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BRAMALL HALL, STOCKPORT

Conservation Management Plan September 2010

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BRAMALL HALL CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN
for STOCKPORT METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Bramall Hall is one of most important timber framed mansions in Britain. It is a prime example of the decorative timber framing tradition of NW England and illustrates timber framing techniques from the mid 15th century to the late 16th century. The Hall contains high quality interior decoration and craftsmanship from across the 16th and 17th centuries, including nationally rare wall paintings.

As well as this rich early history the Hall is a fine example of late 19th century antiquarian restoration, carried out by local industrialist and philanthropist Charles Nevill. It has collections of furnishings and artefacts, some associated with the Davenport and Nevill eras. The current appearance of Hall and Park owes much to the work of Charles Nevill, who saved Bramall from possible demolition or development.

The Park is of value in its own right and as a setting for the Hall. It illustrates the development of landscape design from 18th century onwards and serves as a good example of a 19th century eclectic landscape. The Park contains a largely intact group of estate buildings and number of different habitats of varied ecological interest, in particular woodlands and water features. The estate as a whole also has considerable archaeological potential.

Undertaking the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) has highlighted the national and regional importance of the Hall.

Since coming into public ownership the Hall and Park have tended to be seen as separate entities. The CMP has brought recognition of the buildings and landscape as an entity and highlighted in particular the common influence and high value of Nevill's contribution. The CMP has shown the potential to restore the Park landscape, as both a coherent design and appropriate setting for the Hall.

This recognition of the site as a coherent historical entity has further underlined the inconsistency of the Hall and Park being in joint ownership by SMBC but run separately. This two part management has resulted in a lack of comprehensive vision or business plan for Hall and Park. The CMP describes ways in which these issues can be addressed.

The Hall is in generally good condition. Some routine maintenance items need attention and there are some long overdue larger projects relating to the Hall and other buildings. A number of earlier repairs and alterations are now considered to be damaging to the historic fabric. Similarly some of Park's qualities are hidden and the setting of the Hall is compromised by later alterations and the spread of self seeded trees. Some habitats are diminished by invasive species and inappropriate management. The research process brought to attention some defects in record keeping and control over the extensive archive material which exists.

The CMP identifies many ways in which the potential of Hall and Park could be more fully realised. A fresh view of the location and type of visitor and staff facilities forms part of this. Such changes would encourage the walled garden to be brought into constructive use and some estate buildings which have been unsympathetically altered and poorly maintained would be improved. Such change may also alleviate potential conflicts between different users. Most importantly they could facilitate the enjoyment of the Hall by a wider range of visitors, both local people and visitors from outside the immediate locality.

Throughout the CMP process it became clear that the Hall and Park enjoy a committed staff, reassuring political support and a level of community involvement through the active Friends group and the site's wide range of users. Bramall Hall and Park are a valuable and well used community facility with the potential to become a destination of increased regional and even national standing.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The production of this Conservation Management Plan has been very much a collaborative effort. The consultants have enjoyed the full and generous support of the client team who have provided much important information, read drafts and have given open and constructive criticism of the emerging document.

The team also recognises the help and contribution of the Bramall house and park staff who have facilitated visits, meetings and surveys.

The contribution of the Friends group is also acknowledged. Representatives have attended meetings and provided their own particular insights into the story and the running of the hall and park, and particularly their own visions for future development. Through these representatives the wider group has made its own valuable comments.

We are also very grateful to those many individuals and groups who have provided information to support the development of the Plan and who have also commented on and made valuable suggestions in connection with emerging ideas and proposals.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Plan

Donald Insall Associates Ltd. has prepared this Conservation Management Plan (referred to as The Plan or CMP) in response to a commission from Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council in order to inform the future management of the Hall and Park, and to provide a baseline of information for the further development of the site for the benefit of the local and wider communities.

More particularly the Plan has been prepared in accordance with the Brief provided by Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council.

The CMP has been prepared in accordance with the now accepted principles and procedure adopted in the Venice Charter of 1964, the Burra Charter (Australia) as amended in 1991, current guidance from HLF and English Heritage and evolving best practice.

1.2 Production of the Plan and Copyright

The principal consultant contributors to the Plan are as follows:

Editor and principal author: Significance etc. Overview Condition Survey	John Simons Helen Hutchinson Rob Fraser	Donald Insall Associates Ltd
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The process of development and delivery of the plan has been managed for Stockport Borough Council by Melissa Marshall, Project Officer, Conservation & Heritage supported by a project team as follows:

Paul Hartley	Team Manager Conservation & Heritage (chairman)
Frank Galvin	Team Manager Curatorial Services and Projects
Vanessa Brook	Team Manager Landscape Design & Development
Neil Oxley	Countryside Section Manager

Others have contributed to the development of the Plan as described in the Acknowledgements section.

Copyright for the Plan remains with the authors, but the commissioning body is permitted to use the Plan for the purposes for which it was intended.

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1.3 The Site Location, its Setting and Notes on Orientation

Bramall Hall lies to the south of Stockport, which is itself on the south edge of the Greater Manchester area. It lies outside the M60 motorway box around the city, see *Figure 1: Location Plan* at the end of this section.

The Hall and park are situated 2.5 miles (4km) due south of the centre of Stockport and about 1 mile (1.5km) north of the village of Bramhall (note different spelling). To the west is the settlement of Cheadle Hulme, with Hazel Grove lying to the east. The location of the site in relation to Stockport is shown in *Figure 2: Site Location Plan* at the end of this section.

The house is set at about 70m above sea level on an eminence overlooking Micker Brook (also noted as Lady Brook on the OS sheet) a tributary of the River Mersey.

The OS Reference for the hall is SJ890864 and the site appears on Landranger OS Sheet 109.

A plan of the site and its immediate surroundings is shown in *Figure 3 – Site Plan*.

The park itself is much reduced from its former extent which is described fully in the ‘Understanding – Landscape’ section. In its present, reduced form it consists of the largely wooded valley of the Micker Brook, which has been dammed to form a number of small lakes, and a side valley. The hall stands on a more level area which is the site also of the former stable buildings and walled garden.

The axis of the principal range of the hall is approximately 20 degrees off the north-south axis, with the garden front of the house facing south of east, and the courtyard elevation facing north of west.

In order to simplify reference to the various parts of the building complex, the building is described as if it was lying on a true north-south axis so, for example the garden front is described as the east façade.

Figure 4 – Block Plan, shows the orientation of the hall and the main divisions into blocks. These largely reflect the main structural units of the hall and assist in locating rooms and in sub-dividing the gazetteer.

The hall consists of a mixture of timber framing from various periods and brickwork, partly set on a stone plinth. The hall has two principal floors with a small basement area and extensive attics. The stable block is mainly of brickwork and is of two storeys.

1.4 General Purpose and Scope of the Plan

The purpose of the Conservation Management Plan is to provide a thorough baseline and consolidated understanding of the historic, cultural and natural heritage of the site, its significance, and the possible threats to it. Together these assist in the preparation of strategic management and development plans through:

- Informing the day-to-day and long-term management of the hall and its environs.
- Informing strategies for repair and conservation.
- Informing strategies and policies for the appropriate conservation and development of the immediate parkland setting.
- Providing a basis for improving and developing the cultural and recreational facilities to be created within and around the hall.
- Providing a basis for developing proposals for improving the interpretation, education and training opportunities offered by the site.
- Supporting applications for capital funding for the repair, development and management of the hall and park.
- Informing policy and detailed proposals for development control of the areas of in the immediate vicinity of Bramall Hall.

