

Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service

ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT FOR PERIOD

1ST APRIL 2020 – 31ST MARCH 2021

1.0 Introduction

The following report is for the ninth 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 (HER) as a planning tool and public record
- Promoting dissemination of results from archaeological investigations.

2.0 Staffing

2.1 The year saw GMAAS win a six-year contract with AGMA/GMCA to deliver the archaeology service until the end of March 2026, with a possible further six-year extension. There were major staff changes, with Dr Andrew Myers retiring at the end of 2020 and Norman Redhead retiring at the end of February 2021. GMAAS is now staffed by:

Ian Miller – Lead Archaeologist

Ben Dyson – 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.

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2.3 Coronavirus restrictions meant that office access was limited for much of the year. Staff worked at home or in the office when essential. However, GMAAS was generally able to undertake more of the service functions and worked with the University to establish additional Covid-19 protocols to facilitate site monitoring visits.

3.0 Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record (GM HER)

3.1 The database now has **19,136** 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 **96,933** photographic images and a substantial paper archive and library.

3.2 Over the past year **19** grey literature reports have been entered onto the database, along with an additional **8** new information sources, including publications, webpages and Historic England advice reports relating to Listing assessments. **24** new Monument records have been created. **19** new event records have been added, **3** new listed buildings entered, and GMAAS have responded to **5** 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 has provided HER data to **134** 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. Due to Covid-19 restrictions there have been no visits to the GMAAS office to consult the HER library, with the HER Officer sending out relevant digital reports instead.

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 **8** times by students/researchers and **21** times by members of the public, on **1** occasion by a neighbouring authority Historic Environment Record, **once** by a conservation charity, **once** by the GM Police, and **once** by the Canal and River Trust.

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.

It has not been possible for volunteers to help with HER inputting due to Covid-19 restrictions.

3.6 Greater Manchester City of Trees

In accordance with best practice, the GM City of Trees project team, along with the Forestry Commission, consulted GMAAS on **94** planting proposals for the coming year. These were checked against the HER and it was found that only three had the potential to damage archaeological interests. Direct damage can arise from the action of planting or longer-term disturbance of archaeological remains from root growth. The site of Holts Mill and hamlet in Oldham borough was protected by changing the planting scheme to avoid the site of archaeological remains identified by historic mapping. In Rochdale, a large woodland scheme on the east side of Greenbooth Reservoir potentially impacted on a variety of archaeological features, ranging from Prehistoric remains to post medieval farmstead sites. GMAAS recommended and prepared a brief for an archaeological desk based assessment to be commissioned. This has provided an informed understanding of the character and relative significance of archaeological remains, allowing for several archaeological sites to be protected from planting. It is intended that there will be a heritage trail and presentation of these sites at a later stage of the planting scheme.

3.7 GM Spatial Framework

GMAAS has been heavily involved in providing advice to consultants and LPA officers for those GM Spatial Framework land allocations that require more detailed historic environment assessment. These were identified in the Screening Exercise undertaken by GMAAS/Salford Archaeology in 2019. Several of the large land allocations have potential national or regionally significant archaeology that requires a

programme of evaluation to determine the extent and significance of buried and earthwork remains. These include the Timperley Wedge and New Carrington where two medieval deer parks have been identified together with strong prehistoric and medieval potential, the Northern Gateway in Bury where there is a deserted medieval settlement and potential late prehistoric fortified sites, and Elton Reservoir where there is a suspected Neolithic Hengiform monument associated with a possible Bronze Age ring ditch and a later well-mapped Roman road. There has been a hiatus in studies due to the Spatial Framework not being signed off by all GM Authorities, but this work will pick up again as they new framework comes forward. This early assessment work, which will include geophysical survey, palaeoenvironmental analysis and evaluation trenching, will allow the most significant archaeology to be preserved *in situ* through sympathetic planning and for the heritage to be embedded in community engagement and sense of place.

3.8 North West Regional Research Framework for the Historic Environment

Following considerable delays due to Historic England re-designing the wiki-platform structure, it was possible to launch the framework in February 2021. This followed considerable input from GMAAS and the Centre for Applied Archaeology as project leads, with close support from Historic England. The wiki site has been well received and will provide an essential resource for an up-to-date understanding of the archaeological resource and key research questions for the North-West's rich and unique historic environment. GMAAS, as a NW planning archaeology service, will ensure the research framework is embedded in consultant's written schemes of investigation, reports and publication. There will be a point in time publication which will be produced under the auspices of Council for British Archaeology North West. The wiki-platform can be found at: <https://researchframeworks.org/nwrf/> and is shared with a range of other research frameworks.

4.0 Advice and Dissemination

4.1 Coronavirus restrictions meant that face-to-face meetings were not possible although the University and GMAAS were able to sort out enhanced health and safety requirements to facilitate a limited number of archaeological excavation site visits. Online meetings were held with heritage agencies and developers/consultants. These included strategic projects such as GM Spatial Framework and HS2. There was a big impact from Covid-19 on the number of lectures provided by GMAAS staff; however, the Director was able to give two presentations on Industrial Heritage best practice for Historic England webinars, which were viewed by several hundred people. There was a slight increase on the previous year of HER consultations.

DISTRICT	Meetings	Lectures & Presentations	HER consults – Data provided (developer enqs)
Bolton	2	-	(6) 10
Bury	2	-	(3) 5
Manchester	23	-	(37) 41
Oldham	2	-	(5) 13
Rochdale	6	-	(16) 18
Salford	5	2	(10) 12
Stockport	6	1	(13) 16
Tameside	6	-	(8) 9
Trafford	6	-	(19) 21
Wigan	1	-	(11) 14
Multi-district/general	57	2	(6) 10
TOTAL	116	5	(134) 169

Table showing meetings, talks and HER consultations

5.0 Planning Work

5.1 GMAAS were consulted on **57** 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 **28** 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 **3,394** 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).

5.4 Over the last year GMAAS has received **164** reports to place in the HER (18 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. Salford also continued to experience a high level of development-led archaeological reporting, and Rochdale saw an increased level of activity. 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	1	-	1	2	2	1	9
BU	-	2	2	-	-	1	1	1	7
MA	1	16	21	5	5	6	-	3	57
OL	-	-	2	-	1	2	-	-	5
RO	1	4	13	1	9	-	-	1	29
SA	-	11	2	1	2	4	-	-	20
ST	-	6	2	2	2	-	1	1	14
TA	-	1	3	1	-	1	1	-	7
TR	-	6	2	2	-	-	-	-	10
WI	-	1	1	1	-	1	1	1	6
TOTAL	2	49	49	13	20	17	6	8	164

Breakdown of report types by district

5.5 Archaeological investigations and heritage statements were undertaken by **43** separate organisations, reflecting the wide range of archaeological contractors and historic environment consultants operating in Greater Manchester.

