

Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD

1ST APRIL 2018 – 31ST MARCH 2019

1.0 Introduction

The following report is for the seventh 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 **19,052** 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 **94,658** images and a substantial paper archive and library.

3.2 Over the past year **25** grey literature reports have been entered onto the database, along with an additional **74** new information sources, including publications, webpages and Historic England advice reports relating to Listing assessments. **86** new Monument records have been created and **4005** existing Monument records updated. **25** new event records have been added, **14** new listed buildings entered, and GMAAS have responded to **23** 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 **132** 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 may involve a visit to GMAAS to seek information in the HER library of archaeology reports and publications which supplement the HER database. There were **27** visits to the GMAAS office to consult the HER library.

3.4 In addition to development-related enquiries, information from the HER is also used to provide input into individual Historic Environment Farm Environment Records (HEFERs) for Countryside Stewardship scheme applications. In the last year the HER Officer has responded to **24** HEFER consultations. The HER has also been consulted **14** times by students/researchers and **4** times by members of the public.

3.5 HER Backlog

A number of grey literature reports have been entered onto the HER, but the quantity of new reports means that it is impossible to tackle the backlog. The HER Officer updates records when consultants request HER data for a particular proposal site and a certain radius search around it. Some volunteer time has been spent on entering old reports and work is nearly complete on checking records to make sure we have an up-to-date understanding of the scale of the backlog and that reports are correctly logged onto the HER.

3.6 Moorland Fires

In summer 2018 there were extensive moorland fires at Rivington Moor near Bolton and above Stalybridge in Tameside. GMAAS visited the affected area above Stalybridge with the lead archaeologist for the Peak District National Park (PDNP) to assess the damage. Local archaeologists from Tameside Archaeological Society had already worked on a Mesolithic camp site at Iron Tongue Hill along with several other prehistoric sites, and a PDNP survey had recorded Bronze Age cairns at Alphin Pike, so the archaeological potential was already known. However, the site visit showed that the burnt-off heather had revealed several possible previously hidden prehistoric features including stone-built enclosures and field systems. Proposals are being put forward to Historic England for a grant towards recording the archaeology before it is covered over by new vegetation. It is hoped that training of volunteers can be built into the survey work. The project is a collaboration between PDNP archaeologists and the Centre for Applied Archaeology.



Ancient field boundary, possibly Bronze Age, exposed on Slatepit Moor after the fire

3.7 Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

Having completed the Salford SF and Local Plan allocations survey for Salford, GMAAS were commissioned by GMCA to undertake a screening exercise for the remaining 47 land allocations for the revised GM Spatial Framework. This work examines the historic environment interest of each allocation and identifies where further assessment is required for 'screened-in' sites or where there is no heritage interest ('screened-out') sites. This project is ongoing. The work is designed to meet the requirements of sustainable development as set out in the National Planning Policy Framework and Historic England guidance.

3.8 North West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment

GMAAS are helping the Centre for Applied Archaeology manage and deliver this project to update the Framework to reflect the last 11 years of archaeological investigations in the North West. Following on from the workshops and conferences, the period assessment chapters have been finalized and the revised research questions and strategies set out in tabular form for each period. There will be a point-in-time publication later this year, with work currently focused on uploading the chapters and questions on

to an interactive wiki platform. The North West Research Framework steering group are tasked with developing a sustainable system of management and data moderation once the wiki platform is launched in a few months' time. This is part of a Historic England funded national project. GMAAS and our archaeology advisory colleagues across the North West will be looking at ways to embed the updated research questions into planning work, such as Written Schemes of Investigation.

3.9 HS2

GMAAS have provided Historic Environment Record data to archaeology consultants working on the Environmental Statement for HS2 Phase 2b, which involves new stations at Manchester Airport and Piccadilly together with new rail lines through Manchester, Trafford and Wigan districts. Consultants visited GMAAS to go through the considerable number of archaeology reports and published material held by the HER. The Director of GMAAS has attend several presentations and workshops on historic environment aspects of the scheme.

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 developer agents pre-application but also from students, members of the public and local authority officers.