1.5 Structure of the Plan

The Plan is set out in four main sections together with an *Introduction* and a *Gazetteer*. The main sections are sequential and each builds upon information included in its predecessors.

Understanding the Heritage provides a summary of the key information known about the study site. It sets out the geographical context, the archaeology, the main phases of historical development, the setting, and other background information. More detailed analysis and notes on each zone/feature are provided in the *Gazetteer* in Section 7.

Significance builds upon the *Understanding* section and seeks to assess what is important about the fort site in various contexts. It considers the protected status of the site, the importance of the fort in comparison with similar structures and assesses levels of significance overall, and for the individual elements of the complex.

Risks and Opportunities identifies the current key problems and opportunities inherent in the study area. Some of these arise from the *Understanding* section, others from information gathered informally during the research phase. Some issues are very apparent while others are hidden and more subtle, only emerging from physical examination or more detailed consideration of the site.

Policies sets out the direction for the future conservation and enhancement of the fort site arising from its conservation requirements. There are broad, overarching statements of purpose for the long-term management of the site. These are followed by shorter term policies, which are complemented by more specific objectives and actions having a ‘one-off’ character. The policies include recommendations for future review.

The Gazetteer section takes the information already provided setting it out on a zone-by-zone basis, so that for each major element of the site there is a concise statement of understanding, significance, issues and policy. In some cases in these pages it is possible to provide more detail than is possible or appropriate in the preceding sections of the CMP.

The Appendices provide additional information in support of the main text and include the Tree Survey, a Schedule of alterations to the Hall, a Bat Survey, an Overview Condition Survey of the Hall and an M&E Survey of the Hall.

1.6 Methodology

A comprehensive briefing document for the production of the CMP was provided to which the consultants responded with their bid and method statement.

Following the project initiation meeting, the consultants have undertaken extensive site based and archive research to establish the historical development of the house, landscape and ecology. This has been augmented by statistical and other information provided by the client body, the Friends and other outside organisations.

Close consultation with the client, and with other stakeholders has been maintained. A series of 'Workshop' meetings has been held for the purposes of reporting on progress and inviting comment on material produced at each stage.

A draft of some of the key outcomes of the report has been presented for consultation at a site based event on Easter Sunday 2010, followed by exhibitions in local libraries.

A full draft of the document was submitted to the client in April 2010, following amendments to which a Final Document was produced for adoption by the client.



Figure 1: Location Plan

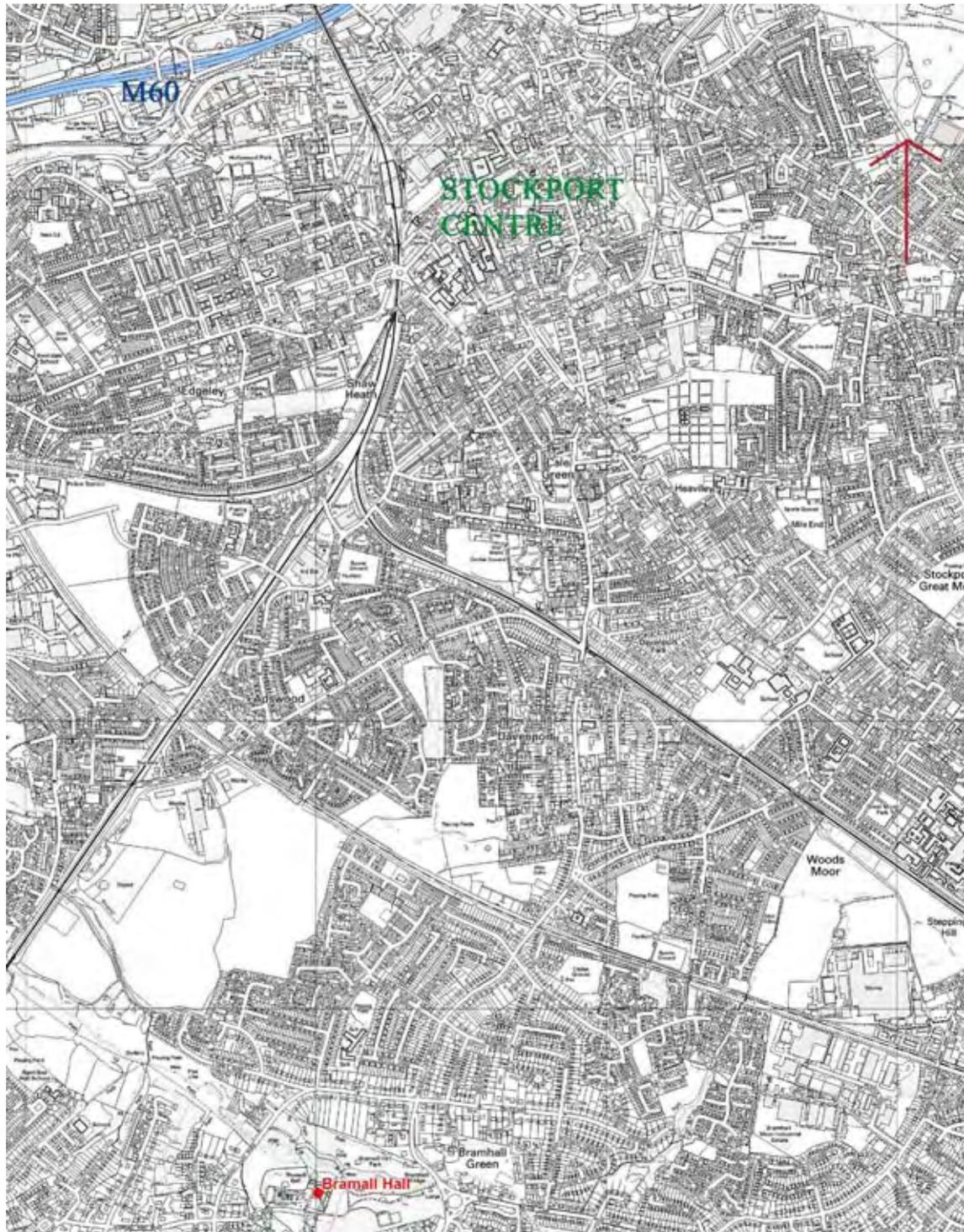


Figure 2: Site Location Plan



Figure 3: Site Plan.



Figure 4: Generalised Phasing Plan

2.0 UNDERSTANDING THE SITE

2.1 A Short Introduction

*“...A Warrior rode thro’ the beechen woods,
And by the elm trees tall,
And on the glistening casements gazed
Of Bramhall’s gabled hall...”*

The Maid of Bramhall Hall¹

2.2 Historic Landscape Development of Bramall Hall Park

Bramall Hall dating from the 14th century stands on high ground at the confluence of the Lady Brook, a small stream known in the 17th century as the River Brame, and its little tributary, Carr Brook. The hall is set in former parkland, now much reduced, and overlooks a grass terrace to the east with distant views to the Lyme Park hills, now largely screened by tree growth. To the west the views over the courtyard and nearby stable block and lawns are confined by further tree planting. A meandering stream, the Lady Brook, runs along the northern side of the hall complemented by a number of ponds. There are a number of formal lawns and shrub beds in close proximity to the hall and a former walled kitchen garden is now used as a grounds maintenance yard.