5.6 GMAAS received **106** formal consultations from planning officers on requests to discharge archaeological planning conditions, **20** less than last year's figure. There were **74** recommendations for partial discharge and **32** 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 substantial academic monograph.

6.0 Planning Consultations

6.1 In the year to March 31st 2021 the LPAs in Greater Manchester received **22,781** planning applications. This is an increase of **2079** on the previous year, representing a significant increase despite a year of pandemic-related economic disruption. In the same period GMAAS were consulted by the LPAs on **350** planning applications, an increase of **8** on the previous year (342). This represents only c **1.5%** of all planning applications received by the LPAs. Over the past 12 months the rate of planning application consultations has, on average, been **29** per calendar month. However, if the pre-application (32), EIA scoping opinion (17) and condition discharge consultations (106) are taken into account this gives a total figure of **505** consultations from the GM LPAs over the year or **42** per calendar month.

District	Planning applications received by LPAs	Consultations received by GMAAS	Consultations with no archaeological interest	Consultations with an archaeological implication
Bolton	2483	20	13	7
Bury	1274	11	6	4
Manchester	3865	96	52	43
Oldham	1558	12	5	6
Rochdale	1566	47	17	21
Salford	2097	56	32	17
Stockport	3435	48	24	23

Tameside	1463	27	17	5
Trafford	3354	38	27	11
Wigan	1686	27	14	6
TOTALS	22781	350	207	143

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 **350** consultations received by GMAAS, **207 (59%)** were judged to have no impact upon the archaeological interest. For the remaining **143 (41%)** GMAAS recommended that some form of further archaeological work (assessment, evaluation, excavation, watching brief, building recording) should be undertaken. This compares with 147 in the previous year.

6.3 For a handful of applications (9) GMAAS recommended that the decision be deferred until an archaeological desk based assessment was produced to properly inform understanding of the significance of and impact on archaeological interests. In a further 3 cases the recommendation was for refusal due to the poor level of supporting information and potential very high level of harm/damage to significant archaeology. 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 of works. 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	207
Predetermination	9
Assessment/ Evaluation	
Conditioned Programme of Archaeological Work	134
TOTAL	350

Table showing consultation recommendations

6.4 In addition to the planning application consultations, in 2019–20 GMAAS responded to **32** pre-application consultations, 25 of which had a recommendation for an archaeological desk-based assessment. There were a further 17 scoping opinion consultations on the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessments which resulted in 2 recommendations to scope in archaeology, 4 instances where there was clearly no archaeological interest and 11 cases where archaeology could be scoped out and dealt with through a desk based assessment and condition.

6.5 As with previous years, development meetings (online), preparing briefs and commenting on Written Schemes of Investigations, fieldwork monitoring visits and checking 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 not been much change since the previous year in terms of planning consultations per authority. Manchester has continued to be the busiest area with developments in the city centre continuing at high levels despite the pandemic. Stockport remains consistently high as does Salford. Consultations and developments requiring an archaeological input have reduced in Wigan, reflecting the high level of housing schemes in previous years, with Rochdale showing a marked increase due to several new large-scale residential development proposals and regeneration of Rochdale town centre.

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. It is worth noting that some of the large-scale regeneration inner city schemes, such as Salford Central and NOMA in east Manchester are coming to a conclusion in terms of archaeological input with only the final stage heritage display and publication work to undertake. But other new regeneration schemes have come forward which require extensive programmes of onsite investigations such as Mayfields in Manchester, which is producing some exceptional results. There have been some pleasant surprises as well, such as the three well preserved corn and textile mill wheelpits at Bevis Green and Prestwich in Bury and Dobcross in Oldham. Of particular note is the discovery of significant Roman remains under the railway arches at the Viaduct development adjacent to the Central Exhibition Centre in Manchester.

7.2 Bolton

7.2.1 Birtenshaw School

In accordance with an archaeological planning condition recommended by GMAAS, Wardell Armstrong undertook a programme of archaeological survey and evaluation trenching at the site of the recently demolished school. The school occupied the site of Birtenshaw Hall which dated back to at least the early 17th century, but which had been substantially re-built in 1867. The remains of early outbuildings were identified and recorded in the surviving boundary wall and fragments of early wall foundations were found in one of the trenches, although the hall site itself had been removed by remediation of the ground. An information panel will be erected alongside the public footpath by the boundary wall to explain the history and archaeology of the site.



18th- and possible 17th-century stone fabric revealed in the trench (left) and surviving boundary wall (right)

7.2.2 Lee Hall Westhoughton

A large-scale housing scheme on fields near Westhoughton saw an extensive programme of archaeology in the form of geophysical survey, evaluation trenching and three targeted open areas of more detailed investigation through the technique of 'strip, map and record'. This work, which was undertaken by Headland Archaeology, was secured through condition and followed on from an archaeological desk-based assessment. The known presence of prehistoric archaeology in the near

vicinity, such as the middle Bronze Age round house at Cutacre, suggested potential for further prehistoric remains to be revealed at the Lee Hall development site. However, the excavation of a range of anomalies identified by geophysics showed them to be post-medieval field drains or natural features. However, a surviving 19th-century flagstone wall and explanatory plaque have been incorporated into the landscaping scheme.



Archaeological investigation of one of several targeted open areas, based on geophysical survey and evaluation trenching results

7.3 Bury

7.3.1 Kersal Mill, Prestwich

A residential scheme at the former Cussons soap factory at Kersal Vale Road, Prestwich, was preceded by an archaeological watching brief and excavation. The works were undertaken by Salford Archaeology in accordance with a planning condition recommended by GMAAS. The archaeological interest related to a 19th-century textile print works which overlay an earlier corn mill dating back possibly to the late medieval period, associated with the nearby site of the former Kersal Cluniac priory. A watching brief during ground-breaking operations revealed unexpectedly well-preserved foundations of the corn mill which led to a controlled open-area excavation. This revealed the original wheel pit with evidence for a subsequent, post-medieval, expansion of the mill including a replacement wheel pit.



