

Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD

1ST APRIL 2014 – 31ST MARCH 2015

1.0 Introduction

The following report is for the third year of the new Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service, which is based at the University of Salford. GMAAS undertakes the following planning work on behalf of the ten Greater Manchester Local Planning Authorities:

- Advising on identifying Heritage Assets with an archaeological interest and understanding their significance
- Assessing the likely archaeological implications of development proposals
- Recommending any necessary archaeological work as a planning condition
- Liaising with planners and developers to mitigate impacts on significant archaeology
- Preparing briefs and advising on written schemes of investigation
- Monitoring archaeological works
- Providing lists of archaeological consultants, contractors and specialists
- Mediating between clients and archaeological contractors
- Preparing research agendas within the planning process
- Maintaining and enhancing the Historic Environment Record as a planning tool and public record
- Promoting dissemination of results from archaeological investigations.

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

2.2 The team have recently moved into the Peel Building at the University of Salford, and now form part of the Centre for Applied Archaeology within the School of Environment and Life Sciences. The address is now:

Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service
School of Environment & Life Sciences
Room LG 20, Peel Building
University of Salford
Salford
M5 4WX

Other contact details remain the same:

gmaas@salford.ac.uk

<http://www.salford.ac.uk/cst/research/applied-archaeology/greater-manchester-archaeological-advisory-service>

Tel: 0161 295 5522



The Peel Building, the new home of GMAAS

3.0 Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GM HER)

3.1 The database now has **18,142** individual entries comprising: monuments, find spots, listed buildings, local historic interest buildings, historic places and ancient landscapes. There are also **54,000** records for the Historic Landscape Characterisation dataset. These are supported by over **70,000** images and a substantial paper archive and library.

3.2 Over the past half year **72** grey literature reports have been entered onto the database, **184** new Monument records created and **4937** existing Monument records updated. **73** new event records have been created, **10** new listed building entered and GMAAS have responded to **17** consultations from English Heritage on proposals for listing or amendments to existing designations.

3.3 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 **105** 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. There were **42** visits to the GMAAS office to consult the HER library.

3.4 Compared to the previous year there has been a marked increase in the number of monument records updated, enquiries responded to and new reports entered, although the number of new monument entries is much fewer due to the previous year's focus on inputting Salford and Stockport local list entries.

3.5 Following on from production of the GM Historic Environment Record Audit last year, the HER Officer has compiled an Action Plan which has been validated by English Heritage. This has identified as a priority the need to tackle the considerable backlog of archaeological reports and individual site information that needs to be entered onto the HER. This will require additional resourcing. Other key aspects of the Action Plan

include producing a manual, enhancing existing data, digitising archive and making selected data available online. Much of this could be undertaken through a Heritage Lottery Funded project, but there would need to be security of contract for GMAAS and a some match funding to facilitate a realistic bid.

4.0 Advice and Dissemination

4.1 GMAAS have attended a large number of meetings over the year, mainly in relation to development sites but also connected to working with regional and national peer and policy groups. A wide range of presentations have been given to help disseminate the story of the remarkable archaeological investigations that have taken place in Greater Manchester. A growing number of enquiries have been dealt with, mainly from archaeological consultants acting on behalf of developers but also there have been **17** enquiries from researchers and members of the public.

DISTRICT	Meetings	Lectures & Presentations	HER consults – Data provided
Bolton	0	0	7
Bury	5	1	3
Manchester	63	1	25
Oldham	26	13	4
Rochdale	13	1	13
Salford	31	1	14
Stockport	19	8	11
Tameside	3	1	3
Trafford	6	0	10
Wigan	4	0	11
Multi-district/general	39	3	3
TOTAL	209	29	105

Table showing meetings, talks, and consultations

5.0 Planning Work

5.1 This report has additional information to that supplied in the previous annual reports. It is intended that this will provide a more accurate reflection of the workload of GMAAS in carrying out its planning work.

5.2 GMAAS were consulted on **50** Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) supplied in accordance with archaeology planning conditions. These set out an agreed programme and methodology of archaeological works for the investigation process and post-investigation analysis, dissemination of results and archive deposition. An agreed WSI does not in itself satisfy a planning condition but does formally identify each stage of the archaeological process to be implemented in order to meet the requirements of the condition. Progress towards fulfilment can then be monitored against the WSI.