Bramall Hall is regarded as one of the ‘four best timber-framed Mansions of England’ all in the north west of England.² A feature of these houses is that they are courtyard houses, built incrementally and achieving the final layout over a long period of time. This is the case for Bramall Hall which once included a typical refinement of a long gallery with fine views over the surrounding landscape as well as associated stables and farm complexes. Bramall Hall also retains part of its parkland setting which is not always the case with other comparable halls. Bramall Hall also shows later refinements during the Victorian period which are historically important and complimented by a very personal and major redevelopment of the Hall’s landscape.

¹ Handwritten poem entitled *The Maid of Bramhall Hall, Fytte the First*, not dated and in collection of Stockport Local Heritage Library

² Pevsner and Hubbard *Buildings of England, Cheshire* 1971 p. 112

This section details the historic landscape development of the Bramall Hall Estate and is based on a number of primary and secondary sources, listed in the attached bibliography. These include documentary evidence from archives held at the Cheshire Record Office, Stockport Local Heritage Library and at Bramall Hall itself, and research carried out for previous publications and reports on the history of Bramall Hall. A brief chronology of key dates is given in the appendices. Finally, the spelling ‘Bramhall’ is used when referring to the geographic area and ‘Bramall’ the preferred name of Charles Nevill, when referring to the Hall or Park.

2.3 Bramhall from Prehistory to the 14th Century

Archaeological evidence, including the discovery of flints, hint at prehistoric activity in the river valley areas of Greater Manchester, including the Mersey and its tributaries. However, no prehistoric finds have been uncovered in Bramall Hall Park so far, although, “...*the discovery of finds in the general locality and considerations of topography and geology make it likely this was a favoured location for prehistoric activity...*”³ In particular, it is thought that the elevated land above the confluence of the Lady Brook and Carr Brook is a potential candidate for some form of early settlement. Similarly, there is no direct evidence for activity in the park during the Roman period and no finds have so far been made. Again the proximity to known Roman roads in the area and chance finds do indicate some potential for a settlement of the Romano-British period in the locality of the park.

There are few remains in the area from the Anglo-Saxon period and evidence for any activity or settlement is usually provided by place-names or the Domesday survey. An interpretation of the name Bramhall is that the first part, *brom*, is the shrub broom referring to a common or other distinguishing local feature, and the second element, *halh*, meaning a secret place by water, referring to the valley of Lady Brook. “...*Such topographical names may be indicative of places of settlement and Bramhall’s may add strength to the possibility that the site of the present hall above the Lady Brook was once occupied by a pre-conquest precursor...*”⁴

Evidence for a Saxon settlement at Bramhall is recorded in the Domesday survey referring to lands previously belonging to Saxon landowners Brun and Hacun before being amalgamated under the new Norman Baron, Hamon de Massey. The Domesday entry for Bramhall reads, “...*The same Hamon holds BRAMALE. Brun and Hacun held [it] as 2 manors, and were free men. There is 1 hide that pays geld. There is land [enough] for 6 ploughs. One radman and 2 villeins and 2 bordars have 1 plough there. There is wood half a league long and as much wide, and half a hay, and an acre of meadow. It was worth 32 shillings T. R. E.; now 5 shillings. He found it waste...*”⁵ The manor was later acquired by the de Bromale family in the mid to late 12th century.

³ Further information on the early history of Bramall Hall Park can be found in the University of Manchester Archaeological Unit Report of 2006 by Dr. Peter Arrowsmith (this quote from paragraph 4.1.6)

⁴ *Ibid.*, p 4.3.5

⁵ J. Tait, ed., *The Domesday Survey of Cheshire (1916) p. 181*

Although the ownership of the manor is well documented there are no specific records of a building on the site in the earlier medieval period although as suggested above, there is potential for some sort of settlement in the locality. In terms of the landscape, details given in documentary sources refer to an agricultural landscape of plough fields and pasture and the presence of woodland which could refer to Carr Wood.

2.4 Development of the Hall and Park: 14th to mid 17th Century

2.4.1 *The Early Hall*

As described in the architectural history section the existing building could have originated in the 14th century, perhaps on or near the site of an earlier building, and may have been started circa 1370 at approximately the time of the marriage of Alice Bromale to John Davenport. To broadly summarise the early history of Bramall Hall, the 14th century building would almost certainly have consisted of a hall open to the roof and probably heated by a central hearth. It would have had private family rooms at one end and a screens passage and services at the other. The north wing has been associated with a 14th century date but began as a high status range and may have been built during the first half of the 15th century. This wing was detached from the main building as early illustrations of the Hall indicate. The date of the south wing is also conjectural, either of 14th century origin rebuilt in the 15th century or built from scratch in the late 15th century.

It is assumed that there would also have been a gatehouse (west) wing creating an enclosed internal open courtyard. Little if anything is known of any garden features surrounding the early hall although later inventories refer to the presence of barns, stables and other farm buildings probably in the vicinity of the hall.⁶

The building was substantially altered in the late 16th century, including the remodelling of the hall range to build the Great Chamber (the Withdrawing Room) above the hall together with the creation of a long gallery (the latter taken down in the early 19th century). These rooms were considered as high status areas where the family could ‘*entertain guests in an environment reflecting their wealth, loyalties and aspirations*’. The long gallery would have given expansive views eastwards towards the Lyme Park hills.

2.4.2 *The Early Park Landscape*

Evidence for a park associated with the hall dates back to at least the 16th century.⁷ The earliest known cartographic evidence for a park is provided by Saxton’s County Map of Cheshire published in 1577 (*Figure 5*) which depicts the hall, named as ‘Bromhall’, within a park pale. It was one of five parks within the Macclesfield Hundred, the others including Poynton, Lyme Park, Bollin Park and Gawsforth.

⁶ Cheshire Record Office: William Davenport Esq of Bramhall, 1706; CRO DDA/1384/198/6

⁷ *Op. Cit.* UMAU Report p 5.4.1

The earliest documentary reference to the park is found in William Webb's itinerary of Cheshire circa 1620. He noted, "...From Stockport, near another water called Brame [Lady Brook] which takes beginning easterly among the hills in and near Lyme Park, we come to Bramhall, a very fair lordship, demesne and fair house, of the great name of Davenport, of Bramhall, the owner whereof, now Sir William Davenport, knight, Mr. Sergeant Davenport's eldest brother, to which house lies a park, and all things fit for a worshipful seat..."⁸ It is probable that cattle and sheep were also kept in the park and that it conformed to the 16th and 17th century revival of parks as aesthetic components rather than earlier medieval hunting grounds. "...It was the sweeping irregularity of the park which was becoming its most valued feature, an appearance which contrasted sharply with the structure and symmetry of the gardens round the house..."⁹

The enclosed park is also depicted on John Speed's County Map of 1610 and still remains in place on his 1646 edition (*Figure 6*). The last mention of the deer park occurs during the Civil War, 1643-4, when a series of letters refer to 'the parke'.¹⁰ Sometime soon after this date the deer park would have been abandoned in favour of agricultural fields. No evidence of the former park boundary remains.

What was the extent of this early park? Later documentary evidence including a 1718 document in which Margaret Davenport surrendered her share in the Bramall Hall estate to her son John and the 1840 Tithe Map including details in the accompanying apportionment provide some indication of the former demesne and therefore parkland areas. An interpretation of this material has been undertaken in the UMAU report and the possible minimum and maximum extent of the deer park at Bramhall is shown superimposed on the 1872 OS Map base (*Figure 7*).¹¹

An Agricultural Landscape: mid 17th century to 1767

2.4.3 'Disparking' Bramhall's Deer Park

The 1718 document also helps delineate the extent of the Bramall Hall demesne at the beginning of the 18th century (*Figure 8*).¹² The document also provides evidence for the demise of the post-medieval park which is split into fields. This conversion to agriculture or 'disparking' is the common fate of most post-medieval parks, including many in Cheshire. Burdett's County Map of Cheshire published in 1777 (*Figure 9*) significantly shows no formal park enclosure indicating the loss of the former deer park. The hall is approached from two directions; Bramhall Green to the east and from Cheadle Hulme to the west. The map depicts a scattering of trees around the hall but does not define Carr Wood or any field boundaries. Late 18th century views of the hall also show enclosed fields in the Lady Brook valley complete with possible livestock shelters or barns.