Drone view of excavated remains of Prestwich corn mill (courtesy of Salford Archaeology)

7.3.2 Bevis Green

Planning consent for 268 dwellings at Bevis Green required demolition of the former textile works and remediation of existing ground levels. In accordance with a multi-stage programme of archaeological works required by condition, a historic building survey, evaluation trenching, targeted excavation and watching brief were carried out. At the core of the former industrial complex was an early cotton spinning mill established c 1810 known as Lumn Mills. Based on documentary research and the field work investigations, it was possible to define an area excavation focusing on the potential early 19th-century power systems. This work, undertaken by LP Archaeology, yielded impressive results, with a well-preserved water wheel pit, steam engine base and transmission boxes demonstrating that the mill provides a late example of water power then turning to steam power.



Foundations of the steam engine bed and transmission box (left) and water wheel pit scored by the wheel (right)

7.4 Manchester

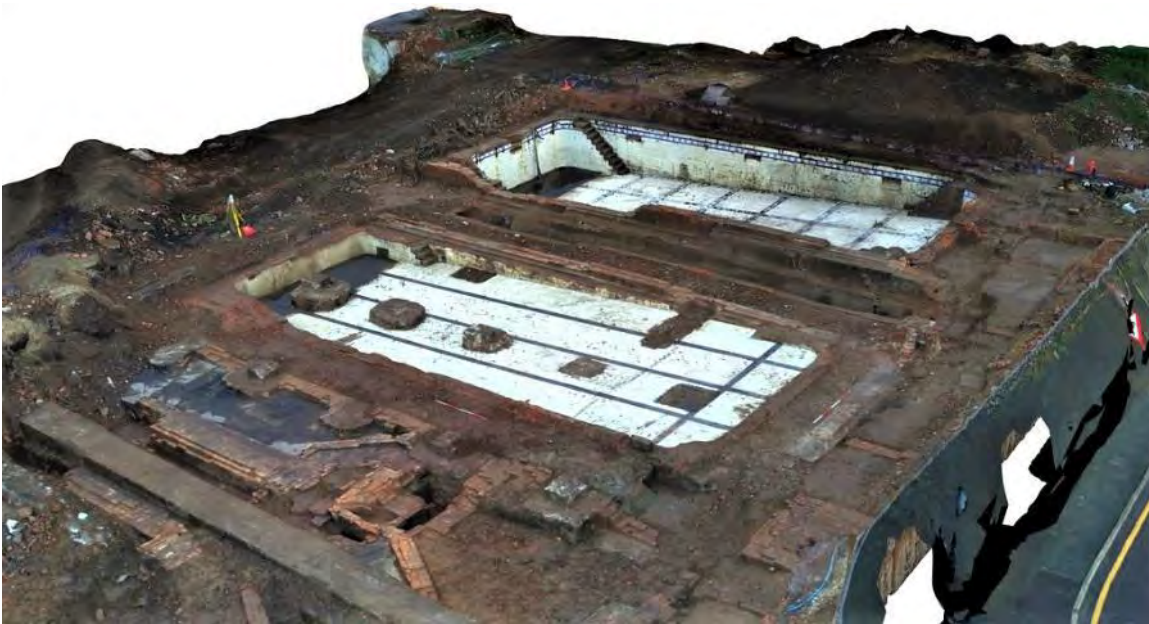
7.4.1 Mayfield

The year's biggest excavation project occurred at the large-scale Mayfield regeneration site, the first phase of which required the creation of a new urban heritage park focused on the restored river Medlock. This huge ground works operation impacted on the site of the former Mayfield Public Baths, Hoyle's Dye/Print Works and Chapelfield Dye Works. In accordance with the archaeology planning condition recommended by GMAAS, Salford Archaeology undertook evaluation trenching followed by large-scale open-area excavation of significant archaeological remains. The public baths site was established in the 1850s and demolished in the 1950s. In keeping with many of Manchester's 19th-century baths included a first class and second class bathing pool along with a laundry. This complex provided a vital opportunity for local residents to exercise, clean themselves and their clothing. Below-ground remains were spectacularly well-preserved and attracted national media attention. Decorative Minton tiles were recovered from the first class baths and will be re-used in the flooring of the new building for this site.

Thomas Hoyle's Mayfield Dye and Print Works grew from humble beginnings in 1782 to become the largest textile-finishing business in the country during the 19th century but went out of business in 1897. One of the dyes produced at this site, a deep purple colour called Indigo, is a central theme in the

marketing for the new development providing a nod to the site's heritage. Following trial trenching a large part of this site was stripped and recorded archaeologically, revealing a range of buildings and features dating from the late 18th to late 19th century. They included engine and boiler beds and flues to provide steam power, along with dye vats and other processing structures.

Chapelfield Dyeworks, on the opposite side of the river to Hoyle's site, was also founded in the late 18th century and thrived through the first half of the 19th century. Despite a 20th-century warehouse occupying much of the site, the archaeology survived remarkably well. An array of features were investigated and recorded. It is proposed to consolidate and embed some of these, such as the polygonal chimney base, into the public realm scheme. Historic fittings and fixtures recovered from the excavation have been set aside and a number will be selected for incorporation into heritage displays that will tell the story of this fascinating and forgotten historic area of Manchester, providing a sense of history and place for visitors to the park.



Oblique aerial view across the foundations of the boiler house and chimney (foreground), second-class baths (middle) and first-class baths at the rear of the picture (courtesy of Salford Archaeology)



Excavating the site of Hoyle's Print and Dye Works, with a series of boiler beds evident in the foreground and the former Mayfield Railway Station to the upper right of the picture



Drone aerial view of the central area of the Chapelfield Dye Works site (courtesy of Salford Archaeology)

7.4.3 Workers' Housing

Several excavations have taken place on the sites of early 19th-century dwellings in central Manchester – adding to the significant corpus of archaeological investigations of working-class lifestyles. Each site is unique and adds new data on plan form and living conditions. Three sites of particular interest are: Long Millgate (Angel Square), Addington Street and Crown Street. At 110-116 Long Millgate excavations by Salford Archaeology as part of the NOMA regeneration scheme revealed a row of brick-built cellared dwellings of late 18th century date. The structures had completely remodelled earlier buildings which lay on the fringe of medieval Manchester, with surviving sandstone foundations and pottery suggesting a 17th-century origin. For the Crown Street Phase 3 development off Chester Road, on the west side of Manchester, further excavations were undertaken by Salford Archaeology to explore and record a defined area of the former Paradise Court which comprised early 19th-century cellared back-to-back workers' housing. A well-preserved set of features were encountered including fireplaces, floors and party walls. At Addington Street in Ancoats, CFA Archaeology undertook a 'strip, map and record' exercise across most of the footprint of a proposed high-rise building. The site was unusual for two reasons. Firstly, the majority of the site comprised extensive remains of non-cellared early 19th-century workers' housing that was unusually well-preserved. The remains took the form of fireplaces, yards, latrines, ginnels, floor surfaces, and stair settings. Secondly, a small hoard of coins was found at a location that once would have been under a set of stairs. The hoard included two gold sovereigns and must have represented a significant amount of money for this poor area at the time of its deposition in the late 19th century.



