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## ***Summary***

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The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) was commissioned to undertake a programme of investigation that included two phases of archaeological evaluation and an open area community excavation at the site of Ordsall Hall, Ordsall Lane, Ordsall, Salford, Greater Manchester.

The evaluation trenches and the subsequent open area excavation took place as part of a combined scheme of works aimed at promoting archaeology and heritage participation within the local community alongside a scheme of archaeological mitigation in response to the proposed refurbishment and landscaping works scheduled to take place within the hall and surrounding grounds.

The work carried out to date has added to our understanding and knowledge of the development of the site and permitted a reassessment of the condition and levels of survival across the site. It has also actively engaged with the local community providing a “hands on” experience for local children and adults, introducing them to all aspects of archaeological investigation.

Utilising both historical research and excavation additional information has been adduced on the nature of the site to the west and north of the hall. This work has identified three broad phases of activity from the medieval to the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> century.

To the north of the site research has identified a smaller moated platform which probably pre-dates the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century and the construction of the present hall. Excavations carried out to the west of the hall uncovered a number of possible field boundaries and gullies of a similar date. Other remains of a probable medieval date were also investigated. The remains of the sandstone wall identified as a moat retaining wall by Higham during 1979 excavations was located and extended. Although inconclusive this work suggests that the wall may represent the truncated remains of an early building predating the construction of the moat.

Evaluation trenches positioned over the location of the 17<sup>th</sup> century barn and cottage clearly demonstrated the potential of this area for the survival of archaeological remains beneath the excavated levels of the earlier excavation.

Excavation across the line of the moat produced only limited results. No dateable material was recovered from the lower fills of the moat and the presence of 19<sup>th</sup> century material recovered from the upper fills suggests a re-cutting and truncation of the early profile and fills during this later period of activity.

## ***1. Introduction***

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### **1.1. Preamble**

The University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU) was commissioned by Salford City Council to undertake a programme of archaeological work at the site of Ordsall Hall, Salford, Greater Manchester (NGR: SJ 816 969).

Initially this work comprised the excavation of seven evaluation trenches positioned to the east of the hall. This work was completed by professional archaeologists from UMAU, in September 2006, as a means of determining the location of the moat known to surround Ordsall Hall, the presence of archaeological remains outside of this moat and also to establish the state of preservation of below ground remains, originally exposed during archaeological investigations dating to the 1970s and 1990s.

Based on the findings of the evaluation a larger open-area trench was then excavated in October 2006. The excavation of this trench was undertaken as part of a UMAU community project. The aim of this project was to allow local volunteers and school children to participate in the excavation and to learn, in turn, the principles of archaeology, and to directly engage with the history of the area in which they live.

During the educational week approximately 300 school children, teachers and teaching assistants were engaged in three separate rotating activities, each supervised by a professional archaeologist. The first activity was carried out under the supervision of John Crossland and involved the carrying out of a geophysical survey over the projected alignment of the moat. The second group supervised by UMAU staff, participated in the excavation of the open-area trench and the third group participated in archaeological post-excavation, art and craft activities and tours of the hall in preparation for a lantern parade scheduled for the end of the excavation.

Prior to undertaking the geophysical survey of the site the children were encouraged to discuss the cartographic evidence for the hall and the relating moat. A resistivity meter was then used by the children to undertake a geophysical survey of the site to establish the extent and direction of the original moat and if this had been compromised by later activity. Each individual child participated in the taking, recording and analysing of the fieldwork readings.

The open area community excavation programme exposed both children and adults to the requirements and techniques of archaeological field excavation. This included an introduction to site health and safety and the manual excavation, photographing and recording of the remains of a number of post-medieval walls, medieval ditches and the uppermost fills of the moat. Each participating group was also given an introduction into the history of the hall and its occupants. Throughout the excavation there was interaction between individual children and professional archaeologists concerning their thoughts on what they had personally excavated and how this related to the hall itself, with particular emphasis being placed upon the material culture remains that were recovered from the site.

The archaeological post-excavation processing of the finds was also undertaken as part of the activities carried out by the children. This included washing, cleaning, recording and the identification of the material culture remains (mostly ceramic) and included a discussion of the origins, date, form and use of the remains.

Additionally guided tours around the hall were organised by staff members of Ordsall Hall together with a crafts session supervised by Salford Education officers. The crafts session included activities such as pottery and lantern making, which were later used during an event undertaken by the children of Salford which culminated in a lantern parade around the grounds of Ordsall Hall.

The activities available to the adult volunteers (including a number of families with small children) during the second week were identical to those offered to the school children in the previous week. In total 56 individuals attended the excavation many of whom attended upon more than one occasion. The culmination of the project was a 'Drop in Day' on the Saturday in which informal guided tours and an explanation of the excavation was given all individual visitors to the site.

## **1.2. Location and Topography**

*Dr Peter Arrowsmith*

Ordsall Hall is located in the City of Salford, on the west side of the River Irwell at c 23m AOD. The environs of the hall were built upon in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century during Salford's industrial expansion. The hall was located within a moat which has since disappeared (**Illus 1**).

The hall stands on a shallow shelf on the northern edge of the Irwell flood plain on recent alluvium which will have formed a fertile base for either arable or pastoral farming. To the north of the hall the dominant superficial cover is glacial boulder clay. According to the OS Geological Survey (sheet 85), the underlying geology of the area is composed of Triassic Bunter Sandstone, now known as Sherwood Sandstone.

## **1.3. Archaeological and Historical Background**

*Dr Peter Arrowsmith*

### **1.3.1. Owners and Occupants**

Ordsall is first documented in 1177 but the status of the place is unclear until the mid-13<sup>th</sup> century. In 1251 it was granted by William Ferrers, earl of Derby, to the Hulton family who for nearly a century held it as part of a group of local manors. By the 1340s Ordsall along with other parts of the Hultons' estates had passed to a branch of the Radcliffe family, originally of Radcliffe near Bury. After a period of dispute over possession, the ownership of John de Radcliffe was confirmed in c 1354 (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 210; Higham 1980, 7).

The earliest known description of Ordsall Hall is provided by the inquisition carried out after the death of Richard Radcliffe in 1380. According to this document, the hall then comprised five chambers, a kitchen and a chapel, licensed in 1361. Associated with the hall were a demesne farm yard, two stables, three granges, two cow houses, a garner or granary, a dovecote, an orchard and a windmill. Since no other tenements are mentioned it has been concluded that the estate at this time comprised only a substantial demesne, presumably farmed with a body of paid laborers (Higham 1980, 7-8).

The Radcliffes retained possession over two centuries. During the 16<sup>th</sup> century the family greatly increased its estates but in 1662 financial difficulties resulted in the sale of the hall to

John Birch of Ardwick. By 1704 the building was divided into two separate tenancies. In 1758 ownership passed to the Egertons of Tatton (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 213; Vigeon 1975, 12; Higham 1980, 8).

In the late 1890s Earl Egerton of Tatton had the building restored as a clergy training school and rectory for the church of St Cyprian which was built at this time on the site of the hall's former East Wing (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 213; Vigeon 1975, 12).

In 1959 the hall was purchased by Salford Corporation and opened in 1972 as a period house and social history museum (Vigeon 1975, 12). St Cyprian's church closed in 1963 and was subsequently demolished (Bullock 1996, 57).

### **1.3.2. Site Development**

#### *The East Wing*

The oldest part of the building currently standing is the two-storey build immediately to the east of the great hall, containing a single heated room on each floor, of which the ground-floor room is traditionally known as the Star Chamber. Tree-ring dating evidence suggests a felling date for the timbers of the build between 1348 and 1383, and perhaps towards the upper end of this range, ie between 1363 and 1383 (Smith 1995, 6). Its location, at the upper end of the Great Hall, allows it to be identified as the lord's private apartments or solar. The tree-ring dating evidence favours it as being the work of the Radcliffes following their acquisition of the estate in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century and as forming part of the hall as described in 1380 (4.1.2). The solar was extended on the east by the addition of an annexe in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and of an infill block in c 1790, but originally the solar's eastern wall marked the end of the building on this side.

The surviving 14<sup>th</sup>-century solar, however, formerly continued to the north to form a substantial East Wing. Remains of this missing wing were discovered during the construction of St Cyprian's church in the 1890s (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 213), but the main evidence is derived from the archaeological excavations carried out in 1990-1 and 1994. These uncovered remains of the stone footings of its eastern, western and northern walls which have survived despite the building of St Cyprian's church with its deep foundations.

These walls were not fully excavated and no firm dating evidence appears to have been found for their construction, but the alignment of the eastern and western walls corresponds with those of the surviving 14<sup>th</sup>-century solar and favours the view that the two elements were contemporary and belonged to a single wing. W John Smith has equated this wing with the five chambers and a chapel documented in 1380 and has suggested that its construction was contemporary with the earliest recorded licence for a chapel in 1361 (Smith 1995, 5).

The East Wing measured c6.00m in width and c29.00m in length, including the surviving solar. The excavations found that appended to its northern end were the stone footings of a smaller structure c5.00m square. Again no firm evidence appears to have been found for the date of construction.

Butting against the north end of the east wall of the East Wing, the excavations uncovered the substantial stone footings of a chimney stack. Immediately to the north-east of this, a curving line of stonework suggested a bread oven. The presence of this last feature and the sheer size of the stack suggest that this northern end of the wing was used as a kitchen. Although the physical evidence for the relative chronology of these features was not conclusive, the exterior

walling of the East Wing seems to have been continuous with the stack butting against it, suggesting that the stack was a later addition. This would be in keeping with the general development of the hall, in that the use of part of the East Wing as a service area is likely to date from the time when the hall was divided into two separate tenancies. Furthermore, while no direct dating evidence was found for the construction of the East Wing and the various associated structural features, deposits adjoining these remains produced an assemblage of pottery which dated consistently to the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century. The division the Hall is known to have occurred by 1704 (4.1.3).

Within the body of the East Wing, the excavation in 1991 identified two smaller features which were believed to be hearths. One comprised a flagged area towards the north-west corner of the wing, the other a brick and stone feature located to the west of the stone stack. The chronological relationship of these features with the stack is unknown.

The function of the northern appendage is uncertain but within this building a possible square-shaped stone-lined well was discovered, supporting the theory that the building was at one time an annex to the kitchen in the East Wing.

Other features located during the excavation in 1994 included a small area of set stones to the east of the appended building and a length of undefined wall running eastwards from the east wall of the East Wing. The purpose of these features is uncertain.