⁸ George Ormerod, *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester* (1882) p.546

⁹ Taigel and Williamson 1993 p. 39

¹⁰ *Op. Cit.* UMAU Report p 5.4.2

¹¹ *Ibid.* p 5.4.2 pages 26 to 29

¹² CRO DDA/1384/198/6 Surrender of rooms and outhouses at Bramall Hall, 1718

During the course of the 18th century a number of large farm tenements were formed out of the early Davenport estate, including a substantial block of fields lying to the south of the hall which were added to Hardy's Farm.¹³ During the same period, the Davenports also leased out demesne land on the north side of Lady Brook called the Town Meadows, to become part of Linney's Farm tenement.¹⁴ The Davenports continued to farm the land, albeit in a much smaller demesne, into the early 19th century, although landscape improvements immediately around the hall were instigated by the 10th William Davenport in the late 18th century as described below.

2.4.4 *Bramhall's Fishpond*

Another feature of the agricultural landscape was a fishpond depicted on the 1841 Tithe Map occupying the low-lying area to the south of the drive by today's bog garden. Other features mentioned in the records included productive gardens and an orchard somewhere in the vicinity of the hall probably where today's walled garden is situated. There is some debate over the pond feature but given its proximity to the hall it was probably purpose dug as a fishpond providing fresh fish for the kitchen. Reference is also made in the will of William Davenport 1706 which stipulated that, "...it is my desire that the Gardens, Orchards and Fishponds at Bromhall be kept in order and that my wife have liberty to send for what fruit or fish she shall have occasion for during her life..."¹⁵

The Designed Landscape of the 10th William Davenport: 1767 to 1829

2.4.5 *The 10th William Davenport*

The 10th William Davenport held the Bramhall estates for a longer period of time than any of his predecessors, and from his fourth to his eighty fourth year he was lord of the manor of Bramhall. In 1767, aged 23, he married Martha, the daughter of Rev. John Le Tourcey of Suffolk, and began substantial alterations to the hall and surrounding landscape described below.

2.4.6 *The Hall from Mid 18th to Early 19th Century*

A number of sources referenced in the architectural history section pinpoint the probable dates of demolition of the West gatehouse range c1774 and the long gallery by 1819. One source, the Rev. John Watson, who made a survey of Bramall about 1774, notes that the, "...house was originally built round a court, but the present owner has wisely taken down one useless side, and made it both more pleasant and more beautiful..."¹⁶ The 10th William Davenport, who inherited the property at a very young age in 1749, was responsible for these developments including the installation of sash windows giving fine views both east and west from the Hall. John Byng, who visited Bramall Hall in 1790, refers to the hall as, "...the situation is good, so are the views..." but is less complimentary about the interior decor.¹⁷ M. S. Barret on a visit to Bramall Hall also refers to, "...a prospect of Lime Hall..."

¹³ *Op. Cit* UMAU Report p.36

¹⁴ Information from *A Survey of the Estates belonging to William Davenport Esq 1777 to 1778* (CRO DDA/1384/205F/2) Unfortunately no plan remains to accompany the survey notes.

¹⁵ CRO WS Probate Records; William Davenport Esq of Bramhall 1706

¹⁶ *Country Life* June 13th 1903 page 793

¹⁷ Quoted in Barbara Dean's *Bramall Hall the story of an Elizabethan Manor House*, 1999, page 35

2.4.7 *William Davenport's Park and Garden*

Much of William Davenport's landscape improvements surrounding the hall can be deduced from two late 18th century illustrations showing the hall in its broader setting. The view from the west (*Figure 10*) shows a curving ha-ha dividing the hall garden, consisting of a simple lawn in front of the gravel forecourt, from the parkland where a horse is grazing and the grass sward is depicted by illustrations of meadow plants. This is referred to as the garden field in an 1823 inventory and later became known as the bowling green on the 1872 OS Map.¹⁸ Ornamental shrubberies, represented by a mix of tree types, flank both sides of the hall and two ladies with parasols walk down a path alongside the ha-ha towards the walled kitchen garden (out of view).

The view from the east (*Figure 11*) shows a narrow grass terrace in front of the hall enclosed by a wall and giving way to a large parkland area across which the main drive from Bramall Green passes. A newly planted parkland tree protected from the grazing sheep by a tree guard is also depicted. Parkland trees are also denoted to the south of the hall including a new plantation below what appears to be a gazebo or a dovecote or both, giving excellent views over the park towards the Peak District hills. Lady Brook valley to the north of the hall is shown as a series of hedged meadows terminated by woodland. Regarding the gazebo / dovecote, no physical evidence remains and it has been suggested that the garden building shown in the early view could have combined both functions.¹⁹ Its "...position suggests that the building in part at least, served as a pavilion or gazebo, perhaps commanding a view over the adjacent area of the early park, including the possible adjacent fish pond. Similarly, the provision of a cupola is consistent with the building, again at least in part, being used as a dovecote. It is possible that it combined both functions..."²⁰

Engravings of the Hall by Peter de Wint (c1809) feature the long gallery dominating the upper storey of the hall and the parkland setting from the east.²¹ The engravings show a few further details of the landscape. The outline of the lawn area in front of the west front appears to be purely figurative although the tree and shrub beds either side of the hall appear to have flowering rhododendrons and yew trees in the mix (*Figure 12*). The engraving from across the valley to the east depicts an essentially sylvan setting designed to showcase the remarkable site of the hall with its spectacular long gallery dominating the roofline (*Figure 13*).

Greenwood's County Map of Cheshire 1819 (*Figure 14*) shows a well treed landscape with the main entrance drive from Bramhall Green to the east and a back drive from Lane Ends to the west. A walled garden surrounded by a line of single trees is indicated to the west of the hall, approximately in the same position as today's walled kitchen garden. A fishpond to the south of the walled garden is denoted and Carr Wood is represented by an irregular block of dense trees. Intriguingly, the main drainage tributary feeding into Lady Brook is depicted running to the west of the walled garden through today's Bog Garden and the trough between the play / picnic area and the park's western boundary. This is no

¹⁸ CRO DDA/1384/201/17 lists the garden field as over 3 acres and also refers to an orchard and 2 acres of gardens and pleasure grounds

¹⁹ *Op. Cit.*, UMAU Report p. 31

²⁰ *Ibid* p. 32

²¹ The illustrations were used in Ormerod's first edition of *The History of the County Palatine and City of Chester* published in 1809

longer the course of a stream but may account for the very damp conditions existing today.

Details from Swire and Hutching's County Map of 1830 (*Figure 15*) confirm a number of features introduced by the 10th William Davenport, which are shown on Greenwood's earlier map. These include the hall, outbuildings and walled garden to the west and Carr Wood is now enclosed and shown in outline similar to today's wooded valley. A small stream continues to drain into the fishpond and from there to Lady Brook, west of the walled garden located on higher ground. The Carr Wood tributary is also shown for the first time. Finally, the immediate grounds to the north, east and south of the hall are stippled, indicating a small area of parkland, also shown on early illustrations of the hall.