DISTRICT	Meetings	Lectures & Presentations	HER consults – Data provided
Bolton	7	-	9
Bury	6	-	9
Manchester	42	3	46
Oldham	5	8	3
Rochdale	8	1	9
Salford	21	2	13

Stockport	7	5	14
Tameside	6	1	6
Trafford	3	-	11
Wigan	4	-	10
Multi-district/general	35	4	2
TOTAL	144	24	132

Table showing meetings, talks and consultations

5.0 Planning Work

5.1 GMAAS were consulted on **66** 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 formally identifies each stage of the archaeological process to be implemented 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 **42** 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 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 made sure that professional standards were being adhered to.

5.3 The HER now has **3,067** 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). There is currently a backlog of around 900 reports waiting to be entered onto the HER database.

5.4 Over the last year GMAAS have received **191** reports to place in the HER (9 more than last year). These are 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	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	-	5
BU	-	1	5	3	-	-	2	-	11
MA	-	12	22	6	7	7	2	7	63
OL	-	-	1	1	1	2	1	-	6
RO	-	4	8	-	5	2	2	1	22
SA	-	2	15	1	2	2	1	-	23
ST	-	5	3	8	1	2	1	4	24
TA	-	2	4	1	1	-	1	1	10
TR	-	7	5	1	2	-	2	-	17
WI	-	1	3	-	2	1	-	3	10
TOTAL	0	34	70	21	21	16	13	16	191

Breakdown of report types by district

5.5 The archaeological work was undertaken by **48** separate organisations, reflecting the wide range of archaeological contractors and consultants operating in Greater Manchester.

5.6 GMAAS received **96** formal consultations from planning officers on requests to discharge archaeological planning conditions, 11 more than last year's figure. There were **66** recommendations for partial discharge and **30** for complete discharge. Usually, discharge is only recommended when all the archaeological works have been implemented, although partial discharge can be agreed when, for instance, the WSI is approved or the site work is completed. The final stages of the process require GMAAS to be in receipt of a satisfactory report of the investigation results, demonstrating 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 simply 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 2019 the LPAs in Greater Manchester received **20,739** planning applications. This is an increase of **377** on the previous year, or a c **1.85%** rise. This slight increase in the overall number of planning applications being received by the LPAs is reflected in the number and rate of consultations received by GMAAS, which has also risen slightly. In the same period GMAAS was consulted by the LPAs on **337** planning applications, an increase of **19** on the previous year (318), or **0.6%**. However, this represents only c **1.7%** of all planning applications received by the LPAs. Over the past 12 months the rate of planning application consultations has, on average, been just over **28** per calendar month.

District	Planning applications received by LPAs	Consultations received by GMAAS	Consultations with no archaeological interest	Consultations with an archaeological implication
Bolton	2149	24	11	13
Bury	1193	14	3	11
Manchester	4277	91	49	42
Oldham	1319	10	8	2
Rochdale	1264	35	15	20
Salford	1576	26	12	14
Stockport	3217	34	16	18
Tameside	1206	40	30	10
Trafford	2960	46	26	20
Wigan	1578	17	10	7
TOTALS	20739	337	180	157

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 **337** consultations received by GMAAS, **180 (53.4%)** were judged to have no impact upon the archaeological interest. For the remaining **157 (46.6%)** GMAAS recommended that some form of further archaeological work (assessment, evaluation, excavation, watching brief, building recording) should be undertaken. This compares with 158 in the previous year.

6.3 It should be noted that during the year no planning consultations received by GMAAS led to a recommendation for outright refusal; however, in several instances deferment was advised pending the submission of appropriate information in line with NPPF policies.

6.4 For most of the consultations requiring an archaeological input, 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 Historic England’s *Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: Note 2: Managing Significance in Decision-Taking in the Historic Environment*.

No Impact	180
Predetermination Assessment/ Evaluation	24
Conditioned Programme of Archaeological Work	133
TOTAL	337

Table showing consultation recommendations

6.5 In addition to the planning application consultations, in 2019–20 GMAAS responded to **18** pre-application consultations, 14 of which had a recommendation for an archaeological desk-based assessment.

