Update on Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service (GMAAS)

GMAAS have produced an annual report on their first year of delivering an archaeology advisory service to the ten Greater Manchester Planning Authorities (April 2012 to March 2013). This was an incomplete year as there had not been a proper service for the first 5 weeks. Figures from this report indicate the following:

- For the HER gradual progress was made on sorting and cataloguing the HER archive in the basement. Meanwhile, on the database 3,727 Monument records were updated. Inputting of backlog grey literature reports commenced, with 68 completed, plus 17 new event records. Also we began to update the listed building record, with 244 new Designation records. 167 SHINE designation records were created. 18 Conservation Area designations were entered, as our dataset was incomplete for Rochdale. A considerable amount of further work has been done in these areas over the summer, with about 500 extra Listed Building Designation records created to reflect recent listings and to link to existing Monument records that had no associated record in the Designations module. Further progress has also been made with the grey literature backlog.

- HER information was supplied to 93 enquirers, 193 meetings were attended, and 40 lectures and presentations were given by GMAAS staff.

- GMAAS received consultations from the ten Greater Manchester Local Planning Authorities on 234 applications which resulted in recommendations for 27 DBAs, 25 building surveys, 21 evaluations, 11 area excavations and 19 watching briefs, with 118 applications having no archaeological impact.

Federation members

The following groups are members of the Federation:

Bolton Archaeology and Egyptology Society, Bury Archaeological Group, Darwen Local History Society, Glossop and Longendale Archaeological Society, Holcombe Moor Heritage Group, Littleborough Historical and Archaeological Society, Manchester Region Industrial Archaeology Society, Mellor Archaeological Trust, Middleton Archaeological Society, Moston Archaeology Group, Prestwich Heritage Society, Royton Lives Through the Ages, the Friends of Castleshaw Roman Forts, South Manchester Archaeological Research Team, South Trafford Archaeological Group, Tameside Archaeological Society, Wigan Archaeological Society.
Other HER news

GMAAS received a small grant to undertake a HER Data Audit, which commenced in June. This will provide a detailed analysis of the database structure, content, and will identify areas of weakness or inconsistency and make recommendations for future management and enhancement. The last time an audit was done for the GMHER was about ten years ago, so a lot has changed and the resulting action plan will be a most timely and useful document.

In August we received the newly adopted Local List of Heritage Assets for Salford, which includes 279 sites. These are mainly buildings, but some parks are also included. 68 of these records have so far been incorporated into the HER dataset, either as new records or (the majority) as enhancements to existing records. I have been taking the opportunity to verify and update records for other buildings that didn’t make it onto the local list, as many are mislocated on the GIS and some are no longer extant.

We are pleased to announce that Lesley Dunkley, our HER Officer, has been made up to full time.

Planning-related archaeology – highlights

A large open area excavation (by CfAA) of a c 25 metre long section of the Manchester to Wigan Roman road took place at Wentworth High School in Eccles, Salford, ahead of construction of a new school. The gravels comprising the road survived in a degraded state under school playing fields, but the roadside ditches and a buried soil survived well. The palaeo-soils are being assessed for palaeoenvironmental information, such as pollen grain potential, which might form the basis of a follow-up school related project.

OAN have excavated well-preserved remains of early 19th century workers’ housing, a music hall, and a brewery ahead of a new students’ union for Manchester Metropolitan University at Chatham Street, Manchester.

CfAA have undertaken evaluation trenching on the site of the remarkable New Bailey Prison in Salford. This was a reform prison designed in 1790 to a radial plan and intended to be self-financing through the work of the prisoners. It was massively enlarged in 1815, and the evaluation has revealed well-
preserved remains of the extension which will lead to a larger excavation ahead of a new multi-storey car park being erected.

CfAA have also evaluated 19th century structures within the kitchen garden at Abney Hall, Stockport, ahead of development for a new retirement home complex. Good structural remains were encountered but at a depth that will not be affected by proposed ground works.

GMAAS have objected to a large woodland plantation on the valley slopes above the Scheduled site of Castleshaw Roman Forts near Delph, Oldham, which would straddle the Roman road. The scheme was turned down by the Forestry Commission on the basis that it would have a detrimental impact on the historic landscape and setting of the Roman forts.

Evaluation trench by CfAA across the prison site.           The Roman road (arrowed) and landscape above Castleshaw Roman Fort.

