

Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD

1ST APRIL 2015 – 31ST MARCH 2016

1.0 Introduction

The following report is for the fourth year of the 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 are based in the Peel Building at the University of Salford, and form part of the Centre for Applied Archaeology within the School of Environment and Life Sciences.

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3.0 Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GM HER)

3.1 The database now has **18,445** 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 **87,000** images and a substantial paper archive and library.

3.2 Over the past year **53** grey literature reports have been entered onto the database, **237** new Monument records created and **4735** existing Monument records updated. **42** new event records have been created, **16** new listed buildings entered, and GMAAS have responded to **31** consultations from Historic England 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 **117** development enquirers (12 more than last year); 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 **39** visits to the GMAAS office to consult the HER library.

3.4 HER Backlog project

Work has commenced on tackling the considerable backlog of archaeological reports and individual site information that needs to be entered onto the HER. This is being resourced through an AGMA grant with match funding from the University of Salford. This work is initially focusing on archaeological desk based assessments – inputting these onto the GMHER will improve the evidence base for planning purposes and also the upcoming GM Spatial Framework.

3.5 Greater Manchester Textile Mill Survey

GMAAS has been commissioned by Historic England to carry out a heritage audit of surviving textile mills. This is based on reviewing the mills identified in the original 1980s survey undertaken by GMAU and the RCHME. At that time just over 1000 survived and these were entered on to the GM HER, which makes them a material consideration in the planning process. However, 95 mills were also afforded listed status. The new study aims to report on how many are extant, what condition they are in, and how much floor space is used/empty. The first stage is a desk based survey but also includes a more detailed, pilot study of Oldham borough; this will include site visits and preparation of individual survey sheets together with a summary report. The first stage will be completed in June 2016, with the second stage to include site visits to the other authorities in Greater Manchester, with a view for the whole project to be finished by early 2017.

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 **40** enquiries from researchers and members of the public.

DISTRICT	Meetings	Lectures & Presentations	HER consults – Data provided
Bolton	5	0	5
Bury	5	4	5
Manchester	57	4	46
Oldham	13	1	3
Rochdale	3	1	13
Salford	30	2	13
Stockport	38	8	12
Tameside	2	0	3
Trafford	4	0	5
Wigan	8	1	10
Multi-district/general	42	11	2
TOTAL	207	32	117

Table showing meetings, talks, and consultations

5.0 Planning Work

5.1 GMAAS were consulted on **59** Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) supplied in accordance with archaeology planning conditions. This is an 18% increase on such consultations in 2014-15. 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.

5.2 During the last year, GMAAS undertook **64** 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.

5.3 The HER now has **2,569** 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 (EXC), Surveys (SURV) and Watching Briefs (WB). It is estimated that there is a backlog of around 850 reports waiting to be entered onto the HER database.

5.4 Over the last year GMAAS have received **151** reports to place in the HER (8 more than last year). 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. As might be expected, by far the largest contribution is for Manchester which reflects the high level of development in the city centre. The breakdown of report types by district is set out in the following table:

	ES	HS	DBA	BS	EVAL	EXC	SURV	WB	TOTAL
BO	1		4	2		2	2		11
BU			1		1				2
MA		7	33	8	8	5	2	3	66
OL		2	3	2	2	1			11
RO			6		1				7
SA		1	7	2	6	5		1	22
ST			4	4	3		2	4	17
TA			1						1
TR			3	1	1		1		6
WI			5	1	1		1		8
TOTAL	1	10	67	20	23	13	8	9	151

Breakdown of report types by district

5.5 The archaeological work was undertaken by **38** separate organisations, which reflects the wide range of archaeological contractors and consultants operating in Greater Manchester.

5.6 GMAAS received **43** formal consultations from planning officers on requests to discharge archaeological planning conditions. This compares with just 29 in 2014-15, an increase of 48%. However, these figures are too low as a number of informal consultations have not been recorded. 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 of 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 2016 the LPAs in Greater Manchester received **18,738** planning applications. This is an increase of **1,462**, or c.**8.5%** on the previous year. Despite this not insignificant increase in the overall number of planning applications being received by the LPAs, the number and rate of consultations received by GMAAS has only risen slightly. In the same period GMAAS was consulted by the LPAs on some **291** planning applications, a slight increase in number on the previous year (281). At c.**1.5%** of all planning applications received by the LPAs however, this is a slight percentage fall on 2014-15 (1.6%). Over the past 12 months the rate of planning application consultation has, on average, been just over **24** per calendar month, which is a slight increase on 2014-15 (23).

