

**Site location:** Land adjacent to Roman Lakes Leisure Park, Lakes Road, Marple,

Stockport, SK6 7DR.

NGR: (Centred at SJ 966884)

**Internal ref:** SA/2017/46

**Proposal:** Community Archaeological Excavation

**Planning ref:** N/A

**Prepared for:** Revealing Oldknow's Legacy Project

**Document title:** Archaeological Excavation: Mellor Lodge, Coach House and Stables

**Document type:** Archaeological Excavation Report.

**Version:** Version 1.0

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Date: November 2017

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**Date:** November 2017

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### **Summary**

Salford Archaeology (SA) was commissioned by the Revealing Oldknow's Legacy project to undertake a series of community archaeological excavations on the site of Mellor Lodge, Lakes Road, Mellor, Stockport (centred at SJ966884). This work was carried out as part of a Heritage Lottery Funded programme of activities around Mellor and Marple to investigate the impact of the industrialist, Samuel Oldknow, on the area. Oldknow was responsible for the construction of Mellor Mill, Marple Lime Kilns and Marple Aqueduct, all of which caused rapid expansion and population growth in Mellor and Marple and laid the foundations of the towns as they are today.

The purpose of the excavations was to uncover, record, interpret, conserve and expose the remains of Mellor Lodge and the adjacent coach house/stables building for public view. The structures will be displayed as consolidated foundations. The excavation areas were able to directly target the buried remains of the eastern and central wings of Mellor Lodge and the western end of the coach house/stables building.

The excavations were able to reveal a large part of the footprint of the eastern and central part of the house at basement level along with the ground floor of the western end of the coach house/stables building. The remains were found to be in a reasonably good state of preservation and retained a significant number of internal features associated with the service areas of the house, in particular internal walls, remains of flooring and alterations made to the building. The coach house building was also found to survive well and offered information of the internal layout of the building and the yard to the south. In addition, significant finds relating to the occupation of both the house and coach house/stables were made.

This work has enabled a comparison of the relatively detailed amateur plans of the house and limited documentary evidence with the physical remains preserved on site. It has also opened up for the local community two aspects of the Mellor Mill complex which were previously largely overlooked and under-documented.



## 1. Introduction

### Background

Salford Archaeology (SA) was commissioned by the Revealing Oldknows Legacy project to undertake a series of community archaeological excavations on land adjacent to the Roman Lakes Leisure Park, Marple.

The purpose of the excavations was to uncover, record, interpret, conserve and expose the remains of Mellor Lodge and the adjacent coach house and stables for public view. The structures will be displayed as consolidated foundations. This work is part of an ongoing programme of clearance by machine and hand, followed by archaeological cleaning and recording undertaken by a mix of experienced and inexperienced volunteers and supervised by professional archaeological staff from Salford Archaeology with support from the Mellor Mill site director and other specialists.

This work includes mapping and understanding the extent, function, phasing and relative significance of the buried remains and exposed fabric.

The project's 3 year programme of excavation, consolidation and presentation focuses on the mill remains, the ancillary buildings, and on Oldknow's residence (Mellor Lodge). The current report represents the results of the Year 2 excavations on the site of the mansion and coach house/stable building.

#### Location, topography & current land use

The site lies on land adjacent to the Roman Lakes Leisure Park, Lakes Road, Marple, Stockport, SK6 7DR (SJ 966884) at a height of roughly 95m AOD. It is located approximately 400m east of the B6101 (Strines road), 1km south-east of Marple town centre and 615m north of the Roman Lakes Leisure Park. The site is bounded on the north and east by Lakes Road, on the south by private woodland and by the River Goyt to the west (**Fig. 1**).

The geological bedrock for the Mellor Mill site is described by the British geological survey on-line search facility as; rough rock – Sandstone known locally as Woodhead Hill rock, overlain by superficial river terrace deposits of sand and gravel (https://www.bgs.ac.uk).

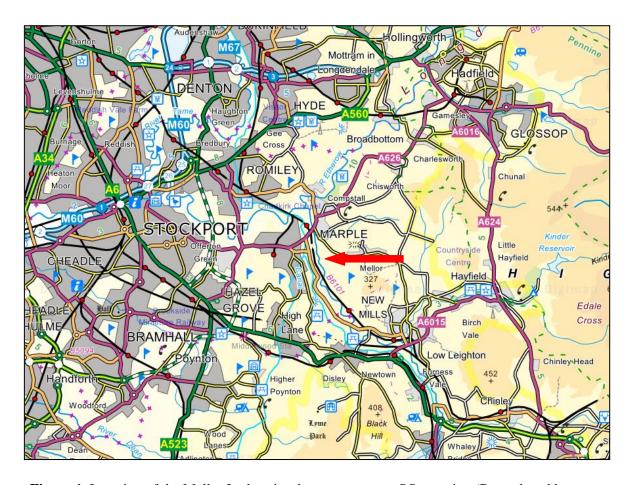


#### Personnel

The project was conducted by professional archaeologists from SA. On-site excavations were conducted by Sarah Cattell, Vicky Nash, Kirsty Whittall, Alaina Kaiser and Mandy Burns. The report was compiled, written and illustrated by Sarah Cattell, Stuart Harris and Richard Ker. The project was managed by Adam Thompson.

#### **Monitoring**

Norman Redhead, the Heritage Management Director (Archaeology) for Greater Manchester Archaeology Advisory Service, (GMAAS) monitored the archaeological works throughout.



**Figure 1.** Location of the Mellor Lodge site shown on current OS mapping (Reproduced by permission, OS Licence Number 100050261).



## 2. Historical Background

### **Historical Background**

#### Prehistoric & Romano-British

No finds of the prehistoric and Roman periods are known from within the study area. The nearest such sites are the Bronze Age burial mound at Shaw Cairn and the Iron Age/Romano British hillfort surrounding St Thomas' Church, both Mellor.

#### Medieval and Post Medieval

During the medieval period the township of Marple was a largely rural community and remained so until the 18<sup>th</sup> century. No medieval finds have been made within the study area but a large aisled hall is known to have existed in Mellor on the site of the Iron Age hillfort. During the post medieval period the agricultural economy of Marple and Mellor was supplemented by the cottage industry of handloom weaving which lay the foundation for the town's expansion during the Industrial Revolution.



**Figure 2.** Mellor Mill as painted by Joseph Parry in 1805.



#### **Industrial**

Mellor Mill was the centre of a manufacturing complex built in 1792 by Samuel Oldknow which included the mill itself, workshops and offices, a corn mill, two mansions and an apprentice house.

Oldknow originally came from Anderton in Lancashire where he had established himself as a cotton manufacturer but, in the 1780s he bought land in Stockport where he built a house and warehouse for the manufacture of cotton cloth, predominantly muslins. During this period he began to look for areas and opportunities into which he could expand his business and in 1787 acquired the Bottoms Hall estate in Marple (Unwin, 1924). Over the next few years he continued to buy up land in Marple and Mellor and extended his estate to encompass most of the area between Longhouse Lane to the north and Strines to the south.

With a loan from his friend Richard Arkwright, Oldknow began the construction of Mellor Mill in 1790 along with an ambitious programme of works to redirect the nearby river to supply the millponds. This plan also included the construction of a range of stone buildings between the mill and the river which were used as workshops, stores and stables. By 1800 two grand houses to the south-west of the mill had also been built on either side of the River Goyt, Marple Lodge on the Marple side and Mellor Lodge on the Mellor side. Mellor Lodge was the larger of the two and was constructed as Oldknows main residence following the sale of his house in Stockport, he lived here until his death in 1828. The smaller Marple Lodge may have been the slightly earlier of the two, built for Oldknow while he was still living in Stockport in the mid-1790s but was later the home of the Mill manager John Clayton.

Mellor Lodge was a double fronted three storey house set into the natural slope of the riverbank. It was built in stone to a symmetrical plan with two canted bays to the front and back with a central entrance and staircase. The house appears on mapping throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and was set within a landscaped garden complete with flower beds, shrubbery and a sun dial.

Following Oldknows death the house along with the rest of the Mellor Mill estate transferred to the ownership of Richard Arkwright who leased the house, at first to his local estate agents and later to private tenants. By 1879 the house had become a girls school run by Miss Louisa Allen (Arrowsmith, 2017). The house continued to be let privately by the Arkwright estate until the 1930s and after a period of vacancy was finally demolished in 1946. The site has remained undeveloped since.

The southernmost of the buildings lying between the mill and river had a dual use with the northern half used for warehousing and the southern half recorded as a stable and coach house for Mellor Lodge. The contents of the stable and coach house were sold along with the contents of Mellor Lodge after Oldknows death but it is likely that



the building continued with the same function as both the sale documents for the estate in 1867 and 1924 indicate (Arrowsmith, 2017). Following a period of dereliction the building was finally demolished in 1930s.