The *Victoria County History* dates the demolition of the East Wing to 1639, making its removal contemporary with the building of the West Wing (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 213). However, the East Wing is clearly shown in a pictorial depiction of the hall on a map of 1740. In addition W John Smith has drawn attention to a document among the Egerton Deeds at Ordsall Hall entitled 'A State of the Manor of Ordsall, 1750'. This describes the hall as 'the mansion house or hall of Ordsall (besides what Scholes had) consisting of a large Hall, Long Dining Room, a Chapel, six rooms on a floor with brew house, large court, stable and other conveniences'. Smith concludes that the East Wing was still standing at that date, but that the hall was divided with the Great Hall and East Wing forming one occupancy, and the western side of the Hall, comprising the service wing and West Wing, perhaps being occupied by John Scholes. The earliest estate plan, of 1812, shows that the East Wing had been taken down by that date (Smith 1995, 6).

After the demolition of the East Wing, a thick layer of fine brown loam was deposited over the site. It appears to have been a deliberate deposit of topsoil, with this area being utilized as a garden until the construction of St Cyprian's church in the 1890s. An 1875 photograph of this garden area shows a statue of Mercury which was removed prior to the building of the church and now stands in the centre of a pond at Tatton Park (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, after 210). A square sandstone plinth uncovered within the loam layer probably marks the position of the statue.

### ***The Great Hall***

The present Great Hall was built in c 1513 by Sir Alexander Radcliffe. It must have replaced an earlier hall, vestiges of which may be preserved in the dais wall of the present Great Hall, originally built as the west wall of the 14<sup>th</sup>-century solar (Smith 1995, 9).

In 1994 a trench was dug by building contractors on behalf of the County Archaeologist immediately below the louvre in the Great Hall, with the aim of locating any remains of a central hearth. A note within the GMAU archives records a slight lens of burning c 0.25m

from ground level and also notes that natural sand was encountered at a relatively shallow depth. One sherd of pottery, of unspecified date, was recovered from the trench.

### ***The north side of the courtyard***

In its narrower plan, the building appended to the northern end of the East Wing echoed the northern bay of the West Wing. The *Victoria County History*, referring to the West Wing, notes that 'Near the north end of the wing the east wall sets back on a line so nearly coinciding with that of a foundation discovered in 1896 running westward from the old east wing, that it may be taken as marking the width of an original north wing' (Farrer & Brownbill 1911, 215). The recent archaeological investigations have not located this east-west wall and its function must be considered as uncertain.

The 1740 map shows the north side of the courtyard enclosed not by a wing but by a perimeter wall with a central arched entrance. This entrance and the western side of the perimeter wall are still shown on a photograph of 1875.

A section of this perimeter wall, c 0.55m thick at the base and constructed of handmade brick, was uncovered during the excavation in 1991). On the north it was abutted at a right angle by a slighter brick wall at least 5m long. This second wall projects over the line of the moat as shown on OS mapping of 1849 and presumably postdates its infilling later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is also shown, in outline, with two parallel walls on a plan of the hall published in the *Victoria County History* which depicts all three walls as terminating at the present site boundary.

### ***The West Wing***

The current archaeological evidence for the West Wing relates to a number of features which adjoined the western side of this wing but have since been demolished. All of these remains were uncovered in 1991.

The most northerly comprised a floor surface of handmade brick. This in part at least corresponds with a north-westerly projection of the West Wing shown on the *Victoria County History's* plan of the Hall. It is described there as being largely 'modern', including one section which projected over the former line of the moat, but it is also shown as incorporating a 17<sup>th</sup>-century wall which continued the line of the perimeter wall to the east. This projection is partly visible on a photograph of 1875 as a single storey.

Roughly opposite the centre of the West Wing, brick foundations were uncovered running for a distance of 5.90m until they were cut by the causeway leading from Rixton Street to the hall. In the immediate area there was considerable evidence of burning in the form of cinder, ash cracked bricks and molten glass. Additional signs of burning were noted on the western elevation of the West Wing, which had left an impression of a single-storey outbuilding c 12.00m in length. In and around the remains of the structure a great many kitchen artefacts were found suggesting that this could have been a kitchen destroyed by fire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This building is not shown on the OS map of 1849 and the interim excavation report provides no further details on the date of the structure.

On the south side of the present projecting bay, a short length of brick walling was uncovered. This correspond with a southern extension of that bay, shown on the 1849 OS map and on the *Victoria County History* plan which describes this extension as modern.

The southernmost of these several remains, and potentially the most significant, comprised a wall footing of sandstone blocks projecting from the west wall. Associated ground surfaces and a construction trench were also noted, but again no further details are given.

### ***Servants' Wing***

At the south-east corner of the Hall, the excavations uncovered the foundations of a late 19<sup>th</sup> - century brick-built servants' wing. This work uncovered much of the layout of this building as shown on the *Victoria County History* plan of the hall. To the north and south, sections were also found of the boundary wall which continued the line of the eastern wall of that building.

### ***The Moat***

The moat at Ordsall Hall was still open in 1849 when OS mapping shows that it defined a rectangular platform, measuring *c* 65.00m north-south and *c* 60.00m east-west, with the width of the moat then measuring *c* 7.00m on the south and *c* 12-16m on the north. The moat was crossed at this date by a central bridge or causeway on the north and a footbridge on the east. Access onto the platform was also possible from the west where the western arm of moat, towards its northern end, was interrupted for a distance of *c* 9-12m. The moat was infilled later in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The moat was first evaluated by Anstice Park in the 1960s who located its line at several points. This work found the moat to have been up to 2.00m deep in places, with many of the fills consisting of sand. It also produced a prolific amount of 17<sup>th</sup>-century pottery.

In 1990-1 three trenches, A, B and C, were cut in an attempt to define the position of the outer edge of the moat's eastern arm. Here the moat was located below up to *c* 2.50m of levelling material associated with the construction of a corporation depot in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Within the moat itself, the upper fill consisted of grey-brown silts up to 1.2m deep, containing 18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, overlying a primary silting of black organic material, containing timber and leather fragments, 17<sup>th</sup>-century pottery and vegetable matter. These fills 'wedged' out to the east, as the moat edge gently rose to meet the old ground surface. In a fourth trench, Trench H, dug across the southern arm of the moat, a poorly defined broad shallow intrusion probably represented a section of the moat excavated and then backfilled in the 1960s.

The principal evidence for the development of the moat is derived from a trench 15.00m long, 4.00m wide and 3.00m deep which in 1991 was dug across the moat towards the northern end of its eastern arm (Trench 1). The sections of this trench showed the moat to have been originally dug with a gentle profile cut into natural sand (40), and to have been *c* 1.50m deep below the ground surface at that date. At the eastern end of the trench, on what was probably the bank of the early moat, the remains of a metallised surface were discovered (46). This surface appears to have been cut and possibly replaced by a later handmade brick feature (47).

No dating material was found for the primary cut. Evidence for the date of moats in Greater Manchester is generally scant but suggests a broad range of the late 13<sup>th</sup> to late 14<sup>th</sup> century (Tindall 1985, 69-70). It is a reasonable supposition that the digging of the moat, like the construction of the East Wing, was the work of the Radcliffes after their acquisition of the estate in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century but at present confirmation is lacking.

It is clear from Nick Higham's excavation in 1978-9 that the moat originally formed a continuous barrier around the hall. Where the OS mapping of 1849 shows the moat as



interrupted, towards the northern end of the western arm, this excavation found footings of a footbridge abutment flanked on either side by a length of walling, marking the former western edge of the moat. The published excavation plan describes this walling as a 'retaining wall' for the moat but details of its depth are not given. No dating evidence was recovered for the construction of the bridge abutment and walling, other than that it predated the early 17<sup>th</sup> century when a building, the Phase I Cottage, was built immediately to the west.

The position of this north-western footbridge roughly mirrors that of a footbridge over the eastern arm of the moat, shown on the OS map of 1849, at a point where the moat narrowed. Trench 1, dug in 1991, was deliberately placed to find evidence of this bridge. From the archaeological record, this narrowing would appear to have been an early feature, while the metalled surface and later brick surface may relate to an approach to the bridge. Several large timbers and some planking, found within the moat deposits, might have formed part of the bridge structure. On the western side of the moat, several large block of red sandstone were uncovered in 1990-1 in Trench K roughly opposite the west end of the bridge, but the limited area of investigation left their function uncertain.

It is evident that by the 17<sup>th</sup> century the moat had entered a period of decline. One element of this process was the infilling of part of the western arm of the moat, on the site of the former footbridge, to allow a direct link between the moat platform and new farm buildings which were built on its western bank. Silting of the moat was also well underway, as represented by a band of black organic silt (19) above the primary cut in Trench 1, with similar material being recorded in Trenches A, B and C. Finds of 17<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, sandstone, and organic material including timber, leather fragments and a wooden bowl, show that the occupants of the hall assisted in the filling process, with the moat now being used to dump waste material.

It is likely that the moat became an unpleasant feature of the grounds as it became clogged with rubbish and rotting organic material. In Trench 1 over what had been the west bank, a great deposit of sandy loam (15) had built up and begun to encroach on the moat. This same process may also in part account for the sandy deposits found in the 1960s.

As a result the moat was recut in the 18<sup>th</sup> century through the silt of the primary moat to a depth of 0.80m above the natural. The new moat was of a similar depth to the original, c 1.50m, but was now perhaps intended merely as a decorative feature around the hall.

Within Trench 1, it is difficult to be precise about the exact history of the later stages of the moat because of the complicated series of trenches, drains, walls and dumping cutting through and overlying the natural silting. The angle of the various fills at the east end of the trench does, however, suggest that the moat was deliberately backfilled prior to it being built over.

### ***Demesne Farm Buildings***

Farm buildings associated with the running of the estate are listed in 1380. On the OS map of 1849 three groups of farm buildings are indicated. The largest of these comprised the main Home Farm complex to the north-west of the moated site. Close to the north-east corner of the moat was the Great Barn, built in 1646 by Humphrey Chetham who held a part of the estate which excluded the demesne farm buildings (Higham 1980, 8). The third group of buildings was located just to the west of the moated site, and was the subject of the archaeological investigation by Nick Higham in 1978-9.

This earliest structure identified here was only partly uncovered, with most of the building lying outside the excavated area, and was represented by stone footings. Overlying these was

an aisled barn. This was first constructed in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century and was rebuilt in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, using the same stone foundations but with the new building realigned at a right angle to the original. It is believed likely that the superstructure was rebuilt at this stage in brick. Internally it was now fitted with animal stalls, although the central area probably still served as a threshing floor. In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century a new brick floor was laid within the building and each of the aisles was fitted with new pens and an outer corridor for access. The central area remained open and probably continued to be used for threshing. The latest structural addition seems to have been the construction of a brick-lined pit within the central barn area. It has been variously interpreted as associated with cattle feeding, dung removal, butchery and grain storage for threshing.

In the early to mid-17<sup>th</sup> century a smaller structure was built to the east of the barn, with stone wall footings. In c 1650-80 this was replaced by a second building of a similar size, partly using the foundations of its predecessor but built much closer to the barn. This was divided by an internal partition into two rooms, the western of which originally contained a clay floor, subsequently replaced by sandstone flags. Towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century the structure was rebuilt in brick and joined to the barn. In this final phase of use, which continued until demolition of the buildings in 1876, this structure is clearly identifiable as a cottage, divided into three rooms and heated by two hearths. Probably in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century brick-floored lean-to additions were built to the south and east of the cottage. From an illustration of 1875 the eastern extension appears to have been a pigsty.