5.3 Over the last year, GMAAS undertook **73** monitoring visits to archaeological investigations being undertaken on development sites. The purpose of these visits was to check that archaeological work was being undertaken in accordance with the agreed WSIs in order to comply with planning conditions. The visits also allowed discussion of further mitigation requirements or adjustments to the agreed methodologies based on the nature of the evidence being revealed, and to make sure professional standards were being adhered to.

5.4 The HER now has around **2,350** grey literature reports in its library. These mostly report on the results of archaeological investigations undertaken as part of the planning system. They include Environmental Statements (ES), Heritage Statements (HS), Desk Based Assessments (DBA), Building Surveys (BS), Evaluations such as geophysical survey and trial trenching (EVAL), Excavations (ES), Surveys (SURV) and Watching Briefs (WB). It is estimated that there is a backlog of around 900 reports waiting to be entered onto the HER database.

5.5 Over the last year GMAAS have received **143** reports to place in the HER. These have to be checked by GMAAS staff to make sure they properly represent the heritage interest of the study area and conform to professional standards. The breakdown of report types by district is set out in the following table:

	ES	HS	DBA	BS	EVAL	EXC	SURV	WB	TOTAL
BO			3		2				5
BU			2	1	1	1	2		7
MA	1	2	21	3	5	5		3	40
OL		1	2	3	3	1		1	11
RO		1	5	1	3	3	1		14
SA			11	2	5	5	1	1	25
ST		3	3	9	3		4		22
TA			2	2	1				5
TR			2	2	1				5
WI		2	3	2	2				9
TOTAL	1	9	54	25	26	15	8	5	143

Breakdown of report types by district

5.6 The archaeological work was undertaken by **32** separate organisations, which reflects the wide range of archaeological contractors and consultants operating in Greater Manchester.

5.7 GMAAS received **29** consultations from planning officers on requests to discharge archaeological planning conditions. Usually, discharge is only recommended when all the archaeological works have been implemented. At the end of the process this will involve GMAAS being in receipt on a satisfactory report of the investigation results. It will also be necessary to demonstrate that the archive of the investigation has been or will be deposited with an appropriate record centre or museum, and that the results have been disseminated in a manner commensurate with their significance. The latter can range from just depositing the report with the HER to producing information boards, a popular booklet or even a more academic monograph.

6.0 Planning Consultations

6.1 In the year to March 31st 2015 GMAAS identified **410** applications from the weekly planning lists that they would have wished to review for their potential archaeological

interest using the consultation criteria set out in the service level agreement. This is markedly down on the number for 2013-14. The reduction may relate to a more stringent application of the SLA criteria, but will also reflect the reduction in the total number of applications on the weekly lists – from 19,192 in 2013-14 to **17,276** in 2014-15. The number of planning consultations received by GMAAS from the LPAs has also reduced, from 333 in 2013-14 to **281** in 2014-15. In simple numerical terms the present consultation arrangements are producing 68.2% of the consultations GMAAS might anticipate receiving. This is an increase on the percentage figure of 62.5% for 2013-14. However, of the 281 consultations actually received only some 151 (54%) appear to have met the consultation criteria. This is a reduction on the 62.5% for 2013-14.

	Applications screened on Planning Lists	Applications that appear to meet criteria	Applications received from Local Planning Authority	Applications received from LPAs that meet criteria
Bolton	1773	36	34	25
Bury	1081	19	6	5
Manchester	2732	79	73	62
Oldham	1203	35	19	16
Rochdale	1357	48	35	30
Salford	1417	53	19	19
Stockport	2834	44	41	37
Tameside	1237	33	19	17
Trafford	2257	24	14	9
Wigan	1385	29	24	18
TOTAL	17276	410	281	151

Table showing comparison of GMAAS checking of Lists with actual consultations from LPAs

6.2 Over the past 12 months the rate of planning application consultation has, on average, been about **23** per calendar month, which is a reduction on 2013-14 (28), but still more than in 2012-13 (20). There is a perception at GMAAS that the rate of consultation has increased over the last few months.