In summary, the 10th William Davenport made a number of landscape improvements to the property during his long occupation. A simple terrace on the east front, a ha-ha on the west front and a gazebo indicate the importance of views from the hall and gardens; notwithstanding the glazed long gallery at the top of the hall and the newly 'sashed' windows in the withdrawing room echoing the fashions of the time. Some of these improvements remain today including the ha-ha and part of the walled garden, but not the orchard or fishpond. Particularly special are the remaining mature beech trees which were planted in the immediate parkland surrounding the hall, including the area now occupied by the large car park, on the slopes above Carr Wood clough and overlooking the drive from Bramhall Green.

Extension of the Parkland Landscape by Salusbury Davenport 1829 to 1845



Sir Salusbury Humphreys - Davenport

Salusbury Pryce Humphreys came into possession of the Bramhall Estate through his wife Maria Lady Davenport in 1829 and in 1838, aged 60, he assumed the name Davenport by Royal Licence. It was during his occupation between 1823 and 1841 that the large parkland areas were created as shown on the 1841 Tithe Map and the later 1872 OS map. Evidence suggests that the removal of field boundaries to create this wider parkland occurred no earlier than 1823. As explained in the UMAU report, "...*In that year a survey of the Bramhall Estate of William Davenport included the lands which he held directly. Areas of individual parcels of land are given in this survey in Cheshire acres, a measurement roughly*

*twice the size of a statute acre, and a conversion of the measurements shows that the open area of 'Park' to the west of the hall was not then in existence. Although the estate did include 'Gardens and Pleasure Grounds' these amounted to customary acres, considerably less than the 40 statute acres of the later 'Park' ..."*²²

An engraving of 1836 of Bramall Hall – *The Seat of Sir Salusbury Humphreys* – shows the hall from the east and depicts open parkland grazed by cattle (*Figure 16*). The hall is fronted by a narrow terrace retained by a low stone wall with the grass bank below enclosed by a post and rail fence. Shrubs are planted directly outside the east front of the hall and building itself is framed by a group of three trees on the northern corner and a dense group of mixed planting on the south side of the hall suggesting a small garden area. On the west side a circular lawn is shown directly in front of the hall (*Figure 17*).

The Tithe Map of Bramhall 1841 (*Figure 18*) shows the hall in a much larger parkland setting including the 'Park' to the west of the hall and a smaller area named 'Park front of Hall' below the eastern garden terrace. The western boundary of the western park area is bordered by woodland creating enclosed parkland. The area to the south of the Hall is also a large open area referred to as the 'Meadow'. The east drive from Bramhall Green is ornamented with parkland trees and a new plantation is shown at the start of the drive on what was previously known as 'Hillfield'. These details are also shown on the later first edition OS Map of 1872 (*Figure 22*).

Transition from Large Parkland Estate to Residential Villas: 1845 to 1883

2.4.8 *Lady Maria Davenport*

On the death of Admiral Sir Salusbury Davenport in 1845 the *Stockport Advertiser* referred to "...his munificent gifts to all our public institutions..." and to "...his private charities, which were numerous and unostentatious..."²³ In plain English his generosity and expensive private living meant the family were deep in debt, owing mortgages and therefore creating problems for his successors. Around 1850 Lady Davenport offered building land for sale on the northern and western boundaries of the estate. A plan shows plots laid out for villas in the western area adjoining the park (*Figure 19*) and on the northern and eastern extremities of the estate at Charlestown and Woodsmoor; plots, "...laid out extensively for the erection of respectable buildings..." This scheme appears not to have come to any immediate fruition, as the later 1872 OS Map shows the plots still as open fields, but it was certainly prescient of how the area was to develop during the following years.

In 1850 Sir Salusbury and Lady Davenport's son, William Davenport Davenport, married Diana Handley and settled at Bramall Hall, and in 1854 the estate was legally transferred to him. He remained at Bramhall until his death in 1869. William Davenport Davenport settled into the community becoming a justice of the peace and welcoming visitors to the hall and park. A writer reports, "...I believe that the present proprietor, with a liberality worthy of a genuine country squire, throws no obstacles in the way of parties who may wish to see the place, and come with a determination to demean themselves becomingly..."²⁴ The

²² *Op. Cit.* UMAU report p.37

²³ *Op. Cit.* Barbara Dean p. 41

²⁴ H. Worthington Barlow, (1855) *Cheshire: its historical and literary associations* pp. 116-7

writer also refers to the property offering many attractions to the rambler being only 10 minutes from Bramhall railway station. A number of photographs taken by the Manchester Photographic Society show the hall, parkland and gardens during this time (*Figures 20 and 21*).

2.4.9 *The Designed Landscape as shown on the 1872 OS Map*

*“...For charm of situation and picturesqueness in style of architecture, Bramall Hall is unrivalled amongst the many interesting ‘black and white’ mansions of Cheshire. It stands in a delightfully undulating park, about two and a half miles south of Stockport, overlooking the Lyme Hills...”*²⁵

The culmination of these landscape improvements undertaken by the Davenport family since the late 18th century, is illustrated by the first edition OS Map, scale 25” to 1 mile, surveyed in 1872 and published in 1875 (*Figure 22*).

Parkland west: From the west (i.e., Bulkeley, now part of Cheadle Hulme) the hall is approached along a tree lined drive (on one side) through a wooded clough and into the large open parkland with a number of new tree clumps indicated by circular enclosures and what appears to be old hedgerow trees; the removal of the hedgerow and the retention of the trees creating an instant mature parkland effect. This area is now all residential housing although the northern part of the wooded Clough has been retained. The hall is then approached along the south side of the walled kitchen garden, which retains an open aspect to the south. This is the site of the earlier gazebo which gave views over the parkland to both the west and east and over Carr Wood running up the small valley to the south. The hall would have been screened for most of journey down this drive by the walled gardens and outbuildings.

Parkland east: The approach from Bramhall Green to the east follows the Lady Brook stream, again through open parkland with scattered trees on both sides of the stream, before crossing the Carr Wood tributary and running diagonal across the pasture in front of the eastern facade of the hall and entering the courtyard through the main gateway on the south side. There would have been excellent views of the hall along this drive all the way from Bramhall Green Gate. Similarly there would have been equally good views from the east front of the hall back along the shallow valley to the gate and the Peak District hills beyond. Near to where the eastern drive crosses the Carr Wood stream a weir is shown on the main Lady Brook. This helped maintain a regular depth of water and was possibly built to improve the aesthetic character of the park in views to and from the hall as shown on photographs taken in the 1870s (see below).

Woodland: In addition to Carr Wood there were two other areas of woodland plantation. There is a block of woodland to the south of Bramhall Bridge (the former Hillfield and entitled Rookery on later deed plans) possibly giving some visual protection from the development along the main Bramhall Road, and a rectangular block to the north of Lady Brook, referred to on earlier maps as Mistress Carr Wood and on later deed plans as Black Wood. Access to this plantation from the hall is provided by a footbridge over the Lady Brook. Both are depicted as mixed broadleaf and conifer plantations.

²⁵ Henry Taylor (1884) *Old Halls in Lancashire and Cheshire* pg147

Gardens: With a single grass terrace on the east side, mixed tree and shrub garden beds surround the north and southern sides of the hall wings. A central sundial in a circular bed is located in the forecourt to the west front, with views over the ha-ha to a rectangular grass area called the *Bowling Green*. The use of this area as a bowling green may have been short lived for its boundaries are not shown on the 1841 Tithe Map and by the time the 2nd edition OS Map was published in 1895 it had disappeared. There are also extensive views from here over the large western parkland.