6.6 As with previous years, site meetings, preparing briefs and commenting on Written Schemes of Investigations, fieldwork monitoring 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 There has been a small decline in overall numbers of consultations for Manchester and Salford, but consultations and development work for the city centre historic cores still dominates the GMAAS workload. For Salford the pace of new development is remarkable, with the focus being on the Chapel Street corridor and Greengate area, whilst in Manchester there have been developments in clusters, in Shudehill, Ancoats, and especially Castlefield. Many of last year's approved applications have started works on site making this a very busy time for GMAAS in terms of approving schemes of investigation and monitoring and advising on their implementation. Beyond the city centres, Bolton, Rochdale and Trafford have seen significant increases in the number of consultations with an archaeological interest. 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.

7.2 Bolton

7.2.1 Beehive Mill

This is a Grade 2 listed mill complex comprising No. 1 Mill which was built in 1895 by the Beehive Mill Spinning Co. Ltd, followed by No. 2 Mill in 1902. One of the two engine houses and boiler houses have been demolished but otherwise it is a remarkably intact mill complex. However, planning permission was granted to demolish on economic grounds. An archaeological recording condition was applied to planning consent, with the intention that this will be a comprehensive archive record of the mill given its high level of significance. A Written Scheme of Investigation has been prepared by CgMs and approved by GMAAS. A detailed historic building survey has been undertaken (by Oxford Archaeology North and Landpro) and there will be a watching brief undertaken during demolition to record previously hidden or inaccessible historic fabric. There will

also be an archaeological excavation of the site of the lost engine and boiler houses to complete the record. Ultimately, the site's heritage will be commemorated within the public realm of the housing development. GMAAS are advising and monitoring this process to ensure the WSI is complied with and the work is of acceptable standard.



The Crescent Road façade of Beehive Mill in Great Lever, Bolton

7.3 Bury

7.3.1 Redisher Works

An archaeological desk based assessment ahead of a residential development at Redisher Works, Holcombe, identified the potential for archaeological remains relating to the site of a late 18th century bleach and dye works, lying under the yard of the later works, adjacent to the original (extant) reservoir. Archaeological evaluation trenching confirmed good survival and led to a final stage of on-site excavation works which revealed a large portion of the historic site.



Oxford Archaeology North excavating remains of the late 18th century Redisher Bleachworks

7.32 Chamberhall (Bury Ground)

Proposals for the redevelopment of land at Chamberhall, Bury, were accompanied by an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) by Allen Archaeology. This was followed by a targeted area excavation of buildings shown on 19th century mapping associated with a bleach works. The area excavations, undertaken by Wardell Armstrong between 25th February and 29th March 2019, exposed remains of the earliest structure, an L-shaped stone-built cottage. Identified on the 1820s mapping as Irwell Cottage, this was shown to have two ground floor rooms and a cellar loomshop. The loomshop included a cistern to keep the cellar air moist – in order that the cotton remained supple and not as prone to snapping as dry thread. A subsequent mid-nineteenth century phase, associated with the bleach works immediately west of the site, was associated with handmade brick-built room foundations and a renovation of the earlier cottage in brick. Investments in internal and external drainage were found to relate to managing water from associated reservoirs to the east. Finds reflected both domestic and semi-industrial activity. With the co-operation of the developer it was possible to organise a visit to the excavations by members of Bury Archaeological Society.



Members of Bury Archaeological Society being given a site tour by staff of Wardell Armstrong.

7.4 Manchester

7.4.1 Crown Street

Investigations by Salford Archaeology as part of the Renaker apartment development off Chester Road in Castlefield recorded the well-preserved remains of a very early 19th century cotton mill (Pryme Street Mill) together with an early 19th century size works (which produced a substance for strengthening yarn in the manufacturing process). The size works was found to seal an agricultural ditch running east out of the Roman settlement at *Mamucium*.