6.3 In 2014-15 the proportion of those consultations identified by GMAAS on the planning lists as being of some potential archaeological interest that were actually received has been 37%, which is almost identical to 2013-14. It was anticipated that as more LPAs received and implemented the HER point data on their constraint mapping this rate would improve. Bury received the HER point data in November 2014, whilst Rochdale, Bolton and Trafford remain without the information. Interestingly, despite not yet having the HER point data Rochdale have still managed to consult GMAAS on a relatively high proportion of the consultations GMAAS identified on their planning lists.

6.4 Arising out of the LPA planning consultations, GMAAS have offered a range of recommendations in respect of the need or otherwise for further information or work. Approximately half of the applications consulted on were considered to have no impact upon the archaeological interest and no further work was recommended. In 43% of cases GMAAS were able to recommend that further archaeological work (assessment, evaluation, excavation, watching brief, building recording) should be undertaken as part of a conditioned programme. In all such cases GMAAS provided suggested wording for the necessary condition based upon the model condition which is now set out in paragraph 37 of English Heritage's (now Historic England) *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 2: Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment*.

No Impact	120
Predetermination Assessment/ Evaluation	17
Conditioned Programme of Archaeological Work	105
TOTAL	242

Table showing consultation recommendations

6.5 From this it can be seen that of those instances where archaeological work was considered necessary, only 21% resulted in recommendations for further predetermination work. Ultimately, **123** (44%) of the 281 planning application

consultations received by GMAAS resulted in a recommendation for some form of archaeological intervention.

6.6 In addition to the planning application consultations, in 2014-15 GMAAS responded to some **43** pre-application consultations. Of these 12 resulted in recommendations that there was no impact, and that no further archaeological work was necessary. Of the remainder 25 resulted in recommendations for pre-submission desk-based or building assessment and 5 in a recommendation for a conditioned programme of works. Only 1 resulted in a direct recommendation for the physical preservation *in situ* of the archaeological remains.

6.7 As a final point, it should be noted that in the last few months of 2014-15 a number of large development schemes that had lain dormant for a number of years became active. As a result, archaeological conditions attached to their consents from previous years began to require GMAAS' attention. Site meetings, briefs, site visits and reading the resulting assessments and fieldwork reports for these sites have taken up a significant amount of staff time.

7.0 Planning Case Studies

7.1 The following section briefly describes a selection of case studies of archaeological projects from last year that have come out of the planning process. These are selected to illustrate the diversity of project types and outcomes. The bulk of the work has taken place in the historic cores of Manchester and Salford, which reflects a significant upturn in office, hotel and apartment developments, frequently linked to major regeneration and infrastructure schemes.

7.2 Bolton

7.2.1 Montcliffe Quarry, Horwich

In November 2014 GMAAS responded to a consultation for re-profiling and stabilisation works. A desk-based archaeological assessment had been prepared by the Museum of Liverpool Field Archaeology Unit. It recognised that the works could expose and disturb prehistoric remains. GMAAS recommended that a conditioned programme of

archaeological works be undertaken, commencing with a topographical and geophysical survey. Stratascan were engaged to undertake the geophysical survey and have recently submitted their report. Anomalies and earthworks identified will be targeted in a phase of evaluation, and the whole site will be subject to an archaeological watching brief during a controlled soil strip.

7.3 Bury

7.3.1 Spen Moor, Radcliffe

Proposals for a housing scheme gave rise to a condition requiring that a programme of archaeological works be undertaken. The land was of some archaeological interest due to its proximity to the alignment of the Manchester to Ribchester Roman road. Following discussions with GMAAS a written scheme of investigation was prepared by CgMs Consulting for a phase of archaeological evaluation. The evaluation commenced with geophysical survey. The survey revealed that the supposed alignment of the Roman road had been subject to extensive recent disturbance through the excavation and insertion of a mains pipeline. Following consideration by GMAAS it was decided to evaluate by trenching a number of potential archaeological anomalies identified to the east of the area of disturbance. These proved to be of post-medieval origin, relating to drainage and agriculture. GMAAS was satisfied that there was no need for any further archaeological work.

Subsequently, members of Bury Archaeological Society expressed their concerns about the development and their long-term research interest into the Roman road in this area. Having contacted the planning case officer and then the enforcement officer they were put in contact with GMAAS. Copies of the archaeological reports were sent by GMAAS to the society along with a written account of GMAAS' view of the works undertaken and the implications for the archaeology. GMAAS were able to satisfy the local society's concerns that all due care had been taken in considering the archaeological interest.