### **Archaeological Background**

Whilst the site of the mill has been the subject of ongoing excavations for the past decade, the sites of Mellor Lodge and its stables have had no archaeological investigations carried out since their demolition.



**Figure 3.** Mellor Lodge as it appeared in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century..



## 3. Methodology

#### Excavation Strategy

The aim of the archaeological excavation was to expose, record, interpret and conserve the remains of Mellor Mill. This work was required in advance of the creation of the Mellor Mill heritage park which will open the remains for public viewing.

The project's 3 year programme of excavation, consolidation and presentation will focus on three main areas of interest; the mill remains, the ancillary buildings and the waterloo wheel pit, and on Oldknows residence, Mellor Lodge.

The site is heavily wooded therefore an ongoing programme of clearance is underway which includes the removal of both trees and low level vegetation across the footprint of the mill structures. Following the clearance of an area, excavations proceeded using a mechanical excavator to remove topsoil and overburden with all archaeological features below excavated by hand.

#### Excavation methodology

All archaeological features (stratigraphical layers, cuts, fills, structures) were evaluated by hand tools and recorded in plan at 1:20 or in section at 1:10 using standard single context recording methods with photographs taken as appropriate.

Removal of modern overburden (topsoil and subsoil) was conducted using a mechanical excavator with a toothless ditching bucket under the supervision of a professional archaeologist acting as a banksman. Removed overburden was stored on a mounded spoil heaps located at an appropriate distance away from the main open areas of excavation within the fenced edges of the site.

Machine excavation continued in the areas of the site which were thought to have cellars or other buried features to ascertain the survival of these lower levels. Areas were machine excavated in 100mm spits until either natural geological deposits or significant archaeological deposits were identified. Machine excavation remained cautious, with preference for surviving information and hand excavation where possible once interfaces were encountered.

During the machine excavation and until the programme of archaeological works were complete, the open area excavation and spoil heaps were surrounded by orange barrier fencing, located not less than two metres away from the edges of either. The site as a whole was contained within a circuit of wooden fencing accessed by locked gates.



Following machine excavation all areas were cleaned using appropriate hand tools and archaeological features recorded by photography and scaled plan.

During the machine excavation and planning phase Mr Norman Redhead of the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service (GMAAS) was consulted at regular intervals.

#### Recording methodology

A unique text-number site code was created prior to the commencement of the programme of works.

Separate contexts were recorded individually on pro-forma context sheets. Plans and sections were recorded on drawing sheets at an appropriate scale of 1:10, 1:20, or 1:50, depending on the complexity of the data and features encountered. All drawings were individually identified and cross referenced, contexts enumerated and principal layers and features annotated with OD level information.

A 'site location plan' indicating the site north and based on the current ordnance survey 1:1250 map (reproduced with the permission of the controller of HMSO) was prepared. This was supplemented by a trench plan at 1:100, which shows in detail the areas investigated.

Photography of all relevant phases and features was undertaken with digital formats. General working photographs were taken during the duration of the archaeological works, to provide illustrative material covering the wider aspects of the archaeological work undertaken and to contribute to the creation of the heritage park. A copy of the digital photographs will be made available to the curatorial body, GMAAS with the production of the technical archaeological report.

All finds were recorded by context. Significant "small finds" located within three dimensions to the nearest 10mm and bagged and labelled separately, numbered and a simple description made so that they can be identified within the assemblage.



## 4. Archaeological Descriptions

### Mellor Lodge



**Figure 4.** General view of Mellor Lodge Area showing the standing remains of the front wall of the house and internal dividing walls. Looking northwest.

The excavation area was located over the site of the eastern end of the house where remains had previously been identified at basement level. The area measured 14.00m x 14.00m, orientated northeast-southwest. The removal of the vegetation and topsoil revealed a demolition layer comprising a dark brown silty loam (003) with frequent inclusions of broken brick and stone, mortar, coal, clinker and  $19^{th}$  and  $20^{th}$  century pottery, metal and glass which covered all the features in this area and existed to a depth of c.2.50m.

Four sections of stone wall were revealed to stand at the front of the building (northern side) which stood to a height of between 2.50m-3.00m. All four were constructed from dressed stone blocks laid with white mortar and a mortared rubble core. The easternmost of these walls was (002), a short section of the eastern wall of the house measuring 0.50m wide x 3.00m long which contained a recess in the upper part, and a fireplace, although this was not fully excavated. This abutted (004) measuring 0.50m x 7.00m which formed the hexagonal eastern bay of the house and possessed three full-length recesses c.1.20m wide, each of which were split by a central horizontal stone sill with a vertical single course brick wall below and were whitewashed. Wall (005), measuring 0.50m x 4.50m was semi-circular and lay between the eastern bay (004) and the western bay (006) and possessed a single doorway to a tunnel leading to the mill outbuildings to the north of





**Figure 5** Wall (006) showing the absence of the internal facing stones. Looking southwest.

the bridge. The doorway was framed with rebated stone coursing with a stone lintel and lay directly below the front entrance for the house at ground floor level. At the western end of this wall a projecting broken sandstone block was identified which was aligned with a square mortar outline (016) at the base of (005). The block overlay the truncated remains of a sandstone flag (017). The final wall, (006) measured 0.50m x 3.80m and formed the western front bay but was heavily truncated and had lost its facing course. This wall was also not fully excavated. In front of walls (002), (004) and (005) lay a 0.50m wide void with a stone retaining wall (040) to the north which was constructed from mortared stone blocks and measured 0.60m wide but did not extend beyond the external ground level.



Figure 6. Area enclosed by wall (004) showing drain (009) and wall recesses. Looking north.





Figure 7. Drain (009). Looking west.



**Figure 8**. Drain (012) and tunnel entrance. Looking northwest.

To the south of the standing walls the other features of the mansion basement were identified only at foundation level. A clean layer of red sand (007) was found against the front walls which in turn overlay the fragmented remains of a stone flagged surface (008). Below this floor level a culvert (009), c.0.70m x 5.00m with a section of ceramic drain pipe within which was found to run east-west through the front room and out beneath the doorway in wall (005).

Several internal walls were revealed crossing the basement, the first of which was a single course handmade brick wall (028), laid in stretcher bond with white lime mortar. To the west this abutted wall (014) a north-south orientated stone wall with two doorways to the north and south of (027) and a west facing fireplace. The ground to the west of the fireplace was covered by a compacted deposit of sandy mortar (036) which was rich in coal and charcoal fragments. Wall (014) was abutted by a second stone wall (027) which extended westwards for 1.40m. The final internal wall revealed (024), lay 4.20m to the west of and parallel with wall (014). This was also constructed from dressed stone blocks laid with white mortar and had a central doorway with stone frame. This doorway appeared to lead into a lower level as it was found to continue below the excavated depth of 1m. A flight of stone steps (032) was identified to the north of this doorway which, although blocked by a handmade brick wall (030), lead downwards through it.

Two sections of stone wall were identified to be the main rear wall of the house, these were (025) at the end of the central passage and (039) which formed the back of the eastern cellar room. Wall (025) had the same stone construction as (014) and (024) with a central doorway, A single course of handmade bricks, although truncated, were found on the internal face of the wall to the east of the doorway. Wall (039) was canted and appeared to be a mirror image of wall (004) but only stood 0.10m high.





**Figure 9.** Central cellar room showing tunnel entrance in the background and internal walls (014), (024) and (027). Looking north.



**Figure 10.**Staircase (032) showing inserted brick walls (030), (033) and (034) with (016) and (017) visible in the background. Looking north.







**Figure 12**. Fireplace in wall (004). Looking east

Figure 11. Wall (004). Looking north.

### **Coach House**



Figure 13. General view of the Coach House/Stables trench. Looking south.



The excavation area was located over the site of the coach house/stables structure at the southern end of the line of ancillary building which lay between the mill and the river. The area measured 16.00m x 8.20m, orientated northeast-southwest. Following the removal of the overlying vegetation, a demolition layer comprising a mid-grey-brown silt (002) with frequent inclusions of broken brick and stone, mortar, slate and 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery and metal was identified which covered all the features in this area and existed to a depth of between 0.15m-0.30m.

At the southwestern end of the trench a stone surface was uncovered which was composed of stone flags and cobbles of varying sizes, contexts (004)-(007). At the far southern corner of the trench an iron grate (008) was revealed set within the flagged surface (007), through which could be seen running water. The flow of the water indicated it ran in a northwest-southeast course towards the river.



**Figure 14.** Flagged yard showing stone flags (004) and (007) with grid (008) and cobbled infill (005) and (006). Looking north.

Surfaces (004) and (007) lay directly against the south-western ends of two L shaped walls, (009) to the northwest and (010) to the southeast. Both were constructed from dressed sandstone blocks of varying sizes laid with white lime mortar and lay 5.20m apart. The returns of both walls lay facing each other against (004) with a central gap of 3.50m. Along with wall (011), a third sandstone wall was identified running northwest-southeast and abutting the north-eastern ends of (009) and (010), these walls enclosed a space measuring 5.20m x 8.50m. A second smaller opening was also identified at the northern end of wall (009).