	Total Planning Applications	Consultations from LPAs with no archaeological interest	Consultations with an archaeological implication	TOTAL
Bolton	2048	14	10	24
Bury	1175	10	3	13
Manchester	3038	59	38	97
Oldham	1381	10	11	21
Rochdale	1376	12	12	24
Salford	1586	18	17	35
Stockport	3129	10	12	22
Tameside	1028	2	5	7
Trafford	2560	12	10	22
Wigan	1417	15	11	26
TOTAL	18738	162	129	291

Table showing planning consultation statistics for the year

6.2 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. Of the **291** consultations received by GMAAS **162 (56%)** were judged to have no impact upon the archaeological interest. For the remaining **129 (44%)** GMAAS recommended that some form of further archaeological work (assessment, evaluation, excavation, watching brief, building recording) should be undertaken. This compares with 123 in the previous year.

6.3 It should be noted that during the year no planning consultation received by GMAAS led to a recommendation for outright refusal.

6.4 In a number (**20**) of consultations GMAAS recommended that a planning application should not be determined by the LPA until an archaeological assessment and/ or evaluation had been completed and submitted. This is just under **7%** of the consultations received by GMAAS. For the remaining 37% GMAAS recommended that the

archaeological interest could be dealt with 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	162
Predetermination Assessment/ Evaluation	20
Conditioned Programme of Archaeological Work	109
TOTAL	291

Table showing consultation recommendations

6.5 In addition to the planning application consultations, in 2015-16 GMAAS responded to some **52** pre-application consultations. Of these **17** resulted in recommendations that there was no impact, and that no further archaeological work was necessary. Of the remaining **35**, some **28** resulted in recommendations for pre-submission desk-based or building assessment and **7** in a recommendation for a conditioned programme of works.

6.6 In response to consultation work on planning applications GMAAS considered and responded to **59** Written Schemes of Investigation.

6.7 The trend noted in the last few months of 2014-15 for previously dormant, large development schemes to become active continued into 2015-16. This has had consequences for the workload of GMAAS staff. 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. As with the previous year, the

bulk of the work has taken place in the historic cores of Manchester and Salford, but Wigan is also noteworthy in relation to a number of large housing schemes coming forward.

7.2 Bolton

7.2.1 Spout Fold

This farm site forms part of the regeneration scheme for the former Cutacre open cast coal mine. Proposals for part demolition and conversion of the 18th to 19th century farmstead were conditioned with the requirement for an archaeological survey to make a record for archive and research purposes. It also aimed to establish below-ground archaeological potential as the site goes back to the 17th century. The survey was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North in accordance with an agreed Written Scheme of Investigation.



Spout Fold farm house (source: Oxford Archaeology North)

7.2.2 Montcliffe Quarry

Following on from a desk based assessment and archaeological evaluation, National Museums Liverpool Archaeology Field Unit undertook a targeted excavation of a geophysical anomaly prior to quarry ground works commencing. This turned out to be a Neolithic hearth associated with a scatter of 103 flints, dating from c 2500 to 1750 BC.



Neolithic hearth site at Montcliffe Quarry (National Museums Liverpool Archaeology Field Unit)

7.3 Bury

7.3.1 Brandlesholme Old Hall

Proposals to convert the roof space, make other internal alterations and add an extension were informed by a comprehensive Heritage Statement prepared by Garry Miller. This study was used to demonstrate that significant historic fabric from the 15th and 16th centuries would not be affected by the scheme. Given this and the quality of the submitted survey, GMAAS were content that no further archaeological mitigation was required.



Brandlesholme Old Hall façade (source: Garry Miller)

7.4 Manchester

7.4.1 Leaf Street, Hulme

Secured by an archaeology condition for an apartment development, excavations by Salford Archaeology revealed and recorded the well-preserved remains of a first class bathing pool, one of three that were part of the public baths established here in the mid-19th century on the site of a workhouse. The archaeologists also recorded fragmentary remains of the workhouse, 1840s workers' cottages, and a c1830s French artillery officer's sword which may have been a souvenir from the nearby Hulme cavalry barracks. The education officer for the developer, Keep Moat, was able to take the sword and other artefacts into local schools as part of the community engagement commitment to the scheme. A heritage display will be created within the new development.