7.4 Manchester

7.4.1 Cross Street Chapel and St Peter's Square

The Metrolink Second City Crossing has seen a programme of archaeological works undertaken to mitigate the impacts of the development. Of especial note was the archaeological work undertaken at two former burial sites: Cross Street Chapel and St Peter's Church. GMAAS have worked closely with the archaeological contractor, CfA (Leeds), and TfGM to minimize impact or, where impact is unavoidable, to ensure sensitive and appropriate archaeological recording takes place. Archaeological desk based research found that a portion of the former Cross Street Chapel graveyard lies sealed under a late 19th century widening of Cross Street. This has led to a programme of careful excavation and recording of around 250 burials spanning the 18th and 19th centuries. The work has been undertaken in an exemplary manner under very challenging site conditions. At St Peter's it was established that the footprint of the church contained wall-to-wall intact burial vaults. Archaeologists and TfGM liaised to protect the burials under a concrete raft which will carry the new Metrolink lines and platforms.



Excavation and recording of coffins and human remains at Cross Street

7.4.2 Arkwright's Mill

NOMA and the Cooperative have put forward a large-scale development scheme for the car park site at Miller Street, adjacent to the new Cooperative HQ. This will impact on the site of Arkwright's Mill, one of the first cotton mills in the world to use steam power. A Time Team project in 2005 established that good remains of the mill site exist. GMAAS

worked with Oxford Archaeology North on an extensive evaluation of the site. This process was essential in understanding the significance of the site and its component parts so that the impact of development could be properly understood. It also informed the assessment of the site as a potential Scheduled Monument. The investigations demonstrated that the power house features and wheel pit were well preserved and of high significance but that the mill body itself had been rebuilt and extended after a mid-19th century fire and was of only local interest. The result was that the site will not be Scheduled; public benefit will be best served by allowing a full and detailed excavation of the remains prior to development, with a scheme of publication and extensive digital and physical interpretation to follow – all secured through a planning condition and pre-application agreement between EH, GMAAS and the development consortium.



Evaluation of the engine and boiler house at the site of Arkwright's Mill, established in 1783

7.4.3 MMU Didsbury Campus

CgMs, acting as archaeological consultant for a developer, approached GMAAS at the pre-application stage to deal with below-ground archaeological interests at the redundant MMU Didsbury Campus site. An archaeological desk based assessment was followed by evaluation through targeted trial trenching. This found medieval deposits in one trench but no further work was required as this area was not going to be built over. However, in the southern car park significant remains of a late 18th century villa complex

were discovered. A programme of full excavation was commissioned to deal with the archaeology prior to submitting an application for the site. Well-preserved remains of the basement were exposed and recorded by LP Archaeology. A full excavation report is being prepared. GMAAS have advised and monitored throughout the process.



MMU Didsbury Campus – an aerial view of the late 18th century villa under excavation

7.5 Oldham

7.5.1 Brownhill Bridge Mill

GMAAS attended a site meeting at this late 18th century mill in Dobcross, Saddleworth, to discuss implementing the listed building consent for conversion to a dwelling. Following an earlier comprehensive historic building survey by Garry Miller, it was determined that relatively small-scale archaeological recording was required during the works. GMAAS also advised on key historic elements which should be consolidated and presented in the landscape scheme. These include the former packhorse route in front of the building, water power features and the packhorse bridge.



The grade 2 listed Brownhill Bridge Mill, Dobcross

7.6 Rochdale

7.6.1 Scout Moor Windfarm Extension

Proposals for a significant extension to the existing Scout Moor windfarm involve turbines being installed in Rochdale and across the boundary in Rossendale. GMAAS have been approached by Rossendale Borough Council to act as specialist archaeological planning advisors on the scheme. GMAAS initially responded to a preliminary environmental impact assessment prepared by CgMs Consulting on behalf of the applicants. The development has the potential to impact upon sites dating back to the Mesolithic period (11,500–6000 years ago) as well as important industrial remains of the last 300 years. Fortunately, GMAAS staff have particular specialist experience and knowledge of the archaeology of these periods. Following GMAAS' comments a number of substantive elements in the archaeological component of the assessment were edited and modified. Acting now for both Rochdale and Rossendale Councils, GMAAS have subsequently commented on the revised assessment and offered a number of recommendations regarding further work.