To the north of these buildings, the excavation uncovered a yard area showing two phases of development. The earlier of these was associated with the second, late 17<sup>th</sup>-century phase of the aisled barn, and comprised a rubble-base yard or track aligned east/west and running towards the hall, via the infilled section in the western arm of the moat. The second was a cobbled yard believed to date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The yard area included a circular brick-lined wall, less than 3m deep, probably dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and continuing in use into the 19<sup>th</sup> century when a pump is shown here on the OS mapping of 1849.

On the north side of the yard, in an area which had suffered damage from late 19<sup>th</sup>-century cellaring, were remains of stake holes, timber staining and cobbling but their function is unclear. No dating evidence earlier than the 18<sup>th</sup> century was found here.

### **1.3.3. Previous Archaeological Work**

*Dr Peter Arrowsmith*

#### ***1961-66 Excavations***

The first archaeological excavations at Ordsall Hall occurred in 1961-6 under the direction of Anstice Parke, who was then custodian of the building. The following summary details are taken from the report of the 1994 excavations which consulted this material (Eyre Morgan *et al* 1996, 5).

The bulk of the work in 1961-6 concentrated upon two areas, north and south of the hall, locating the moat. Parke found that the moat was up to 2m deep in places, with many of the fills consisting of sand. A prolific amount of 17<sup>th</sup>-century Cistercian pottery was retrieved from the moat, the entire collection now housed in Salford Museum.

Trial trenching at this time also found traces of the East Wing and other features around the

house, but further details of these are not given in the 1996 report.

### ***1978-79 Excavations***

Between November 1978 and March 1979 the Greater Manchester Archaeological Group, under the direction of Dr Nick Higham, undertook an excavation on the site of part of the demesne farm to the west of the hall, outside the line of the moat. The work was carried out in response to a proposed redevelopment of the site, which had been cleared of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century terraced housing. It was known that farm structures had previously occupied the site until demolition in 1875 and it was considered possible that at least some of the farm buildings documented in the medieval period may also have been situated here.

The only evidence of certain medieval date was a single piece of pottery redeposited in a 19<sup>th</sup>-century context. However, the earliest features found predated a major building phase in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. These remains included a foundation wall, c 5.5m long, of a building which lay mostly to the south of the excavated area. Remains were also found of a revetment wall on the outer side of the moat, and of an abutment for a footbridge.

Early in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the site was cleared and leveled, and two structures were erected, built as timber-framed on sandstone footings. Both structures had evidence of several phases of rebuilding and alteration. One was an aisled barn, while the other smaller structure was used, towards the end of its life at least, as a cottage. The northern elevation of these buildings is shown on a drawing made in 1875 by G H Rowbotham (Higham 1980).

#### *The Aisled Barn*

##### Phase I c 1620-80

As originally constructed, within the first three decades of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, the barn measured c 10m by 11m with a westward and probably an eastern facing entrance, and with two outer aisles. Internal stone bases carried timber uprights that helped to support the roof. In the south aisle were brick and stone fireplaces, with small fireboxes. The general character of the building suggested a function associated with arable farming, most likely as a storage barn for grain and straw, with a central threshing floor. Areas in the north aisle showed the presence of decayed timber, sealed under late 17<sup>th</sup>- and early 18<sup>th</sup>-century material.

##### Phase II c 1680-1720

Late in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the barn was demolished, and rebuilt on the same foundations, but on an alignment at right angles to the first. The new, and only entrance faced north onto a rubble-base yard, or track, aligned west/east and running towards the hall. It is likely that the structure was at this stage brick-built. Internally there are signs of a change in use; in the new western bay stone bases for timber uprights and the staining of timber planks defined newly constructed animal stalls opening off a central corridor, which postdated a new, beaten earth floor overlying the hearth area. In the eastern bay a series of nine dwarf brick walls divided open-fronted 'bins' (perhaps for grain or animal feed) each c 0.5m wide. The old west entrance was blocked at ground level with smaller sandstone blocks which were then bricked over. The new structure was evidently intended for use as a byre, although the central open area may have still served as a threshing floor.

### Phase III c 1720-1875

At a date probably between 1710 and 1730, the change-over to pastoral use for the barn aisles was completed. The interior was substantially altered. Existing features were covered with leveling material and a brick floor laid on a thin layer of rubble that resulted in a higher level for the eastern bay floor where it overlay the brick 'bin' walls. There were now animal pens along both sides of the building, with outer corridors for access, each with a doorway onto the yard. The central area remained open, with a 2.5m wide entranceway allowing access to wagons. Presumably hay was stored at an upper level, while the central floor was probably still used for threshing. The animal pens were defined by timber slots, an inner dwarf wall and an outer sandstone sill, and by depressed areas of brick flooring. Later brick-built lean-to extensions were added to the barn's south-west corner and eastern gable. Probably the latest structural alteration, perhaps c 1800, was the addition of a brick-lined pit (feature 30) at the south end of the central barn area. It has been variously interpreted as associated with cattle feeding, dung removal or butchery, or possible grain storage associated with threshing.

### *The Cottage Site*

#### Phase I c 1620-50

Between the aisled barn and the moat was evidence of a second early 17<sup>th</sup>-century timber framed-structure, also constructed on sandstone footings, measuring c 8.5m by 5.7m and probably with an internal partition. Internally the building had a beaten earth floor, and it probably had an entrance facing northwards. There is no evidence of the function of this structure, but it could have been residential.

#### Phase II c 1650-80

A second structure was raised, overlapping the Phase I site but following a new foundation course on the southern side. This building was very similar in size to the original structure (measuring 8.25m x 5.25m externally) but was only c 0.5m from the barn on the west. An internal wall running approximately north-south divided the structure into two rooms, c 4.5m and c 2.7m wide internally, with a new clay/earth floor being added in the new, narrower western bay. This was replaced by a sandstone flag floor, and an extension of flagging and clay floor outside the structure to the south suggests some sort of lean-to structure being introduced at this stage.

#### Phase III c 1680-1875

A second rebuild occurred on the site towards the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when the structure was provided with brick walls, and joined to the barn. The building is now identifiable as a three-roomed cottage equipped with two hearths. Only one door sill was located, at the centre of the north wall, opening into a narrow corridor that gave access to the western room and two eastern rooms.

A further stage in the development of the site was the introduction of brick-floored, lean-to additions to the south and east. It seems likely that these were contemporary with the introduction of brick floors to the barn (c 1730), and they were certainly still present in 1875. From the Rowbotham drawing of that year, it seems likely that the eastern extension to the cottage was a pig sty.

### *Extra Mural Features*

The yard showed only two phases of development. The first was associated with phase II of the aisled barn, and the second was a regular patterned cobbling that was laid probably as late as the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Set within the yard was a circular brick-lined well, with an internal diameter of less than 1m, and less than 3m deep. This well was evidently present before the late cobbling of the yard and, from the few sherds of pottery found within it, it was open into the first few decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, after which a pump and a stone trough were added not later than 1849.

To the north of the cobbles and pump, an area was exposed which had suffered from partial cellaring in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The sump of stake holes, timber staining and an area of cobbling provided residual evidence of some activity, but no dating evidence earlier than the 18<sup>th</sup> century was found.

### *Excavations 1990-94: Introduction*

In 1988 the Greater Manchester Archaeological Unit suggested a scheme at Ordsall Hall to reinstate the moat and grounds around the building, with a view to recreate the past environment of the house and encourage more visitors. With this end in mind, Salford City Council Technical Services Department formulated a landscaping project, initially to reduce the ground levels around the hall, to recover the original garden levels.

The scheme resulted in three stages of archaeological work, as outlined below.

#### *Stage 1: 1990-91 Excavations*

Prior to the reduction in ground levels, GMAU was contracted to undertake archaeological excavation works, as follows.

- (1) Machine-dug trial trenches were opened in the grounds to determine the level of the old ground surface and the position and depth of the moat.
- (2) A large trench was excavated in the north courtyard to locate and investigate the footings of the long demolished East Wing.

#### *Trial Trenches*

**Trenches A, B, and C** were cut in an attempt to define the position of the outer edge of the moat's east arm. A Salford City Works Depot had been constructed over this area in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, after leveling up, and the trenching revealed 1.5 to 2.5m of modern debris and cinders overlying the old (early 19<sup>th</sup>-century) ground surface, with depths being greatest over the backfilled moat. Within the moat itself, the upper fill consisted of grey-brown silts up to 1.2m thick, containing 18<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, overlying a primary silting of black, organic material, containing timber and leather fragments, 17<sup>th</sup>-century pottery, and vegetable matter. These fills 'wedged' out to the east, as the moat edge gently rose to meet the old ground surface.

**Trenches D and E** were cut into what appeared to be old, probably 19<sup>th</sup>-century, cellars. Excavation to a depth of 2.5m revealed only brick rubble.

**Trench F** was cut in order to define the inner edge of the east moat arm, and to determine the relationship of the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick curtilage wall to that edge. The moat edge was defined here by a brick and stone footing running north to south, which was almost certainly related to the Servants' Quarters, now long demolished. From here, the moat edge sloped east at an angle of c 30 degrees, containing fills identical to those in trenches A, B and C.

**Trench G** was excavated to determine the depth of the old ground surface to the south of the hall. Beneath modern fill, natural gravels were found at a depth of 0.8m

**Trench H** was sited to locate the southern arm of the moat. An average of 1m of modern overburden sealed the old ground surface, and a poorly defined, broad, shallow intrusion probably represented a section of the moat excavated and then backfilled by Anstice Park in the 1960s.

**Trench J** was cut to determine the depth of modern fills over the area excavated by Nick Higham in 1978-9. Just over 1m of crushed sandstone fill was dumped onto the old ground surface here.

**Trench K** was intended to locate any evidence for the bridge structure which spanned the moat here. Several large blocks of red sandstone were uncovered.

**Trench L** comprised the large open excavation of summer 1990 and is described below.

Within water and gas trenches, dug in spring 1991 to relocate the services to Ordsall Hall, several features were uncovered which seemed to relate to the later history of the building.

#### *Area Excavation (Trench L)*

In the summer of 1990 the first stage of a full-scale excavation was undertaken, with the aim of revealing the surviving evidence for the demolished East Wing. Work commenced in July and ended in early October. A rectangular trench, measuring 20m by 14m, was opened between the hall and Taylorson Street. This was located with a dual aim, firstly to examine the site of the destroyed East Wing, and secondly to define the inner edge or face of the moat, which lay to the north of the building. Within this trench three distinct phases of activity were identified, as follows.

#### Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Red brick foundation walls were uncovered belonging to St Cyprian's church, constructed in the late 1890s. In size it extended across almost the whole of the space of the lawn area which was a product of 1970s landscaping. The south end of the church was very close to the hall itself, while the footings exposed at the north end of the trench demonstrated obvious signs of subsidence, as a result of them running over the moat-fill here. The church was declared unsafe and demolished in the 1960s, the rubble remaining in situ over the foundations, but varying in depth from 0.3m at the south end of the site to 1.5m at the north end. Beneath this overburden was a thin layer of very compact black soil, not more than 50mm in thickness,

which would have lain directly under the floor of the church. It sealed all deposits prior to the construction of the church and was only cut by the foundations of the church itself.

#### Late 18th Century to Late 19<sup>th</sup> Century

Beneath the thin soil band was a thick layer of fine brown loam which contained very few inclusions. This extended across the whole site, with an average thickness of 300mm. This layer appears to represent a deliberate deposit of topsoil across the area after the demolition of the East Wing, with this area being utilized as a garden until the construction of St Cyprian's church. A square sandstone plinth uncovered within the loam layer is probably that for a statue of Mercury. This is shown on a 19<sup>th</sup>-century photograph and was removed from the garden prior to the building of the church; it now stands in the centre of a pond at Tatton Park. Again, this layer completely sealed the earlier phase except where cut by the construction trenches of the church.

#### Medieval/Post-Medieval

The East Wing of Ordsall Hall I believed to have been constructed in the 14<sup>th</sup>-century, and was demolished in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> to early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Evidence of the location and extent of the wing had been uncovered during the construction of St Cyprian's church, when a basic plan was drawn of the exposed remains. After removal of the overlying garden soil a significant amount of material was uncovered which related to the destroyed East Wing. Sandstone footings were revealed which appeared to be the remnants of the external walls of the wing.

The footings of the west wall of the wing appeared to be discontinuous, but the north and east walls were represented by much more substantial and continuous elements. Additionally, a second line of smaller sandstone blocks lay just outside, and parallel to, the east wall. One of the sandstone blocks from the east wall was dressed (ie finely tooled) on its upper face, almost certainly suggesting reuse from an earlier structure,

When the construction trench fill was removed from the church foundations, to the east of the wing's east wall, massive sandstone blocks were revealed extending down to at least 1m below the base of the wing footings. These were probably associated with a substantial chimney stack, more fully revealed by excavation in 1994 (5.6.3).

A further area of sandstone footings was revealed in the base of a deep trench associated with the church demolition, outside the line of the wing's north wall. These footings appeared to extend beneath the north wall, extending to a distance of 2.25m north of the wing. They probably relate to an appended structure, revealed in greater detail in 1994 (5.6.2).

Internal features within the wing were uncovered, although no room divisions or floor remains were found. A brick and stone hearth was located abutting the east wall, and another flagged hearth area lay just inside the north wall. A large rectilinear cut (pit), at least 1m deep, lay within the wing, and was possibly a well, but this was not fully excavated.

The excavated soil types within this phase fall into three groups. Within the wing itself, various sand and clay mixes were apparent. To the west a brown silty soil with yellow sand mottling occurred. To the north pea gravels predominated, which appeared to be the result of dumping. It was believed at the time that this may have indicated the inner line of the moat, but no evidence for this was found during later excavation in 1994 (5.6.4).

### ***Stage 2: 1991 Excavation and Watching Brief***

The 1991 season of work attempted to identify and examine in some detail the moat and bridge to the east of the hall, in order to provide Salford City Council with information which might assist them with their planned reconstruction and landscaping project at the site.

Since the GMAU's presence coincided with the stripping of overburden by the council's contractors, the opportunity was taken to examine additional areas to the south and west of the hall.

A large area defined by Ordsall Lane to the south, Taylorson Street to the north, Guy Fawkes Street to the east and Warburton Street to the west was cleared off to a level of 23m AOD, a surface identified by the earlier excavation by GMAU to be that of the medieval ground surface. The greater part of the cobbled road surface of Rixton Street was removed during the overburden-stripping process. The movement of such a large volume of deposited material in a comparatively short period of time was achieved by machine excavator under direct archaeological supervision. Areas of interest were then cleared with hand tools and trowelled, before being photographed and recorded in the standard manner.

#### *Trench 1*

A trench 15m long and 4m wide deep was opened across the presumed line of the moat's eastern arm. The resulting features exposed in the sections have helped understanding of the various phases of the moat.

At the eastern end of the trench, on what was probably the bank of the early moat, the remains of a metallised surface were discovered (46). This surface appears to have been cut and possibly replaced by a later handmade brick feature (47). However, because of the comparatively small size of Trench 1, a confident and accurate interpretation of the relationship between these two features and the moat was not possible.

The gradual slope of the medieval moat's primary cut into natural sand (40) was clearly visible. A band of black organic silt (19) above the cut indicates the gradual silting of this first moat; finds of timber/ pottery, sandstone and a wooden bowl show that the occupants of the hall assisted in the filling process. There is no firm evidence to date the primary cut.

It is likely that the moat became an unpleasant feature of the grounds as it became clogged with rubbish and rotting organic material. Over what had been the west bank, a great deposit of sandy loam (15) had built up and begun to encroach on the moat. As a result the moat was recut in the 18<sup>th</sup> century through the silt of the primary moat to a depth of 0.8m above the natural. The new moat appears to be 1.4m deep and seems to have been intended merely as a decorative feature around the hall. It is difficult to be precise about the exact history of the later stages of the moat because of the complicated series of trenches, drains, walls and dumping cutting through and overlying the natural silting. Some of this activity has destroyed evidence of an eastern bank to the primary and later moats. The angle of the various fills at the east end of the trench does, however, suggest that the moat was deliberately backfilled prior to it being built over.

It was hoped by the excavators that it might be possible to identify the wooden bridge known to have existed at a narrow point in the moat adjacent to the east gable of the house. Although unequivocal evidence of the structure remained elusive, there were indications that the bridge



was situated in the near vicinity of Trench 1. The plan of the moat as recorded on early mapping shows that the moat is narrowing where trenched (**III. 20**). Furthermore, several large timbers and some planking were included amongst the debris deposited in the medieval moat. It might also be suggested that the metalling and the brick surface may relate to an approach to the bridge.

#### *Area C*

In addition to the main excavation in Trench 1, the overburden-stripping project around the hall allowed the excavators to examine features exposed by the machine diggers. Plans and early photographs clearly indicate the existence of a servants' wing built of brick abutting the east gable of the hall. The excavators were able to identify and record this structure (81) during this season's work. Although demolished it was still possible to identify a number of ground-floor rooms, a door to the south of the wing with its stone threshold in situ, and external walls with bitumen damp proofing; the east wall continued as a boundary wall running in a north/south direction and was also identified as context 22 in Trench 1 (**III. 11**).

#### *Area B*

A number of features were uncovered to the west of the hall.

A brick building (80) built onto the west elevation of the house was excavated and recorded. The building's foundations ran for a length of 5.9m until they were cut by the causeway leading from Rixton Street to the hall. In the immediate area around the structure there was considerable evidence of burning in the form of cinder, ash cracked bricks and molten glass. A close examination of the west elevation of the hall showed additional signs of burning, which had left an impression of a single storey outbuilding about 12m in length with a single-pitch roof. In and around the remains of the structure a great many kitchen artefacts were found suggesting that this could have been the kitchen destroyed by fire in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

At a distance of 15m to the north of this building and to the south of Taylorson Street a floor surface of handmade brick was uncovered (94).

At 5m to the south of the kitchen, an area was cleared and some features were noted. The brick foundations (93) of another outhouse were recorded, as well as the potentially more interesting sandstone blocks (86) on the same alignment as the foundation sandstone blocks of the hall; associated ground surfaces (83,84) and a construction trench (85) were also noted. Unfortunately time constraints meant that a full examination of these features was not possible.

Also in Area B, to the south of Taylorson Street and west of the main entrance gate, a small section of the perimeter wall (01) was uncovered. This was clearly a major wall, 0.55m thick at its base and constructed of handmade brick. At its east end of the trench the wall terminated for a possible access. Abutting the north face of the wall, and clearly later, a less impressive brick wall was built (02). Although this was followed for 5m of its length in a northerly direction there was no indication of its purpose.

#### ***Stage 3: 1994 Excavation***

A third stage of excavation, in 1994, was designed to assess the date, nature, and state of preservation of any archaeological deposits present in the area identified as the site of the destroyed East Wing. The work comprised an open area re-excavation, c 12m by c 16m, over the presumed medieval remains located in Trench L during the 1991 excavations, but

extending further to the east than the limits of the 1991 excavation area (**Ills. 1 & 13**). The area was stripped of topsoil and overburden with the aid of a mechanical excavator and manually cleaned. Excavation then proceeded by hand.

The excavation produced some fine features associated with the East Wing and another building appended onto its northern end (**Ill. 14**).

#### *The Appended Building*

The features unearthed included those discovered in the 1991 excavation of Trench L, which were followed and cleaned, including the north wall of the East Wing. It was discovered that this wall was also the south wall of a square sandstone building foundation that had probably been added onto the north end of the East Wing. The foundations were c 5m square with the wall being 0.7m wide. The foundation wall was constructed out of tightly set sandstone blocks of various dimensions with no filled cavity between them.

Excavation revealed this walling to be four courses deep and stepped, with the lowest course wider than the course above it; the lowest course was 1.4m wide (**Ills. 14 & 15**, B-B1; **Ill. 19**). The inner and outer faces of the sandstone blocks had been finely dressed. The north wall of this building had been re-utilised as a foundation for the north wall of the late 19<sup>th</sup>-century brick-built St Cyprian's church.

The function of this building is uncertain, and a use as a dovecote and annex to the kitchen have both been suggested.

Within the building no floor layers were established. The infill within the walls comprised an 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>-century layer of dark brownish grey clay-loam mix with an abundance of brick and stone fragments. The remains of a stone-lined well, c 1.5m square, were observed midway up and on the inside of the west wall of the building, although the depth of this feature was undefined. Both the inner and outer faces of the stone lining were smoothly dressed. A second feature was discovered running north-south and parallel to the eastern wall of the building. This feature comprised a shallow grey-blue clay filled trench, 0.8m wide by 3.5m long by 0.15m deep, and proved to be a modern disturbance.

#### *The East Wing*

Fragmentary remains of the west wall of the East Wing, probably truncated by the construction of St Cyprian's church, were located in both 1991 and 1994. However, the most substantial remains of this building comprised the east wall (**Ill. 14**). The northernmost c 5-6m length of this wall constituted the footings of a massive lateral fireplace stack, projecting externally by c 2m. To the south of here, a short length (c 2m) of the east wall could be seen with a thickness of 0.5m, comprising a single course width of sandstone blocks. Immediately to the south of here the footing had been truncated by the foundation of St Cyprian's church, but to the north it was possible to define in plan the same wall alignment within the masonry mass of the chimney stack foundation, suggesting that the lateral fireplace may have been a later insertion.