At Manchester Cathedral Wessex Archaeology have uncovered a number of ledger stones, burials and associated coffins and fittings as part of an underfloor heating renewal scheme.

Community Projects

Dig Greater Manchester has seen three further excavations, one on the site of Balderstone Hall near Rochdale, the second at Barracks Park, Hulme, Manchester, and the third at the site of Hart Hill mansion in Buile Hill Park, Salford. All three sites produced well-preserved archaeology. Barracks Park is particularly significant in that the remains relate to a cavalry barracks in use from 1804 to 1915 and the base for the Hussars who took part in the Peterloo Massacre of 1819. It is hoped to carry out further work here.

Mellor Archaeological Trust are carrying out investigations at the site of Samuel Oldknow’s Mellor Mill in Stockport Borough. This was possibly the world’s largest water-powered cotton mill when built in 1792, but it was burned down a century later. This scheme is part of a proposal to the HLF to celebrate Oldknow’s legacy in Mellor and Marple.

An HLF bid for a scheme at Radcliffe Tower, Bury, has been successful. There will be a major community excavation, consolidation of the ruined tower which dates to 1403, and landscaping and interpretation of the associated manorial complex to create a heritage park. Work commenced this month.

Two more Greater Manchester Past Revealed Booklets have been published:

Issue 8 – Timperley Old Hall: the excavation of the moated platform

Issue 9 – Coal, Cotton, and Chemicals: the industrial archaeology of Clayton.

Norman Redhead
This year BAG celebrated its diamond jubilee and a party was held to celebrate. Not only that but also Norman Tyson’s involvement for 60 years.

It would seem an appropriate time to give a brief history of BAG’s work over that time. Bury Archaeological Group, led by the late Alan Spencer, began in 1953 with a small excavation in the old Grammar School yard behind Bury parish church. The aim of the dig was to recover information about a prehistoric burial site, suggested by the discovery by workmen of two Bronze Age cinerary urns in 1908. Although a human skeleton was found in 1953, it clearly belonged to the adjacent churchyard which had been encroached upon when the schoolyard was enlarged.

For a decade after its formation, members familiarised themselves with the local landscape through fieldwork and local studies. A few small-scale excavations were carried out on development sites and proposed pipeline routes, including work at the Iron Age hill fort at Planes Wood near Whalley. It was during a visit to this site by one of our members watching pipeline work, that he recovered from the workmen a small hoard of prehistoric bronze implements, now in the British Museum.

In the 1960s, a Bronze Age burial site at Whitelow Hill in Walmersley was completely excavated, during which time the rescue excavation of a threatened Bronze Age cairn at Bank Lane in Shuttleworth also took place. Late in the decade a section of the Manchester-Ribchester Roman road, which formed the ancient parish boundary between Bury and Middleton, disappeared under a housing estate, but not before the Group managed to record two useful sections.

The start of 1970 saw the excavation of a Bronze Age cairn in progress at Wind Hill, Heywood. A few members volunteered their help on the Planes Wood site, working for the late J. Hallam and P. Beswick at that time, where our then treasurer enjoyed the rare privilege of finding a few shards of Neolithic pottery.

Remains of the fortified manor house known as Bury Castle, first discovered in 1865, were rediscovered by the Group in 1973. Examination of the south and north east enclosing wall and moat of the Castle continued until 1977. As a result of our work the site became a scheduled ancient monument. Investigations were carried out simultaneously on a vacant plot in Butcher Lane, east of Bury town centre, and a Tudor smithy at Goody Croft, close to Radcliffe Tower. Excavation and recording of surviving structures of Radcliffe Tower took place in 1979/80, following which the scheduled area was extended.

Documentary research and field walking in Pilsworth township prompted investigations at Meadowcroft Fold in 1983/4. Excavation confirmed early occupation, together with good evidence of iron smelting in the late medieval period. Similar industrial activity was indicated at Whittle Brook to the south.
Small scale excavations on the site of a country pottery at Boar Edge in east Bury in 1987, designed to sample its 18th century output, provided mostly ceramics from a later phase of production. A pipeline laid through the tenement four years later, removed an earlier kiln to the east of our excavation. A return to Whitelow Hill in 1989, to examine anomalies found immediately outside the cemetery some years earlier, revealed an early medieval potash kiln.