7.6.2 Stansfield Mill

This historic textile finishing site at Summit near Littleborough, was abandoned several years ago following a major fire. A scheme for demolition, ground remediation and housing development has been accompanied by a programme of archaeological works set out by GMAAS. This involved a desk based assessment, historic building assessment and targeted archaeological excavation. The latter, undertaken by Chris Scurfield, recorded remains of an early 19th century bleaching croft with evidence for drains and pressure kiers.



Excavation of the bleach croft at Stansfield Mill

7.7 Salford

7.7.1 Nos. 12-16 Chapel Street

An archaeological planning condition secured the open-area excavation of land in the heart of medieval Salford, prior to redevelopment for apartments. The work was carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation agreed with GMAAS on behalf of Salford City Council. Several buildings and features of medieval and early post-medieval date were found but of most interest was a late

medieval stone walled structure which is provisionally interpreted as the manorial bake house.



Excavations at 12-16 Chapel Street, Salford

7.7.2 New Bailey Prison

In accordance with the overarching archaeology condition attached to Salford Central developments, CfAA have undertaken various investigations on the site of the remarkable New Bailey Prison next to Salford Central Station. This was a reform prison designed in 1790 to a radial plan and by the 1820s was self-financing through the work of the prisoners. It was massively enlarged in 1815, and a previous excavation revealed well-preserved remains of this extension in the form of workshops, cells and exercise yards. Recently CfAA have returned to the site to undertake the third large-scale excavation ahead of development. Again, well-preserved remains were found and this time a two-week period of community archaeology was factored in. The developer, English Cities Fund, have used the archaeology for good PR and have committed to publishing the results of the work carried out so far.



Aerial view of the excavated remains of New Bailey Prison and, below, two of the marketing panels showing the previous excavation remains and advertising archaeology tours



7.7.3 Kempnough Hall, Worsley

Following a consultation for the renovation and subdivision of the listed hall, GMAAS offered comments which disputed the conclusions of the heritage statement submitted with the application. This had concluded that it was “extremely unlikely that any original fabric of significance remains in the area to be altered”. GMAAS argued that the extensive render and plasterwork could mask original timber framing and that a condition requiring a programme of archaeological works should be placed on the consent. Matrix Archaeology were appointed, produced an initial survey of the building and undertook a

watching brief during the renovation. The watching brief identified extensive *in situ* timbering and decoration relating to the late 15th / early 16th centuries and evidence of the late 16th century conversion of the original aisled hall. A watching brief on works on the internal floor identified a series of post holes and an infilled ditch containing late medieval pottery. The work identified very valuable evidence for the evolution and age of the building. It highlighted how heritage statements that only consider the architectural and historic interests can prove highly misleading. Archaeologists are trained in considering the information that may be concealed in upstanding fabric or below ground.



Kempnough Hall: Removal of plaster reveals original timber framing and plaster 'rose' motif above former doorway

7.8 Stockport

7.8.1 Woodford Aerodrome

GMAAS have liaised with CgMs over a scheme of historic building recording and below-ground archaeological evaluation at the site of Woodford Aerodrome, famous as the assembly factory for the Lancaster bomber in WW2 and more recently associated with the Vulcan bomber and Nimrod. Permission has been granted for a 920-house development that involves demolishing all of the former aerodrome structures and regrading the land. WSIs

have been approved for recording the structures prior to demolition and for a geophysical survey to identify potential below-ground archaeological interest. This large-scale survey, together with historic map overlays, has informed a further WSI to be drawn up for a scheme of trenching to test potential archaeological features. As part of the scheme the Avro Heritage Centre has been provided with a new building on a part of the site away from development and will reopen in autumn.



Wessex Archaeology geophysics survey at Woodford Aerodrome. Original plot on left with interpretation plot on the right

7.8.2 'Peaches' Stockport

GMAAS have advised on the final phase of works at this housing development on High Street and Hillgate in Stockport. As part of the public realm works, three interpretation boards were erected to commemorate the site's history and archaeology. This included one on the site of the former High Street Chapel and graveyard (shown below).