Two rectangular brick pillars had been cut into the chimney stack (**Ills. 17 & 18**). These related to St Cyprian's church, with the cuts for these features measuring c 1.6m square. One had been inserted into the southern half of the stack foundation while the other had affected the north end of the fabric, crucially cutting away part of the junction where the north wall of

the East Wing met the stack. Excavation of the cut demonstrated that the stack footing extended to a depth in excess of 1.2m, or six courses of sandstone blocks.

Additionally, to the north of, and contiguous with, the chimney stack, was a shallow spread of mortared sandstone, forming a quadrant in plan largely located within the angle between the stack and the east wall of the appended building. With a thickness of just a single course, this spread was almost certainly secondary to the stack, and it is suggested that it represented the base of a bread oven.

#### *Other Features Located*

To the north of the east wall, and approximately 2m to the east of the appended building foundations, a small area of set stones was observed, three courses wide, five long and a single course deep (1m wide by c 2m long). It is possible that these sets belonged to a garden feature.

A section was excavated along the north side of these to assess the possibility of an early moat thought to pre-date the building appended to the East Wing. The results revealed several layers of sands, loams, and clays but no evidence for an early moat (Ills 14 & 15, A-A1).

At the southern end of the East Wing's east wall another sandstone wall, made up from closely set, well-dressed, blocks, was located running in an east-west direction. The remains of the wall were 4.5m long by 0.6m wide and two courses high. The depth of this wall was unsubstantiated; no return in the wall was located and its purpose remains unsolved.

#### *Stage 4: 1996 Evaluation*

In 1994 UMAU undertook an evaluation to locate the 17<sup>th</sup>-century aisled bam discovered by Nick Higham in 1978-79. The position of the bam was surveyed in relation to the location plan drawn up in 1991. Three trenches were then excavated to confirm the position and establish the depth of the archaeology.

The three trenches revealed the edge of the archaeological remains beneath a protective layer of plastic sheeting laid down by Higham. The depth of archaeology on the north side of the bam was 0.65m below the ground surface, the south side was 0.45m below ground surface and the south wall of the attached cottage 0.4m below ground surface. The site of both the bam and the cottage was marked out using wooden pegs to ensure that a proposed garden maintenance centre did not encroach over the archaeological features.

## ***2. The Archaeological Excavation***

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### **2.1. Methodology**

#### **2.2.1. Excavation**

A total of seven evaluation trenches (Trenches 1-7) and one open-area trench (Area A) were excavated during phases 1 and 2 of the archaeological programme (**Illus 4**).

Initially, the topsoil and overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator equipped with a 1.70m wide toothless ditching bucket in order to expose the first in-situ archaeological deposits or natural deposits, if no in-situ archaeological deposits were encountered.

During excavation the topsoil and subsoil were kept separate to aid in site reinstatement, whilst spoil heaps were placed at a safe distance from the stripped areas so as not to impinge upon the archaeological works. In areas where the overburden was greater than 1.20m deep the edges of the archaeological trench were widened and stepped so as maintain the integrity of the trench sides. In these areas the trench sides were monitored daily and were also fenced off with Heras style block and panel fencing.

Following the mechanical removal of the overburden the archaeological and natural deposits were hand cleaned. Where possible all archaeological excavation was carried out by hand. This included the half-sectioning of pits, postholes and tightly defined isolated features, and with regard to linear features and structures the excavation of sections no less than 1m in size. Other remains targeted for excavation were the junctions between different features in order to examine their stratigraphic relationships.

#### **2.2.2. Recording**

All contexts were recorded individually on UMAU pro-forma context sheets, all fills and layers were recorded with rounded brackets (\*\*\*) and features/cuts with square brackets [\*\*\*]. For the purposes of this report this standard has been maintained.

Plans were drawn at a scale of 1:20 with enumerated contexts, while sections were recorded at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20 with enumerated contexts. One representative long section of each evaluation trench was drawn at an appropriate scale. All plans, sections and profiles were related to the Ordnance Datum in metres. In addition the trench locations were surveyed using a EDM total station. Photographic recording of all aspects of the archaeological works was undertaken in 35mm colour slide film and digital mediums. All finds were recorded by trench, by context and related cut, where applicable.

All finds were retained for summary analysis. Initial sorting, washing and characterisation of the finds assemblage was carried out by UMAU.

### **2.2. Excavation Results: Evaluation Trenches**

#### **2.2.1. Trench 1**

Trench 1 was L-shaped in plan measuring 7.50m north-south by 3.50m east-west and was found to contain a series of archaeological remains, which were sealed beneath the topsoil

(001) (**Illus 5 & 18**). These remains included a number of brick built features forming the walling and floors of early structures.

Wall (006) was constructed of red handmade bricks, laid in stretcher fashion and following excavation a single course of this wall was exposed. Within the trench this wall survived for a length of 4.60m, though it appeared to continue in a northerly direction beyond the limits of the trench.

To the west of, and set perpendicular to, wall (006) was wall (004), which was exposed at a similar level. This wall was constructed of handmade bricks set in an English garden wall bond, with each course composed of alternating headers and stretchers. The wall was excavated to a depth of three courses. Excavation at its western extent revealed that this wall had been constructed on the remains of an earlier wall (012). Although this earlier wall had an identical alignment to the later wall, in contrast it was constructed from large dressed stone blocks as opposed handmade brick.

Located at the western end and abutting wall (004) was wall (003). This wall was constructed of handmade bricks, survived to a height of six courses and extended beyond the northern edge of the trench. This wall had also been built on top of and around two large sandstone slabs (013) (**Illus 6 & 19**). Close to its northern limits, this wall had been truncated during the insertion of a ceramic drain (002). In section, this pipe trench measured 1.52m wide and was 0.56m deep.

Located to the south of (006) a brick floor (010) was also exposed within the trench. This floor covered an area measuring c 1m sq. and it survived for a depth of one course. Floor (010) was laid above a layer of compacted rubble (002), which was present between all walls exposed in the trench. At the southern end of the trench this layer of rubble had been truncated by a ceramic drain [011].

#### 2.2.2. **Trench 2**

Trench 2 measured 5.00m in length and was orientated east-west. On health and safety grounds the excavation of this trench was stopped at a depth of 0.25m, and the trench was immediately backfilled, due to the discovery of a potentially live electrical cable. This cable was orientated north-south and appeared to truncate a layer of rubble (002), which had also been identified in Trench 1.

#### 2.2.3. **Trench 3**

Trench 3 was orientated in an east-west direction and measured 6.50m in length. The archaeological remains exposed by this trench fell within the larger open-area trench (Area A), which was excavated following the evaluation phase of work. The remains from Trench 3 are, therefore, discussed in Section 2.3. (**Illus 7 and 8**)

#### 2.2.4. **Trench 4**

Trench 4 was located towards the western limit of the Hall's grounds, was orientated north-west by south-east orientation and had a length of 14.50m. The upper level contained within this trench was a red sand backfilled layer (001), which sealed a polythene sheet. This polythene sheet had been laid down following the previous excavation of this area during the late 1970s as a means of protecting the remaining in-situ archaeology (**Illus 9**).

With the removal of the protective polythene sheet, a compact mottled yellow clay surface (052) was identified in the northern portion of the trench. This surface had been cut by two postholes [049] and [047], which were both oval in plan, with a c 0.60m span. Although it was apparent that posthole [049] had been previously half-sectioned during the late 1970s phase of excavation, its remaining fill (050) contained charcoal fragments and angular stone inclusions. In contrast, posthole [047] had not been previously excavated and was not excavated during the evaluation. A 1.50m wide test slot was, however, excavated through layer (052). This slot was excavated to a depth of 0.10m from the surface of layer (052) and it exposed a distinct circular feature (051) composed of a mixture of coarse red sand and sandstone blocks showing signs of heat damage (**Illus 22**). Towards the centre of the trench a number of structures were exposed, which included walls [054] and [061] and structure [056] (**Illus 9**).

Wall [054] was orientated east-west and within the confines of the trench had a length of 1.00m. This wall was constructed from handmade brick and survived to a height of two courses. Structure [056] was c. 1.3m sq, and was orientated in a similar way to wall [054]. The structure was composed of a 0.40m thick, U-shaped, sandstone wall (057) which was lined heat affected handmade bricks. Contained within the centre of the structure was a deposit of 19<sup>th</sup> century brick rubble.

Wall [061] was located immediately to the south of structure [056] and formed the corner of the corner of the north-eastern corner of the 17<sup>th</sup> century aisled barn excavated by Nick Higham in the late 1970s. This wall was composed of rough coursed sandstone wall that had been substantially reinforced and rebuilt on its outer face with handmade bricks (**Illus 24**). The wall survived to a height of 0.35m and ran outside of the evaluation trench.

At the southern end of the trench two layers of light brown silty clay (063 & 064) were identified and these appeared to represent relict plough soils. Truncating these deposits was a north-south aligned 20<sup>th</sup> century field drain.

#### 2.2.5. **Trench 5**

Trench 5 was 10.00m in length, was orientated north south and was excavated to a depth of 1.25m (**Illust 10 & 25**). Within the northern extent of the trench, continuing for 1.22m and at a depth of 0.40m a layer of fine loose red sand (069) was identified, which represented backfill from the 1979 excavations. The remainder of the trench was excavated to a depth of 1.25m, which exposed a natural deposit of clay. Above this deposit was a 0.50m thick layer of loamy plough soil (123), which was overlain by subsoil and topsoil. No archaeological features were identified within this trench.

#### 2.2.6. **Trench 6**

Trench 6 was orientated in a north-south direction and measured 10.00m in length. The archaeological remains exposed by this trench fell within the larger open-area trench (Area A), which was excavated following the evaluation phase of work. The remains from Trench 6 are, therefore, discussed in Section 2.3 (**Illus 12**).

#### 2.2.7. **Trench 7**

Trench 7 was excavated across the presumed line of the moat. The trench measured 15.60m long and was orientated in an east-west orientation. Archaeological deposits survived to, at least, a depth of 1.95m, and were visible at the base of the trench. However, in view of the health and safety implications it was not possible to directly examine these remains,

particularly in light of the unstable trench sections (**Illus 28 & 29**).

Below the topsoil (101) was a single homogenous 0.30m thick layer of light to mid grey silty sand (125) extending across the entire length of the trench (**Illus 12**). Sealed beneath this layer, at the centre of the trench an inspection well [113] for a north-south aligned sewer, with an east-west aligned spur [111] was located, which partially truncated all of the earlier remains found in this trench.

Significantly, these earlier remains included the cut [109] of the moat, which originally surrounded Ordsall Hall. The moat had been cut through natural sands and gravels (110) and contained three successive deposits of (126-8), which had accumulated within the moat overtime. Following its filling, the buried moat that was then truncated by a number of features (121-4 & 130), which appear on artefactual grounds to date to the nineteenth century.