A hiatus in fieldwork during the 1990s encouraged more documentary research. Sixteenth and seventeenth century probate records for the manors of Bury and Pilkington were collected, together with tenement leases up to c1800. Limited field-walking at Sandfield Farm, Unsworth, in 1998 produced a quantity of eighteenth century ceramics from an area with suggestive potting field names. Also in that year the Group co-operated with the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit in updating the Bury SMR. The year 1999 saw a re-excavation of Bury Castle moat by Gifford and Partners on behalf of the local authority, who consolidated the remains and made them available for public view. Members co-operated with all concerned.

The medieval estate of Haslem was once held by the Knights Hospitallers, situated in Elton township. A long interest in this estate prompted several trial pits from 2001 to 2003 at Meadowcroft Farm, formerly known as Haslam Hey, in search of a capital messuage. Shards of medieval and early post-medieval pottery were found but results were inconclusive.

At Hurst Farm, Outwood, in Pilkington manor, several acres had been acquired for conversion to Community Woodlands. Since it lay within the medieval Pilkington Park, the Group offered, in 2001, to field walk areas to be planted and examine the documentary evidence. The results were published in 2004.

In 2011, prehistoric objects from the Whitelow Hill excavations of the 1960s were put on temporary display in the new Heritage Gallery at Ramsbottom library, where members of the local community learned something about their ancient predecessors. All prehistoric finds and material from Bury Castle are held by Bury Museum.

Excavations into the site of Gristlehurst Hall, Birtle, were started in 1958 and postponed later that year. Work was resumed in 2003 and still continues.

Robert Huddart - Bury Archaeological Group

**Desk- Based Assessment Workshop** – Jane Darwin South Trafford Arch. Group

This workshop was held on Saturday, 18th May, 2013 at SPARC (Salford Public Archaeology Research Centre) in the Maxwell Building of Salford University. The workshop was given by Vicky Nash of Salford CfAA as she is currently responsible for all the DBA's done by that department. The day started with a list of the free Online Sources that are currently available and the sort of information to be found on each.

This was followed by an explanation of what a DBA is and a full description of what is required to produce one, in line with IFA Guidelines: [http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/DBA2012-Working-draft.pdf](http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/DBA2012-Working-draft.pdf)

(Please note that sections on Significance Statement, Impact Statement & Recommendations for Mitigation are only required for a commercial report and not for research only purposes).

The afternoon session was reserved for a test case for attendees to work on, in teams of two. The site chosen was Peel Park Campus which also gave an opportunity to do a site visit during the lunch break. We were given copies of available maps from 1819 to the present day and had to assign numbers to each ‘site’ we identified within the study area. We then had to choose one ‘site’ to write up as Gazetteer of that site. This just illustrated how time constraints can influence how comprehensive any DBA report can be and also how the final report can vary from one compiler to another.

Information can also be obtained from GMAAS and for their help the department would then be rewarded with a copy of any report written, by amateurs and professionals alike, to add to the Historic Environment Record of Greater Manchester.
We are in that pregnant pause between the submission of our bid to The Heritage Lottery Fund and the panel’s decision.

The project has been running, on limited resources, for two years and we have built up a ‘head of steam’ which we don’t want to lose. Our volunteers have been stoical in their toils to identify all the buildings and features at the Mellor Mill site in order for a definitive survey to be carried out as part of the HLF Stage 2 submission. The survey completed and our bid safely deposited with HLF we were determined that we would carry on with the excavations as if the HLF award had been made.

At the end of July we found ourselves starting to excavate at the northern extremity of the main Mill complex. This is the boiler house and the steam engine house. A building, constructed in 1860, which is detached from the main Mill, housed the Lancashire Boiler and two horizontal steam engines, manufactured by Goodfellows of Hyde. We started to investigate the depression where the building once stood but now was only showing the top few inches of the long engine holding down bolts above the debris and dense undergrowth.

Early on we uncovered what, at first, was thought to be the boiler flue but this seemed to be in the wrong location. The latest interpretation is that it is an economizer providing pre-heated water to the boilers to save on fuel.