The internal surface of the building comprised a layer of mid-orange-brown sandy loam containing fragments of broken brick and stone (003). A square feature (017),



was identified in the far southern corner of the building which comprised a single course of sandstone blocks laid with white mortar and abutting the main and return sections of wall (010). The feature was filled by a black-brown silty deposit and contained a large number of 19<sup>th</sup> century objects including pottery, glass and metal fittings such as pulley wheels and hooks. The north-eastern part of the building was crossed by a single course, handmade brick wall (015), which was irregularly stepped in plan and bonded with white mortar.

**Figure 15**. Possible sump/ soak away in the southern corner of the building. Looking west.



To the north of the brick wall, a short (1.15m long) section of stone wall (016) was found to extend southwards from wall (011) and was of the same construction. This did not appear to continue further south and so may have been constructed as an internal dividing wall or buttress.

Several features were identified to the northwest of wall (011) that appeared to be associated with structures linking the coach house building with the next outbuilding to the north, as viewed on the historic mapping. These features comprised a flagged stone surface, (013) which was crossed by a two course sandstone wall (012) which continued from wall (011) beyond the trench edge in a northerly direction. The flagged surface (013) measured 1.73m x 0.95m and was moderately damaged comprising flags measuring up to 0.86m x 0.48m. Wall (012) was aligned north-south, continuing north from (011) beyond the trench edge and was 0.42m wide. A second section of stone walling (020) which lay 0.60m northwest of wall (012) extended from (011) at a right angle and also continued beyond the trench edge. This wall abutted the end of the flagged surface (013) and was excavated to a height of 0.36m.





**Figure 16**. Wall (015), looking northwest.



**Figure 17**. Area to the northeast of (011), showing walls (011), (012) and (020) and flags (013). Looking northwest.



## 5. Archaeological Results

### **Mellor Lodge**

The excavation of Mellor Lodge was able to reveal extensive remains associated with the late 18<sup>th</sup> century mansion house cellars and enabled the full footprint of the central and eastern parts of the house to be viewed at basement level. It is clear from the results of the dig that the house was a substantial structure that was well built and appointed. During the excavation members of Marple Local History Society were able to show copies of a set of hand-drawn plans for the house drawn by a former resident from his memories of the building in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century which were able to inform, in part, the interpretation of the remains uncovered.

The eastern wing of the house was the first to be uncovered and was found to comprise two cellar rooms divided by a single course brick wall. The northernmost of these at the front of the house revealed evidence of cellar lights in the northern and eastern walls indicated by the recesses and stone sills identified in both walls. Below these features there seems to have been some sort of storage, possibly wine racks or similar below the sills in the northern wall, as evidenced by the remains of the single course, low height brick walls which still retained evidence of painted plaster. Within these recesses evidence was identified to indicate that at some point the flooring of this room had been removed or replaced. The sand levelling layer coupled with the truncated remains of stone flags abutting the base of wall (004) suggests that together these layers may represent several phases of flooring in the basement, all of which overlay the buried stone lined drain. The 20th century plans suggest that this room was used as a butler's pantry and indicate that, during this period at least, it contained the wine cellar for the house.

The division between this room and the larger room to the south was formed by the northeast-southwest brick wall (028). It is unclear from the remains if this was an original wall or the result of remodelling of the basement rooms, however it does correspond with the position of the wall seen in the 20<sup>th</sup> century plans which refer to the room to the south as the kitchen. This could not be confirmed as this area was not excavated.

The western side of the eastern wing of the house was bounded by the internal dividing wall (014) which contained two doorways to the rooms in this wing. In addition a fireplace was identified in this wall which again, corresponded with the position of a fireplace on the 20<sup>th</sup> century plans as well as the configuration of chimneys on photographs of the house. The area to the west of wall (014) is referred to on the plans as the central passageway as is shown as having four short sections of freestanding walls projecting into the space from either side of two facing doorways into the eastern and western wings. During the excavation only one of these walls was identified, (027) although the disturbance to wall (014) to the south of the kitchen



doorway may indicate the removal of another. Again it is unclear if these were an original feature of the house or the result of remodelling, although it is possible that they may have been removed some time before the house was demolished.

The other main feature in the central passage area to be identified during the dig was the small staircase which lay immediately south of the tunnel entrance. Whilst these steps are not recorded on any maps or plans of the house, their function is hinted at, again on the 20<sup>th</sup> century residents plans, by the mention of a lower sub-basement on the western side of the house. Due to the proximity of the steeply sloping riverbank on this side of the site, the excavation of this basement could not be carried out, meaning the precise layout of the western cellars could not be ascertained. The steps, however, do seem to be leading down towards an opening between the central and western parts of the house where the sub-basement is reported to be. In addition, the opening recorded in the western wall of the central passage was enclosed by the continuation of the staircase wall and extended below the floor level of the central passage, indicating access to a lower western level. One thing that was clear from the excavation was that these steps were taken out of use prior to the house being demolished. This is evidenced by the single course brick wall crossing the southern end of the staircase and the rough brick lining on either side, all of which appear to be constructed from late 19<sup>th</sup> century handmade bricks.

To the north of the staircase lay the only fragment of intact flooring within the house which was a 0.10m thick sandstone flag. This underlay the remains of a projecting stone slab, which from the outline of its continuation visible on the adjacent wall formed a roughly 1.00m square box or cupboard. The use of this feature is unclear although the form of the main wall behind does imply it was an original feature of the house. At the opposite end of the central passage the opening in the centre of the southern external wall was found to correspond with the location of the main back door referenced on the  $20^{th}$  century plans of the house. It appears that the internal face of the wall to the east of the doorway was at some time repaired or reinforced as the whole corner of this area between the fireplace in wall (014) and the back door has 1-2 courses of bricks abutted to the stone work, increasing the thickness of the wall by c.0.25m.

The only external feature to be identified during the excavation was the secondary below-ground walls around the front of the house represented by walls (022) and (040). No mention has been made of these structures in the documentary records of the house and their location below ground-level would explain this and indicate their purpose was purely functional. It is likely that these walls were related to either the damp-proofing or drainage of the cellars or as a retaining structure due to the natural ground level on the northern side of the house being considerably higher than that on the south.



The excavation was able to highlight several original features within the basement level, as well as the various instances of repair and remodelling carried out throughout its history. It was also able to confirm the layout of the cellar rooms as they were at the time of the houses demolition, some of which could already be seen on the hand-drawn plans, although not all the features identified were found to correspond with these.

#### **Coach House/Stables**

Like the excavation at the house, the dig over the site of the coach house and stables was able to reveal significant remains of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century structure. Although the full footprint of the building was not uncovered, the western end of the building was revealed along with part of an exterior surface to the southwest.

This exterior surface was represented by the area of flagstones and cobbles identified at the western end of the excavation and is likely to be part of the yard/pavement indicated around the riverside buildings on historic mapping from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The discovery of running water below this feature was able to indicate the course of culverted overflow channel from the mill ponds as viewed on 19<sup>th</sup> century mapping of the estate which ran below the north-eastern entrance to Mellor Lodge. It is reasonable to assume that the inlet in the riverbank by the south-western corner of the coach house seen on historic mapping was the outlet for this excess water to rejoin the river.

The coach house/stables structure itself was found to be constructed from dressed stone blocks much like those used in the construction of the house. The northern wall of the structure was represented by (011) which abutted anther area of the external pavement around the riverside buildings as well as two smaller connecting walls. These could be seen on historic mapping and seem to block access to the riverbank from the yard area to the east, possibly for safety or security reasons given the proximity of the western side of the buildings to the river itself.

The southern wall of the building is likely to be represented by the short returns at the southwestern ends of the L shaped walls (009) and (010) with the opening between forming a large doorway into this room. The main sections of both of these walls were part of the internal layout of the building with the main space between later subdivided by a single course brick wall. The change in construction material to brick would suggest that this wall is associated with a later episode of repairs or alterations to the building, possibly as a result of a change of use of this room. The doorway at the eastern end of (009) suggests that the room exposed was linked to the northernmost room of the building but that these two were separate from the rooms to the south as there appears to be no internal access through wall (010). It is likely, therefore, that wall (010) originally separated the rooms used as stables and coach



house. The pressence of a leveling layer in the room indicates it had, at some point, a more substantial floor, possibly stone flags or setts, which may have utilised the square feature in the southern corner of the room as part of its drainage. Although no pipe was revealed at the base of the feature, it is possible that it may have served as a sump or soak-away for the floor which was then used for waste deposition later on.