110-116 Long Millgate excavation (left) showing brick-built cellars incorporating earlier sandstone walls and (right) the remains of Paradise Court housing at the Crown Street development



Oblique aerial view of the Addington Street excavation (left) showing the layout of brick foundations and yards, with the reverse face of one of the gold sovereigns (right) – courtesy of CFA Archaeology

7.4.4 Viadux (former Bauer Millet site)

A scheme to build a 40-storey tower on the former Bauer Millet car showroom site on Great Bridgewater Street adjacent to the Beetham Tower has prompted an extensive and complex programme of archaeological works. The new building's foundations will be punched through the Grade 2 listed 19th-century railway viaduct connecting the former Central Station to the main railway line in Castlefield. Salford Archaeology was commissioned by Ask Central Ltd to carry out a building survey of the historic railway viaduct fabric prior to development works. Evaluation trenching under the viaducts demonstrated that there was some, albeit limited, survival of early 19th-century workers' housing that once dominated this area, but the real surprise was an indication of extensive Roman remains. This has led to detailed excavation under each of the bays created by the railway piers. Only a third of the site has been investigated so far (Phase 1) but the results have been very encouraging. A substantial defensive ditch marking the edge of Roman settlement, of several phases, has been revealed along with a variety of smaller ditches, pits, post holes and deposits dating from the late 1st to 3rd centuries AD. Current thinking is that the remains represent an expansion of the Roman settlement of *'Mamucium'* alongside the road running east towards the fort at Castleshaw (in Saddleworth). The smaller ditches may represent property divisions – it is possible that this is settlement land provided for retired army veterans.

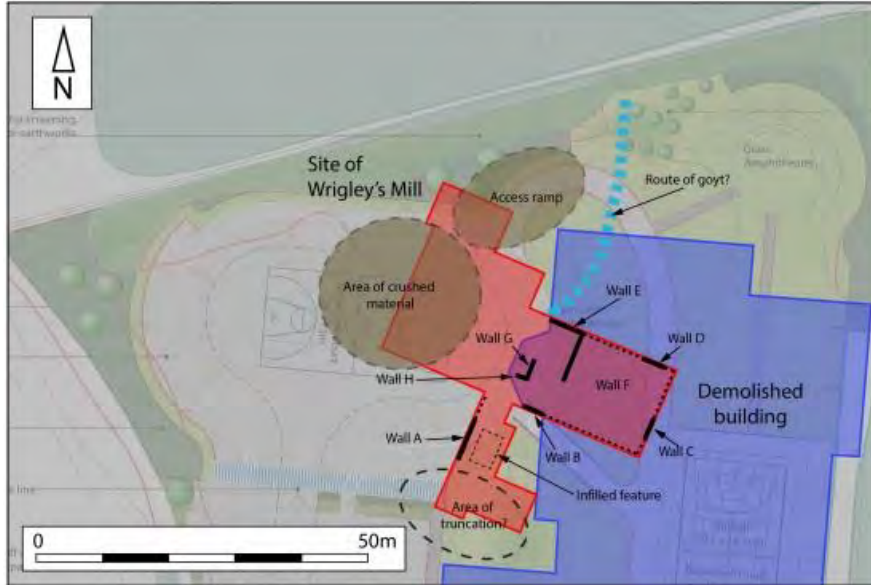


Excavation between the railway arch piers at the Viadux development site, showing Roman features with the defensive ditch on the right

7.5 Oldham

7.5.2 Dobcross Loom Works/Saddleworth new High School

Ahead of the construction of the new school, Jessop Consulting and Oxford Archaeology North put together a scheme of archaeological excavation and a watching brief for approval by GMAAS on behalf of Oldham Planning Authority. This work followed on from a historical assessment and historic building survey which has been undertaken as part of the pre-planning consent works. Despite considerable truncation, the archaeological investigations found several elements of Wrigley's late 18th-century water-powered fulling mill, including the wheel pit, that preceded and was replaced by Dobcross Loom Works. A number of features were also recorded for the Loom Works, including a 19th-century engine house and boiler house. There will be on-site interpretation of these heritage features as part of the development. Wrigley's Mill represents an important period of mechanisation of the textile industry in the Saddleworth area, whilst the Loom Works was one of Saddleworth's most prominent engineering sites.



Above: plan showing site of Wrigley Mill in red against the later Dobcross Loom Works (in blue). Below: excavated engine beds part of the former Loom Works (let), the late 18th century wheel pit revealed by the watching brief (right)

7.5.1 Lime Mill

Planning obligations for a large-scale housing scheme off Albert Road in Hollinwood saw Wardell Armstrong excavate the site of Lime Mill which was built in 1874 over a previous hat factory dating to the 1840s. The remains of the internal arrangements, exterior walls, chimney and flues for the mill were exposed and recorded. Surprisingly, the engine house foundations for the earlier hat works were encountered, lying at a slightly different angle to the later cotton mill.



Drone aerial view of the well-preserved archaeological remains of Lime Mill showing the polygonal chimney on the left and the earlier hat works engine house a little to the right of the chimney

7.6 Rochdale

7.6.1 Rochdale Riverside

The second phase of a new housing scheme in Rochdale Town Centre required archaeological excavation in the form of three open areas focusing on cellared back-to-back dwellings dating to the 1830s, 50s and 60s. The cellars were not indicated on historic mapping but were found to survive intact. A privy block and wash house were inserted in the late 19th century demonstrating an improvement in living conditions and hygiene in response to housing improvement acts. The brick-built houses were built into stone walls supporting terraces cut into the hill slope. This work complemented previous phases of investigation and the results will be incorporated into a Greater Manchester Past Revealed booklet.