In 1877, we find the original steam engines put up for sale and the following is the sale notice from the Manchester Guardian

Manchester Guardian1877 Dec 18 p7

**ONE Pair of Compound Horizontal ENGINES,** by Goodfellow, of Hyde; high-pressure cylinder 14in. diameter, 4ft. stroke, 2½in. piston rod, cast-iron slides, 9ft. connecting rod and strong cast-iron bed complete; low-pressure cylinder 27in. diameter, 2ft. 6in. Stroke, 3½in. piston rod and connecting rod; horizontal air pump in front of low-pressure cylinder and on same piston rod, cylinder and air pump on cast-iron bed, complete; crank shaft, 6in. necks and 7ft. centres of engines; spur wheel, 60 cogs, 3in. pitch, 8¾in. wide; flywheel, 12ft.3in. diameter; rim, 8in. wide by 9in. deep.

Can be seen at work at Bottoms Mill, Mellor, Marple.

From measurements taken from the holding down bolts, protruding through the ashlar engine mounting blocks, it has been calculated that the original pair of engines were replaced with a much more powerful pair in 1877. These were possibly capable of producing 120 hp which is equivalent in power to the three mill water wheels. Was this a last ditch attempt to keep up with the steam powered mills in Stockport, Manchester and beyond? The new engines were powered by not one but two Lancashire Boilers with the second one housed in an extension to the north of the boiler house with extensive alterations to the coal cellars taking place at the same time.

During the excavations there have been a number of significant finds.

We have recovered several pieces of ‘fire bar’ from the boiler house and from the engine fly wheel pit a tapered key which was possibly to join a connecting rod to a piston.
A group of Scouts from Warrington, working towards their Heritage Badge, and later ‘A’ level Archaeology students from Aquinas College in Stockport have uncovered a substantial section of the flue which ran up the hillside from the boiler house.

Section of the brick arched flue. A view across the engine house to the right and the boiler house to the left. The vertical section of brick wall separates one from the other. The fly wheel pit can be clearly seen in the engine house with the holding down bolts for the engines to either side.

We are sure that there has to be a drainage system from the boiler house to allow for the boilers being drained down for maintenance. To date we have failed to find its exact location and so during inclement weather we suffer from a build up of water at the bottom of the dig.
The building has been difficult, at times, to interpret due to the major alterations and extensions which took place when the engines and boilers were upgraded and we will need to give careful consideration to which features to present for public viewing. Of major concern is the conservation of the exposed masonry and its protection from the elements in the future. The English Heritage, Heritage at Risk team, will be advising us on the best way forward to ensure this important piece of our Industrial Heritage is presented and protected for all to enjoy into the future.

Weather permitting, work will carry on through the winter. Visitors and Volunteers are always welcome. We have tour guides available both for the casual visitor and, by arrangement, for organized groups. Further information is available from Mellor Archaeological Trust, both on the website MATrust.org.uk or by email bob@MATrust.org.uk

Bob Humphrey-Taylor
Mellor Mill
Site Director

The Brief History of Higher Hartshead Evaluation work

For the past eleven years Tameside Archaeological Society Ltd has been investigating the area to the west of Hartshead Pike. The site has the remains of what has been described as a deserted village.

While it is said that the Romans may have used Hartshead area as a signal station, our investigations have pointed the archaeology towards the late medieval period up to the mid-19th century. During the mid-medieval period changes in rural society with new forms of domestication came about within community groups. However, from the late medieval period, while much of Ashton-under-Lyne became part of the industrial change in the 18th century, the community of Higher Hartshead was still living at a low subsistence level, with the rural economy mostly based on agricultural procedures. However, by the late 18th century and early 19th century various industrial processes were introduced into the local economy, such as iron works.

The area of Higher Hartshead that faces over towards the west lies in Tameside Metropolitan Borough. The Borough straddles the lowlands of Southeast Lancashire and Northeast Cheshire and the western foothills of the Pennines. The highest point reached is Hartshead Pike (286.60m). There has been a monument here in one form or another since the 18th century and it has dominated the skyline ever since.

Tameside Archaeological Society Ltd approached the landowner Mr. Malcolm Simpkin of Four Winds Farm in 2002, in connection to the features that were visible within his land. He stated that he had been considering developing this area later for expansion of his smallholding. In addition, consideration would be given to any plans that Mr. Simpkin may have for future development of his land. Permission was granted for a full investigation of the site in 2002.

Four Winds Farm is situated just off a trackway that cuts across various rights of way, Bents Lane which is a continuation of Lily Lanes. Four Winds Farm is situated on a former site of a 17th Century building but by the mid-18th century was rebuilt into what stands today. Some of the internal features of the building may go back the earlier period. Part of the farm complex was converted into a Smallpox Isolation Hospital which was owned by the Lees of Hyde in the late 19th century.