When the estate was put up for sale in 1867 an inventory plan of the mill site showed this building to have a central dividing wall running northwest-southeast with the coach house/stables to the south and a warehouse occupying the northern half of the building. The only possible evidence found during the excavation for this internal layout was the single course brick wall (015), which neither equally divided the room nor continued to the east of wall (010). This wall is the probable result of internal reorganisation of the ground floor after 1867 or as part of the reuse of the riverside buildings following the fire which led to the closure of the mill in 1892.



## 6. Discussion

The current work at the site of the Mellor Mill complex is enabling the rediscovery of not only the form of the site itself but also the growth and development of the industrial community set up by Samuel Oldknow. When Oldknow began buying up land in Marple and Mellor in 1787 the surrounding landscape was largely dominated by farming with farmhouses and other agricultural buildings the most common structures in the area. By the time the mill was destroyed by fire in 1892 Marple had become a fully industrialised town producing cotton, coal and lime which was carried on new roads and canals linking it with markets across the country and beyond.

Samuel Oldknows career began when he was apprenticed to his uncle Thomas at the family drapery business in Nottingham where he learned the basics of the cotton trade and soon went into partnership with his uncle. In 1781, at the age of 25 he returned to his home town of Anderton where he set himself up as a manufacturer of calico fabrics. At this time the weaving of cotton was carried out as part of a 'putting out' system where yarn was sold to individuals to weave in their own homes and the fabric then checked and sold back to the manufacturer. At Anderton, however Samuel chose to retain ownership of the materials and directly employ the weavers to produce the fabric which was then returned to his warehouse. This is almost certainly the first example of Oldknows openness to new ideas to maximise productivity and returns as well as his first experience as an employer, a role he would take very seriously in his later businesses.

Following the success of his business at Anderton, Oldknow turned his attention to Stockport where in 1784 he purchased a house, warehouse and land. From here he continued the practice of hiring external weavers who, by using yarn spun by Richard Arkwright on his new water frames, were able to produce much finer muslin cloth for which Oldknow became renowned across the country. Stockport had become a centre for silk production during the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century with at least six water powered mills in the town centre, several of which changed to cotton production around the time that Oldknow set up his works on Hillgate (Unwin, 1924). It is reasonable to assume that Oldknow saw the potential of the town both in terms of its access to a skilled workforce and its growing industrialisation.

The 1780s were a period of great success for Oldknow and he was able to expand his business with a spinning works in Stockport, bleaching, dying and weaving in Heaton Mersey and a saleroom in Manchester. Inspired to control all the stages of cotton production and funded by his successes in Stockport and Anderton, Oldknow began buying up land in Mellor and Marple with a view to building a large spinning factory to supply his weavers. This venture also gave him the opportunity to contribute to the building of a community in Marple similar to those at Cromford and Styal where the factory owner's influence permeated all parts of society (Atkinson, 2015). Whilst the



mill at Mellor continued to be the focus of Oldknows ambition, the slump in sales during 1787-8 following the outbreak of conflict with France coupled with his debts to creditors who he used in the building of his factories meant that both the Stockport and Heaton Mersey sites had to be sold off. Despite this he still obtained further credit from the Arkwrights in order to complete the mill at Mellor which opened in 1793.

Building the Mellor Mill complex was a vast undertaking and involved not only the construction of the mill itself but also the building of workshops, offices, a gasometer and retort house and even the redirection of the nearby River Goyt into three millponds to supply the mills water wheels. In addition, Oldknow was keen to construct accommodation close to the site, not only for his employees, but also for himself and his mill manager, hence the building of Marple and Mellor Lodges. The fact that at least one of these houses were standing by the early 1790s indicates the importance of the mill at Mellor to Oldknow, that he needed a residence here as well as his main house in Stockport.



Figure 18. Mellor Lodge from the rear showing the gardens and staircase window c.1900s.

It was originally thought that Mellor Lodge was the first of the mansions to be built on the site with the construction of Marple Lodge beginning some time later, however, recent documentary research has suggested that this may not be the case. Based on the evidence gathered by Dr Peter Arrowsmith for his Desk based assessment of the mill complex, several sources appear to imply that the building referred to as the 'Old Lodge' may have been Marple Lodge rather than Mellor Lodge as previously thought



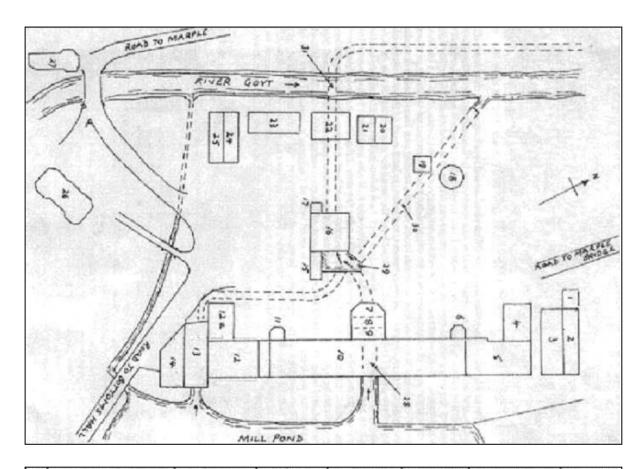
(Arrowsmith, 2017). The evidence consulted includes tax records and wages documents relating to improvements made to the buildings in 1800/1, neither of which directly mention either building by name, but which on closer examination may question the original ideas on the phasing of the houses. Arrowsmith suggests a date of 1794-5 for the construction of Mellor Lodge which, if this was the 'New Lodge', would suggest that Marple Lodge was constructed some time before (Arrowsmith, 2017). It is unlikely that this was much earlier than 1789 when Bottoms Bridge and road were constructed.

During Oldknows occupation of the house it was described by Ebenezer Rhodes as a 'neat but not large mansion' which was 'one of the noblest scenes on this romantic river' (Arrowsmith, 2017). The house lay within its own grounds at the rear of the house which occupied the area between the river and the mill pond overflow channel and contained sloping lawns, flower beds and a sundial. The interior of the house was equally grand with a hall, dining room, drawing room, bedrooms, kitchen, servants' hall, butler's pantry, housekeeper's room, larder, scullery, wash house and brew house, all mentioned in the inventory of the house following Oldknow's death in 1828 (Arrowsmith, 2017). Hugh Fletcher, who visited the house as a child described a 'beautiful marble staircase' in the entrance hall and solid brass waterwheel for turning the kitchen spit, indicating the grandeur extended to all aspects of the interior fittings and finishes (Atkinson, 2015).

The sale document of 1867 gives more detail on the rooms found in the basement level which included a large kitchen, scullery, pantry, two larders, back entrance, entrance to cellars, servants' hall, store room, wash house, brew house, three ale and beer cellars, wine cellar, potato cellar, usual necessary outhouses, underground passage to stables. There is no mention however whether these rooms were located on the eastern or western side of the house although an account by George Lendall, who lived in the house in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, places the kitchen in the eastern wing in the position shown on the 20<sup>th</sup> century plans (Atkinson, 2015). He also describes the subdivision of this room and the lower sub-basement level which were used for curing bacon amongst other uses, much of which corresponds with both the hand-drawn plans and the evidence uncovered by the recent excavation.

Following Oldknows death in 1828 his industrial estate was passed to his creditor, Richard Arkwright in lieu of his debts and the management of the estate passed to his half-brother John Clayton. From this date until 1879 the house became the residence for two successive local agents for the Arkwright estate, firstly Richard Simpson and then Thomas Parkes before its conversion to a girl's boarding school. After the closure of the school until its abandonment in the 1930s, the house was let to successive private tenants as well as two attempts being made to sell the building.





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10	Throsties	Throstles	Throstles	Carding	Carding	Reeling & Warping	Lumber	
11	Stairs	Stairs	Stales.	Stairs	States	Stairs	Attic	
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21 22	Cottage	Cottage	Ditto	15-47	100			
22	Mechanics' Shop	Mechanics Shop	1773211	5 38 14 0			W 1	
23	Workshop	Workshop	<b>美工工工工工</b>	Station of	The state of		11. 11. 90	
24	Warehouse	Warehouse	58 8ad P	3 910010		110000		
25	Stables & Coach House	Hay Loft	Charles P				Andreas and	
		ALTERNATION AND ADDRESS OF THE PARTY OF THE	ADDITION	VAL DETAILS				
26	Mellor Lodge, Oldknow's Hor	USE.						
27	Marple Lodge.							
28	Position of Waterwheel In MI	Il Basement.						
29	Weter Junction.							
30	Tunnel to take water to river from upper wheelpits.							
31	Tunnel under river dischargin	g into the river at a l	lower level some	distance downstre	nam .			

Figure 19. 1867 inventory plan of Mellor Mill (Noble and Grimsditch 2009).