The decorative bathing pool at Leaf Street, Hulme, and the 19th century sword

7.4.2 Former Welsh Baptist Chapel, Upper Brook Street

Phoenix Exhumations Ltd have recorded and removed 95 burials from the well-ordered graveyard at this site, which is due for residential development. This was originally a Unitarian Church established in 1838. GMAAS identified the need for an appropriate scheme of removal, record and analysis.



Individual burial vaults at the Welsh Baptist Chapel – many of the burials were in lead coffins

7.4.3 Former BBC North site

Despite extensive disturbance from the construction of the BBC North buildings in the 1970s, archaeologists from Pre-Construct Archaeology were able to record some interesting archaeological features. One of these comprised the remains of a brick clamp kiln, overlain by 1840s workers' housing. This is the first time such a kiln has been revealed in Manchester. These kilns used locally sourced clay and were built adjacent to building sites in the late 18th and early 19th centuries as Manchester rapidly expanded.



The 'tiger stripe' effect of burnt clay and soot-lined flues at the base of the brick clamp kiln site, cut by the brick foundations of workers' housing.

7.5 Oldham

7.5.1 Shaw Pallet Works

Mounteer Ltd undertook a historic building survey of this site ahead of demolition for the proposed new Saddleworth High School. This was once the Dobcross Loom Works, established in 1861. Further archaeological interest relates to the site of a late 18th century water powered textile mill which will be impacted on by the development and which will require excavation.



Oblique aerial view of Dobcross Loom Works in the late 1980s (source: GM Textile Mills Survey)

7.6 Rochdale

7.6.1 Coral Mill

The applicant for a residential development at this mill site submitted an archaeological desk based assessment to inform the planning determination process. The study, by Salford Archaeology, identified potential below-ground archaeological interest relating to an early mill that pre-dated the 20th century mill. A scheme of targeted evaluation

trenching, secured through a condition, will establish the presence/absence of buried remains and inform a mitigation strategy in relation to the proposed development.



Phased plan of extant and former structures at the Coral Mill development site, as represented in the archaeological desk based assessment.

7.7 Salford

7.7.1 Castle Irwell

Salford Archaeology have also evaluated the site of Castle Irwell as part of a flood defence storage basin scheme. The site included a prominent sandstone outcrop occupied by a mansion in the early 19th century, but shown as being a 'Roman Camp' on an early map. The outcrop was totally levelled for Manchester Race Course in the early 20th century. Evaluation followed by open-area excavation has revealed the extensive foundations of the cottage and heated glass houses at the foot of the outcrop as well as a ditch-like feature which may be prehistoric in origin.



Castle Irwell: remains of the cottage and glass house (left) and the terminus of the ditch feature being excavated (right)

7.7.2 Adelphi Street

As part of an apartment development alongside the river Irwell in Salford, archaeologists have undertaken a programme of targeted excavation to record the late 18th century logwood mill and early 19th century Crescent Road Dye Works. Significant remains of multi-phased walls and dye vats were recorded by Archaeological Research Services. They also provided a significance study on the very rare survival of a late 18th century wheel house projecting into the river. This structure will be retained under the proposed riverside walkway and interpretation panels provided.



Buried remains being excavated on the lower terrace (left) and the base of the late 18th century wheel house (right)

7.8 Stockport

7.8.1 Bridgefield Street

This is the site of a new retail and cinema complex in Stockport town centre. An archaeological desk based assessment was submitted with the application. It provided details on the location, date, function, relative significance and potential of buried archaeological remains. This allowed GMAAS to recommend a condition to secure an appropriate programme of archaeological mitigation, resulting in Oxford Archaeology North carrying out an open-area excavation of well-preserved back-to-back workers' housing dating to the 1820s. High public interest in the town's heritage was reflected in the open day that GMAAS requested, which saw over 800 people attend the site on a wet November Saturday.