7.9 Tameside

7.9.1 Land and Buildings on east side of Denton Street, Denton

Over the years this site has been considered in respect of a number of applications. In February 2015 GMAAS were consulted on proposals for a residential development. The application came with a Phase 1 Environmental Assessment in which it was claimed that historic mapping indicated there were no features of archaeological interest. GMAAS' response pointed out that at various times in the past GMAAS' predecessors, GMAU, had commented on applications for the site. This included one in 2004 where Northern Archaeological Associates had produced an assessment identifying the site as having formerly been occupied in the 19th and early 20th centuries by Taylor Brothers Hat Manufactory. Denton has a particularly significant history regarding the hatting industry. As one of only a handful of hatting centres nationwide the possibility of learning about any surviving remains gains in archaeological significance. There were also examples of early workers' housing at the site, another subject that is established in regional archaeological research interests. GMAAS pointed out that an archaeological condition had been placed on a previous application following advice from GMAU. GMAAS recommended a condition be placed on any planning consent granted to the present application requiring a desk-based study and field evaluation to be undertaken, possibly followed by area excavation. The application was approved with the appropriate archaeological condition attached.

7.10 Trafford

7.10.1 Warburton Old Rectory

A scheme to demolish outbuildings and erect a new dwelling in the gardens of the Old Rectory was informed by an archaeological desk based assessment prepared by ArcHeritage. The Old Rectory and St Werburgh's Church lie on the site of a late 12th century Premonstratensian Priory and in the late 1950s charred beams and stone flooring were found in the Rectory gardens. The existing cottage will be demolished and, whilst of much later date, is of some historic interest as it contains a former bread oven and other features. GMAAS agreed that a historic building survey and archaeological watching brief during development groundworks would be appropriate mitigation in this instance and it was recommended that they be secured through a condition.



Tithe map of 1839 and proposal area

7.11 Wigan

7.11.1 Chaddock Hall

In August 2014 GMAAS were consulted on an application for the restoration and conversion of Chaddock Hall, a significant 17th century building, and barn. A programme of archaeological works was conditioned on the consent. However, following an act of arson the hall was severely damaged by fire. Working with archaeologists from Wardell Armstrong, GMAAS have sought to obtain as detailed a record of the hall as is possible given its structural condition. Work is ongoing recording the elevations, photographically recording the interior and recording the burnt timbers as they are removed.



Chaddock Hall following the arson attack

7.11.2 Bispham Hall Tile and Brick Works

Proposals to redevelop the former site of Bispham Hall terracotta tile and brick works led to the production, by LP Archaeology, of a desk-based archaeological assessment. GMAAS subsequently recommended that there should be a conditioned programme of archaeological evaluation of the site of this important Edwardian enterprise.



Plan of the Bispham Hall site in c.1938, and the location of evaluation trenches

Much of the site had been previously lost to a housing development, but the remaining area included the majority of the site of the earliest works, including a series of kilns, dryers and workshops. LP Archaeology, in discussion with GMAAS, produced a written scheme of investigation for the evaluation. The evaluation trenching amply demonstrated that the former site had been severely remediated, with only fragmentary survival of the various structures. Following submission of their report GMAAS recommended that no further work should be required and the condition should be discharged.

8.0 Community Engagement

8.1 GMAAS organised a **Greater Manchester Archaeology Day** at The Old Fire Station at Salford University on 29th November 2014. The event was oversubscribed by about 50 people

as the capacity was limited to 100. It is hoped that in 2015 a larger venue can be found as the event was also oversubscribed the previous year and is clearly becoming more popular. A range of archaeological investigations were described, representing highlights of projects undertaken over the previous year.

GMAAS have provided substantive advice to the following projects:

8.2 Dig Greater Manchester

The last of the 2-week-long evaluations were completed at Witton Park in Blackburn where well preserved remains of the early 1800s hall were revealed, and at Longford Park in Stretford (Trafford), which focused on the site of outbuildings associated with Longford Hall. The project will now move on to its final flagship dig phase, focusing on Radcliffe Tower in Bury and Hart Hill Mansion at Buile Hill Park in Salford. A mini-conference was held at the University of Salford in March 2015 to present the results of the project to date.