### 2.3. **Excavation Results: Open-Area Trench**

Area A was roughly rectangular in shape, measured 14.50m north-south by 10.00m east-west, and covered the areas examined by Trenches 3 and 6 during the evaluation phase of work. The excavation of this area exposed the foundations of a 17<sup>th</sup> century building that had originally been examined during the 1978-9 excavations, as well as a number of earlier features located beneath and to the south of this building (**Illust 15**).

Following the mechanical removal of the topsoil and overburden archaeology was uncovered which can be assigned to three broad phases of activity spanning a period of over 800 years.

#### 2.3.1 **Phase 1: Medieval - Early Post-Medieval**

The earliest archaeological features on the site are represented by the group of intersecting negative features, interpreted as gullies and ditches, located within the southern part of the Area A (**Illus 16 and 17**). These features probably indicate the position of an early field system within this part of the site either contemporary or predating the construction of the original hall and moat.

The earliest feature within this group was a well defined linear cut [094] which was initially visible extending along the full length of evaluation trench 6. Cut into the natural yellow sands (100) and cut by [095] this north-south aligned feature measured 0.70m wide by 0.27m deep and had a gently sloping “U” shaped profile. The feature was filled with a primary deposit of boulder clay (093) and a secondary fill of mid brown loam.

Cutting both the natural deposits and feature [094] a second ill defined feature aligned north-south with similar characteristics was also examined [095]. Excavation revealed the feature to be 0.65m wide by 0.34m deep with a primary fill of light-mid grey silty sand (125) and a secondary fill of light brown silty sand (099). Following the excavation of the fills a well defined feature, circular in plan, was revealed cut into the base of the feature [095]. Interpreted as a posthole the feature had a diameter of 0.33m, was 0.08m deep and contained a fill of compacted dark brown silty sand. This discovery suggests a possible function as a foundation trench for the construction of a temporary structure within this part of the site.

Although no dateable finds were recovered during the excavation of these features a *terminus ante quem* for these features can be assigned due to their stratigraphic relationship both with each other and also with the other negative features within this part of the site which contained

medieval pottery [015] and [017].

Aligned northwest-southeast and revealed across the full width of the excavated area, two moderately defined linear cut features [015] and [017], interpreted as ditches, were also uncovered following the mechanical excavation and hand cleaning of the site. A 2.00m wide section was hand excavated across both features to determine their stratigraphic relationship and recover if possible further evidence of their date, form and function.

An examination of the section revealed that the earliest feature was represented by [017]. Cut into sandy clay and silty sand deposits (018) and (019) the feature had a visible length in excess of 10.00m. Measuring 1.40m wide by 1.03m deep the feature contained five fills comprising of mid brown loamy sand (020), and light to mid grey coloured silty sands (021), (022), bluish grey sandy clay (023), and light orange brown silty sand (024). Two sherds of pottery were recovered from the primary fill (024) which have been provisionally dated to the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century and represent the earliest artifactual evidence recovered from the site.

Feature [015] was a clearly defined 1.24m wide east-west aligned, steep sided and rounded based ditch revealed across the full width of the excavated area. The 2.00m wide hand dug section revealed the depth of the ditch as 0.71m cut into the upper fills of [017] to the north and [018] to the south. [015] contained multiple fills, the earliest being (030), with (041), (029), (028), (027), (026) and (025) the latest. The lower fills were richly organic in nature representing gradual episodes of silting, not acts of deliberate deposition. In particular the secondary fill, at the base of the ditch, a dark greyish brown sandy clay (041) contained multiple fragments of 0-0.005m degraded bone, alongside a single fragment of 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

An examination of the section also revealed a third cut feature [018] only partially exposed during the current programme of archaeological investigation. The relationship of this feature to [017] remains unclear but excavation clearly revealed that like [017] to the west the feature is cut by and therefore predates feature [015].

The nature of the fills within feature [018] appear to indicate, similar to feature [015] that infilling occurred over a long period of time by means of silting and plough action. The feature contained fills comprising of silty sand (34), light grey sandy clay (035), (038), light to mid brown sands (036), (037), and mottled light brown sandy clay (039). No dateable material was recovered from within the fills. The feature is cut by [014] a gully filled by (032), the function of this feature is unknown.

The earliest structural evidence on site is represented by wall [044], identified by Higham as the moat retaining wall and wall (043) interpreted as a bridge or walkway abutment.

The earliest feature is wall (045), measuring 0.72m wide the wall is contained by a small construction cut [044]. Constructed from irregular blocks of red sandstone, the largest measuring 0.10m by 0.40m by 0.30m, the wall is built onto the in-filled ditch [017] and lies beneath walls (043) and (117) providing a construction date of between the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Aligned north-south the wall was observed extending from the northern extent of the open area for a distance of 10.50m returning to the east at its southern extent.

Surviving in places to three courses in height (0.45m), a single wider foundation level was identified, upon which the dressed phase of the wall was constructed.



Built on top of wall (045) in an east west alignment was a 1.32m wide, 0.50m deep sandstone wall (043), contained within construction cut [042]. Constructed from large sandstone blocks cut and externally faced, the central portion of the wall was filled with a sandstone rubble core, bonded together with a light pinkish mortar. To the west the wall is cut by and removed by the original cottage wall (114) and continues into the edge of excavation to the east. A portion of the north facing stones towards its eastern extent have been robbed out and removed. The lowest course of the wall consisted of randomly sized large sandstone blocks representing a foundation layer for the construction of the wall.

Although inconclusive the current investigation suggests that the earliest wall (045) may represent the remains of an early building within this part of the site. Higham proposed that the wall represented the remains of a moat retaining wall surrounding a bridge over the moat, which is still a viable option, however the limited evidence identified during the archaeological excavation in 2006 would appear to indicate a different usage. The identification of a corner to the wall at the southern end, and the discovery of fragments of stone slab flooring, would suggest that the wall is the western external wall of a building. The northern extent of this building is unknown due to the limits of the excavation area. Due to the lack of recovered dateable material, the date of construction can only be narrowed down to post 14<sup>th</sup> century (constructed on top of ditch [017]) and before that of wall [042] the possible bridge, which itself is known to be present from the 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

To the east was a light grey friable sandy clay (097) containing frequent inclusions of angular fractured sandstone. Cut into this deposit were two 0.30m wide postholes, aligned in a similar orientation to [044], both being approximately 0.15m deep and identifiable due to the darker nature of the fill and an absence of fractured inclusions, no dateable material was recovered from these features.

Excavations to the north and the south have shown that there is no other masonry which could relate to the possible bridge. The natural conclusion therefore is that wall [042] is the foundation of the bridge, and that either the bridge was only a foot bridge, due to it being just over a metre wide, or that above the foundation levels the bridge widens out in a timber form and therefore does not survive in the archaeological record. In order to firmly establish the nature of the bridge, stone building and moat, further excavations to the immediate north and east of Area A would need to be carried out.

### **2.3.2 Phase 2: 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> Century**

Exposed during the excavation of Area A, wall (114) was identified as part of the early 17<sup>th</sup> century cottage identified by Higham. Sub-rectangular in plan the building was 4.30m wide and 6.50m long, continuing beneath the western section as excavated. During the second stage of construction the building was remodelled with the construction of [108]. Cut by [108], a sandstone wall following the same alignment, however further partitioning the building to the west, the wall survived to a height of two courses, 0.25m. Butting onto wall (114) was a poorly preserved brick wall 0.65m wide along the southern external face of (114), continuing into the eastern trench edge and surviving to height of 0.15m (**Illus**

Wall (114) appeared to cut and demolish the end of wall [042], later identified as being 1.30m wide and surviving to a height of 0.50m. Constructed from dressed sandstone blocks on both the northern and southern sides and infilled with a sandstone rubble core, no dateable material was recovered from the cut or body of the wall.

A 1.00m wide slot to the east of brick wall (103) was excavated to a depth of 0.90m, indicating the continuation of wall [042], and the subsequent removal of dressed stone on the northern face along with establishing that the brick wall (103) overlays wall [042].

Wall [044] continued in a southerly direction, exposed for a length of 11.00m, the northern extent continued into the trench edge, however the southern extent does not continue in that orientation, but turns 90 degrees to the east, establishing the outside corner of the structure. This wall was overlain by walls [042] and (117), both of the fills located to the eastern extent of the wall, (116) and (118), were identical in nature, containing 17<sup>th</sup> century ceramic material, below which was a darker organic layer (130) containing no dateable material, beneath which was (131), a fragmented layer of smashed flat stone, the stone was laid in a horizontal position in a haphazard but level fashion, no dateable material was recovered from this layer.

Towards the eastern extent of the trench wall [044] overlaid [042], an east-west aligned sandstone wall, surviving to 0.35m in height, continuing to the east and used as a foundation for a nineteenth century brick wall [103], to the west it was cut by a sandstone wall [014] orientated north-east by south-west.

Highams excavations indicated the presence of a 17<sup>th</sup> century aisled barn and associated cottage, these remains were also identified during the recent phase of excavations. The remains of the cottage suggest three separate phases of construction.

The original phase of construction was (114) a sandstone building, cutting [042], the wall survived primarily on two sides, the eastern gable end and the southern wall, a small return for the northern face was visible, the remainder of which and the western extent lay outside the trench limits. Wall (114) was 0.47m in width, surviving between one course (0.15m) and three courses (0.45m) in depth, constructed from roughly hewn flat soft sandstone blocks, the largest of which measured 0.45m x 0.63m x 0.21m, laid without the aid of a bonding material, the remains of the wall are likely to represent the foundation courses of the wall. Due to previous excavation by Higham, the majority of this feature uncovering during this phase produced no dateable artifactual material.

The second phase was the introduction of wall (115), contained within a 0.02m wide construction cut [108], that indicated the possible demolition of the original structure and the replacement with a smaller more robust wall (115), dissecting the original building in a north south alignment before returning on the outside face of the original wall (114). Constructed from small, 0- 0.15m, sub-angular soft sandstone fragments, laid in a random fashion with no bonding material the remains represent the foundation layer of a more substantial wall, indications of which were observed at a higher layer within the southern extent, through the presence of larger sandstone blocks laid above (115).

The third and final phase of cottage construction occurred with the erection of wall (117), a foundation layer of a handmade brick wall, consisting of complete and half sized red handmade bricks laid in a haphazard and possibly disturbed manner. Measuring 0.65m in width and excavated for a length of 6.00m the wall survived to a depth of two courses in selected areas and one for the remainder, the wall was originally bonded together with a light whitish gray lime base mortar, artifactual material recovered from this layer dated the construction of this wall to the eighteenth century. Aligned against and butting up to (115) the southern wall of the cottage, the wall respects the orientation of the cottage and is likely to be the remains of an external dividing wall extending towards the recorded bridge across the moat.

