Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD
1ST APRIL 2019 – 31ST MARCH 2020

1.0 Introduction

The following report is for the eighth 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 Science, Engineering and Environment.

Contact details:

Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service
School of Science, Engineering & Environment
Room LG20, Peel Building
University of Salford
Salford, M5 4WX

gmaas@salford.ac.uk

Tel: 0161 295 5522

3.0 Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GM HER)

3.1 The database now has **19,111** 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 **95,939** images and a substantial paper archive and library.

3.2 Over the past year **22** grey literature reports have been entered onto the database, along with an additional **26** new information sources, including publications, webpages and Historic England advice reports relating to Listing assessments. **59** new Monument records have been created. **22** new event records have been added, **23** new listed buildings entered, and GMAAS have responded to **10** 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 **160** 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 **46** 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 **2** HEFER consultations. The HER has also been consulted **6** 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.

A new volunteer who is a local heritage professional has recently come forward. She is keen to help out with adding information from the reports backlog, although she is only able to offer one half-day per week. Her training will resume once the university campus has reopened and staff are no longer working from home.

3.6 HER Audit 2019–20

An audit of the HER has been carried out in the latter part of this financial year, as part of Historic England's national programme. This is undertaken on a five-yearly basis and aims to provide the HER and the local authorities it serves with an accurate and up-to-date picture of the service and the data held. The key output from the audit is a report that incorporates an action plan (currently at the final editing stage). This will enable the HER to identify forward actions that will help develop and enhance the service, and to plan future progress.

3.7 Greater Manchester Spatial Framework

Following on from Historic Environment screening exercise, GMAAS have been heavily involved in advising on the more detailed assessments, and their scope, arising from the recommendations made in the screening reports and to meet the requirements of NPPF and local plans. The scale and significance of the historic environment resource varies considerably across the 47 allocation sites, but for the more complicated the previously completed Salford GMSF allocation studies are a useful template. The range of approaches varies from the large schemes requiring detailed further assessments (where there is a combination of designated heritage assets, high archaeological potential and well-preserved historic landscape features) to those where the heritage is of lower significance and can be dealt with through planning conditions. GMAAS have

held discussions with all the GM planning authorities and provided advice on appropriate levels of further assessment. GMAAS have also been working closely with a range of consultants undertaking the more detailed assessments, commenting on methodologies and draft reports as they become available. Progress reports have been provided to GMCA/AGMA representatives through a Historic Environment working group.

Timperley Wedge land allocation (Trafford): Davenport Green farmhouse and barn (left) and medieval deer park boundary (right)

3.8 North West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment
This project to update the 2006/7 published framework is entering its final stages. GMAAS and the Centre for Applied Archaeology manage and deliver this project and have been working up the content of the interactive wiki platform which will shortly have a beta test. A point-in-time publication will be prepared for release later this year. A steering group will develop a sustainable system of management and data moderation for when the wiki platform is launched. This is part of a Historic England funded national project. GMAAS and fellow local government archaeology advisors are looking at ways to embed the updated research questions into planning work, such as Written Schemes of Investigation.

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. The number of meetings and presentations has fallen slightly from last year but HER consultations have increased by 18.

DISTRICT	Meetings	Lectures & Presentations	HER consults – Data provided
Bolton	2	-	9
Bury	4	-	9
Manchester	23	3	37
Oldham	6	3	8
Rochdale	5	1	16
Salford	23	5	18
Stockport	15	3	23
Tameside	3	1	3
Trafford	11	-	20
Wigan	5	-	7
Multi-district/general	30	5	10
TOTAL	**127**	**21**	**160**

Table showing meetings, talks and consultations

5.0 Planning Work

5.1 GMAAS were consulted on **82** 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 **53** 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 **3,231** 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 1050 reports waiting to be entered onto the HER database.

5.4 Over the last year GMAAS have received **181** reports to place in the HER (10 fewer 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	-	-	2	2	2	1	2	-	9
BU	-	1	4	2	6	3	1	-	17
MA	-	2	20	5	7	10	1	6	51
OL	-	2	3	-	4	-	1	-	10
RO	-	1	2	-	3	3	-	-	9
SA	-	1	10	2	2	5	1	2	23
ST	-	6	4	2	2	3	-	4	21
TA	-	-	3	4	1	2	1	-	11
TR	2	3	5	4	2	2	2	1	21
WI	-	1	3	1	2	1	1	-	9
TOTAL	2	17	56	22	31	30	10	13	**181**

Breakdown of report types by district

5.5 The archaeological work was undertaken by **40** separate organisations, reflecting the wide range of archaeological contractors and consultants operating in Greater Manchester.

5.6 GMAAS received **126** formal consultations from planning officers on requests to discharge archaeological planning conditions, 30 more than last year's figure. There were **83** recommendations for partial discharge and **43** 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 2020 the LPAs in Greater Manchester received **20,722** planning applications. This is a decrease of **17** on the previous year, but is basically on a par. In the same period GMAAS were consulted by the LPAs on **342** planning applications, an increase of **5** on the previous year (337). This represents only *c* **1.6%** 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. However, if the pre-application (23) and condition discharge consultations (126) are taken into account this gives a total figure of **491** consultations from the GM LPAs over the year or **41** per calendar month.