The research into the settlement area was started by investigating information held in the Tameside Local Studies & Archives, Preston Central Records and Cheshire Records. This
information included extracts from Bowman as to various place names attached to Hartshead, but no precise information could be tied into the site. The Census details could not indicate precisely how people lived, where and when; indeed there was hardly any information at all.

One extract taken from Tom Butterworth in 1828 states that: A small plot of land, and some cottages a little above on the brink of a hill, and within a few paces of the spot where the pike once stood, with a group of nine or ten habitations opposite, form the small village of Hartshead.

In connection to this is the reference made by the antiquarian Bowman, stating: That a group of cottages around Higher Hartshead were occupied by different communities and that they farmed different types of livestock. But this does not tell us where these buildings were in relation to the landscape. Although the 19th century cartographers have described the cottages on the 1891 Ordnance map 25in to 1 mile, it still remains somewhat enigmatic due to the accuracy of the map.

The research from Preston and Cheshire Records gave us a similar lack of good information. The site became very enigmatic and it would seem that relying on the archaeology would be the best cause of action.

Our investigation over the last few years has changed various thoughts about the site. The past antiquarians and cartography information’s does not tally with the archaeology and what we are finding suggests the site may be a lot older than once thought.

We may be some way from solving some of these problems. However, we could mention that some of our long forgotten villages are still to be found and understood. One such village is situated within the old parish of Hartshead. This site has the potential to put the final jigsaw piece back into place concerning the forgotten villages of Tameside.

![Figure 1: Indicating the supposed area of the Cottages](image-url)
Figure 2: Geographical location of the cottages

Figure 3: Present Site Location –Cottage 5- Showing the overall site. The barrier tape location indicates a spring next to the track way.

Figure 4: Newly excavated stone walled spring with steps leading down into base.

Steven Milne, Tameside Archaeology Society.
Kirkless Iron and Steel Works

The Wigan Arch Soc has been asked to investigate the site of the Kirkless Iron and Steel Works, which operated for over 70 years in the late 19th and early 20th century. It was located just a few miles north east of Wigan, on the east bank of the Leeds and Liverpool canal, between Aspull and Higher Ince. In its heyday it was the third largest steel works in Europe, employing over 9000 people which rose to 11000 at the outbreak of the First World War.

![Image of Kirkless Iron and Steel Works]

Production of pig iron started in 1858 with two furnaces, rising to five by 1864, each 65ft tall. The number continued to rise so that by 1886 there were ten, the new ones being 80ft tall. The blast for the furnaces came from 6 vertical steam driven blowing engines, installed in a huge engine hall. By 1890 an adjacent steel works had been constructed which included 5 open-hearth furnaces and rolling mills producing 1,300 tons of steel a week. A battery of 670 coke ovens supplied the blast furnaces with the coal gas by-product being used to fire the open-hearth furnaces.

In 1908 the coke ovens were replaced by 44 Semet Solvay type ovens producing 3,600 tons of coke per week. In addition they produced tar, pitch, sulphate of ammonia and benzol. Other items produced at Kirkless included bricks, concrete flags and tar macadam. The company also manufactured their own steam engines, building twenty by 1912, and a fleet of rail wagon which reached 7000 by 1930.

After the First World War, demand for steel was in decline and competition from more efficient plants, forced a reduction in steel manufacture. The plant finally closed in 1930 when production was moved to Irlam, which had easy access to the Manchester Ship Canal. After the Second World War the site became the engineering headquarters of the NCB for the North West Area. By then, most of the iron and steel works had been removed leaving the site looking like a moonscape. The huge white slag heaps, which had dominated the landscape, had also been taken down to be used as hardcore for the motorways. In the 1970s the site’s remaining buildings were used as general stores and workshops by the NCB. It finally closed its facilities in 1985.

In recent years much of the site is being given over as an industrial estate. The rest, however, has been allowed to return to nature which is being managed by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust. Its industrial legacy has produced a unique habitat for flora and fauna. Grasses normally found on seaside dunes, water plants not native to these parts, flowers found in only a few other places in Britain, are all now thriving. The Trust’s remit is to provide an amenity for the local community who are encouraged to get involved by improving access, mending paths, clearing litter etc.
The site is also littered with the relics of the iron and steel works. Enigmatic features in brick, stone, concrete and iron protrude through the undergrowth as a reminder of the site’s industrial past. Last year the Trust approached our Society to see if we could identify these features and maybe locate other features lying just below the surface. Earlier this year we carried some field work, including a plane table survey. Using these results and old maps supplied by the GMAAS, we were able to locate some elements of the works on the ground. Our aim is to present a project plan to the council, who now own the land, with a view to carrying out limited excavations. It would be quite an achievement if we could locate more features from this site which has such a significant industrial heritage.