Given the number of occupants of the house following Oldknow's death, it would be reasonable to assume that alterations and repairs were made to the house throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, despite the lack of documentary evidence for this. It is clear however, that such works were likely to have been relatively small in scale and not requiring major alteration of the main structure itself. The remains of the building found during the excavation reveal that the layout of the basement remained relatively unchanged throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries with only slight alterations such as the addition and removal of minor walls and the blocking of the entrance to the subbasement. There is however, slight discrepancies between the remains and the 20<sup>th</sup> century plans, although it is thought that these may have been drawn from memory by a former resident of the house and as such may not be completely accurate.

Mellor lodge was linked to the riverside buildings on the northern side of the bridge by a tunnel which ran from the lodge basement in order to provide access to the stables and coach house in the southernmost building. During Oldknow's occupation of Mellor Lodge this building was used exclusively for his own horses and carriages and this arrangement seems to have continued for later occupants at least until the sale of the site in 1867, the inventory of which confirms the arrangement. This document shows the building to be split, with the southern half occupied by the coach house and stable and the northern half used as a warehouse. In practical terms, it is likely that this arrangement continued for as long as the occupants of Mellor Lodge required storage and/or stabling. Indeed, the building is still referred to as a stable in 1924, indicating that whether it was still in use or not, the internal layout must have continued to reflect this original purpose. The excavated remains appear to tell a different story, however, as no evidence of a central dividing wall was uncovered. It is possible that alterations were made to the layout of the building, either as a result of the changing requirements for the building by the occupants of Mellor Lodge or as part of other works relating to general remodelling and maintenance of the riverside buildings. Either way, this work must have occurred sometime after the 1860s and, judging by the approximate date of the bricks found on site, more likely to have been in the 1880s or 1890s. Alternatively, the division shown on the inventory plan may have been drawn in error and the building was actually divided along a north-south alignment.

The presence of a direct access route between Mellor Lodge and the coach house and stables suggests that Oldknow was keen to maximise the efficiency of movement at the site, a fact illustrated by various other access tunnels around the mill complex. The motivation for this is unclear but Oldknow's reputation for his concern for his employees may provide at least part of the reason, as the tunnel enabled the household staff to carry out a range of tasks more efficiently (Atkinson, 2015). The tunnel lies in what appears to be an extension to the eastern bridge abutment although it is unclear when this extension was constructed. Similarly, no evidence for a construction date has been found for the coach house and stables, however, it does appear on an 1829 railway plan and is likely to have been constructed at the same time as Mellor Lodge



which it was intended to serve (Arrowsmith, 2017). The character of the fabric of this building, found during the excavation also appeared to confirm this.



Figure 20. The coach house and stables c.1920s.

Records from Oldknow's estate indicate that the construction of the bridge was discussed by Oldknow and his architect in 1789 and was probably completed in 1790 or shortly thereafter. It is likely that the extension of the bridge abutment to accommodate the tunnel, Mellor Lodge and the Coach house were all planned together to enable all three elements to be in use from the same date. If Mellor Lodge was constructed sometime after 1800, it is reasonable to assume that the tunnel and Coach house were also constructed around this date. However, if, as Arthur Hulme writing in 1924 suggests, Mellor Lodge was the earlier of the two houses, its construction prior to 1794 would mean that the house and bridge extension were contemporary and the tunnel a planned part of this (Unwin, 1924).

Even after Oldknow's death, Mellor Lodge continued to be an important part of the mill complex as it served as the residence for the local Arkwright Estate agents, charged with overseeing all of Oldknow's former business interests in the area. As a result, the house, and its associated coach house and stables, were maintained to a high standard and retained its status as one of the grandest homes in Mellor and Marple, whilst also reinforcing the position of the Arkwrights in the area. By the later 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century despite undergoing periods of change and vacancy, the house seems to have continued to be well maintained. This is clear from the glimpses of the internal fittings from this time afforded by the findings of the excavation such as



moulded, and in places, gilded wall plaster, decorated Minton tiles, fragments of ornate ironwork and decorative stonework. Together with the domestic objects identified, this indicates that the house enjoyed a sustained period of careful use and gives an illustration of the comfort and prosperity of the merchant and middle classes.



## 7. Archive

The archive comprises archaeological photographs, drawings and research notes as well as a large collection of ceramic, metal and glass finds. This archive is currently held by Salford Archaeology and Mellor Archaeological Trust and a copy of this report will be forwarded to the client following the publication of the site report.

A copy of this report will be deposited with the Greater Manchester Historic Environment Record held by the Greater Manchester Archaeological Advisory Service.



## 8. Acknowledgements

Salford Archaeology would like to thank Fiona Turpin, Pamela Pearson, John Hearle and Bob Humphrey-Taylor from the Revealing Oldknows Legacy Project for commissioning the archaeological works and Norman Redhead for providing monitoring, support and advice through GMAAS.

The on-site excavations were conducted by local volunteers under the supervision of Sarah Cattell, Kirsty Whittall, Mandy Burns, Rachael Reader, Simon Hinchliffe and Vicky Nash. This report was written and illustrated by Sarah Cattell, Richard Ker and Stuart Harris.



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**Revealing Oldknow's Legacy website**, Archives page: <a href="http://oldknows.com/archive/items?q%5Btag">http://oldknows.com/archive/items?q%5Btag</a> taggings tag id in%5D%5B%5D=11

The Marple Website: <a href="http://www.marple-uk.com/Marple.htm">http://www.marple-uk.com/Marple.htm</a>

**Mapping.** 1898 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, County Series OS map 1:2500 original scale. 1908 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, County Series OS map 1:2500 original scale.

**OS** Licence no: 100050261.



# **Appendix 1: Figures**

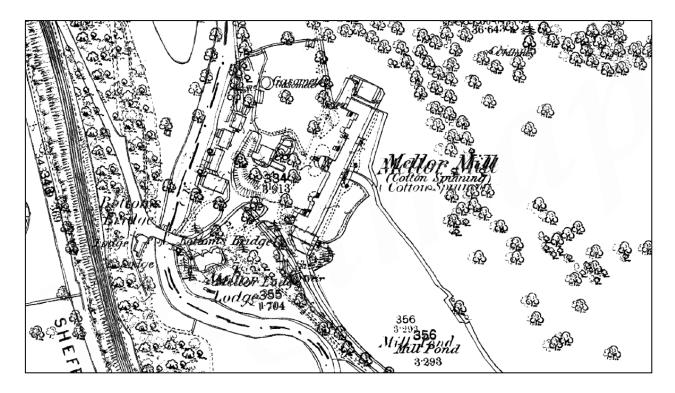


Figure. 24. Detail of 1898 OS map.

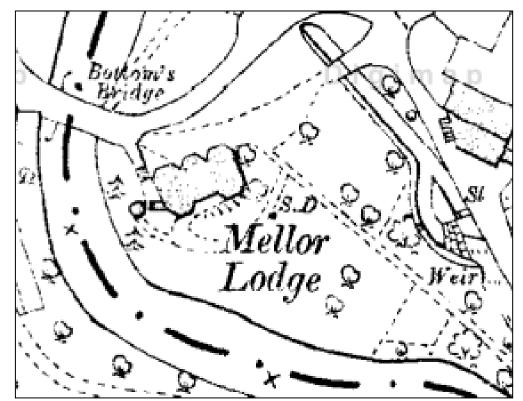
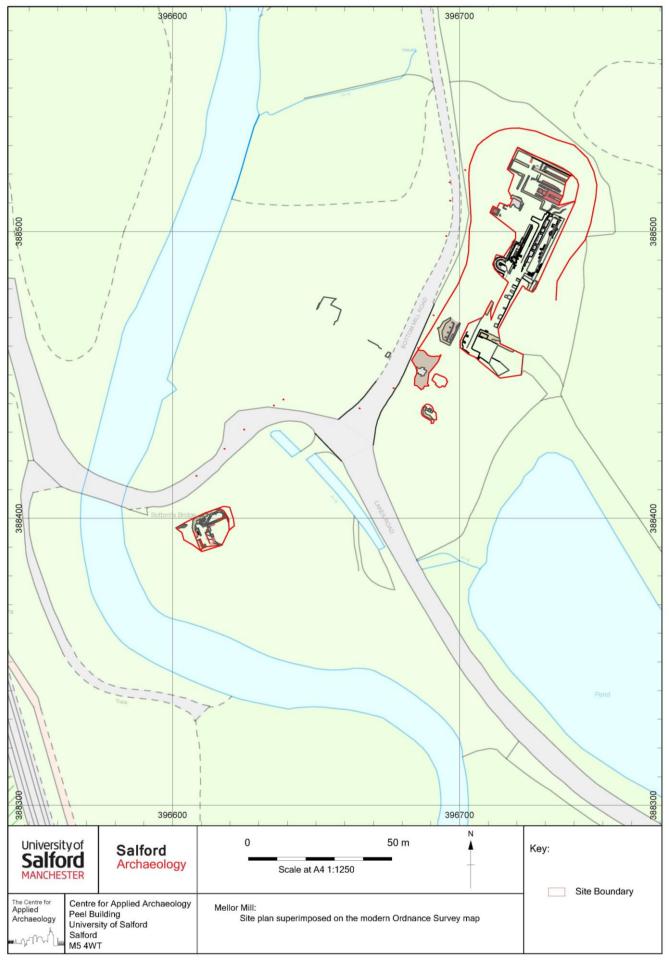


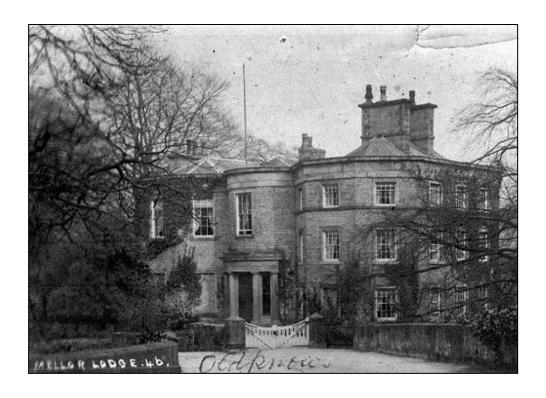
Figure. 24. Detail of 1908 OS map.