Public open day at Bridgefield Street, Stockport

7.8.2 Edward Street windmill

Ahead of construction of new offices for Stockport Homes, Wardell Armstrong archaeologists recorded the remains of a once famous and unusual Stockport landmark. This was a windmill erected in the 1780s to power a cotton mill. Despite the site having already been redeveloped for car show rooms in the 1920s, there were impressive foundations for the windmill and fragmentary remains of the adjacent cotton mill. There was a lot of local interest in the site, especially from Stockport Heritage, so guided tours were organised prior to removal of the remains for a basement car park.



Aerial view of completed excavation of the windmill and cotton factory during the public access event (courtesy of Wardell Armstrong)

7.8.3 Chapel Street, Hazel Grove

Proposals for a housing development at 11-16 Chapel Street, Hazel Grove, included the former site of an 18th century Wesleyan Chapel (1785/6) and Sunday School (c.1823). The development area takes in the former burial ground where, over a 73 year period, some 367 individuals are recorded as having been interred. Following the production of a desk based assessment by the Jessop Consultancy, a programme of archaeological works was conditioned upon the planning consent. CFA Archaeology Ltd undertook the ground investigations. It was established that much of the graveyard would remain undisturbed by the proposals. Evaluation trenching demonstrated good survival of remains relating to the chapel and the school. The evaluation also demonstrated the presence of a number of burial cuts within the area where development excavations for footings would be deep enough to disturb any such remains. All grave cuts were excavated and the contents recovered for further investigation. A programme of post-excavation analysis is currently underway on the skeletal material recovered.



The chapel foundations and part of the graveyard at the Chapel Street site (courtesy of Oliver Jessop)

7.9 Tameside

7.9.1 Britannia Mill

A scheme to demolish this mid-19th century mill in Mossley and build new apartments and retail space was informed by a Heritage Statement. This allowed GMAAS to identify that the building did have industrial archaeological interest but that the previous loss of key features including the chimney, engine house and boiler house meant that it only had local significance. A scheme of detailed survey of the extant historic fabric and targeted below-ground investigation was required through a negative condition to ensure a full understanding and record of the mill for archive and research purposes.



Britannia Mill, Mossley (courtesy of Ian Miller, Salford Archaeology)

7.10 Trafford

7.10.1 Pomona Wharf/Strand

An archaeological desk based assessment was undertaken by Salford Archaeology which identified that the site of medieval Hulme Hall and its outbuildings was not affected by development proposals; however, some features of industrial archaeological interest would be impacted on by development ground works. An archaeological evaluation revealed part of a former canal arm known as Hulme Hall Dry Dock together with fragmentary remains of a 19th century saw mill. It was concluded that the archaeology was very disturbed from later, 20th century, activity and that no further excavation could be justified.

7.11 Wigan

7.11.1 Walmsley Farm, Leigh

As part of a large-scale housing development scheme a programme of archaeological works was conditioned ahead of development activity. Geophysical survey and evaluation trenching revealed *in-situ* medieval and post-medieval archaeological deposits across parts of the site. Selected areas were subject to open-area excavation between November 2015 and January 2016. A series of cut features including pits and gullies and a relict plough soil produced medieval evidence in the form of pottery sherds. The site has also produced remains relating to post-medieval coal mining in the area. The medieval pottery has yet to be analysed in detail, but it seems to reveal activity from the late 12th to 14th centuries. This is a very rare type of site in the context of Greater Manchester.



The striped area of archaeological interest at Walmsley Farm (courtesy of Adam Thompson, Salford Archaeology)

8.0 Community Engagement

8.1 GMAAS and the Centre for Applied Archaeology organised a **Greater Manchester Archaeology Day** at Peel Hall on 28th November 2015, supported by the Greater Manchester Archaeology Federation. The event was attended by **168** people who saw presentations by eight speakers on a range of archaeological projects carried out over the previous year. The Head of School welcomed delegates to the University. There were also a number of displays from local societies and the Centre, as well as book sales and refreshments. The number of participants has increased year on year.

8.2 Dig Greater Manchester

CfAA have undertaken the two end-of-project showcase excavations at the Hart Hill mansion site, Buile Hill Park, Salford, and Radcliffe Tower, Bury. These have involved hundreds of school-children and adults over a 5-week dig period. Radcliffe Tower is a Scheduled Monument which is being consolidated as part of a Heritage Lottery Funded scheme led by Bury MBC (worth £267k). The surrounding manorial hall site will be interpreted and presented to the public within a newly created heritage park, all based on the archaeological findings.