Bill Aldridge [www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk](http://www.wiganarchsoc.co.uk)
Evaluation at Abney Hall, Cheadle, June & September 2013

SMART undertook an evaluation at Abney Hall to establish what archaeological remains there were of the 17th century Buckley Chapel, which had been re-erected at this site by James Watt at the end of the 19th century. The investigations were also designed to determine the extent and character of archaeology relating to a former mid-19th century stable block belonging to Abney Hall and the 18th century Grove Print Works which pre-dated the hall. The puzzle for those not familiar with the site was why there was 17th century archaeology located above 18th & 19th century archaeology, and how they all fitted in together with the development of the site. The main objective was to establish if there was indeed anything the team could identify as being the chapel. The evaluation was carried out over two days and within this time scale the intention was to open test trenches based on information from tithe maps and OS maps and the topography of the re-landscaped garden. We recorded archaeological evidence relating to the three phases of buildings previously outlined with a view to understanding the potential of the site for a larger scale community dig. The objective is that should significant evidence be established then there is potential to make an HLF bid in conjunction with the Friends of Abney Hall who have been very supportive of the work.

Historical notes on the chapel

From *Cheshire Country Houses* by Peter de Figueiredo and Julian Treuherz, Phillimore, 1988:

"The antiquarian tastes of James Watts jnr. contrasts with his father's delight in the new. Watts jnr was also what would now be termed a conservationist, for in 1899 he rescued the ruinous Buckley Hall of 1625, the home of his mother's ancestors at Rochdale, and rebuilt it in the grounds of Abney. His interest in conservation was not superficial for, despite his reaction against the High Victorian style, he carefully preserved the Crace rooms and their contents."
The rebuilt Buckley Hall was demolished by the local authority in 1963, the stables were taken down more recently still, and inside the walled garden is an unsightly group of temporary huts used as council offices."

There was a datestone of 1693 associated with the chapel, which was re-built as part of a larger complex serving as an annexe to the hall where “crowds were fed on festive occasions.”

The results as you can see were very satisfying in so much as we managed to establish two wall returns which located the full extent of rear wall of the chapel, as shown in Figs 1& 2.

Later, in the September dig, we found the west bay as shown in Fig 3, and seen a photograph of the relocated building in Fig 4.

In addition to in situ archaeology we uncovered several interesting masonry features associated with the chapel and also one of the edges of the reservoir that was part of the first phase of building on the site, which had originally been a print works. Figs 5 & 6 show in sequence a roundel which we suspect was a copy of an original found on the chapel when located at Buckley. Suggestions as to its specific design are welcome as to date we have not been able to identify it. After removing some of the rubble infill adjacent to this we uncovered a threshold to the rear of the chapel, seen in the top right of the image of Fig 6.
The OS 1907 map shows the chapel footprint to the south-east of the hall.

Further to this in Fig 7 are what we suspect to be engineering tiles of a fairly ornate design which have been made with the purpose of having a pipe pass through which suggests that perhaps the reconstructed chapel at Abney had been heated; again this specific design has eluded definition. Fig 8 is a quoin stone, one of several of varying designs located as back fill to several trenches we opened.
I have completed my first report from our dig in June and will be submitting the second from September very soon once all our data has been processed. But in any event the two, two day evaluations proved to be very successful, although we found no further evidence of the 18th century print work buildings other than the reservoir edge which in my opinion does not warrant further investigations, not did we reveal any more than a glimpse of the 19th century stables that were contemporary to the construction of Abney Hall. I do feel that a community dig on this site would be of great value and help understand the levels of archaeological change that have taken place, in what outwardly appears to be a rather odd phasing due to the relocation of Buckley Chapel which is 17th century, and is actually the final phase of what we know is primarily an 18th and 19th century site.

Compiled by Andy Coutts Chair of SMART

With thanks to Richard Fletcher for historic research, and Norman Redhead who initiated the project, and to Stockport MBC and the Friends of Abney Park for their support.