One of the excavated areas of cellared dwellings at Rochdale Riverside

7.6.2 Victoria Mill, Middleton

Redevelopment of land at Lincoln Business Park, Middleton, for new industrial units was preceded by archaeological evaluation and excavation undertaken by CFA Archaeology. Of particular note were the well-preserved remains of Victoria Mill which was probably built in the 1820s as a cotton mill beside the Rochdale Branch Canal. Underneath later concrete flooring was found the complete plan of the power systems of the mill. These included an engine house, remains of boilers, flues and a square stone chimney base beside the canal towpath. On the opposite side of the canal are standing remains of Grove Mill engine bed. Excavation showed that most of the engine/boiler house had been removed by later works, but the external walls did survive and were recorded. This area was once full of textile mills, representing Rochdale's burgeoning textile industry in the mid-19th century – only fragments of this industrial heritage now survive.



Victoria Mill excavation. The former canal arm site is just beyond the figures. A granite sett surface in the centre of the photo is a late 19th century phase overlying remains of an early boiler and in turn overlaid by a 20th century concrete slab. The engine house remains are on the left, flanked by solid stone wall.

7.7 Salford

7.7.1 New Bailey Prison

June 2020 saw the final development plot excavation at the site of New Bailey Prison, part of the Salford Central regeneration scheme. Despite being overlaid by a railway warehouse in the late 19th century and an office block (Washington House) in the 1960s, there were enough archaeological remains to make a significant contribution to our understanding of the reform prison established in 1790, and to complement previous plot excavations. Fragments of the original cross wing were recorded along with later additions of the 1830s which included cells arranged around a semi-circular block and workshops in straight sections. A wash house and drying yard, dining and sewing room were also identified. This easternmost part of the prison complex held the female misdemeanant quarters. Changes to the prison facilitated a growing prison population – in 1839 New Bailey Prison could hold up to 583 male and 214 female prisoners. This excavation plot has provided further insights into the architecture of the prison, helping to refine ideas about the phasing of construction, function and use of space and provision of amenities. Salford Archaeology's on-site investigations have been completed

and now attention turns to academic publication in the form of a dedicated monograph and embedding the site's remarkable history and archaeology into the final phase public realm scheme.



This aerial view shows the curved cells of the female misdemeanants (foreground), whilst on the right is a former grave ledger stone that was re-used for toilet holes in the latrine block

7.8 Stockport

7.8.1 Stockport Interchange

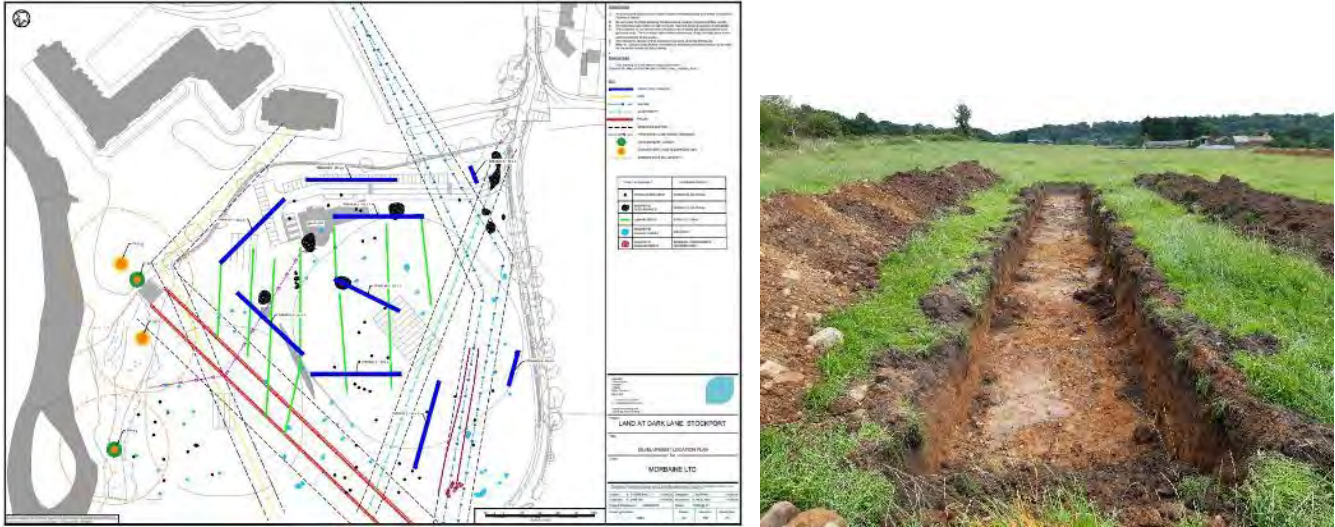
Part of this scheme has required the creation of a temporary bus station on the car park on Heaton Lane while the existing one is transformed. GMAAS recommended investigations take place to record archaeological remains just below the car park surface which would be disturbed by development ground works. Archaeological interest related to the site of early 19th century workers housing, replaced later in the century by a gas works, and the power systems of Wellington Bridge Mill site dating back to c 1820. Whilst only fragmentary remains of the housing were encountered during Wessex Archaeology's investigations, the mills' engine and boiler bases and associated flues survived very well. This archaeological work, which is just part of the programme scheduled for the wider Interchange scheme, contributes to our understanding of an area that played a significant role in the development to the cotton-manufacturing industry in the first half of the 19th century, replacing the 18th-century silk industry.



Looking across the excavated Wellington Bridge Mill engine house remains with the Grade 2* railway viaduct in the background

7.8.2 Dark Lane Bredbury

The establishment of a new cricket ground and pavilion on a green field site, required archaeological evaluation due to its close proximity to finds of archaeological interest and Bredbury Hall. Bredbury's place name is Anglo-Saxon in origin, although the early settlement location has not been established. The evaluation, secured by a planning condition suggested by GMAAS, was undertaken by WYAS Archaeology and comprised firstly a geophysical survey followed by targeted evaluation trenching. The latter focused on geophysical anomalies and areas of proposed major ground disturbance. Results demonstrated a lack of archaeological features, with natural geology or modern disturbance accounting for anomalies. Therefore, no further archaeological work was recommended and the condition discharged following provision of an acceptable evaluation report for deposition with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record.



Geophysical survey interpretation with proposed evaluation trenches (in blue) overlaid and, right, one of the excavated evaluation trenches showing natural geology.