### **2.3.3 Phase 3: 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

Wall (103) was the latest structure identified on site, consisting of a handmade red brick wall two courses wide, seven courses deep laid in an English garden wall bonded fashion, aligned directly north south and continuing for the entire length of the trench, forming the eastern trench edge. A 2m by 1m wide trench was excavated to the north over the eastern side of the wall, reaching a depth of 0.65m it identified the continuation of wall (043). Dating from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century the wall respects the line of Rixton Street and can be associated to the activity of constructing houses on the western side of the street, possibly representing the boundary wall between the street and the properties.

### **3. Discussion**

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The completion of phases one and two of the four phase programme permits a provisional assessment of the results. Because of the limited resources available a more detailed assessment of the artifactual record will be made on completion of phase three of the archaeological programme.

The most important result of the phase one evaluation and phase two community excavation has been to permit a reassessment of the nature and condition of the below ground remains observed by Higham during the 1970's. The excavation already suggests that a significant number of archaeological features survive beyond those identified in Highams excavation. These have considerable potential to transform our understanding of the origins and character of the evolution of Ordsall Hall and its surrounding area, should they be excavated in the future.

New evidence has been revealed which indicates activity both on and within the immediate environs of the site probably predating the construction of the present hall and moat.

A re-examination of the available cartographic material has provided new evidence for the presence of a smaller, earlier moated platform located *c.* 100m due north of Ordsall Hall. This may represent the location of an earlier pre-hall dating the mid 14<sup>th</sup> century. The evidence suggests the dimensions of the smaller moat to be *c.* 45m by 55m with an internal platform measuring *c.* 35m by 40m, significantly smaller than the present site of Ordsall Hall and its associated moat. No archaeological investigations have been conducted on the earlier site which is now occupied by residential development.

If indeed this represents the site of an earlier residence then it remains possible that the group of negative features located towards the southern part of the excavated area represent agricultural activity associated with development and use of the land either before or contemporary with this period of transition. The cartographic evidence also suggests that to the south is a large square assert of similar or earlier date which could potentially have a number of uses, including agriculture, and would possibly have had separate external buildings within its extremity. To date none of this has been proved archaeologically.

The limited excavation of the moat suggests that that there is little potential within the areas investigated for the survival of intact archaeological remains. The truncation of the site by the construction of Rixton Street, combined with the insertion of a deep, wide sewer and the reuse of the moat during the 19th/20<sup>th</sup> century has prejudiced the survival of remains within the moat located on the western extent of the hall.

#### **The Structures**

The remains of four structures were observed during the work carried out to date, with individual buildings showing several phases of construction which reflected changes of use over a period of time.

The recent examination of wall [044], identified by Higham as a revetment wall for the moat, has suggested that it may originally have formed the western side of an early building. The evidence for this take the form of possible *in situ* stone flags and a return to the wall at its southern terminus towards the east would imply the wall would have been part of a building rather than a retaining wall associated with the moat.

The uncovering and further excavation of Higham's bridge abutment confirms his interpretation. Recent excavations have increased the known line of the wall a further 1.50m to the east, however very little new information has come to light regarding its usage. Using a combination of Higham's excavation to the north and the present excavation to the south it is possible to state that there is little evidence for a matching abutment on the western side of the moat which would have been needed to carry a bridge of substantial size. It is therefore hypothesised that the remains relate to an abutment for a much smaller bridge, a single walkway. The stratigraphic evidence appears to suggest that the date of construction for both of these walls falls between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

The true date and form of these features is only likely to be established through further excavation to the east, to identify the stratigraphic relationship that each has with the moat itself and to confirm the existence of an abutment on the eastern side of the moat.

Trial trench 7, located across the moat, clearly identified its presence, as did the geophysical analysis, however the material artifactual remains identified within the upper fills of the moat indicate a re-cutting of the moat, possibly for aesthetic reasons during the nineteenth century. The majority of the western arm of the moat, orientated north-south, contained a late nineteenth century, early twentieth century sewer, cutting deep into the archaeology the sewer runs along the centre of Rixton Street and disrupts the potential for the recovery of archaeological material along its line.

The excavation by Higham during 1979 exposed the remains of two buildings, a square aisled barn and an associated cottage. Remains of which were both revealed during the recent excavations. The identification of the three phases of construction of the cottage, walls (044), [108] and (117) indicate the reuse and rebuilding of the cottage over a substantial period of time. However, the preservation of the archaeological remains was poor, added to the large amounts of flooring and associated later walling removed by Higham, the excavations concluded that the remains would be unsuitable for exposing and stabilising.

The remains of the aisled barn were also in a poor state of preservation, with only the main structural walls remaining, the flooring and smaller associated features having been removed during the previous archaeological excavation down onto a compacted clay surface. Below this limited excavation has revealed a sandstone wall or spread that is likely to represent an earlier phase of construction of the barn or a separate earlier building.

The nineteenth century brick structure identified in trial trench 1 indicates a continued reuse of the area to the north western side of the hall for smaller structures associated with the hall, its true size and function remain unknown.

The identification of no archaeological features within trial trench 5 indicates that both the structural and negative archaeology appear to become less concentrated as the distance from the hall increases.

The contextualised pottery assemblage recovered from Ordsall Hall provided further crucial

evidence for the development of the site across the last 800 years and combined with the uncontextable material recovered from previous excavations across the site, the collection located in Salford Museum, forms the basis of a regionally significant collection.

The recovery of contextualised pottery from negative archaeological features, together with the identification of significant archaeological structural remains indicate the importance of conducting the archaeological evaluations. Individual understanding and interpretation of these features would not have been possible with evaluation trenches alone. Excavation of a larger open area allowed for the identification of archaeological features and structures in reference to each other providing an increased level of understanding with reference to their date, form and status within the development of the hall.

None of which would have been possible without the aid of local community volunteers. The school children were instrumental in both the excavation and the initial location of the moat, the format of three differing activities successfully achieved the aim of creating an exciting and varied environment in which to learn about the archaeology and history of the hall. Excavation with adult volunteers achieved the aim of the excavation of a much larger area, together with the introducing a number of volunteers from the local community to Ordsall hall for the first time, allowing an enhanced appreciation and learning regarding the heritage of the Salford area.

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## ***Appendix 1: Summary Context List***

<b>Context No.</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>
(001)	All Trenches	Layer	Topsoil, dark brown sandy loam.
(002)	Eval. Tr. 1.	Fill	A dark brown silty sand containing frequent brick rubble and mortar inclusions.
(003)	Eval. Tr. 1.	Wall	Handmade brick wall, orientated north-south.
(004)	Eval. Tr. 1.	Wall	Handmade brick wall, orientated east-west.
(005)	Eval. Tr. 1.	Surface	Sandstone flagged floor, (threshold?).
(006)	Eval. Tr. 1.	Wall	Handmade brick wall, orientated north-south.
(007)	Eval. Tr. 1.	Layer	Dark brown loamy sand, friable, containing frequent brick and mortar inclusions.
(008)	Eval. Tr. 1.	Layer	A pale yellow sand, loose, containing no inclusions, leveling layer.
(009)	Eval. Tr. 1.	Layer	A mid brown silty sand, compact, containing occasional rubble fragments of handmade brick.
(010)	Eval. Tr. 1.	Surface	Handmade brick surface.
[011]	Eval Tr.1.	Cut	Cut for modern field drain.
(012)	Eval. Tr. 1.	Wall	Rough shaped sandstone block wall, orientated east-west.
(013)	Eval. Tr. 1.	Wall	Flat sandstone slabs (threshold?)
[014]	Area A.	Cut	Cut of spread.
[015]	Area A.	Cut	Cut of linear ditch, orientated northwest-southeast.
[016]	Area A.	N/A	Not used
[017]	Area A.	Cut	Cut of linear ditch orientated northwest-southeast.
(018)	Area A.	Fill	Mottled mid brown sandy clay, friable, frequent root disturbance and iron panning.
(019)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of unknown feature, a mid brown silty sand, loose, containing infrequent deposits of 0-5mm rounded mat.
(020)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [016], a mid brown loamy sand, friable in nature.
(021)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [017], a mottled light grayish brown silty sand, friable in nature and containing occasional 0-5mm rounded material and occasional charcoal fragments.
(022)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [017], a mottled mid grayish brown silty sand,

			friable in nature and containing occasional 0-5mm rounded material and occasional charcoal fragments.
(023)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [017], a light bluish gray sandy clay, firm.
(024)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [017], a light orangey brown silty sand, containing infrequent inclusions of 0-10mm rounded material.
(025)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [015], a mid brown silty sand, friable, containing infrequent large 200-400mm angular sandstone fragments.
(026)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [015], a dark grayish brown silty sand, loose and wet, containing very frequent deposits of degraded bone fragments.
(027)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [015], a dark brown silty sand, friable in nature.
(028)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [015], a light brown silty sand, compact in nature.
(029)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [015], a mid brown silty sand, friable in nature.
(030)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [015], a mottled light brown silty sand, friable.
(031)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [015], a light brown silty sand, friable in nature.
(032)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [014], a light brownish yellow compact sandy clay.
(033)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [018], a compact reddish yellow clay.
(034)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [018], a light brown silty sand, friable, contains frequent iron panning and root disturbance.
(035)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [018], a light grey sandy clay, compact.
(036)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [018], a light brown sand, loose in nature.
(037)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [018], a mid brown sand, loose in nature.
(038)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [018], a light grey sandy clay, compact.
(039)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [018], a mottled light brown sandy clay, very compact in nature.
[040]	Eval. Tr. 1.	Cut	Cut for modern pipe.
(041)	Area A.	Fill	Fill of [015], a light brown loamy sand, friable, no inc.
[042]	Area A.	Cut	Cut for large sandstone structure orientated east – west.
(043)	Area A.	Wall	Structure within [042] a large sandstone wall, dressed blocks average 0.50m by 0.30m by 0.20m
[044]	Area A.	Cut	Cut for sandstone wall, orientated north – south.
(045)	Area A.	Wall	Large irregular shaped sandstone blocks, no mortar apparent, averaging 0.60m by 0.40m by 0.20m.
(046)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Layer	Dark brown silty sand containing frequent deposits of sub rounded and sub angular sandstone frag. 0-20cm.
[047]	Eval. Tr. 4.	Cut	Cut for oval posthole.
(048)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Fill	Fill of [047], a mottled mid-dark brown sandy clay containing infrequent brick fragments.
[049]	Eval. Tr. 4.	Cut	Cut for oval post hole.
(050)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Fill	Fill of [049], a dark grayish brown silty sand, containing high frequency of single handmade bricks.

