Mill.

6.8 Stockport MBC have been developing a project design for a Stage 2 HLF scheme at Bramall Hall, which is owned and run by the council, and is one of England's finest timber framed buildings. GMAAS have helped Stockport MBC officers on the archaeological aspects of the proposals, including the historic building survey required to understand the building and the date and relative significance of its component parts.



Site meeting at Oldknow's Lime Kilns, Marple

6.9 Various stakeholders, including Oldham MBC, Saddleworth Parish, United Utilities, English Heritage, and the local community, are involved in developing better management and presentation of the Roman Forts at Castleshaw near Delph. GMAAS have been giving advice on the site's archaeology and management.



New information boards at Castleshaw Roman Forts

6.10 At the site of Tottington Print Works, in the Kirklees Valley, GMAAS were consulted by planning officers on the impact of a proposed scheme by the Environmental Agency to remove a stone culvert which obstructed flood debris. GMAAS were able to demonstrate that the culvert has considerable industrial archaeological significance relating to the former 19th century Tottington Print Works and a possible medieval corn mill on the same site. This led to a brief being prepared for a programme of archaeological investigation and recording. The print works remains are extensive across the valley floor but are mainly obscured by undergrowth. The culvert scheme led to a larger project to evaluate the wider site. This aroused great interest and enthusiasm from local residents resulting in a small team from Oxford Archaeology North working with the local Bury MBC Ranger and scores of local people to reveal the floors and machine bases/dye vats of the print works. OAN took the opportunity to publish a book on the historic Calico Printing Industry of upper Irwell Valley (GM Past Revealed No. 6), illustrated by the example at Tottington and the archaeologically excavated remains of Spring Wood Bleach Works at Radcliffe, which was affected by a water pipeline scheme.

6.11 The University of Salford have established the Salford Public Archaeology Resource Centre (SPARC) – a large laboratory space available to local archaeology societies for processing their finds and undertaking research, attending CfAA training workshops etc. This will be an important community resource. The 17 archaeology societies which form the Greater Manchester Archaeology Federation will have access but it is hoped to broaden this out to other groups in the North-West as well. Finds reference collections, aerial photographs, historic maps and an archaeology library will be available, and it is hoped to provide a read-only PC station for accessing the Historic Environment Record.

6.12 In May GMAAS took delivery of the ‘popular’ HLC publication, ‘Slices through Time’, issued as Volume 5 in the *Greater Manchester’s Past Revealed* series. Several hundred copies were distributed to the ten local planning authorities of Greater Manchester as well as to museums in the area. The publication is now out of print and a pdf has been posted on the AGMA website:

http://www.agma.gov.uk/cms_media/files/gm_historic_landscape_project.pdf

6.13 A Greater Manchester Archaeology Day was held on a Saturday in late November 2012 to showcase recent significant archaeology projects in Greater Manchester. Over 100 people attended.

7.0 Conclusion

2012-3 saw the new archaeological advisory services 'bedding in' at the University of Salford. Contacts and working practices were established with LPA officers in relation to the new Service Level Agreement. It has been demonstrated that the new consultation arrangements do not yet provide an effective system of protection for Greater Manchester's archaeological heritage. The criteria used by LPAs in consulting GMAAS include developments falling within 50 metres of known archaeological sites. This is a key criterion which, if properly applied, will provide a more effective system of protection for heritage assets with an archaeological interest. GMAAS have offered point data for known archaeological sites to the LPAs but so far only 4 have taken the dataset. GMAAS recommend that all LPAs acquire and use the point data. 10 training workshops have been given to the LPAs by GMAAS, and a further two provided at the request of Salford and Rochdale LPAs. GMAAS are prepared to deliver further workshops to help raise awareness of archaeological best practice and the consultation process.

This report has described the wide range of archaeological sites and types of activities undertaken by GMAAS over the last year. Significant advances have been made in relation to updating and maintaining the Greater Manchester HER. GMAAS staff have responded to a large number of enquiries and have provided advice and promoted Greater Manchester's heritage to a wide and diverse range of stakeholders. The advantages are starting to be realised, of GMAAS being located within the University of Salford, which is a large educational and research institution at the heart of Greater Manchester.

Norman Redhead
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