7.9 Tameside

7.9.1 A57 Mottram Bypass

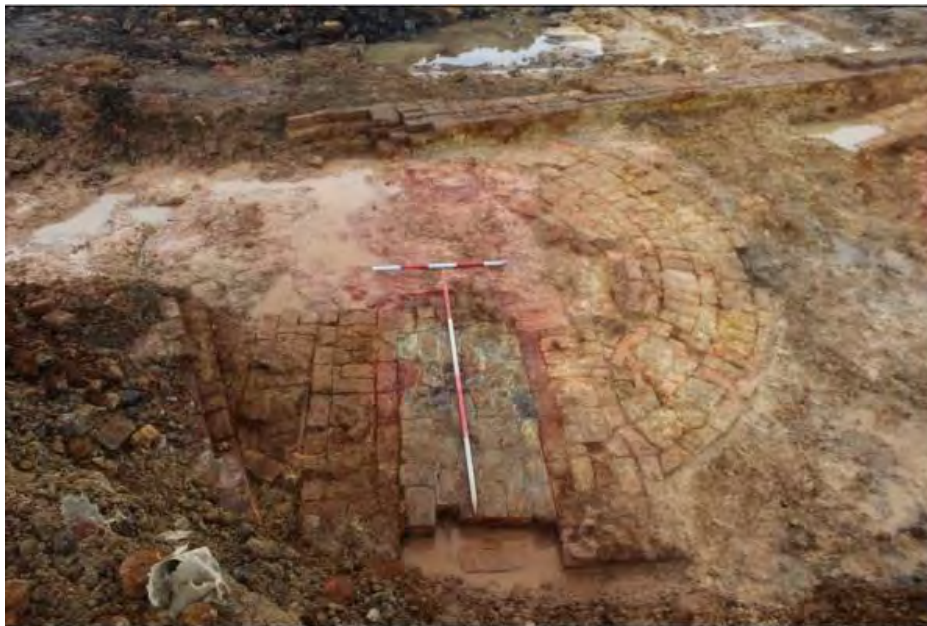
Pre-application evaluation works in Tameside have been underway for the A57 Mottram link-road scheme. Over 2000 shovel-dug test-pits have been completed in areas immediately adjacent to the west bank of the River Etherow (Area E) and in a corridor that stretches north-east from the A57/M67 roundabout towards the A6018 (Area A). Heat maps produced from find-spot distributions, including 40 pieces of worked lithic material of mainly Mesolithic date, and further lithic material recovered from features in evaluation trenches in Area C in the northern part of the scheme will help to inform a future mitigation strategy. The evaluation trenching in Area C has also revealed a number of ditches on alignments that do not conform with modern or historic land division. Analysis of samples taken from these features may help to determine the date of these features and assist in informing an appropriate scheme of further detailed excavation.



Evaluation trench showing intercutting ditches and, right, a burin from a pit in Trench 24

7.9.2 Fairfield Road, Droylsden

Permission was granted for 62 new dwellings on a former plant hire site. The considerable ground works proposed required prior archaeological investigation and recording due to the potential for remains of a copperas works established around 1800. Copperas works transformed mineral pyrites into a black substance used for textile dyeing. Salford Archaeology's investigation found remains of two ovens and associated flues which provide an important and rare example of evidence for copperas processing in the Greater Manchester area.



One of the excavated copperas oven bases, with firing hole in foreground

7.10 Trafford

7.10.1 Warburton Lane

GMAAS was involved in a Planning Inquiry for a large housing scheme proposal at Warburton Lane on arable farmland between Partington and Warburton. The enquiry took place as a result of the developer appealing against non-determination. GMAAS represented Trafford Planning Authority on archaeological matters and had been engaged with the archaeology consultant in the previous year in terms of establishing the location and significance of archaeological remains and the likely impact on them from the proposal development. GMAAS contested that the outline application required more detailed archaeological investigation than the archaeological desk-based assessment and the follow-up geophysical survey that had been submitted in support of the application. The archaeological significance lay in the fact the development would impact on the medieval deer park of Warburton and potential prehistoric/Romano-British remains on the east side of Warburton Lane overlooking Red Brook. GMAAS recommended a programme of trial trenching to establish the character and relative significance of the buried archaeology so that the impact of development ground works could be clearly understood. The Inspector dismissed the appeal so further work will not be taken forward until another scheme comes forward. However, research undertaken for the Inquiry has considerably enhanced our understanding of the archaeology in this part of Warburton parish, in particular shedding light on the character and elements of the medieval deer park (shown in pink on the 1757 Estate Map below) including a moated manor and mill site, fish ponds, pillow mound, park boundary and entrances.

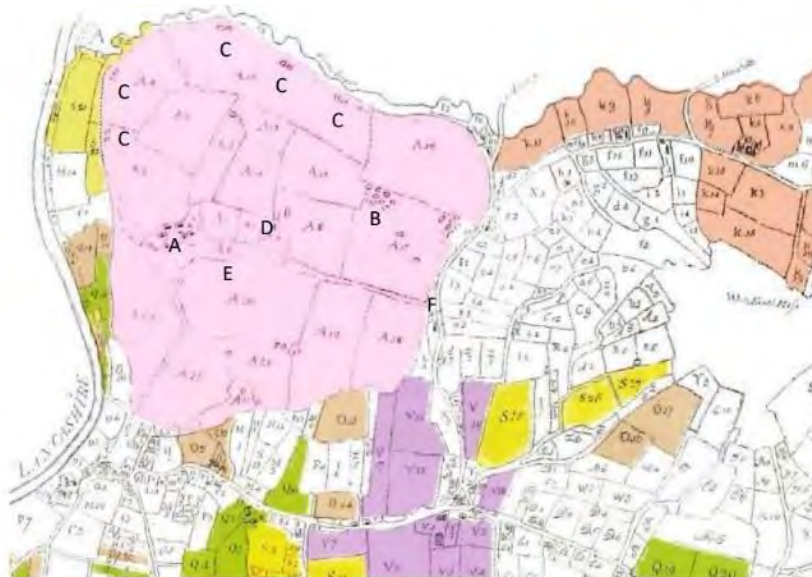
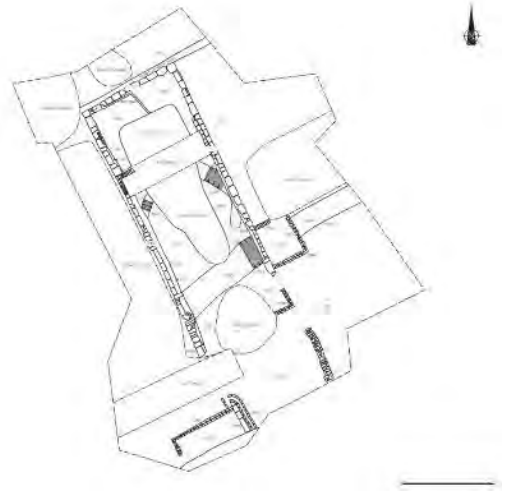