District	Planning applications received by LPAs	Consultations received by GMAAS	Consultations with no archaeological interest	Consultations with an archaeological implication
Bolton	2182	23	16	7
Bury	1256	16	14	2
Manchester	4088	99	50	49
Oldham	1379	8	3	5
Rochdale	1377	21	8	13
Salford	1676	33	18	15
Stockport	2932	49	22	27
Tameside	1242	34	32	2
Trafford	3024	38	23	15
Wigan	1566	22	10	12
TOTALS	**20722**	**342**	**195**	**147**

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 **342** consultations received by GMAAS, **195** (**57%**) were judged to have no impact upon the archaeological interest. For the remaining **147 (43%)** GMAAS recommended that some form of further archaeological work (assessment, evaluation, excavation, watching brief, building recording) should be undertaken. This compares with 157 in the previous year.

6.3 For a handful of applications GMAAS recommended that the decision be deferred as the information supplied was insufficient to judge the significance of and impact on archaeological interests. But 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	195
Predetermination Assessment/ Evaluation	23
Conditioned Programme of Archaeological Work	124
TOTAL	**342**

Table showing consultation recommendations

6.4 In addition to the planning application consultations, in 2019–20 GMAAS responded to **23** pre-application consultations, 20 of which had a recommendation for an archaeological desk-based assessment.

6.5 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 increase in overall numbers of consultations for Stockport and Trafford, a slight decline for Tameside and Trafford, but overall the figures are consistent with last year's. Consultations and development work for Manchester city centre historic core still dominates the GMAAS workload. Not necessarily reflected in this year's consultation figures, the pace of new development in Salford is remarkable, with a range of developments ongoing within the historic core area. For Manchester, development requiring an archaeological input has focus on Water Street, Chester Road and Castlefield, Ancoats and east Manchester around Rochdale Road. 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, Stockport continues to be very busy as regeneration of the town centre gathers pace, whilst several large housing schemes have required an archaeological input in Wigan and Rochdale. 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 former Grade 2 listed historic mill was subject to a detailed archaeological survey prior to demolition. Following this, further archaeological investigations were carried out on the sites of power features that had been demolished at a much earlier time. Evaluation trenching and area excavation of the two engine houses revealed fascinating differences in the two sets of boiler beds and engine beds. The excavations showed details that indicate how the power systems were adapted in the twentieth century as the scale of textile production was reduced (archaeology contractor: Oxford Archaeology North).

Targeted excavation of one of the boiler houses at Beehive Mill

7.2.2 Roscoe Farm

A desk-based assessment for a 4 hectare development of agricultural land at Bolton Road, Westhoughton identified the site of Roscoe Farm as having archaeological interest. A programme of evaluation trenching identified that the original farm site had good archaeological potential. A final phase of open-area excavation exposed and recorded the footprint of the 19th century farm. The original building was found to overlie a substantial pre-1724 boundary ditch. The ditch fill produced an 18th century pottery assemblage. The work provides an intriguing example in a rural context that shows physically how enclosure led to some ancient rural land boundaries becoming redundant and the establishment and growth of new farmsteads (Wardell Armstrong).

Roscoe Farm site: the pre-1724 ditch (left) and the farmhouse basement (right)

7.3 Bury

7.3.1 Bleaklow Hall

At the site of Bleaklow Hall, Hawkshaw, a scheme to demolish the existing bungalow and build four new dwellings required a conditioned programme of archaeological works. An area of 20 x 56 metres was excavated to record a number of structures belonging to the original hall and associated farm buildings, including the original cellar and some 17th century features (Archaeological Research Services).

Bleaklow Hall: aerial view of the open-area excavations, with cellar to the right