Remains of early 19th century size works processing tanks at Crown Street – these overlay a Roman ditch

7.4.2 Angel Meadow

Ahead of the construction of three tall apartment towers overlooking Angel Meadow, Oxford Archaeology North carried out the largest-scale workers' housing excavations undertaken in Manchester. This is a key area of the city for understanding the impact of rapid industrialisation on working class living conditions – famously described by Friedrich Engels in the 1840s. GMAAS worked with the archaeology consultant, CgMs, to form a scheme of investigation and recording which incorporated a high level of public engagement to reflect the previous extraordinary public interest in the housing excavated as part of Co-Op HQ scheme. A blog site was maintained to report regularly on discoveries and progress, and two well attended public open days were held. The excavations, which were carried out in three separate plots, generally had good survival of a variety of late 18th/early 19th century house types and held evidence for later structural changes and sanitary improvements as time went on.



View of part of the Angel Meadow excavations (Plot 3) and, below, a guided tour in progress on one of the two open days held during the dig



7.4.3 Globe & Simpson

Major development ground works for Allied London on Water and Quay Streets was preceded by a conditioned scheme of archaeology. As well as early workers' housing this city centre dig was unusual in that it revealed and recorded a former palaeochannel of the river Irwell together with an extensive area of 17th century plough soils, garden soils and pits, with a good range of pottery and glass vessels. This reflected the character of former rural areas that were swallowed up by the burgeoning industrial city.



17th century soils revealed in a section at the Globe & Simpson site excavations on Quay Street, with a drain at the base filled with re-used bricks from a clay pipe kiln

7.5 Oldham

7.5.1 Ridgefield Mill

Proposals to redevelop the former Express Dairies site in Failsworth led to the production of a desk-based archaeological assessment for the developer by Nexus Heritage in May 2018. The site was formerly Ridgefield Mill, built for cotton spinning in 1875. The mill went through at least two major phases of expansion in 1881 and 1912-

20. Despite the mapped presence of the chimney and a boiler house historic mapping showed no separate engine house for the early phases of the mill. It is thought the original mill possibly accommodated the engine and boiler in one building. Around 1920 alterations to the boiler house to take a new boiler had, it was believed, been accompanied by the construction of an adjacent, separate engine house. Mostly demolished in 1935 the site became a dairy processing and distribution facility for Express Dairies.

Excavations by Nexus Heritage showed how the original 1875 boiler house with three boilers was extended in 1919 with the addition of a fourth. It was found the engine house, built sandwiched between the boiler house and spinning mill, appears to have been constructed somewhat earlier around 1911. The 1919 enlargement had seen the addition of a small building to accommodate Cooke's Stripping Apparatus, and a new card shed along with a new flue from the boiler house to the chimney cutting the original 1875 flue.



Excavations of the power systems at Ridgefield Mill showing the boiler house (top centre), 1911 engine house (centre right), chimney and flue systems (centre left)

7.6 Rochdale

7.6.1 Durham Street

Proposals for a housing redevelopment of this levelled site were accompanied by an archaeological desk-based assessment (DBA) prepared by ECUS Ltd. On the back of this report it was decided to investigate the remains of worker's housing and Larkfield Mills which was established around 1891 as a cotton spinning mill owned by J & G Walker Limited. Evaluation trenching (11th – 15th February 2019) and targeted area excavation (11th – 29th March 2019) was undertaken by Oxford Archaeology North.



The octagonal chimney base and flagstone capped flue system set in the extensive cobbled yard surfaces revealed by excavation at Durham Street

Excavations were somewhat hampered by concerns regarding the levels of asbestos contamination. However, it was possible to expose the eastern part of Larkfield Mills including much of the power system including the boiler house, flue system with chimney base, and machine base. Together with the remains of a number of worker's houses the work contributes to a growing body of excavation evidence relevant to the discussion of industrial and particularly textile manufacture development in Rochdale in the late nineteenth century.