(051)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Layer	Compact red sand, containing frequent large sandstone blocks surviving to a poor level.
(052)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Layer	Mottled yellowish brown sandy clay, compact in nature and containing frequent charcoal deposits.
(053)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Layer	Light-mid brown silty sand clay, compact in nature and containing frequent inclusions of brick fragments, tile, sandstone and charcoal.
[054]	Eval. Tr. 4.	Cut	Cut for small brick wall orientated east – west.
(055)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Wall	Handmade brick wall.
[056]	Eval. Tr. 4.	Cut	Cut for brick hearth or furnace.
(057)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Wall	Rectangular red sandstone blocks of [056].
(058)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Fill	Rubble infill, loose dark brown sandy silty containing frequent deposits of broken handmade brick and sandstone fragments.
(059)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Layer	Mid brown sandy clay, no inclusions.
(060)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Layer	Handmade brick wall, internal of [061].
[061]	Eval. Tr. 4.	Cut	Cut for aisled barn wall.
(062)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Wall	Large rectangular sandstone blocks, aligned north-south and turning east-west, the corner of the wall.
(063)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Layer	Mottled friable light brown clay sand silt.
(064)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Layer	Firm light brown silt sand clay.
[065]	Eval. Tr. 4.	Cut	Cut for pipe trench.
(066)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Fill	Mottled dark grey clay silt, occasional brick rubble infill.
(067)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Fill	Same as (068)
(068)	Eval. Tr. 4.	Fill	Excavation backfill from 1979.
(069)	Tr. 3, 4, 5, 6, Area A.	Layer	Fine loose red sand, containing frequent rubble inclusions, 1979 excavations backfill.
(070)	Tr. 3, 4, 5, 6, Area A.	Layer	Clear 2mm thick plastic sheeting to protect the archaeology of the 1979 excavations from (069)
(071)	Area A, Tr. 3	Layer	Mottled dark brown silty sand, friable, containing occasional small charcoal fragments.
(072)	Area A, Tr. 3	Layer	Light brown silty sand, friable, containing occasional clay spreads and small charcoal fragments.
(073)	Area A	Wall	Handmade red brick wall, orientated north-south, same as [103].
(074)	Area A	Wall	Handmade red brick wall, orientated northeast – south west.
(075)	Area A	Layer	Red sand, loose, no inclusions.
(076)	Area A	Layer	Dark brown silty sand, friable, containing frequent brick, stone and mortar fragments.
(077)	Area A	Layer	Mid grey brown silty sand, loose, containing frequent deposits of ash and cinder.
(078)	Area A	Layer	Mid grayish brown friable silty sand.
(079)	Area A	Layer	Mid brown friable silty sand.
(080)	Area A	Layer	Mid grayish brown silty clay, firm in nature.

(081)	Area A	Layer	Fine red brick dust.
(082)	Area A	Layer	Mid grayish brown silty sand, containing frequent inclusions of rounded material, 0-20mm.
(083)	Area A	Layer	Mid grey brown silty sand, friable in nature.
(084)	Area A	Layer	Dark grayish brown silty clay, firm in nature.
(085)	Area A	Layer	Mixed layer of mortar and rubble.
(086)	Area A	Layer	Dark grayish brown silty sand containing occasional brick rubble fragments.
(087)	Area A	Layer	Mid brownish grey sandy silt containing infrequent small brick fragments.
(088)	Area A	Layer	Dark brown sandy silt, containing occasional fragments of rounded and sub rounded 0-10mm material.
(089)	Area A	Layer	Dark grey silty sand, containing occasional fragments of charcoal.
(090)	Area A	Layer	Dark grey ash, loose.
(091)	Area A	Layer	Light grey loose mortar.
(092)	Area A	Layer	Dark grey silty sand, occasional 0-10mm rubble inclusions.
(093)	Tr. Tr. 6	Fill	Mid grey silty clay, no inclusions.
[094]	Tr. Tr. 6	Cut	Cut for linear gully
[095]	Tr. Tr. 6	Cut	Cut for linear gully
(096)	Tr. Tr. 6	Fill	Fill of [095], mid brown friable sandy loam.
[097]	Area A	Cut	Cut for a posthole, containing (098)
(098)	Area A	Fill	Light brown compact sand, no inclusions.
(099)	Tr. Tr. 6	Fill	Primary fill of [095], light brown silty sand.
(100)	Area A	Layer	Natural Sand, pale yellow soft sand.
(101)	Tr. Tr. 3	Layer	Same as (001)
(102)	Tr. Tr. 3	Layer	Dark brown/black rubble filled silty loam
[103]	Tr. Tr. 3	Cut	Handmade brick wall orientated north – south.
(104)	Tr. Tr. 3	Layer	Mid to dark brown silty sand frequent 0-10mm rubble inclusions.
(105)	Tr. Tr. 3	Layer	Light reddish brown silty sand.
(106)	Tr. Tr. 3	Layer	Mid brown silty sand.
(107)	Tr. Tr. 3	Layer	Dark grey silty sand.
[108]	Tr. Tr. 3	Cut	Sandstone rubble foundation trench.
[109]	Tr. Tr. 7	Cut	Cut for moat.
(110)	Tr. Tr. 3	Layer	Same as (100)
[111]	Tr. Tr. 7	Cut	Cut for sewer drain
(112)	Tr. Tr. 7		
[113]	Tr. Tr. 7	Cut	Cut for Sewer
(114)	Tr. Tr. 7	Layer	Stone flags
(115)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	Primary fill of [113], Dark brown silty sand, frequent charcoal inclusions, fill of [113].
(116)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	Mid brown silty sand, containing frequent inclusions, fill of [113].



(117)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	
(118)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	Mid brown silty clay, frequent rubble inclusions fill of [113].
(119)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	Light brown silty sand, frequent rubble inclusions fill of [113].
(120)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	Dark brown silty sand, frequent rubble inclusions fill of [113].
(121)	Tr. Tr. 7	N/A	Not used.
(122)	Tr. Tr. 7	N/A	Not used.
(123)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	Mid/dark brown silty loam, frequent rubble inclusions.
(124)	Tr. Tr. 7	N/A	Not used.
(125)	Tr. Tr 4.	Fill	Light – mid grey silty sand
(126)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	Light yellow/orange silty sand, fill of [109].
(127)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	Mid brown silty sand fill of [109].
(128)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	Mid brown silty clay fill of [109].
(129)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	Dark brown silty sand fill of [109].
(130)	Tr. Tr. 7	Fill	Dark brown silty loam fill of [109].

## ***Appendix 2: Illustrations***

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<b>Illustration No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Description</b>
1	Plan.	Area.	Site location plan.
2	Plan.	Area.	Immediate location plan.
3	Plan.	Area.	Location of features uncovered during the excavations of 1978/9-1994.
4	Plan.	Area.	Location of 2006 evaluation and community excavation trenches.
5	Plan.	Tr. Tr. 1	Trench plan.
6	Section.	Tr. Tr. 1	West facing section including brick wall (003).
7	Plan	Tr. Tr. 3	Trench plan and south facing section.
8	Section	Tr. Tr. 3	West facing section of wall [042]
9	Plan.	Tr. Tr. 3	North facing section of wall [042] within Area A and Trial Trench 3.
10	Plan.	Tr. Tr. 4	Trench plan.
11	Plan.	Tr. Tr. 5	Trench plan.
12	Plan.	Tr. Tr. 6	Trench Plan.
13	Plan.	Tr. Tr. 7	Trench plan.
14	Section.	Tr. Tr. 7	Schematic south facing section of [109] moat.
15	Section.	Area A	West facing section of the northern section of the eastern extent of the trench edge.
16	Section.	Area A.	South east facing section of linear features [014], [015], and [017].
17	Plan.	Area A.	Area plan.
18	Plan.	Area.	Excavation at Ordsall Hall demesne farm 1978-1979, early 17 <sup>th</sup> century and earlier features (Higham 1980).
19	Plan.	Area.	Excavation at Ordsall Hall demesne farm 1978-1979, late 17 <sup>th</sup> century features (Higham 1980).
20	Plan.	Area.	Ordsall Hall 1978-9; Plan of Farm buildings as they were immediately prior to demolition in 1876. (Higham 1980).
21	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 1	Trial Trench 1, looking south, Trial Trench 2 located in the background.
22	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 1	Trial Trench 1,

			western arm, looking east.
23	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 3	North facing section of Trial Trench 3, including wall [042].
24	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 3	Trial Trench 3, looking east.
25	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 4	Feature [051] located to the northern extent of Trial Trench 4.
26	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 4	Trial Trench 4, looking northwest.
27	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 4	Corner of the aisled structure [061], located in the centre of Trial Trench 4, looking Northwest.
28	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 5	Trial Trench 5, looking North.
29	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 6	Linear features [094] and [094] located in the centre of Trial Trench 6, looking South.
30	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 6	Trial Trench 6, looking north.
31	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 7	Northern section of Trial Trench 7, indicating the presence of the moat [109], looking southwest.
32	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 7	Eastern extent of Trial Trench 7, showing the south facing section, looking northwest.
33	Photograph	Tr. Tr. 7	Eastern extent of Trial Trench 7, showing the south facing section, looking northwest.
34	Photograph	Area A.	Brick floor (075) located to the eastern extent of Area A, looking north.
35	Photograph	Area A.	Northern most extent of Area A, looking west, showing cottage structure, looking east.
36	Photograph	Area A.	Wall structures (042) and (044), northwestern extent of Area A, looking south.
37	Photograph	Area A.	General view of Area A, looking south west.
38	Photograph	Area A.	General site view of Area A, looking south.
39	Photograph	Area A.	View of wall [042], looking south.
40	Photograph	Area A.	Wall [042] within the cottage, looking south west.
41	Photograph	Area A.	South east facing section of slot across features [014], [015], and [017], looking southwest.
42	Photograph	Area A.	South east facing section of slot across features [014], [015], and [017], looking northwest.
43	Photograph	Area A.	General view of Area A, looking north.
44	Photograph	N/A	Example of pottery storage boxes relating to the 1966 excavation of the moat, identified within Salford Museum.
45	Photograph	N/A	Example of pottery storage boxes relating to the 1966 excavation of the moat, identified within Salford Museum.
46	Photograph	Area A.	Community involvement during the second week of excavation on Area A, looking north.
47	Photograph	Area A.	School children participating in Geophysics during the excavation.

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48	Photograph	Area A.	Local children participating in finds processing within the hall during the excavation.
49	Photograph	Area A.	Local children participating in pottery classes during the excavation.
50	Photograph	Area A.	School children participating in arts and crafts during the excavation.
51	Photograph	1978-79	Excavation at Ordsall Hall demesne farm 1978-79 (Higham 1980).
52	Map	General	Ordsall Hall, as shown on the estate map of Wilbraham Egerton, surveyed and planned 1812.
53	Map	General	Ordsall Hall, as shown on the estate map of Wilbraham Egerton, date unknown.
54	Map	General	Ordsall Hall, as shown on the Ordsall Hall Estate Plan of 1848.
55	Map	General	Ordsall Hall, as shown on the Ordsall Hall Estate map of 1868.
56	Map	General	Ordsall Hall, as seen on the first edition Ordnance Survey Map 1941.