8.3 Redefining Roman Castleshaw

The Friends of Roman Castleshaw Forts successfully applied for a grant of £70k from the Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out a community archaeology project at Castleshaw near Delph, Saddleworth, Oldham. Around 300 schoolchildren and 120 adults took part in the dig in July 2014. There were a series of training workshops teaching archaeological techniques and finds analysis. The dig re-investigated parts of the Roman fort last excavated in 1907 and 1963. A lot of new information was discovered which will help our understanding of the site and future management plans. The project culminated in a conference on recent Roman fort archaeology in northern England. This was held in March at Uppermill Civic Centre and attracted an audience of 150.



Aerial view showing the excavation trenches at Castleshaw Roman Fort

8.4 Radcliffe Tower

Following on from a successful Dig Greater Manchester evaluation and a Heritage Lottery Funded community archaeology project run by Bury MBC, CfAA returned to the site to explore further remains of the medieval manorial complex. An area of previously unknown well-preserved medieval features was discovered and this has led to the site being earmarked as a flagship dig for Dig GM which will see a 5 week long excavation involving hundreds of schoolchildren and adult volunteers. The results will feed into the landscaping and interpretation of this important Scheduled Monument as a heritage park, alongside the consolidated remains of the c 1400 tower.



Radcliffe Tower with excavation in the foreground

8.5 Revealing Oldknow's Legacy

This is a partnership project between the Canal & River Trust and Mellor Archaeological Trust which has won a grant of £1.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is focused on 3 key sites in Marple and Mellor which epitomize Samuel Oldknow's extraordinary industrialization of this area at the end of the 18th century. The CRT have commenced repairs to the Marple Aqueduct while MAT will move forward with community excavation and presentation of Mellor Mill at the Roman Lakes park. The third site is Marple Lime Kilns, a Scheduled Monument which is on Historic England's at risk register; this will be subject to various surveys and community events with a view to developing a management plan to protect it in the future.



The remains of Oldknow's lime kilns in Marple

8.6 Jubilee Colliery

Groundwork Trust and Oxford Archaeology North have led a community project at Jubilee Colliery near Shaw, Oldham. As well as the colliery workings, this site has excellent remains of banks of late 19th century coke ovens. The project surveyed and sample excavated key features of the complex, followed by vegetation clearance and conservation to present and interpret the remains.



Two of the excavated coke ovens

9.0 Publications

9.1 The Greater Manchester's Past Revealed Series has seen two more publications produced over the last year:

Iron & Steel in Openshaw: excavating John Ashbury's Carriage and Iron Works – No. 11

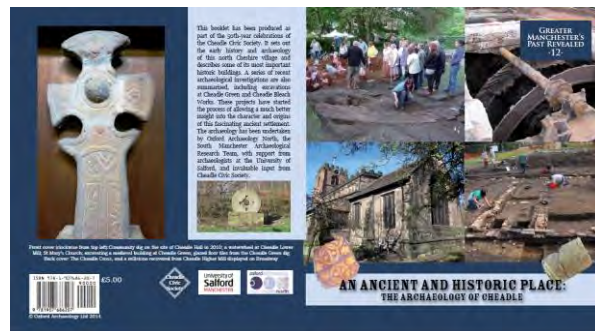
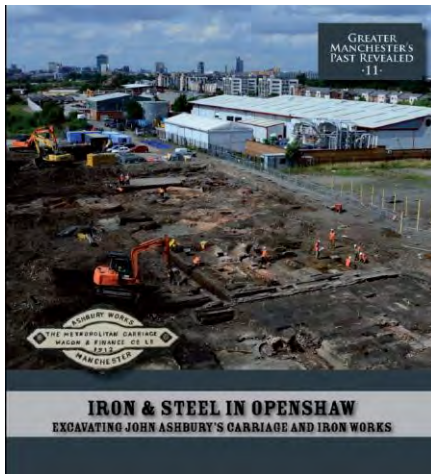
An Ancient and Historic Place: the Archaeology of Cheadle – No.12

9.2 A number of other GM Past Revealed booklets have been secured through developer and community funding:

- The Co-op HQ archaeology (by OAN)
- Gin Pit Colliery, Astley (by OAN)
- Kingsway Business Park, Rochdale (by OAN)
- Cutacre Opencast, Bolton/Salford/Wigan (by OAN)
- Cross Street Chapel and Graveyard – Metrolink 2nd city crossing (by CfA Leeds)
- Dig Greater Manchester (CFAA) x 3
- Stayley Hall, Tameside (by YAT)
- Exchange Station, Salford (Pre-Construct)
- Radcliffe Tower (CfAA)
- Castle Irwell (CfAA)
- Booth Hall Hospital (Wardell Armstrong)