7.7 Salford

7.7.1 Worsley Delph

Salford City Council are undertaking a Heritage Lottery Fund grant aided restoration and heritage display scheme for Worsley Delph. This nationally important canal basin of the 1760s is a Scheduled Monument so both Historic England and GMAAS have been heavily involved in an advisory capacity. A watching brief during ground works was required as part of the Scheduled Monument consent. Salford Archaeology undertook the work and recorded two sunken early canal barges during dredging operations and, remarkably, a previously unknown brick arched tunnel and stone quay during works for the new heritage display platforms. The tunnel was probably built in the late 18th century for carts to transport grain from Worsley Mill to barges which would then be taken to Manchester Castlefield to feed the growing population. A winch was also found and this will feature in the new interpretation area. A Greater Manchester Past Revealed booklet will put these discoveries in their wider context of the fascinating story of the development of the Worsley canal basin by the Duke of Bridgewater.



Worsley Delph showing the previously unknown tunnel entrance and stone quayside exposed and recorded during ground works

7.7.2 New Bailey Prison

The site of the 1790 reform prison is gradually being over-built by new developments as part of the Central Salford regeneration scheme. The most recent one to see archaeological investigation was Plot 1 which lies adjacent to Salford Central railway station. The excavations revealed remains of the male refectory cells, vagrancy ward, male misdemeanour ward, and boiler houses, all of which are shown on a town plan of 1849. The boiler house was a very interesting find as this showed that this part of the prison had a central heating system not seen elsewhere.

An open day was held on 17th November 2018 for the public and was run by Salford Archaeology and the developer Bowmer & Kirkland. The elected Mayor of Salford attended the open day.



New Bailey Prison Plot 1 during excavation and guided tour in progress

7.7.3 Chapel Street Plots 7 & 8

Following an archaeological desk based assessment and trial trenching to determine the level of survival and relative significance of archaeological remains, Salford Archaeology undertook targeted area excavation of several types of late 18th and early 19th century workers' housing and commercial properties at Chapel Street. This site is part of the Salford Central

regeneration scheme. A range of house types were exposed, most of which had cellars with some of these having fire places and other features suggesting they were lived in. One row of houses had pairs of cellars separated by a thin partition wall and measured only 3.4 x 2.8 metres. The excavation of workers' housing consistently throws up different configurations for construction at a time when planning control was very limited.



Tiny back-to-back cellar dwellings excavated at Plots 7 and 8 Chapel Street

7.8 Stockport

7.8.1 Woodford Old Hall

This Grade 2 listed building is being refurbished as a private dwelling. The badly deteriorated structural fabric has required significant renewal. Other improvements including a new, lower level, ground floor and rear extensions have impacted on potential archaeological interest. A condition of listed building consent led to a programme of archaeology including a detailed building survey to record the historic fabric before alteration, evaluation trenching and a watching brief, which have allowed a much better understanding of the building's origins and development. The list description is of a 16th century hall with cross wings, but the archaeology survey, combined with tree

ring dating, has established that the core timber framing is of 13th century date. Furthermore, the watching brief located the original hearth for the medieval open hall along with early timber post settings.



Woodford Old Hall showing internal timber framing and infill panels, revealed during the soft strip

7.8.2 Covent Garden, Middle Hillgate

This was reported on in last year's annual summary. Subsequently, the developers needed to dig a deep sewer and create a new road which would partly disturb the former graveyard belonging to the former New Connexion's Mount Tabor Chapel. The chapel and graveyard were in use from 1798 to 1865. In accordance with GMAAS's

instructions, Salford Archaeology went back to the site to excavate and record eight human burials and a vault at the northern edge. The human remains were respectfully stored then re-interred within the footprint of the former chapel site. Analysis of the bones showed that interesting examples of trauma, grave goods, and even a mid-19th century set of brass dentures!



Covent Garden – OS 1851 map showing Mount Tabor Chapel and graveyard to east as an open plot and, below, a partly used brick burial vault during excavation



7.9 Tameside

7.9.1 Tameside Wellness Centre, Denton

A large site north of Annan Street, Denton, was brought forward for redevelopment as a new Wellness Centre for Tameside. In August 2018 a desk-based assessment, produced by TEP, identified that this was the former site of a hat factory owned by Joseph Howe and Sons. Built in 1869, the factory helped Denton become one of the key centres of hat production. Howe and his three grandsons became key figures in the industry with J. W. Howe becoming president of the British Felt Hat Manufacturer's Federation in 1922. Closed in 1972 the site was eventually cleared. Given Denton's pivotal role in the hatting industry, surface evidence for which has been steadily lost over the last 50 years, GMAAS sought to obtain a record of the remains of this industry along with some of the worker's housing that developed close to the factory.