IMAGE 8 A = manor site B = fishponds C = possible salters D = pillow mound
E = general location of possible mill F = historic park entrance?
Pink colour represents the single tenancy reflecting the deer park

7.11 Wigan

7.11.1 Heath Lane, Lowton

There have been a number of large-scale housing schemes in Wigan Borough in recent years. Archaeological investigations at some of these are starting to shed light on medieval antecedents for the farming landscape. Wardell Armstrong's excavations at Heath Lane were undertaken in 2017 (Phase 1), late 2019 and early 2020 (Phase 2). Post-excavation analysis was reported on in December 2020. The fieldwork revealed early sandstone foundations of post-medieval date for the farmstead of Little Lowes Fold, with a linear ditch containing 14th-century pottery predating the building remains. In Phase 2 of the development, investigations at the site of Thompson's Farm 200 metres away included geophysical survey, evaluation and targeted open area excavation. Early sandstone footings supported the rebuilt, later brick farmhouse. Again, early ditch features were identified and what appears to be a long-lived boundary ditch yielded a significant assemblage of medieval pottery sherds spanning the mid-13th to 16th centuries.



The excavated and planned remains of Thompson's Farm

8.0 Community Engagement

8.1 The Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on public archaeology during the year. It was not possible to hold the annual Greater Manchester Archaeology Day at Salford University. Instead, the Dig Greater Manchester blog site was enhanced to provide free online access to various archaeological resources. These included all 27 of the GM Past Revealed booklet series, including the recently published 'Salford Regeneration' volume. Over 60 archaeology/heritage information panels were put on the site as well, with

examples from all over Greater Manchester. These have derived from either grant-aided community projects or developer funding secured by planning condition. Three online lectures were also put on line along with several podcasts. The content can be found at: <https://diggreatermanchester.wordpress.com> .

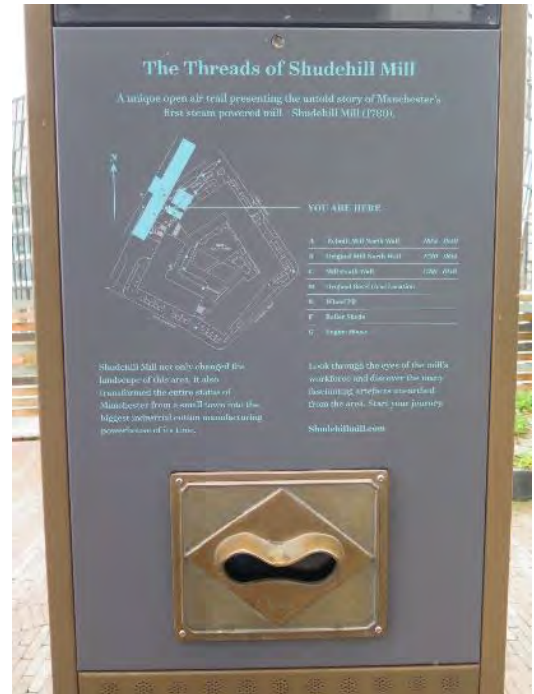
Member societies of the GM Archaeology Federation were unable to undertake field investigations and, whilst a handful managed to run some online lectures via Zoom, many suspended their activities until the coronavirus restrictions are lifted. The GM Archaeology Festival was also suspended, but a new Federation Newsletter on the recent work of societies was prepared and put on the Dig Greater Manchester wordpress site.

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 Shudehill (Arkwright) Mill site, part of the NOMA development at Miller Street, Manchester.



A focal point is this cog from the original steam powered engine drive system



This 'node' provides a video of life in the textile mill together with information on the mill site which is suitably marked out in the street paving. There is a link to a website for much more detailed information and education pack.



These two heritage panels have been recently erected at the Covent Garden housing development in Stockport



Two more recent developer-funded heritage interpretation panels in Stockport town centre – these being at the new road bridge by Stockport Bus Station (left) and Warren Street (right).

9.0 Publications

9.1 The Greater Manchester's Past Revealed Series

Two new booklets have been published over the last year, both by Salford Archaeology:

No. 27 Salford Regeneration: the archaeology of living in the city

No. 28 Worsley Delph: the birth of a remarkable industrial village

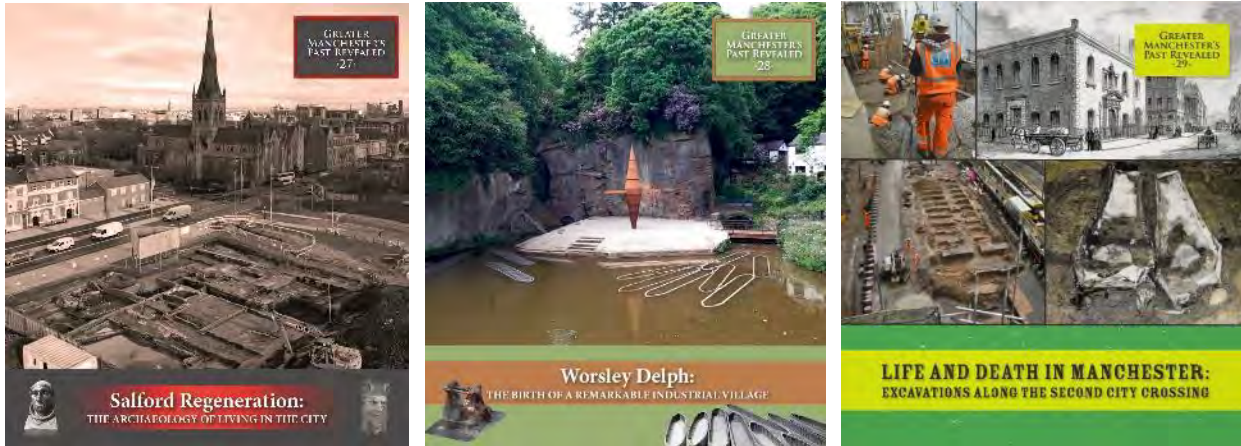
No. 29 is now at the printers and has been produced by CFA Archaeology, covering their investigations along the Metro Link Second City Crossing including a significant excavation of part of Cross Street burial ground – it is titled 'Life and Death in Manchester: excavations along the Second City Crossing'.

Several other booklets in the series are in the pipeline, with the next one expected to be on archaeological investigations at Covent Garden in Stockport.

