

1. Introduction

1.1 Photographs of the garden area and field adjacent to the Old Vicarage, Mellor were taken by Mrs Ann Hearle during the summer drought of 1996. These photographs revealed the cropmark of a ditch-like feature curving around the crest of the field adjacent to the house. These photographs were shown to Dr Peter Arrowsmith during his research for the History of Stockport book. Early in 1998 Professor and Mrs Hearle kindly commissioned UMAU to carry out an investigation on this possible archaeological site.

1.2 An archaeological investigation of a non-intrusive nature (geophysical survey) was carried out by students from the University of Manchester under the supervision of the professional staff provided by the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit. This survey confirmed that several features of a probable archaeological nature were present including what appeared to be a substantial ditch system.

1.3 The field evaluation was carried out in July 1998. This report presents the results of the evaluation, and gives an account of the archaeological finds and deposits uncovered.

Acknowledgments

UMAU would like to express its thanks to Professor and Mrs Hearle for commissioning the work and their kind hospitality and their keen continuing interest. Thanks are also expressed to Peter Hodgson and his son for their support in allowing access to their field and their generous loan of a mechanical excavator. The excavation was undertaken by the following members of the University of Manchester Archaeology Department; Alison Lidgett (supervisor), Bryan Walker, Howard Austin, Jill Kirkley-Alsop and Nicky Marshall. The report was written by the project Manager Graham Eyre-Morgan of UMAU with finished drawings by Bryan Walker