Walled Kitchen Garden: The stables and outbuildings extend westwards into today's walled garden. The walled garden is therefore smaller in size but is laid out with a perimeter path and a central axis running east-west. There is a south facing glasshouse in the north eastern corner (possibly the vinery) and a second lean-to glasshouse on the outside of the southern wall. A third glass house is also shown on the end of a building range joining the stable block. This may have been the fernery the contents of which together with the vinery are listed in Davenport's sale of contents detailed below. Immediately to the west of the walled garden is an orchard (today's play and picnic area) and along the northern boundary there is a tree lined walk following the stone ha-ha. The 1872 OS map also denotes a 'swing' in a small garden area in front of the entrance to the stable yard. This Davenport family play area was swept away by improvements to the stable block and walled garden carried out later by Charles Nevill.

VINERY	FERNERY
492 – doz. of bedding out geraniums	499 Dicksonia antarctica and two sword ferns
493 – ditto ditto	500 Two Asplenium bulbiferum
494 Five azaleas and four camellias	501 Thirty ferns, various
495 Large acacia and cytissus	502 Thirty ditto
496 Stephanotis and three cytissus	503 Epiphyllum, two cactus, and nine small ditto
497 Four Deutzia gracilis, two hydrangeas	504 Eight hanging pans containing ferns
497 Two fuchsias, and eriostemon	505 – geraniums
498 – plants, various	506 – plants, various; 507 ditto; 508 ditto

2.4.10 *The Sale of Bramall Hall Estate*

The heir to the estate in 1869 was John William Handley Davenport, a young man of seventeen. The estate was consequently put under the management of trustees until he attained his 25th birthday. During this period the hall was leased to a local businessman Wakefield Christy, and there are many accounts of social engagements and other activities at Bramall Hall but understandably no further improvements were made to the hall or grounds.

It took only a few months after legally acquiring the estate in 1876 for the new heir to arrange to sell the estate. The Manchester Courier was the first to make the announcement on 24th January 1877, "...*The fine old mansion of Bramall Hall has been sold, we understand, to a building company, no doubt with the view of converting the domain into sites for villa residences...*" The news was premature but the contract of sale was made on 12th March 1877 and the estate conveyed to the Freeholders Company Limited in August 1877 for the sum of £200,000. The company, with its head office on Cross Street, Manchester, had only been formed in the previous year with the main object of acquiring lands and buildings for

development and resale. The contents of the hall were put up for sale at auction in May 1877 and on the third day the garden and outside equipment were disposed of including the “...plants in the vinery and fernery...”²⁶

Barbara Dean recounts in her history of Bramall Hall a number of local responses to the news of the sale with specific reference to how popular the grounds had become. The Cheshire County News recounts, “...From Stockport to Bramall Hall is a favourite walk of the toilers in mills and factories and workshops [for] within a comparatively short distance they find themselves in the midst of hedgerows and green fields, the carol of birds and cawing of rooks, and can inhale a purer air than the smoky mixture which at times half-stifles the dwellers in the town...”²⁷

Bramall Hall stood empty for a number of years before it was sold to Charles Nevill in 1883. Previously the Freeholders Company attempted to let the hall, which they had kept intact within a much reduced park area of 49 acres. The park was enclosed within a new ‘oval’ road layout designed to facilitate access to individual villa plots being sold in the former parkland areas. (This layout is shown on the 2nd Edition OS Map of 1895) A number of old photographs from the mid to late 19th century record the old grounds prior to these changes and before the major alterations carried out by Charles Nevill, completely transformed the character of the park landscape (Figures 23 - 28).

A ‘Late Victorian Country House’: The Park and Gardens of Charles Nevill 1883 to 1935

“...his taste was for the somewhat too picturesque and he turned Bramall into a late Victorian Country house in the old English style...”²⁸

2.4.11 *The Hall in the Late 19th and Early 20th Century*

With Nevill’s acquisition of the hall in 1883 a major programme of restoration ensued. As recounted in the architectural history section, “...Nevill was keenly interested in the history of the house, intent on keeping older elements and scrupulous by standards of the day in effecting restoration in matching style...” Work was also carried out on the outbuildings including the demolition of a shippon and a new west range to the stables circa 1900.

Bramall Hall and its setting drew a number of favourable descriptions following Nevill’s work including a full report in Country Life where it, “...certainly ranks among the most interesting of the old half-timber structures of Lancashire and Cheshire, and it stands in an advantageous situation, two miles and a half south of Stockport, elevated on a terrace knoll, commanding a view of the Lyme Hills, with trees clustered about it, and with a slope below to a little stream – a tributary of the Mersey – which flows through the park...”²⁹

²⁶ Op. Cit, Barbara Dean p. 56

²⁷ Cheshire County News and Stockport Chronicle, 4th May 1877

²⁸ Peter de Figuerido in *Cheshire County Houses*

²⁹ Op. Cit. Country Life p 790

2.4.12 *Charles Nevill's Land Acquisition at Bramall Hall*



Mary and Charles Nevill

Charles Nevill's original purchase of Bramall Hall and Grounds is shown on the title deed dated 7th May 1883 (*Figure 29*). As he began to plan his improvements to the grounds he undertook a further purchase of 3 parcels of land in the name of his son, Thomas Nevill, in 1886 for £3,500 (*Figure 30*). These enabled him to plant up his long northern boundary, creating a screen from future villa development, as well as creating space to build his eastern lodge on Bramhall Road. The third plot of land was a southern extension of Carr Wood towards Carr Wood Road. A further purchase was made by Thomas Nevill in 1918 when he acquired a small triangle of woodland in the north-west corner of the property and a large field attached to Lodge Farm on the opposite side of Bramhall Road (*Figure 31*).

2.4.13 *Charles Nevill's Landscape Improvements*

By the late 1880s Nevill appears to have largely completed his work on the hall itself and turned his attention to the grounds. On 14th April 1888, Burton noted, "...The widening of the brook above the weir, and the planting of the mound on the north side completed. The new road to the south of the present one staked out from the east lodge to the top of the brow near the chapel, and pillars of the bridge over the Carr Brook commenced..."³⁰

Charles Nevill was responsible for wholesale changes to the landscape over the following 10 years, whose main features survive today, including;

- a new re-aligned driveway from Bramhall Green past a new south side entrance to the hall and on to Bramhall Park Road constructed by the Freeholders Co Ltd. The drive was accompanied by two new lodges at both east and west entrances,
- new terraces and garden areas around the hall,
- a re-modelling of the walled kitchen garden and stable courtyard,
- a complete 're-engineering' of the course of the Lady Brook and the introduction of three lakes / fishponds,

³⁰ Alfred Burton (c1889) Vol. 1, p898

- and major tree planting particularly along the drives and around the boundaries.

These major achievements are detailed below, and their development recorded by the 2nd and 3rd editions of the OS maps of 1898 and 1909 (*Figures 32 and 33*).

2.4.14 *New Drive*

The most recorded item of work was the construction of the ‘new road’ in the spring and summer of 1888. This was in effect a diversion of the old drive (shown for comparison on *Figure 32*) away from the hall to create some privacy and also to make it easier for horse traffic to negotiate the slope up to the side of the house (*Figure 34b-c*). The drive crossed Carr Brook on an elevated embankment and Burton notes that the straight drive then had to cut into the slope as much as 15ft (*Figure 34d-f*). Lodges were built at both western and eastern ends, both being brick built with some timber framing, but painted and panelled to appear as wholly ‘timber framed’. The eastern lodge was standing by 1888 and housed the head gardener (*Figure 34a*). The coachman occupied the west lodge next to which Nevill built Hall Cottage for his wife’s sister in 1895. It became the residence of Tom Nevill in the 1910s and then the property of John Davies in 1927 before being renamed the Dower House by his daughter and kept out of the later sale of the hall and grounds to the local council in 1935.