A large number of remarkably-well preserved jars and bottles from the late 19th century were discovered during the Hart Hill excavations



Excavating medieval remains at Radcliffe (left) with one of the finds – a 14th century flagon (right)

8.3 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. GMAAS have provided archaeological advice. It is focused on three 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 repaired and presented the Marple Aqueduct while MAT are undertaking

community excavation and presentation of Mellor Mill at the Roman Lakes park, with archaeological expertise provided by Salford Archaeology. The third site is Marple Lime Kilns, a Scheduled Monument which is on Historic England's At Risk Register; this is the subject of various surveys and community events with a view to developing a management plan to protect and present it in the future.



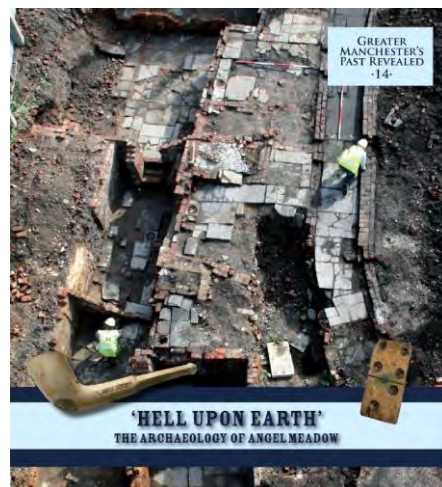
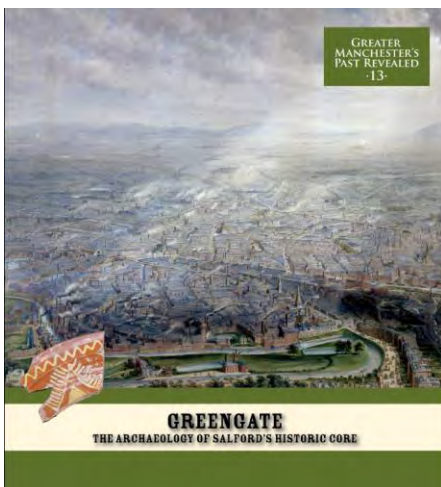
Remains of the late 18th century tramway near Marple Lime Kilns (left) and the Mellor Mill excavations (right)

9.0 Publications

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

Greengate: The Archaeology of Salford's Historic Core – No. 13

'Hell upon Earth': the archaeology of Angel Meadow – No. 14



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

- Gin Pit Colliery, Astley, Wigan (by OAN)
- Kingsway Business Park, Rochdale (by OAN)
- Cutacre Opencast, Bolton/Salford/Wigan (by OAN)
- Cross Street Chapel and Graveyard – Metrolink Second city crossing (by CfA Leeds)
- Swinton Unitarian Church graveyard
- The archaeology of early Salford
- Dig Greater Manchester (CFAA) x 2
- Stayley Hall, Tameside (by YAT)
- Exchange Station, Salford (Pre-Construct)
- Radcliffe Tower, Bury (CfAA)
- Castle Irwell, Salford (CfAA)
- Booth Hall Hospital, Manchester (Wardell Armstrong)
- Woodford Aerodrome, Stockport
- Bridgefield Street, Stockport

GMAAS provide quality control 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.

9.3 Monographs are being prepared on some of the most significant archaeological work in Greater Manchester. These are larger format and more academic books which provide detailed accounts and target a much wider audience. Currently in preparation are:

- New Bailey Prison, Salford
- A combined publication on the former 17th century farming landscapes at Cutacre former opencast mine site (straddling Wigan, Bolton and Salford) and Kingsway business park development in Rochdale
- Arkwright's Mill, Manchester

10.0 Conclusion

It can be seen from the figures in this summary report that GMAAS have dealt with an increased planning advice workload over the year compared with the previous year. This reflects the boom in new development in the area. Yet, this is against a back ground of

a further cut in the GMAAS budget, of 12.4% from 1st January 2016. The pressure on staff time and resources to deal with this is unsustainable and requires attention.

The Centre for Applied Archaeology, which GMAAS forms part of, has cemented its place in the School of Environment and Life Sciences and has been encouraged to draw up a degree course in archaeology which is expected to commence in September 2017.

Norman Redhead

Heritage Management Director (Archaeology)

2nd June 2016