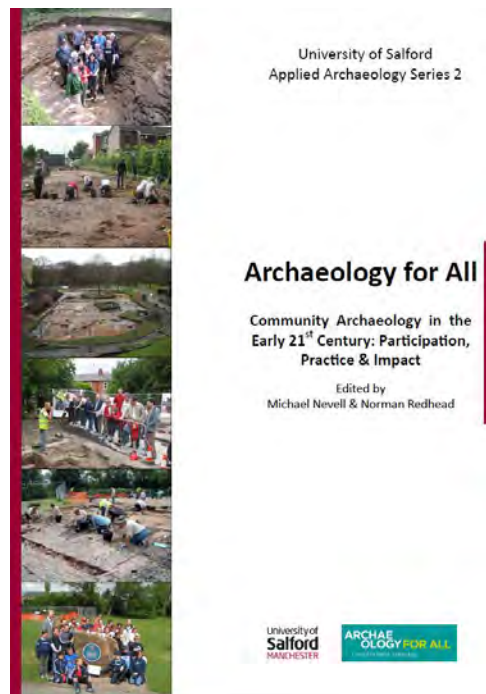
9.3 GMAAS initiated this series and write a foreword for each booklet. The series provides a format for publishing significant archaeology from developer-funded, research or community projects in an attractive, easy to read, well-illustrated style. As well as describing the archaeology of the particular site in question, the booklets provide a historical framework for the wider area. Where relevant, they set out the archaeology planning background and the scheme of new development. Much of the archaeology is from the industrial period when the Manchester area rapidly developed as an industrial power house. The processes and characteristic remains from that period are defined in simple terms, and the social impacts of industrialisation are described.

9.4 GMAAS are pleased to announce that the Ashbury's booklet has been awarded the Association for Industrial Archaeology's annual award for commercial publication.



The covers of the two latest Past Revealed booklets

9.5 The Centre for Applied Archaeology at Salford University has just published a book on community archaeology called '**Archaeology for All**'. This comprises a series of papers from an international conference organised by GMAU and UMAU at Manchester University in 2006, updated to reflect more recent projects such as Dig Greater Manchester.



10.0 Conclusion

It can be seen from the figures in this summary report that GMAAS have continued to operate at maximum capacity over the last year. It is apparent that some parts of Greater Manchester are seeing a surge of new development, whilst other parts are very quiet in planning proposal terms. The historic centres of Manchester and Salford are particularly vibrant in terms of new developments of apartments, hotels and offices, whilst major infrastructure projects for railways, roads and trams are generating large volumes of archaeological work. It is anticipated that this upward trend in development and commercial archaeology will continue due to greater devolution, more infrastructure projects and the need to build large numbers of houses.

GMAAS' annual grant will fall by 12.4% from January 1st 2015, following on from a 40% reduction in 2012 and a frozen budget thereafter. This new funding cut will reduce the time that staff can give to the existing Service Level Agreement. It is recommended that the SLA is reviewed to reflect these changes. GMAAS are in a position to provide specialist input to the GM Spatial Framework and would like to discuss this further.

SAVE THIS SECTION FOR THE BUSINESS PLAN!??

Future Directions

GMAAS will attempt to make up the shortfall through a wider range of consultation fees and through special projects. It is anticipated that GMAAS' recent move into the School of Environment and Life Sciences will better position it (and the Centre for Applied Archaeology) to contribute to research projects and training. Funding will be sought to address the growing backlog of reports and other data flowing in to the Historic Environment Record, and to digitize the archive. Enhancement of the GM HER and making it accessible on line is desirable and might be achieved through an HLF grant but only if there is contract stability, some match funding and staff capacity to work up a detailed proposal. There may be opportunities to apply to Historic England for grant aid for special projects, particularly around buildings at risk. Recently GMAAS put forward a proposal to review surviving textile mills in Greater Manchester; the outcome of this bid is not yet known.

Norman Redhead
Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service
3rd June 2015