**Figure. 25.** Site plan showing both the Lodge and Mellor Mill superimposed on modern OS mapping.



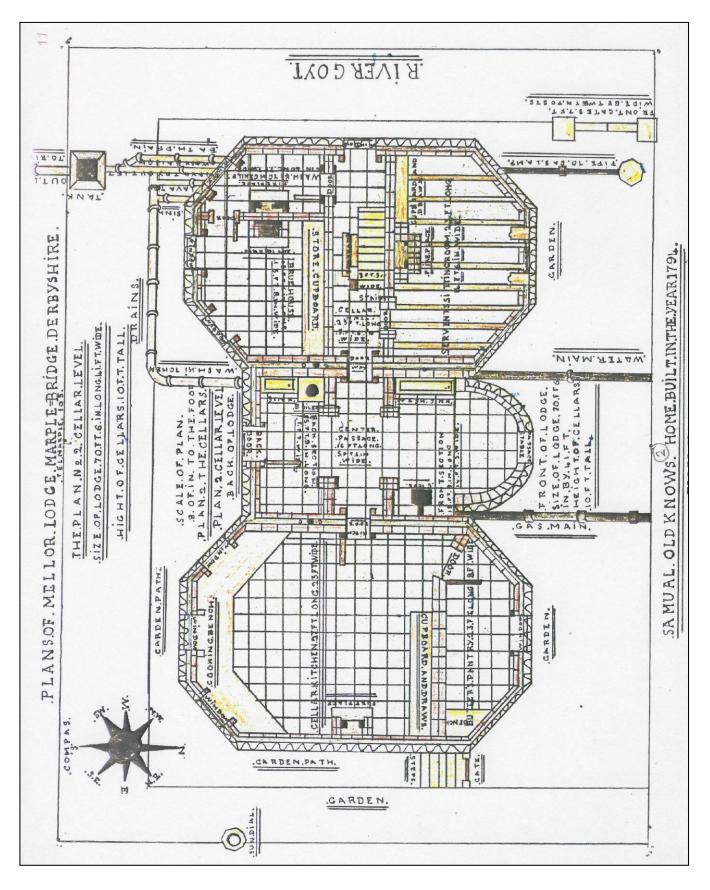


**Figure 25**. Front of the Lodge c.1900, viewed from the north.



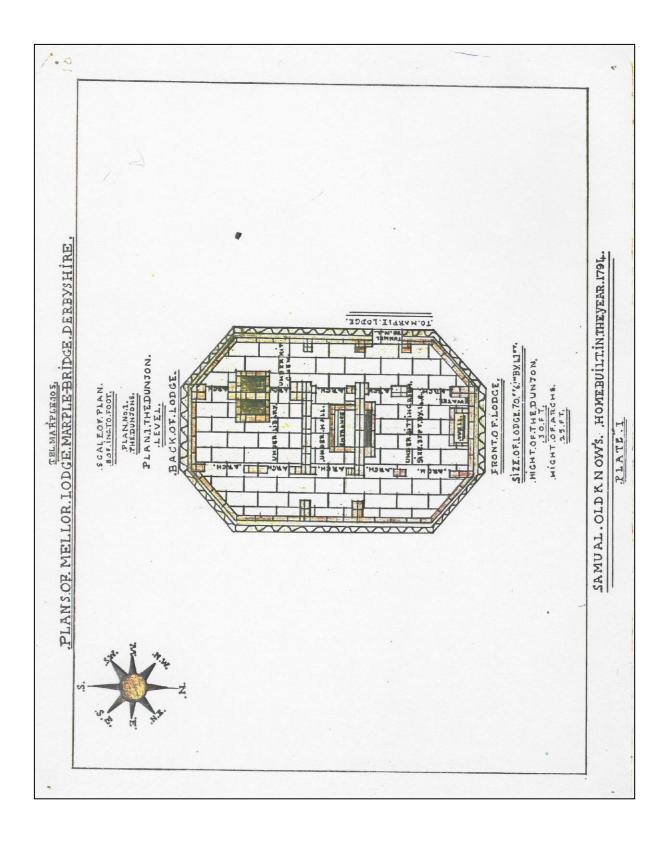
**Figure 26.** Rear of the Lodge c.1900, viewed from the south.