7.4 Manchester

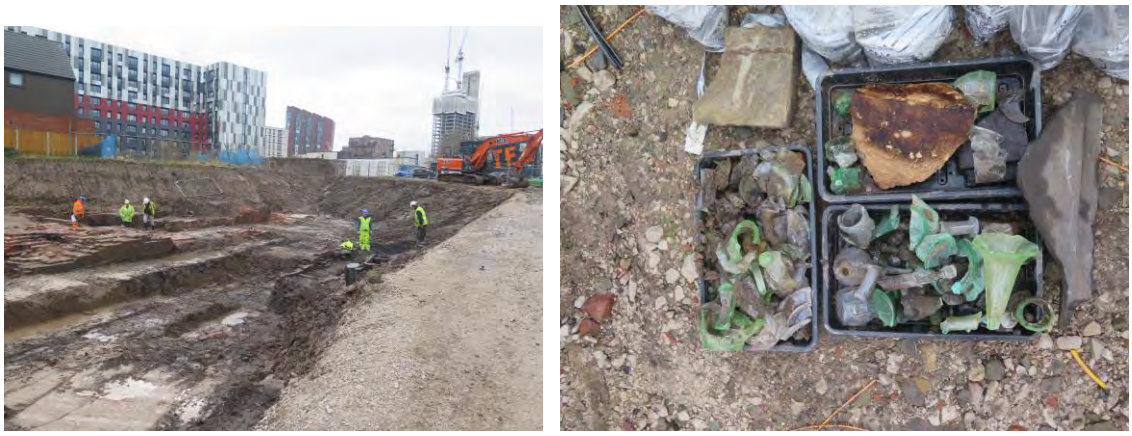
7.4.1 Dantzic St Glassworks

Manchester had a large-scale, nationally important glass manufacturing industry in the second half of the 19th century which completely disappeared in the early 20th century due to cheap imports. All that is left are paper records and below-ground remains of the glass kilns and workshops. One short-lived glass kiln was at Dantzic Street, where a proposed development facilitated a conditioned programme of investigation. Evaluation followed by excavation revealed the footings of early industrial housing, 19th century industrial buildings with power systems, and the glassworks. The short-lived 1850s glass furnace produced important glass residue evidence and a well-preserved kiln which was of two phases, despite only being in use for a few years. The archaeology demonstrates a key period of transformation in the glass industry from blown to moulded glass products (Salford Archaeology).

Dantzic Street: the area of excavation with the kiln in early stages of excavation (left) and at the end of excavation (right)

7.4.2 Molyneux Webb Glassworks

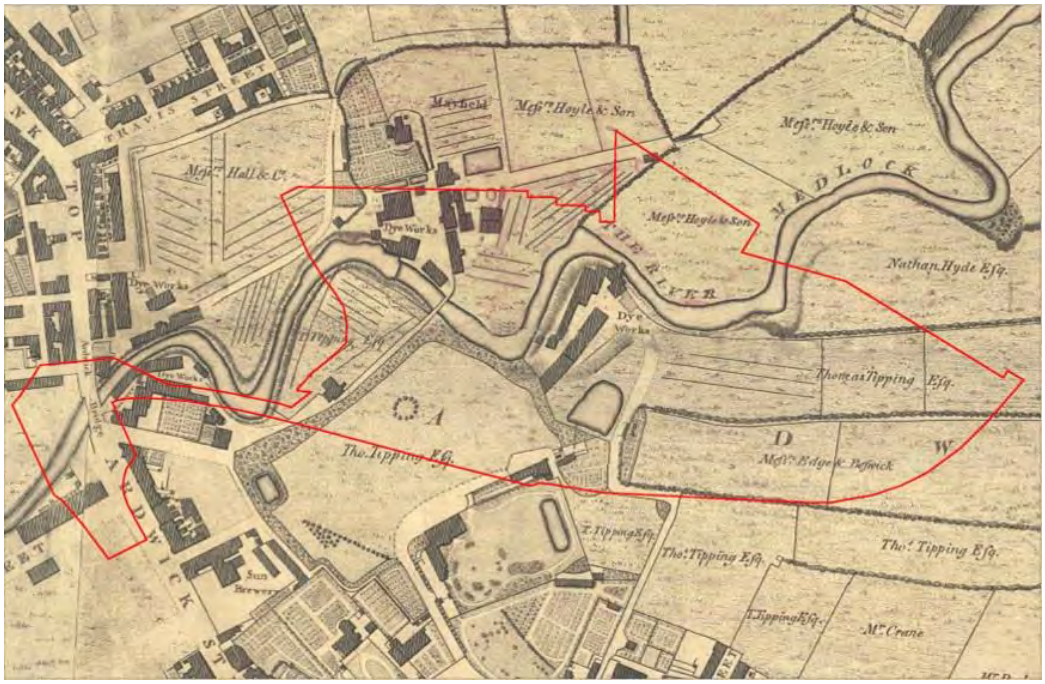
Unusually, the year saw excavations at two former Manchester glassworks. The Molyneux Webb site at New Islington, Ancoats, is of considerable archaeological interest as it was both the earliest Manchester glass factory (est. 1827) and became the largest. GMAAS recommended condition wording to allow for a staged programme of archaeological investigations. The former annealing area and the three kiln sites were targeted by trial trenches. The later kilns were found to be at over 4 metres depth beneath modern overburden and were not excavated further as they would not be badly disturbed by development ground works. The early kiln was fully excavated along with several associated structures. Survival was variable but a nationally significant assemblage of glass and kiln waste was recovered. This will be analysed by an expert. The two glassworks excavations, together with one at Jersey Street several years ago, provide a nationally significant corpus which will be the subject of a monograph publication (Salford Archaeology).