Alfred Burton’s record of building the new road included cuttings from the local County News who reported on 4th May 1888, “...*The New Road, so much talked about is in course of construction in Bramall Park and will be a great improvement giving a much better view of the river Brame and grounds. As the road winds alongside a shady grove the ladies expect to hear that the ‘doves’ will do much ‘cooing’ during the summer months...*”³¹

2.4.15 *Terrace, Rockery and Bowling Green*

Nevill’s construction of the new road further south of the hall allowed him to build a new flight of terraces on the eastern side and an adjoining bowling green area to the south. The 1898 OS Map (*Figure 32*) show the layout of an upper, middle and lower terrace linked by four flights of steps, which still survives today, although the walls have been rebuilt. The original walls were revetted with brick walling and stone capping, with low walls flanking the steps. A photograph of the topmost flight shows that the low walling terminated at each end in a low stone-capped pier. The two upper piers each carried a stone owl, while the two lower supported an urn with a finial-like lid, all possibly re-used from earlier schemes (*Figure 35*).

At the southern end of the terrace a substantial rockery was constructed of roughly quarried stone blocks as indicated on the 1898 OS Map. Within the rockery and around the bowling green area, Nevill planted largely evergreen shrubs (*Figure 36*). It is interesting that Charles Nevill was the first president of the Bramhall and Woodford District Horticultural Society founded in 1889.³²

³¹ Cutting in handwritten manuscript of Alfred Burton’s *A History of Bramhall in the County of Cheshire, Vol. 2* 1889 held at Bramall Hall

³² As reported in the Manchester Guardian 26th August 1889

2.4.16 *Walled Kitchen Garden and Surroundings*

The sequence of OS map extracts (*Figure 37*) show the development of the walled kitchen garden. The 1872 OS map shows a smaller kitchen garden with a glass house in the north eastern corner, which would have been either the ‘vinery’ or ‘fernery’ referred to in Davenport’s sale of contents listed below. Outside of the walled garden there is another glasshouse at the end of a range of buildings extending to the stable block which could have been the other specialist greenhouse. Both are approached by the ‘ha-ha’ walk from the hall.

The 1898 OS map shows Nevill’s extension of the walled garden eastwards towards the stable complex. Here an alteration to the original brick wall (increased height and new gate pillars) created a new entrance to the reconfigured smaller courtyard (*Figure 38*). The glasshouse inside the walled garden is retained but has disappeared by 1909 being replaced by a smaller garden building leaning against the new wall. No internal layout is depicted but the original entrance to the walled garden is still in place and the doorway survives today (*Figure 39*). The 1909 OS map also shows the new west wing of the stable complex built around 1900 which created the enclosed courtyard which survives today.

To the immediate west of the walled garden the orchard is retained or may have been replanted. To the south, a larger garden area was formed with the realignment of the main drive, and Nevill planted shrubberies along the drive and against the wall to create an enclosed lawn area, which survives today (*Figure 40*).

2.4.17 *New River Course and Artificial Lakes*

Charles Nevill was a keen fisherman and outdoor enthusiast and his passion for fishing led to the major re-alignment of the Lady Brook and the creation of three artificial lakes stocked with trout by 1909. Barbara Dean in her book on Bramall Hall writes about Nevill’s ‘ardent passion’, “...*Very early in their married life Mary had to come to terms with the fact that her husband possessed one consuming passion which she could not share; he was an ardent fisherman. Fortunately her sense of humour and literary turn of mind helped her cope with this situation and she has left highly coloured and amusing accounts of her plight...*”³³ In 1879 she wrote to a friend, “...*We have come to the end of our three days journey into the wilderness, and reached this out-of-the-world spot at last...If I were to give you a full, true and particular account of one day’s doings it would serve as a very good example of what existence has been to your unhappy friend for the last fortnight...because tomorrow will be as today, only more so! Take my advice and never be induced to marry a man who is fond of fishing, for if you do you will wish you had never been born...*”³⁴ It would be interesting to know what Mary thought about the new lakes at Bramall and whether the expense may have been better spent elsewhere!

³³ *Op. Cit.* Barbara Dean p.62

³⁴ *An Intercepted Letter by an Angler’s Wife* in *Anglers Evenings*, Manchester Anglers’ Association, 1880, pp. 172-3 (The letter, though written by Mary Nevill, was published anonymously)

Nevill made several fishing trips to Norway and the first pond he created is very reminiscent of a Scandinavian lake. He first introduced a weir on the original course of the Lady Brook (*Figure 41*) to allow water to be diverted into his first pond (eastern or upper pond) which is shown completed by 1898 (*Figure 32*). Also by this time Nevill had carried out the major engineering work on re-routing the river within a stone lined canalised section. (The stone lined embankments still survive but in a poor, eroded condition in certain stretches). The eastern pond had a number of intricate islands, presumably to enhance the fishing experience, which were planted mainly with conifers and marginal vegetation (*Figure 42*). The character of this part of the park has now changed with the growth of the trees and encroachment of self-sown vegetation (*Figure 43*).

The work on the Lady Brook and ponds was probably conceived as one scheme, which is finally illustrated by the 1909 OS Map (*Figure 33*) which also indicates the old river alignment). A middle pond has been formed using the channel of the original stream course and a rocky outcrop, cascade and open pool (still extant) was built into the course of the river providing a dramatic end to the course of the Lady Brook before flowing out of the park (*Figure 44*). The western or lower pond was a more open feature, designed to be seen from the hall and grounds above and was embellished with a single promontory and a boat house (*Figure 45*). All three ponds or lakes were connected by pipes allowing water to flow from the upper pond, fed from the weir, and then ingeniously under the river to the middle pond and through a narrow causeway to the lower pond, before flowing out into the pool in the Lady Brook.

2.4.18 *Planting*

Nevill carried out an extensive programme of tree planting particularly around his new boundaries, primarily to screen future housing development. The 1909 OS Map shows plantations screening Bramall Park Road put in by the Freeholders Company, a major plantation along the northern boundary, where he had purchased a further slice of land specifically for that purpose, and a plantation along the southern boundary between the Bramall Green entrance and Carr Wood. These plantations have now matured with lime, beech and horse chestnut being the main species. He also ornamented the new drive with evergreen shrubs and conifers and planted tree clumps within the open parkland areas (*Figure 46*). He also embellished the areas around the hall with further shrubberies and bedding plants including a circular bed in front of the new east terrace (*Figure 47*).

It was important for Nevill to retain and embellish the remnant open parkland. The view west from the hall over the ha-ha was maintained and a new plantation was introduced at the foot of the slope leading down to the lower pond. To the north he created an elongated stretch of parkland wedged between plantations and to the south he planted up new clumps in the former 'Park front of hall'. The view east from the terrace captured this open parkland for a number of years before unchecked regeneration choked the course of the Lady Brook and conifer plantations filled in the former open grassland areas (*Figure 48*). A view of the hall and its new landscape setting is provided by a watercolour painting dated 1922, showing the character of the planting, terraces and fishponds (*Figure 49*).