**Figure 27.** Plan of the Lodge basement level, drawn c.1920s by 'Squeaky' Dixon.





**Figure 28.** Plan of the Lodge sub-basement level, drawn c.1920s by 'Squeaky' Dixon.

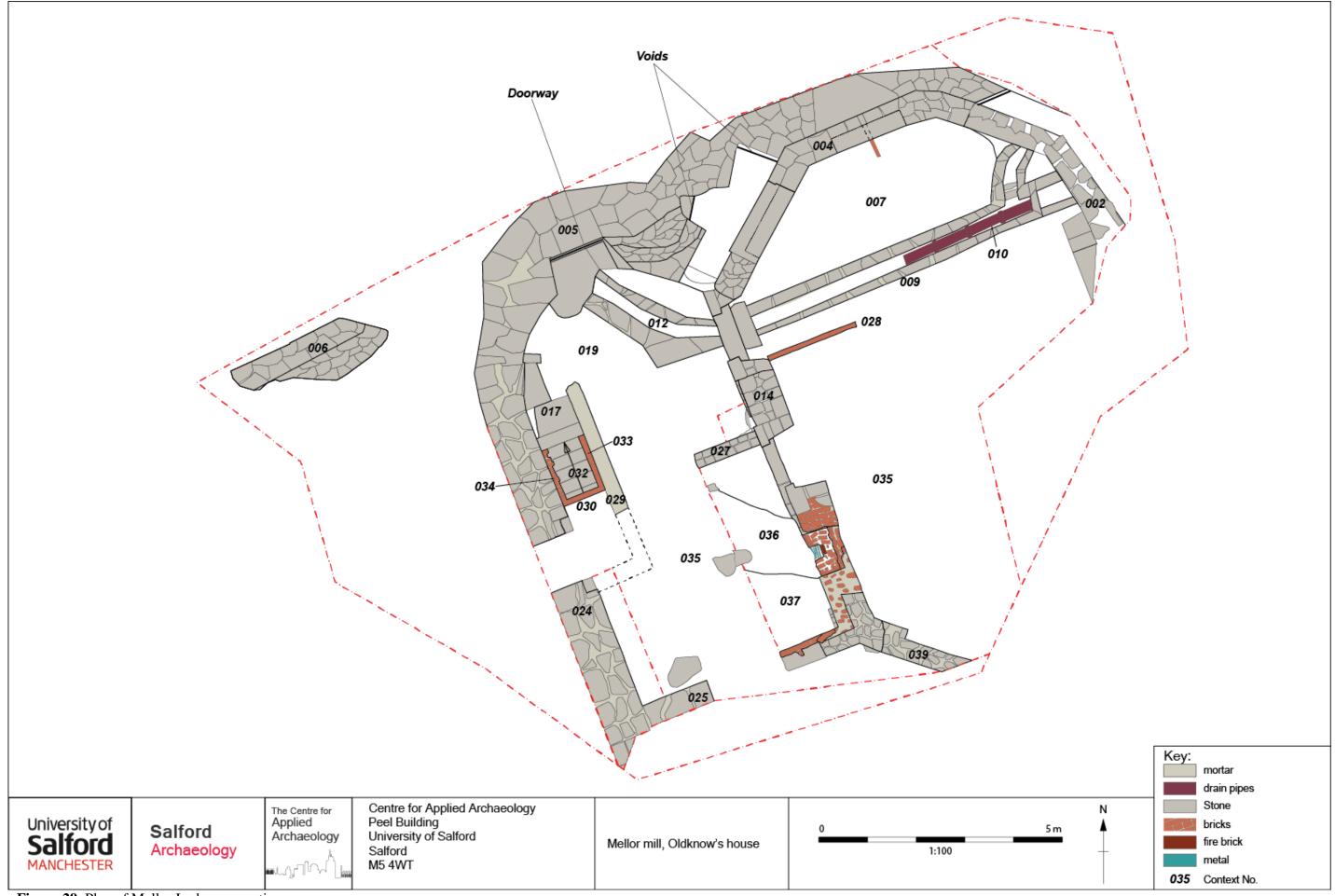
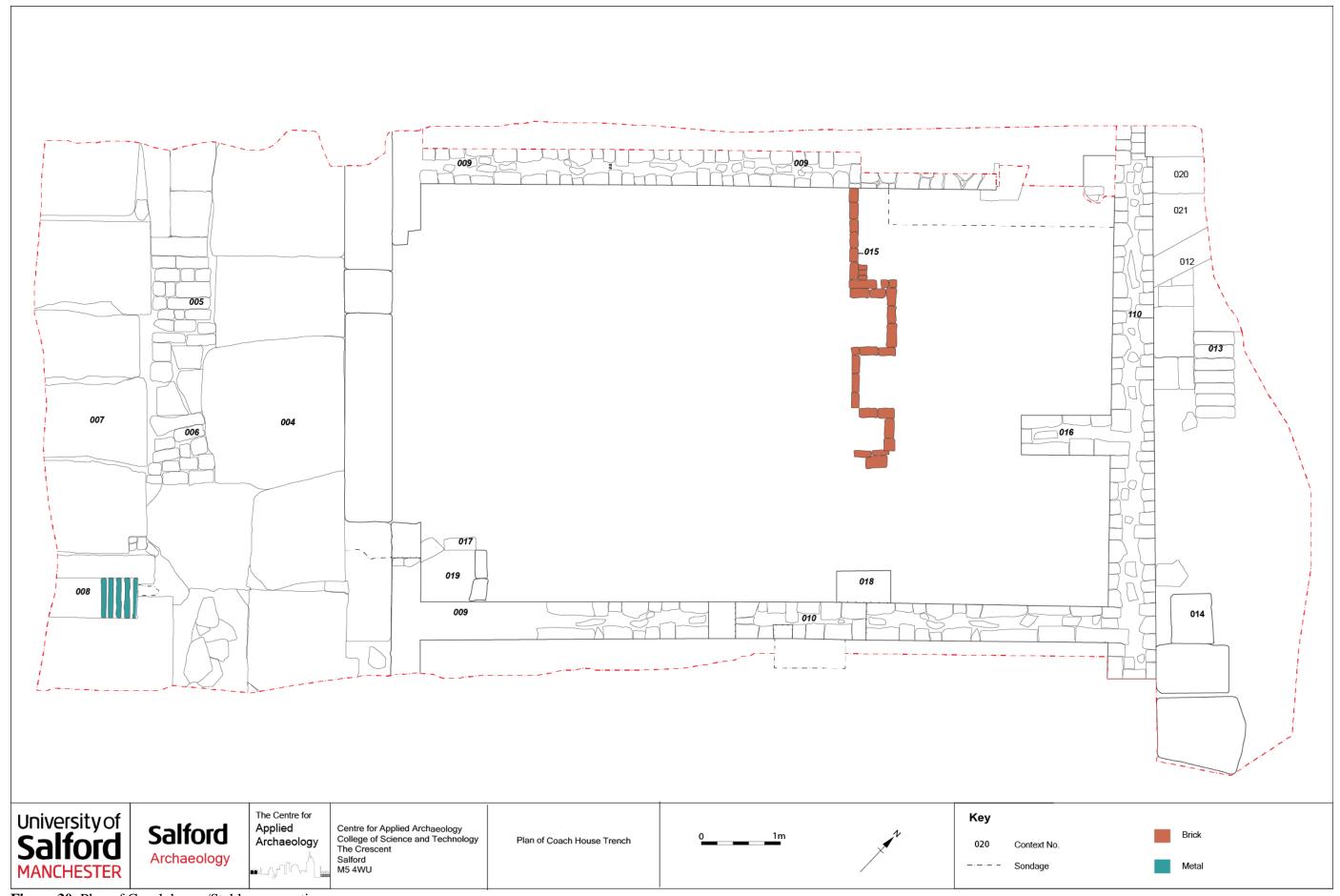


Figure 29. Plan of Mellor Lodge excavation area.





**Figure 30**. Plan of Coach house/Stables excavation area.



# **Appendix 2: Context List**

### **Mellor Lodge contexts**

Context	Description
number	TP :1/ / /:
(001)	Topsoil/vegetation
(002)	Eastern wall of house. Truncated to south, stone with white mortar &
(0.02)	cement in recess fire place to the south.
(003)	General overburden covering whole site. Comprises stone and brick
	rubble, mortar, metal, glass and 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century ceramic
(004)	fragments.
(004)	Northern wall of east front bay. Constructed from stone with white
	mortar. Dressed ashlar blocks & recesses- possibly blocked cellar
(0.0.7)	lights.
(005)	Central curved front wall abutting (004) with a central doorway to
(0.0.0)	tunnel under bridge with stone frame & lintel.
(006)	Northern wall of west front bay. Constructed from stone with white
	mortar. Heavily truncated and missing inner dressed course.
(007)	Red sand in north-eastern room. Reasonably clean with small
	inclusions of pebbles & flecks of mortar.
(800)	Possible Stone floor surface below (007), removed in the centre but
	remains around the edges. Broken and damaged.
(009)	Stone lined drain cutting (007) & (008). Remains of pipe revealed at
	eastern end. Runs NE-SW.
(010)	Pipe within (009) glazed ceramic, 4 sections.
(011)	Rubbly infill of (009) in east front room. Loose grey sand.
(012)	Stone lined drain to the south of doorway in wall (005). Runs NW-SE
(013)	Rubbly infill of (012) very high proportion of white mortar.
(014)	Internal dividing wall between central and eastern cellar rooms with
	central doorway. Constructed from handmade brick to south of
	doorway and stone ashlar blocks to north. 0.80m wide laid with white
	mortar, aligned NW-SE.
(015)	Compacted light grey /brown gritty loam. Possibly floor surface
	overlying (012). Contains high volume of plaster and mortar.
(016)	Blackened area of stone on inner face of wall (005).
(017)	Remains of flagged floor in front of (005).
(018)	Truncated remains of floor abutting internal face of (005)
(019)	Red /brown sand frequent inclusions of stone mortar below (015).
(020)	Layer of mortar rich overburden directly below (002).
(021)	Sterile orange clay possible fill of utilities trench to north of (028).
(022)	Outer retaining wall around northern wall of the house only exists
	below ground level with void between this and main wall (004).
	Constructed from dressed stone blocks.
(023)	Duplicated number - same as (003)
(024)	Internal dividing wall opposite (014). Measures 0.64m wide and



0.50m high (5 courses). Red sandstone blocks 0.10m) laid with white mortar. Runs NW-SE (025) External southern wall of house forming sout cellar room. Constucted from sandstone block construction to (024). Measures 0.49m wide a remnants of paint extant on internal face.  (026) Duplicated number – same as (014).  (027) Small wall running west from (014) into centrollar landstone blocks laid with white mortar. Mea 1.42m long with evidence of the remains of gon the southern face c.0.43m from the top of the southern face c.0.43m from the southern face c.0.43m from the top of the southern face c.0.43m from face c	hern wall of central
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mortar but only revealed in plan.	
·	ressed blocks with white
(040) Outer retaining wall around northern wall of t	
below ground level with void between this an	
Constructed from dressed stone blocks with v	vhite mortar.
below ground level with void between this an	milar to (007). ressed blocks with white

### **Coach House/Stables contexts**

Context Number	Description
(001)	Loamy dark-blackish brown topsoil- tree roots & vegetation c.0.25m
	depth
(002)	Mixed deposit beneath topsoil.