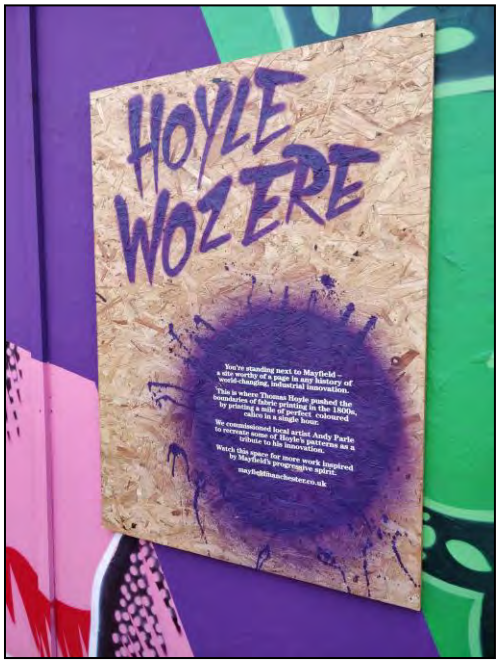
Molyneux Webb Glassworks: Excavations in progress (left) and kiln and glass fragments (right) including ‘Pomona Green’ glass wares

7.4.3 Mayfield

This important regeneration project straddling the river Medlock behind Piccadilly Station has seen an archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken to inform our understanding of the historic development of this former industrial area. The area is strongly associated with Mayfield Print Works, run by the Hoyle family, which grew from its foundation in 1782 to become the country’s largest textile finishing business during the 19th century, before closing in 1897. Significant industrial innovation took place and several important products are associated with the site, such as the indigo dye used to colour fabric. Not only has the desk-based assessment identified a range of former industrial premises and workers’ housing that will be the focus of archaeological investigations, but it has also provided a wealth of detail related to the site’s history and industrial processes/products – these are being utilised by the developer to give a unique identity and sense of place to the regeneration scheme (Salford Archaeology).



Mayfield: Green's map of 1787-94 showing early dyeworks on the river Medlock within the red line boundary of the regeneration area



The indigo dye developed by Hoyles and seen in a dress pattern (left) has inspired modern art that signposts the regeneration scheme (right)

7.4.4 Early workers' housing investigations

There have been several excavations of workers' housing across the city centre over the last year, secured by archaeology planning conditions. This work throws light on the social impact of rapid industrialisation in the first decades of the 19th century, and subsequent attempts to improve the poor living conditions.

Workers' housing excavations at the Former Granada Studios Car Park (left) and Bengal Street, Ancoats (right) – both by Salford Archaeology

7.4.5 Piercy Street, Ancoats

The Ashton Canal corridor through Ancoats retains a significant mill landscape, but several important mills have been demolished in recent decades. One such site was on Piercy Street. Prior to a new housing development, Salford Archaeology excavated the well-preserved power features that formed the core of Phoenix Mill, established in the 1830s. These included the base and foundation of the original chimney, several boiler bases, and the large masonry constructions that were associated with the steam engines which powered the mill.

Piercy Street, Ancoats: drone photo of the engine base and other power features at the Phoenix Mill site, with the Ashton Canal and surviving cotton mills as a backdrop

7.5 Oldham

7.5.1 Cobalt Way, Foxdenton

Ahead of housing development, and in accordance with the first stages of the archaeology planning condition, geophysical evaluation survey and evaluation trenching identified buried remains of two early 19th century (possibly earlier) farms. A final on-site phase of archaeological investigation will target these remains through open-area excavation (Wardell Armstrong).

Cobalt Way: Geophysical survey plot

7.5.2 Hartford Mill

GMAAS have advised on a scheme of recording of this Grade 2 listed mill prior to and during demolition. With major health and safety issues, the survey has principally involved drone photography and research to collate previous survey and historical research, and photographic records. Unusually, the boiler house retains *in-situ* Lancashire boilers and it may be possible to salvage these for display/use elsewhere (Nexus Heritage).

Hartford Mill: view showing poor condition of the mill (left) and the boiler house (right)