In November 2018 Oxford Archaeology North undertook evaluation trenching, which was followed by targeted open area excavations. Despite disturbance and some truncation the remains of the factory buildings and houses corresponded well with the mapped evidence. For example, the possible remains of the original boiler room, large enough to accommodate a Cornish boiler, were found along with a separate later boiler room. The latter was larger, presumably built around 1886 to house a more powerful Lancashire boiler when we know the factory was enlarged.



Possible remains of the 1869 boiler room and boiler bed.

7.10 Trafford

7.10.1 Carrington Village

A large area off Carrington Road came forward for commercial development as an early part of the hybrid Carrington Village scheme, which had an overarching archaeology condition of consent. Working with the archaeology consultant, from BWB, GMAAS approved a geophysical survey for the southern half of the site that had seen little previous disturbance. This land was on the first terrace situated between the old meander of the river Mersey and Carrington Moss so would be a good place for early settlement/agriculture. Phase Site Investigations, who undertook the survey, identified several potential archaeological features which led on to targeted trial trenching taking place. This work successfully identified several cut features with potential to be early in date. GMAAS recommended several open area excavations to expose and record features before their removal by development ground works.



Drone photo for the three excavated areas showing ditch and sunken lane filled with light grey silt against yellow natural clay and sand

West Yorkshire Archaeology Services undertook the excavation to an approved WSI and revealed several ditches and a sunken trackway. There was very little dating evidence but one sherd of Romano-British pottery came from the top of a ditch. It is suggested that this was an area of ditched field systems in Roman times, accessed by the trackway, and suggests that a settlement might be nearby. There is a chance this will be revealed during later stages of the Carrington Village development.

7.11 Wigan

7.11.1 Landgate Roman Road

A long section of the Ashton-in-Makerfield to Warrington Roman road was revealed and recorded by Salford Archaeology for a Bellway Homes development at Landgate Farm. Despite challenging conditions, several well-preserved sections of road were recorded. Part of the roadside ditch was found to contain a couple of sherds of Roman pottery in the base silt, with a number of medieval sherds coming from the upper fill, demonstrating continuity of use over many centuries. Wigan Archaeology Society, who have for many years been undertaking their own Roman road investigation in Wigan Borough, were invited to participate. An open day was held for the benefit of the local community. An information board will be erected in the public open space of the new housing estate to commemorate the archaeological discoveries.



View north along part-excavated Roman road and medieval pottery from upper ditch fill

8.0 Community Engagement

8.1 GMAAS and the Centre for Applied Archaeology organised a **Greater Manchester Archaeology Day** at Peel Hall on Saturday 24th November 2018, supported by the Greater Manchester Archaeology Federation. Professor Sheila Pankhurst, Dean of the School of Environment & Life Sciences, welcomed attendees to the University. The event was attended by **160** people who saw presentations by nine speakers on a range of archaeological projects carried out over the previous year, mainly within Greater Manchester. There were also displays from local societies and the Centre for Applied Archaeology, as well as book sales and refreshments. A number of the recently published Greater Manchester Past Revealed booklets were given away freely.

8.2 Greater Manchester Archaeology Festival

The second **Greater Manchester Archaeology Festival** was held from the 21st to the 24th June. It had 17 free events to choose from across Greater Manchester and nearly every member of the Federation took part. Organised by the Centre for Applied Archaeology at the University of Salford in conjunction with the Greater Manchester Archaeology Federation, the festival aimed to increase access, encourage the exploration, and celebrate the archaeology of Greater Manchester. Just over **250** members of the public took part with activities ranging from walks and talks to surveys and excavations on sites dating from the Roman period to the 20th century. The Greater Manchester Federation Newsletter for October 2018 described the activities put on by societies at the Festival. Two of the Festival events are shown below.

https://diggreatermanchester.files.wordpress.com/2019/02/gmaf_newsletter_17_2018.pdf