	Mid greyish brown silt with mortar & plaster (degraded). Compact
	with frequent inclusions of slate, broken brick, glass, metal, pottery
	all c 19thc. Depth varies - 0.15m-0.30m. Overlays all arch features-
(002)	demolition deposit.
(003)	Mid orange/ brown sand deposit beneath (002). Contains inclusions
	of broken brick/ mortar. Sib within stable structure. Possible levelling
(004)	layer on which original floor of stables was laid?  York stone flag floor surface within south west extent of trench.
(004)	Contains cobbles/ sets within west extent (005). Size varies
	2.60x0.62/ 1.65x1.65/. Continues beyond north/ south baulk exc
	extent- 6.60m x 3.00m depth. 0.20m.
(005)	Small patch of stone sets within north west extent of (004) measures
(003)	0.84 x 1.20. Sets 20cm x 20cm or 0.20m x 0.40m.
(006)	Small patch of stone sets to south of (005). Within (004) 0.70m x
(000)	0.86m.
(007)	Line of large stone flags covering line of stream. Abuts west extent of
(007)	(004, 005, 006) exc length 6.60, width 1.35m continue beyond south,
	north & west baulks. Flags $-0.98 \times 1.30 \times 0.20$ .
(008)	Metal grid within (007). South corner of trench- cont. Beyond west
(000)	baulk- 0.45m x 0.90m.
(009)	L shaped stone wall running parallel with north extent of trench.
(00))	Abuts (004). North west/south west leg measures 7.80m x 0.48m.
	Appears to be constructed from varying sized yellow sandstone
	blocks with solid white/ grey mortar. Survives to 0.34m in height.
(010)	L shaped stone wall parallel to south baulk of trench. Abuts (004) +
(010)	(011). North west/ south east leg measures 1.10m x 0.36m, north east/
	south west leg measures 8.90m x 0.48m.
	Same const as (009).
(011)	External stone wall aligned north west/ south east. Abuts east end of
	(010) rear wall of coach house. Measures 6.32m long before stepping
	westwards by 0.15m then continuing for a further 2.00m- then
	beyond baulk 0.62m in width. Exc 0.18m in height. Constructed from
	yellow sandstone blocks. Irregular shaped. Exc 0.54 depth 4 stone
	courses.
(012)	Stone wall aligned north to south abuts outer face of (011). Exc
	length 1.10m continues northwards beyond baulk. 0.42m wide.
(013)	Damaged stone flag surface abutting (011) & (012). Measures 1.73m
	x 0.95m. Continues beyond east baulk. Flags vary – max 0.86m x
	0.48m.
(014)	Partial remains of york stone flag surface within south east corner of
	trench. Abuts (011). Measures 3.40m x 0.97m. Large flags c1.00m x
(0.1.7)	0.85m badly truncated.
(015)	Handmade brick wall, stepped profile (see plan). Aligned north west/
	south east. Bricks 0.22m x 0.10m x 0.07m. Bonded with solid greyish
(04.5)	white mortar. Abuts (009). Internal partition wall. Length c3.55m
(016)	Projecting wall from inner face of (011). Yellow sand stone block
(0.4.7)	construction c1.20m in length 0.48m in width. Exc depth 0.16m.
(017)	Square feature abutting (004) & (010). Within south west corner of
	coach house. Measures c0.77m x 0.90m. Central void 0.65m x 0.65m



(018)	Red sand stone block abutting inner face of (010). 0.53m x 0.65m
(019)	Fill of (017. Dark blackish brown silty deposit, contains frequent
	inclusions of 19thc pottery, glass & metal fittings- pulley wheels &
	hooks.
(020)	Remains of stone wall abutting outer face of wall (011). Continued
	beyond east baulk below spoil. 0.64m length (exc) 0.47m width exc
	depth 0.36m 2 stone courses – yellow sand stone greyish white
	mortar
(021)	Flagged floor between (020) & (012) – within north corner of trench.
	Continues beyond east baulk. Abuts (011). Exc 0.80m x 0.73m.
(022)	Dark blackish grey deposit between walls (011) & (020) slot c.
	Clinker, mortar and 19thc metal work (carriage furniture) glass
	bottles & ceramics.



## **Appendix 3: Finds Assessment**

# Post Excavation Statement, Mellor Lodge K.Whittall

#### Introduction

This assessment report concerns the archaeological material recovered from Mellor Lodge Excavations, carried out by the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University of Salford on behalf of Mellor Archaeological Trust. The works formed part of the Old Knows Legacy Project and the aims of the works were to further assess the archaeological remains identified within the Mellor Mill complex. The findings from these works will inform the future treatment of the scheduled area and enhance the presentation to the wider public, and the material assemblage collected pertains to the materials recovered during excavation.

#### Assessment Aims and Objectives.

The principal aim of the present assessment is to evaluate all classes of archaeological artefact data generated during the excavations of 2015 at the site of Mellor Lodge. A statement of significance of the result from each element of the artefactual assemblage is given below based on the assessment work undertaken, and the original research themes expressed in the project design.

The objectives of the assessment correspond to and are prescribed to English Heritage MoRPHE guidelines project planning note 3 Archaeological Excavation, "3.7 Analysis and Report Production" [English Heritage:2008] and "Selection, Retention and Dispersal of archaeological collections guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland" chap 4 pp24-29. [Society of Museum Archaeologist: 1993: PP 24-29]

- To assess the quantity, provenance and condition of all classes of stratigraphic artefactual and environmental data, with a view of retention and dispersal of materials in line with the stated Guidelines
- To comment on the range and variety of the material, with a view of expanding the collected archaeological data and formulating new archival resources of artefactual information.



 To formulate any further questions arising from the assessment of the excavated data, in line with the research agenda set out in the North West Research Framework.

#### Material Assessed.

The entirety of the stratigraphic archaeological artefact data along with a brief overview of the unstratified archaeological data was viewed and assessed for the production of this report. The quantifications are incorporated into each individual assessment.

#### Procedure of Assessment

The methodologies adopted for the assessment varied depending on the class of the material under examination. All classes of find were examined in full, with observations supplemented by the finds records generated during the course of the excavation.

#### Methodology

The assessment was carried out in accordance with the guidelines set out by English Heritage in the document Management of Research Projects in the Historical Environment [English Heritage: 2008] Planning Policy Note 3 and with reference to the Medieval [Newman and Newman: 2007] and Post Medieval Research Agendas drafted by the North West Region Research Framework [Newman and McNeil: 2007]. The Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections: Guidelines for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland [Society of Museum Archaeologist: 1993], and "The Post Medieval Research Agenda" [Newman and McNeil: 2007] were also consulted for the formation of this report.

The finds recovered from the excavation comprised various categories of material including: Glass, Ceramic, Bone, Metal and Miscellaneous.

All categories of finds were examined in full, with observations in regards to the level of preservation, condition and any observable anomalies, such as decoration being noted. All categories of finds were given individual accession numbers in line with the Standard Operating Procedures [Whittall: *forthcoming*] for Salford Public



Archaeological Resource Centre (SPARC), and all finds were photographed digitally using a Canon Power Shot G12 with a Canon 6.1 - 30.5mm zoom lens.

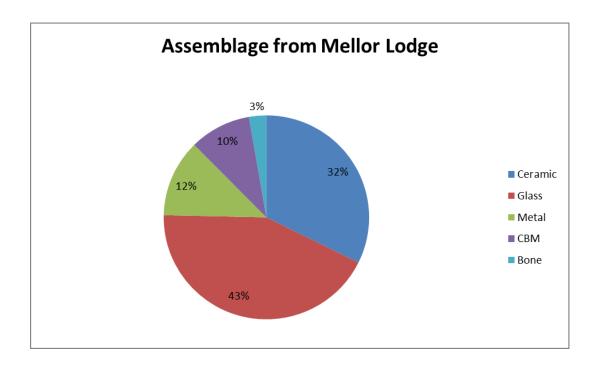
All images were then downloaded on to Digital archives held at Salford Archaeology.

#### The Assemblage

The material recovered from Mellor Lodge was reflective of a residential assemblage showing a predominance of ceramics and glass. The lodge was located close to the Mellor Mill site and as such there was some expectation of artefact migration between the two areas by foot fall and animal interactions between the two areas. The assemblage does not reflect that external movement was a disturbing factor; however, there have been significant levels of disruption to the assemblage by environmental factors such as rapid plant growth and rain/water disturbance.

The ceramic element of the assemblage was relatively low for a residential building with a count of 190 items producing 32% of the assemblage, whereas glass was the dominant material at 253 accounting for 43% of the total assemblage. Unusually there was a high count of ceramic building materials, such as tiles, accounting for 10% of the assemblage (57).

The pie chart below outlines the percentages of materials within the assemblage.





To conclude this statement of the Mellor Lodge Assemblage, although the ceramic count is lower than expect for this type of site, the glass count is much higher than was anticipated. Given the proximity of this site to the Mill and the relatively rural setting of the site, the assemblage does reflect the residential nature of this site, although it has a high level of disruption to the archaeological deposits.









CONSULTANCY



DESK BASED ASSESMENTS



WATCHING BRIEF & EVALUATION



EXCAVATION



BUILDING SURVEY



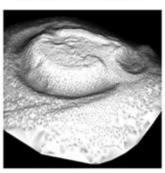
3D LASER SCANNING



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



LANDSCAPE SURVEYS



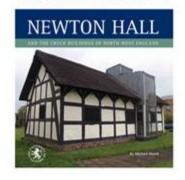
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEYS



WORKSHOPS & VOCATIONAL TRAINING



RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS



SEMINARS, DAYSCHOOLS CPD EVENTS