7.6 Rochdale

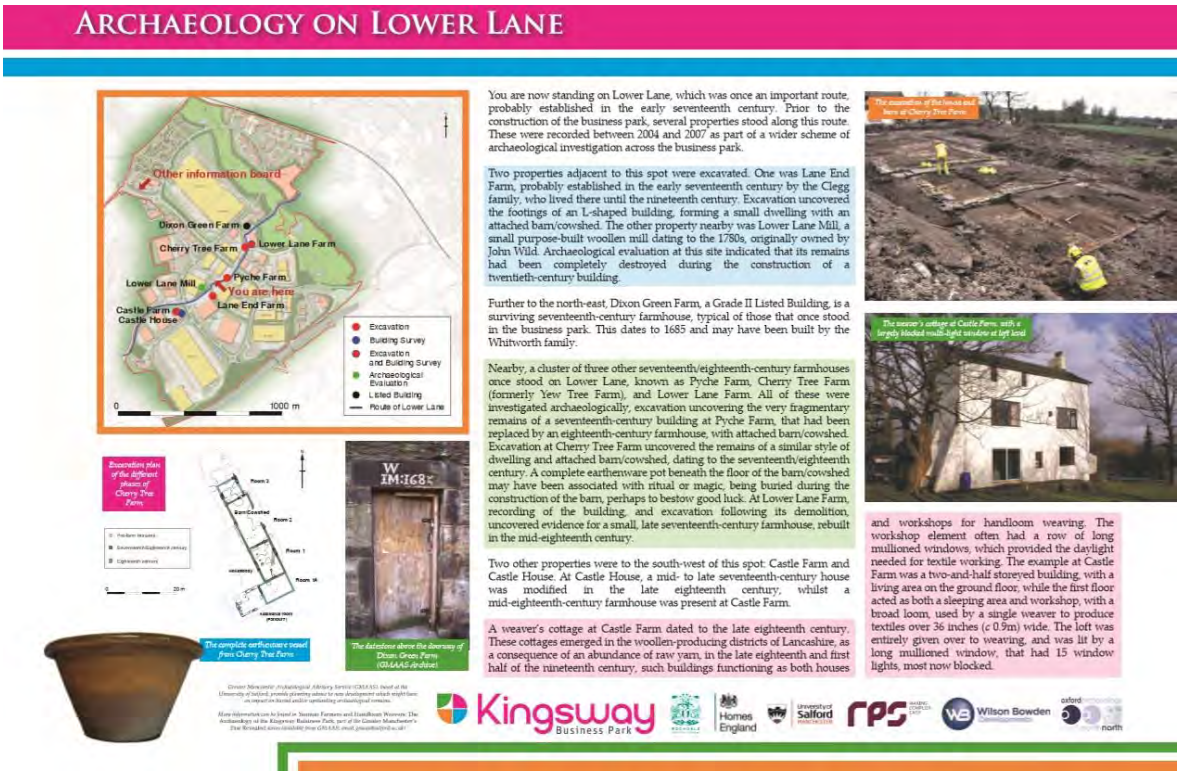
7.6.1 Dingle Farm

This housing development site on Hollins Lane was subject to archaeological evaluation secured through a planning condition. Thirteen trenches were excavated across anomalies identified in a geophysical survey to confirm or dismiss their archaeological potential. All the features were found to be field drains or geological irregularities with just one post-medieval field boundary ditch being of interest. No further archaeological work was required on this part of the site (Oxford Archaeology North).

Dingle Farm: evaluation trenches overlaying geophysics interpretation plot

7.6.2 Kingsway Business Park

GMAAS have liaised over the design and production of two heritage information boards at this site. These form part of the dissemination requirements for this large-scale development and complement the recently published popular booklet and a forthcoming academic monograph.



Kingsway: one of the two information panels

7.7 Salford

7.7.1 Adelphi Street, Salford

Evaluation followed by area excavations revealed evidence of housing built between 1831 and 1836 that was of a higher standard than found in nearby slum areas of the Crescent and Gore Street. On Peel Place were the dwellings of skilled tradesmen with occupied cellars. Wilton Place housed families with higher incomes and status with one or more servants, who were housed in the cellars (Salford Archaeology).

Adelphi Street: excavation of 1830s housing foundations and cellars

7.7.2 Fairbrother Street/Ordsall Lane

Ordsall Chemical Works was established in the late 18th century alongside the river Irwell near to Ordsall Hall. The works adapted in the 19th century to include dyeing and printing but was demolished and built over in the 20th century. Good survival of the early works was proven by evaluation trenching as the first part of conditioned site investigations. This led to a large-scale open-area excavation which produced a variety of features relating to processing and power systems. The excavator gave a talk on the results of the excavation on behalf of the developer, Forviva, to interested stakeholders at Ordsall Hall. GMAAS also gave a presentation, putting the dig into its local and wider planning and historical context (RSK).

Fairbrother Street: aerial view of the Ordsall Chemical Works site excavations

7.7.3 Greengate, Salford

Ahead of an application for a 50-storey residential building and new public park by Renaker, GMAAS requested pre-application evaluation of a car park which was the site of Christ Church (built 1800) and its burial ground. The site has strong historical interest due to the church founder, Rev. William Cowherd, who established the Bible Christian Church and was an early exponent of vegetarianism. Joseph Brotherton, Salford's first MP, also preached here for many years. Closed in 1868, the site had been used thereafter as a timber yard, metal dealer, and car park. The graveyard was thought to contain around 30,000 burials but the condition and depth of these was not known. Initial evaluation trenching discovered that the church foundations and graveyard ledger stones were well preserved at shallow depths. A strip and record exercise was carried out by Salford Archaeology for the whole car park site. Rows of ledger stones were recorded and can be matched with records made in the late 19th century. On one side of the burial ground paupers' graves were found with human remains exposed at shallow depths. A trench through the church site showed that it had no burials but overlay a medieval ditch (within the medieval borough of Salford) and gave artifactual evidence of

the 1640s siege of Manchester. Now that archaeological levels and sensitivity are established, GMAAS have been able to advise on the layout of the proposed public park so that the remains are protected *in situ*. Information boards will be erected to tell the story of this remarkable site.