Recently designed logo for the Federation

8.3 Salford Central Station exhibition

Staff from the Centre for Applied Archaeology (Mike Nevell and Norman Redhead) at Salford University prepared an exhibition on Salford's Early Past in the foyer of the adjacent Salford Central railway station. This was facilitated by the Mayor of Salford, funded and designed by Transport for Greater Manchester with support from Northern Rail. It presents the results of a number of archaeological investigations in Salford over the years and provides context to the adjacent New Bailey Prison site excavations. The exhibition has allowed the story of Salford's archaeology to be seen by thousands of passing commuters and is a good model for what could be achieved at other rail stations in Greater Manchester.



The Salford Mayor launches the exhibition in September 2018

9.0 Publications

9.1 The Greater Manchester's Past Revealed Series

Five new booklets on recent development schemes have been published over the last year by a range of archaeological contractors:

- 1) *Architecture, Burial and Reform: the Upper Brook Street Unitarian Chapel, Manchester*, Vol 19 (Oxford Archaeology North).

- 2) *Staley Hall, Stalybridge: the history and archaeology of a medieval manor house*, Vol 20 (York Archaeological Trust).
- 3) *Woodford: the Archaeology of a Landscape and Aerodrome*, Vol 21 (CgMs & Oxford Archaeology North)
- 4) *Castle Irwell: a meander through time*, Vol 22 (Salford Archaeology).
- 5) *Yeoman Farmers and Handloom Weavers: the Archaeology of the Kingsway Business Park*, Vol 23 (Oxford Archaeology North)



Front covers of the new GM Past Revealeds.

The first sixteen booklets in the series are now available as pdfs through the GM Archaeology Festival website: <https://diggreatermanchester.wordpress.com/publications/>

9.2 A number of other Greater Manchester's Past Revealed booklets have been secured through developer and community funding:

- Cutacre Opencast, Bolton/Salford/Wigan (OAN)
- Cross Street Chapel and Graveyard – Metrolink Second city crossing (CfA Leeds)
- Swinton Unitarian Church graveyard (OAN)
- Dig Greater Manchester (CFAA)
- Ordsall Chord, Salford and Manchester railway heritage (Salford Archaeology)
- Bridgefield Street, Stockport (OAN/Salford Archaeology)
- Owen Street, Castlefield (Salford Archaeology)
- Pendleton Hall and Douglas Green (LP Archaeology and Salford Archaeology)
- Chapel Wharf (Salford Archaeology)
- Gore Street and The Crescent (Salford Archaeology)
- Covent Garden, Stockport (Salford Archaeology)
- Rochdale Riverside (Salford Archaeology)

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 (following on from the next phase of excavation in June/July)
- 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 – this is nearly complete
- Arkwright's Mill, Manchester (part of the NOMA regeneration project)

10.0 Conclusion

2018-19 has been another extremely busy year for GMAAS, with an increase across the spectrum of development control activities. Added to this has been the successful input by GMAAS staff to several special projects, as well as an increase in public dissemination.

GMAAS has now delivered the archaeology service for seven years and it is possible to reflect on some key trends. The number of applications with an archaeological interest that lead to programmes of investigation is consistently at below 2% per annum. Generally, the planning consultation system has worked well and has been implemented in a clear and pragmatic way in accordance with the Service Level Agreement. A large number and variety of archaeological investigations have been undertaken, producing extraordinary results which have been used to help inform and update the North West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment:

<https://archaeologynorthwest.wordpress.com/tag/research/> .

Some really significant bodies of data have emerged for some key research areas, such as the condition of working class families living in early industrial Greater Manchester, the development of textile manufacturing technology, industrial-period transport innovation, death and burial in the industrial age, the character and survival rates of Greater Manchester textile mills, Roman military and civilian occupation and transport routes, medieval and post-medieval urban settlement and industry – to name but a few. There is considerable potential for post-graduate studies (MAs and PhDs) to make use of this diverse and comprehensive data set. Synthesis should be a priority to allow

maximum public and research benefit from the 3000 plus archaeology reports held by the Historic Environment Record.

Norman Redhead

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