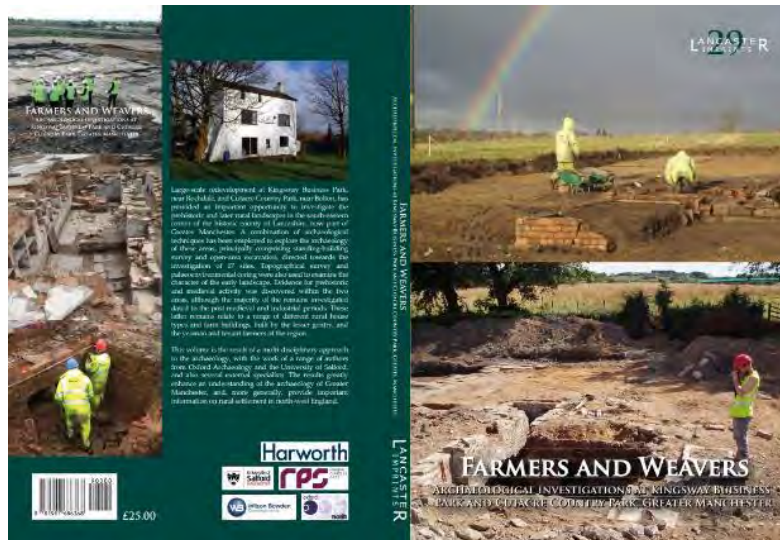
An academic monograph detailing results of the excavations by Oxford Archaeology North at Cutacre Open Cast Coal site and Kingsway Business Park has also gone to the printers. It is being published in the Lancaster Imprint Series (no. 29): 'Farmers and Weavers: Archaeological investigations at

Kingsway Business Park and Cutacre Country Park, Greater Manchester'. Further monographs on significant excavations from recent years are committed through developer funding:

- New Bailey Prison
- Arkwright's Shude Hill Mill
- The medieval borough of Salford
- Manchester's 19th-century glass industry
- Roman Wigan



Front covers of the most recent Past Revealed booklets



The front and back cover for the Cutacre and Kingsway archaeology monograph

Academic articles on particular aspects of archaeological research deriving from development-funded projects have been published. One example is Wessex Archaeology's analysis of the middle Bronze Age funerary monument and early medieval graves found near Bramhall as part of the Manchester Airport Link Road project and published the Chester Archaeological Journal. The Post Medieval

Archaeology Journal has also included reports on important sites excavated in Greater Manchester over the past year.

10.0 Conclusion

Despite the impact of Covid-19 development and archaeological planning work has continued at pretty much the same level as last year. GMAAS, archaeology contractors and consultants have adapted to stringent health and safety protocols to enable development works to take place in a timely manner, minimizing the impact of the pandemic and helping support the area's economic regeneration. A notable feature of the year is the plethora of publications and heritage displays now coming forward from larger-scale developments as they enter their final phases.

Community events have been hit badly by coronavirus restrictions, particularly meetings, lectures and the GM Archaeology Day. It is to be hoped that these activities will pick up quickly in the second half of 2021.

This last year has been a pivotal one for GMAAS: cementing a longer-term contract with the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities and replacing two of the long serving staff members. In its nine years at the University of Salford, GMAAS and the Centre for Applied Archaeology have established strong ties with GM Combined Authority, the ten GM planning authorities and the various heritage communities of the area and wider region. The longer-term contract provides a solid base from which to develop grant funded projects to cement and further enhance these relationships as well as continue to deliver the all-important archaeological planning advisory service.

Norman Redhead

Heritage Management Director (Archaeology)

04/05/21

Epilogue

This comprehensive annual report provides a good flavour of the wide range of important, and sometimes remarkable, work that has been delivered under the auspices of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service during 2020-21, despite the national turmoil caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. As GMAAS moves into its tenth year, the 'new guard' is committed to building

on the formidable legacy left by Norman and Andrew Myers, and maintaining its reputation as a highly regarded Archaeological Advisory Service.

Whilst GMAAS will obviously continue to focus on its core function of providing planning advice to Greater Manchester's ten district authorities, and safeguarding the country's immensely rich historic environment, there is also a continued commitment to participation in strategic projects that benefit the region's archaeology, and facilitating communities to engage in their local heritage. In this latter respect, a very promising start to the year has been made with the implementation of the Local Heritage List Campaign, a project launched and funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, and taken up by 22 counties across England, including Greater Manchester. The campaign is intended to encourage communities to nominate those locally important historic buildings which they value most. GMAAS has taken on a new member of staff on a one-year contract to facilitate the delivery of the project in the districts of Trafford, Bolton and Oldham and, working alongside these district authorities, has already generated huge enthusiasm amongst the initial tranche of community groups that have been contacted.

It is envisaged that one significant output from the Local Heritage List Campaign will be some enhancement of the Historic Environment Record (HER). This vital planning tool and public record of the county's historic environment urgently requires some updating to reflect the plethora of archaeological work that has been carried out in response to development management. As noted in *Section 3.5* of the Annual Report, the quantity of new reports being sent through to the HER means that it is impossible to tackle the backlog; addressing this will be one of the challenges for the coming years, although the Local Heritage List Project will help to update the datasets for Trafford, Bolton and Oldham.

Another welcome output from the Local Heritage List Campaign will be facilitating the engagement of local communities in their local heritage and archaeology, and helping to 'spread the word' of Greater Manchester's rich historic environment. This will hopefully be coupled with a greater presence in the national media, with a view to enhancing the perception of the county's archaeological resource. The current excavation of Manchester Roman settlement as part of the Viadux development adjacent to the Beetham Tower, for instance, will feature on BBC Four's acclaimed *Digging for Britain* programme, whilst the site of a former cotton mill in Oldham (converted for use as a Prisoner of War in the Second World War) is to be the target for an episode of Channel 4's *The Great British Dig*, together showcasing to the nation 2,000 years of rich history across Greater Manchester.

Opportunities will also be sought over the next year or so for engagement with the HS2 Phase 2b project. Whilst the enabling works for this major infrastructure scheme will not commence within the next 12 months, GMAAS is engaged in preliminary discussions with HS2 Ltd with a view to capitalising on any potential benefits to the historic environment afforded by the scheme, in addition to providing discretionary advice to facilitate the planning process.

Whilst there will undoubtedly be some challenges to surmount over the next 12 months, the new team is ready to address these as they arise and look forward to taking GMAAS into its second successful decade.

Ian Miller

Lead Archaeologist (GMAAS)

28/05/21