Christ Church site, Greengate: site meeting between Salford planners, councillors, Renaker, GMAAS and Salford Archaeology to review the graveyard investigations

7.8 Stockport

7.8.1 Offerton Hatworks

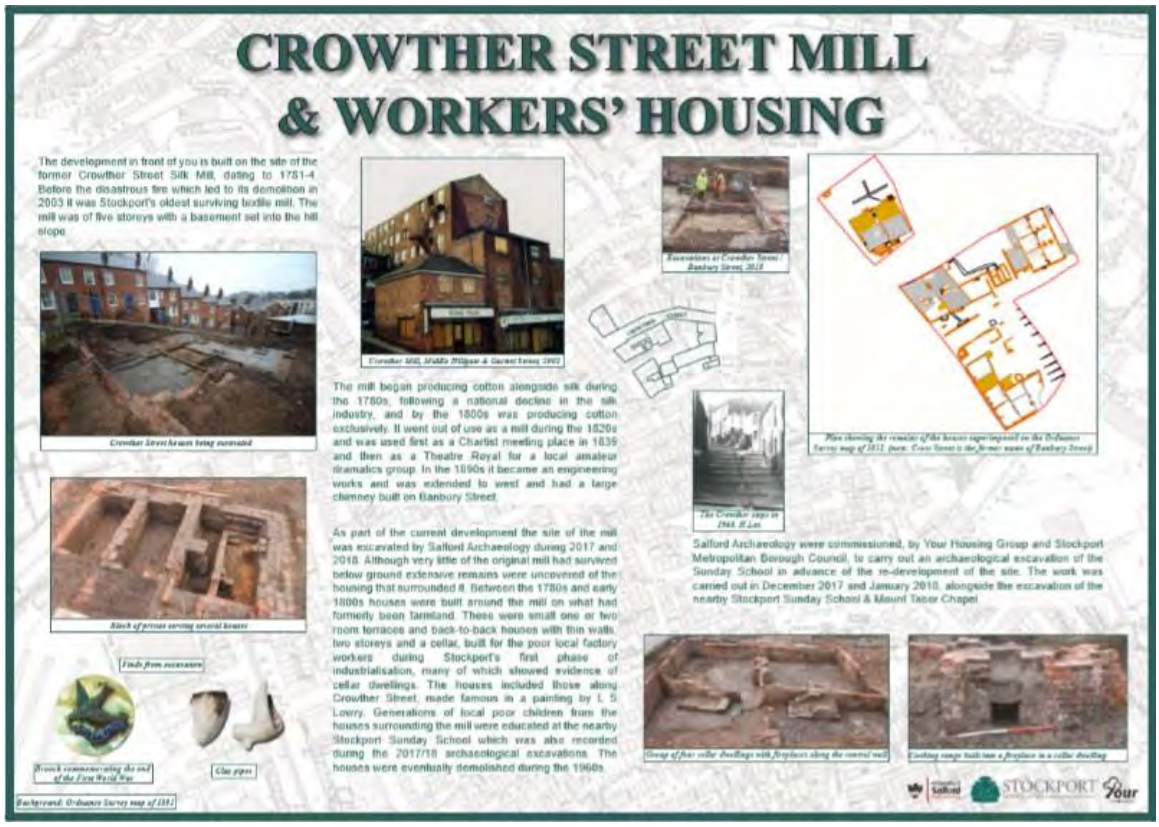
In the late 19th and early 20th centuries Battersby's was one of the leading manufacturers of felt hats. In 1886 when it opened the purpose-built Offerton works was a state-of-the-art factory. The proposed development will retain the street frontage but demolish most of the processing buildings behind. GMAAS recommended a condtion to secure a Historic England level 3 historic building survey which has included a laser scan of the whole complex. Following demolition, below-ground remains of the boiler and engine house will be recorded. Evaluation trenches have also been excavated to look for the

Buxton to Manchester Roman road alignment, but nothing was found (Salford Archaeology).

Offerton Hat Works: still from the laser scan fly-through video

7.8.2 Stockport town centre information panels

GMAAS have been advising on the design and production of several panels commemorating the history and archaeology of sites recently investigated through the planning system. These include Travis Brow former railway tunnel, Warren Street cotton mill, Covent Garden (x2), and Stockport Interchange new road bridge (Salford Archaeology and Oxford Archaeology North).



Stockport heritage panels: one of the two recently designed panels for the Covent Garden social housing scheme

7.9 Tameside

7.9.1 Edward Street, Denton

Denton was famous for its hatting industry and several former hatworks have come up for redevelopment in recent years. At Edward Street a condition enabled evaluation and area excavation targeting a 19th century hat works that later became a battery works, and 19th century workers' housing. The evaluation found large areas had been severely truncated post-demolition. Despite this a 30m x 30m open-area excavation centred on chimney foundations established the footprint of the mid-19th century dye shop as well as an adjacent steam engine bed and two boiler beds with flues leading to the chimney (Archaeological Research Services).

Edward Street, Denton: excavation of the boiler house

7.10 Trafford

7.10.1 Regent Road car park

A large-scale housing development of a former car park impacted on an area of early workers' housing that was made famous in World War 1 for the very high number of men who volunteered for the army from one of the streets, named Chapel Street. The housing dated to the early 19th century and was demolished in the mid-20th century. A condition recommended by GMAAS secured an extensive programme of evaluation and excavation which revealed the foundations of terraced houses, a school, the former Wesleyan chapel, as well as cobbled streets and a midden/courtyard (Orion Heritage and Archaeology England). It was intended to hold a public open day as the local community displayed tremendous interest in the dig. Due to COVID-19 this has not been possible and the archaeologists have instead created a website to describe the results and history, and will give a public lecture later in the year.

Regent Road: an archaeologist holds a chimney sweep brush found in a cellar (left) and the blue plaque on an adjacent building commemorating the WWI volunteers from Chapel Street

7.10.2 Warburton Lane

GMAAS have provided archaeological planning advice to Trafford LPA on a proposed large-scale housing scheme at Warburton Lane on the border of Warburton Parish and Partington. An archaeological desk-based assessment provided insufficient information and under-represented the extent and potential significance of the site's archaeology, which includes a former medieval deer park and strong potential for prehistoric/Romano-British archaeology. A geophysical survey has been undertaken as a first phase of evaluation. GMAAS now require an extensive programme of trial trenching to allow an informed assessment of the character, location, extent and relative significance of buried remains. Some of the archaeological remains could be of schedulable quality, invoking Footnote 63 of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Warburton Lane: view across part of the medieval deer park falling within the proposal site

7.11 Wigan

7.11.1 Thompson's Farm, Lowton

A housing scheme had a conditioned programme of works which included evaluation followed by targeted open-area excavation around a farm thought to originate in the late 18th century. A large ditch was found which had been recut at some point, and a significant assemblage of medieval and early post-medieval pottery was recovered from the fill. Very few medieval pottery assemblages have been previously found in Wigan district (Wardell Armstrong).

Thompson's Farm: one of the evaluation trenches

7.11.2 Garrett Hall Farm

A programme of evaluation through geophysical survey and trenching was followed by targeted open-area excavation and a watching brief. A number of cut linear features were identified but they were found to contain no dateable materials. However, one small area produced a small pottery assemblage thought to be Iron Age in date. Further excavations in the area identified a ditch and terminus with a fill containing possible Iron Age and post-medieval pottery. Evidence for the Iron Age is rare in Wigan district (Wardell Armstrong).

Garrett Hall Farm: Terminus of ditch associated with Iron Age pottery

7.11.3 Mather Lane Mill, Leigh

Prior to conversion to apartments, a Historic England level 3 historic building survey was required through a condition, so that a detailed record could be made for archive and research purposes. The cotton mill was built in 1882 by Bradshaw & Gass, an important and well-known firm of mill architects in the Greater Manchester area. The mill is the second of three of the complex and is a Grade 2 listed building. The building survey of the Mather Lane Mill has provided detailed evidence of the original construction, with the adjacent canal, engine room, stairwell, toilets and the later addition of the privy tower. It is evident that the external engine house powered a rope drive system that served each floor of mill machinery, powering the mill machinery from overhead (Orion Heritage and Archaeology England).

Mather Lane Mill, Leigh

8.0 Community Engagement

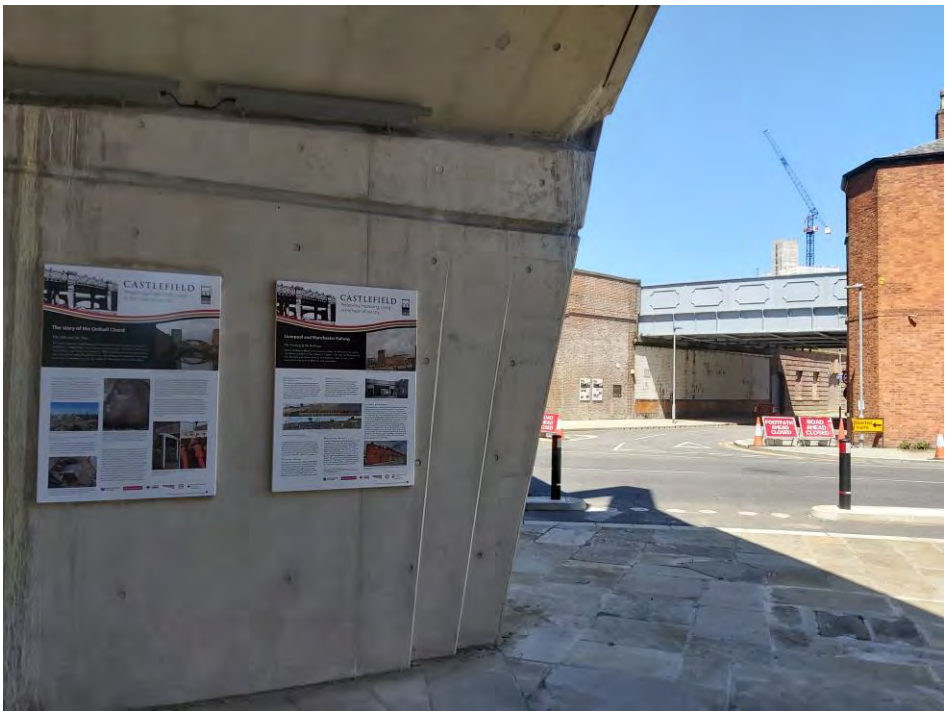
8.1 GMAAS and the Centre for Applied Archaeology organised a **Greater Manchester Archaeology Day** at the University of Salford's Peel Hall on Saturday 30th November 2019, supported by the Greater Manchester Archaeology Federation. Professor Karl Dayson, Dean of Research, welcomed attendees to the University. The event was attended by **180** people (the best attendance so far) who saw presentations by nine speakers on a range of archaeological projects carried out over the previous year, mainly within Greater Manchester.

Dr Mike Heyworth, Director of the Council for British Archaeology, gave the keynote address celebrating 75 years of the CBA's involvement with community archaeology in Britain. 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's Past Revealed booklets were given away free.

Poster advertising the Greater Manchester Archaeology Day 2019

8.2 Heritage Displays

GMAAS have provided advice and input to several schemes to display heritage arising from conservation schemes to designated heritage assets or as a conditioned requirement to disseminate results of investigations within a development site. These often include information panels but more complex schemes might incorporate heritage themes into the public realm. Examples over the last year include the presentation of heritage information at the Ordsall Chord new rail bridge development, the restoration of Worsley Delph, design of heritage sculpture and timeline information panels on Clowes Street, Salford (Dandara development), and at the Embankment West development site (also in Salford). Work is also well advanced on an innovative heritage display scheme at the Arkwright Mill site, part of the NOMA development at Miller Street, Manchester.



Information panels in Castlefield for the Ordsall Chord rail bridge scheme

Worsley Delph restoration, before (left photo) and after (right). This Heritage Lottery supported, and Salford Council run scheme has transformed the 1760s scheduled monument which comprises the original canal basin for the Bridgewater Canal and access tunnel entrances to an underground canal system that took coal straight from the coal mine into Manchester. A viewing gallery and interpretation panels overlook the monument

8.3 Greater Manchester Archaeology Federation

Members of the 16 societies forming the Federation have been busy carrying out important research investigations across Greater Manchester, as well as supporting the third Greater Manchester Archaeology Festival in June and the Greater Manchester Archaeology Day in November. Their research helps provide a balanced understanding of the area's archaeological resources, as much of their work is on land protected from development. Two examples of current research projects are shown below.

The Castleshaw Hinterland Project involves ongoing research into the Roman Forts and valley-wide archaeology at Castleshaw near Delph, Oldham. This photo shows volunteers standing beside the excavated remains of two stone-built ovens just to the east of the fort

Holcombe Moor Heritage Group have been excavating a well-preserved medieval iron smelting complex, including this furnace, on Ministry of Defence land north of Tottington, Bury

9.0 Publications

9.1 The Greater Manchester's Past Revealed Series

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

1) *Cutacre: excavating a prehistoric, medieval and post medieval landscape* (Oxford Archaeology North)
2) *Deansgate Square, Manchester: archaeology beyond the Medlock* (Salford Archaeology)
3) *Life on MARR: archaeological remains from the Manchester Airport Relief Road* (Wessex Archaeology)

Front covers of the most recent Past Revealed booklets

The first 18 booklets in the series are now available online as pdfs:

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:

- Cross Street Chapel and Graveyard – Metrolink Second city crossing (CfA Leeds)
- Swinton Unitarian Church graveyard (OAN)
- Dig Greater Manchester (Salford Archaeology)
- Ordsall Chord, Salford and Manchester railway heritage (Salford Archaeology)
- Bridgefield Street, Stockport (OAN/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)
- Worsley Delph (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 Several monographs are being prepared for significant archaeological sites. These include Kingsway (Rochdale) and Cutacre (Bolton) business parks, New Bailey late 18th century reform prison (Salford), Arkwright's mill (Manchester), Roman Wigan, and Worsley New Hall (Salford).

10.0 Conclusion

The statistics show that the last year has been broadly comparable with the previous year's activities, with a notable difference being a marked increase in consultations for condition discharges. Once again, the high volume of redevelopment work in Salford and particularly Manchester city centre have dominated GMAAS advisory work. Having compiled annual reports for each of the 8 years of GMAAS's contract with AGMA, there is useful trend data which could be presented in an overview report.

A strong trend over the year has been a growth in the number of schemes where public benefit has been achieved through dissemination of the results of archaeological investigations; this might be through information panels, popular booklets, physical displays of heritage and other forms such as digital media and open days. This has involved a considerable amount of specialist advice from GMAAS. Another area of increased activity has been an input to strategic projects. In particular, the Greater Manchester Spatial Framework has required a considerable advisory input for the many detailed historic environment assessments being prepared ahead of the next phase of consultation.

Due to short-term contracts over recent years, GMAAS has not been able to develop the potential of the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record. Now that a six contract with AGMA has been secured, commencing 1st April 2020, there should be a focus on how the database can be taken forward to address backlog issues and to make

it more accessible for researchers and the community of Greater Manchester. The University of Salford, as host organization for the archaeology advisory service, would welcome discussions on this topic and potential funding sources with AGMA and GMCA.

Norman Redhead
Heritage Management Director (Archaeology)
24/04/20