2.4.19 *Sale of Bramhall Hall 1925*

Although Charles Nevill died in 1916 his son, Thomas Nevill, took over the immediate management of Bramall Hall. However, the cost of upkeep became difficult and in October 1921 the national press announced the impending sale of the hall. Times were hard for everyone and no buyer could be found. In 1925 it was decided to put the hall up for auction against a background of concern that the grounds may be sold off for housing development. With such concerns Stockport Corporation made a £15,000 offer for the hall and 37 acres of land which after much deliberation was declined by Thomas Nevill.³⁵ Nevill pressed on with the auction but the various lots failed to reach their targets and the property was called in. However John H. Davies, a wealthy Manchester businessman, attended the auction in a watching capacity and a few weeks later negotiated a private sale of the whole estate for the sum of £15,000. The plan of the estate in the deed of sale dated 30th September 1925 is shown on *Figure 50*.

John Davies was already suffering from ill health and he died two years later. His wife Amy continued to live at the hall and loyal to her husband's memory refused to sell out to housing developers. On the 7th October 1935 Bramall Hall and just over 62 acres passed into public ownership being purchased by Hazel Grove and Bramhall Urban District Council for the sum of £14,000 (*Figure 51*). The sale did not include the Dower House and grounds, which were retained by the Davies family, but included Lodge Farm field on the opposite side of Bramhall Road, although this did not become part of the public park. *Figure 52* summarises the changing park boundaries, from Charles Nevill's purchase in 1883 to the creation of the public park in 1936.

2.4.20 *The Creation of a Public Park: 1936 to 1974*

The Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the Urban District Council had considered the desirability of acquiring Bramall Hall Estate as early as January 1935 and on 26th March recommended that the Council purchase the Estate on the terms of the District Valuer. The purchase price was set at £14,000 with legal costs of £360 and a contribution of £3,000 was agreed with Cheshire County Council. Later in the year the Ministry of Health gave formal consent to lending the council £3,620 and £7,740 “...for the purchase of lands and buildings respectively on the above mentioned Estate for the purposes of Public Works and Pleasure Grounds...”³⁶ The Estate was eventually purchased on the 7th October 1935.

Bramall Hall was officially opened on Sunday 19th April 1936 and was open to public view the following day; visitors being taken round by the newly-appointed caretaker, S. F. Wilson. There are few recorded developments in the grounds in the early years of the public park and the 1935 OS Map show that the park landscape had changed little since Nevill's developments in the early 1900s (*Figure 53*). However, the map does show wet grassland beginning to spread in the northern areas affected by poor drainage, particularly the narrow parcel of parkland north of Lady Brook. What few developments took place are recorded in the Council's Parks and Estates Committee Minutes including the approval to fence a, “... *Bird Sanctuary and the Blue Bell Wood at the Carr Wood Road end of Bramall Hall Park...*”, indicating that pedestrian access had been made into the

³⁵ Op. Cit. Barbara Dean p. 81

³⁶ Hazel Grove and Bramhall Urban District Council (HGBUDC) Finance and General Purposes Committee Minutes No. 2, 3rd September 1935

park from Carr Wood Road.³⁷ Other notes include the felling of a large beech tree near the east window of the chapel and the re-construction of the greenhouse and heating chamber by Oldham and Hallworth of Hazel Grove for £155. 10s. 0d.³⁸

During the Second World War Bramall Hall played a familiar role to other parks in helping the war effort. At the discretion of the Parks Superintendent, unnecessary iron railings were disposed of and later offered to the Government as a free gift (the council declining to claim compensation of 25 shillings per ton).³⁹ The lawn opposite the Chapel (South Wing) was used for growing potatoes and the National Fire Service had their headquarters in the Hall grounds – the council minutes also refer to the Home Guard erecting a marquee on the lawn area to the west of the ha-ha known as the ‘archery ground’.⁴⁰ Barbara Dean adds that during the war, “...*the building was kept open for the public, as before, and allied servicemen in uniform were shown round free of charge...*”⁴¹ When victory in Europe came in 1945 a VE Day service of thanksgiving was held on the archery ground.

During the 1940s there are references to improving the path network, including the path on the south bank of the Lady Brook and around the middle pond (*Figure 54*).⁴² There were also concerns over the structural condition of the terraces, footbridges and the state of the lakes. It is interesting to note that a small plank footbridge originally crossed the causeway between the middle and lower ponds (referred to in the minutes as second and third lakes) This had become a source of danger and had been removed with, “...*the connection between the lakes being made by laying pipes and building up and cindering the path...*”⁴³ Repairs had to be made to the lower pond (*lake no. 3*) where damage to the bank lowered the water level, in effect draining it into the stream.⁴⁴ The black and white aerial photograph of the park c1940 shows the pond with no water (*Figure 55*). There are several references to the Committee attempting to procure ornamental birds for the lakes but the matter always seemed to be deferred!

The Council minutes of 1943 report that the footbridge over the Lady Brook had been damaged by flood water and for the first time noted concern over the condition of Nevill’s terrace walls. “...*It has been apparent for some time that the brickwork of the terrace walls was in a very bad condition and recently a small portion showed signs of failure. Repairs have been carried out, and whilst being done arrangements were made to carry out urgently necessary pointing on piers, copings and walls...*”⁴⁵

In 1944 major tree planting took place and the Committee reported on 21st November 1944 that, “...*with the approval of the Chairman a quantity of Japanese Larch and Sitka Spruce trees had been purchases at a cheap rate and planting is well under way...*” By the 19th December, 2000 trees had been planted and 1000 Sitka Spruce bedded out in the nursery (walled garden) prior to planting

³⁷ HGBUDC, Parks and Estates Committee 13th April 1938

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 30th January 1939 and 18th October 1939

³⁹ *Ibid.*, 15th December 1942

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 16th May 1944

⁴¹ *Op. Cit* Barbara Dean p. 87

⁴² HGBUDC minute 21st July 1942

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 15th December 1942

⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 20th March 1945

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 16th November 1943

in a permanent position. The following year there are reports of the newly planted trees being broken off or stolen and, “...it was suggested that the plantation be fenced off until the trees had grown higher...”⁴⁶

One of the main features to be introduced by the Council occurred in the 1960s when the bowling green and tennis courts were constructed in the former parkland area above the drive, which by then had become thick with conifers. However, being the only accessible flat area big enough to accept a bowling green plus two tennis courts, (apart from the archery ground), this was obviously the only option. The first mention in the Committee minutes was in 1961 when, “...consideration was given to the type of pavilion to be erected adjacent to the proposed Bowling Green and Tennis Courts in Bramhall Park and recommended a) that the surveyor be instructed to prepare sketch plans and estimates for the construction of the brick pavilion for submission at the next meeting, and b) that the Parks Superintendent be instructed to prepare a statement of costs of the bowling green, tennis courts and ancillary equipment...”⁴⁷

The Council minutes include a number of details on the construction and eventual opening of the bowling green, tennis courts and pavilion. Designs and estimates were produced with the pavilion costed at £1,350; the bowling green, tennis court and equipment at £4,026; and the cost of raising a loan of £3,943 from the Ministry of Housing and Local Government £25; the total cost of the project coming to £5,401. The tender for the bowling green and tennis courts was won by En Tout Cas Co. Ltd., of Leicester, price £3,668, who later added an extra sum of £256 for the provision of ‘sea-washed turf’. Preliminary work started in January 1962 with the removal of, “...a very old and decayed oak tree overhanging the access to the new bowling green and tennis courts...”⁴⁸

The tenders for the construction of the pavilion were received in April 1963 and the building was erected by A. E. Lowry and Co., of Hyde for £1,511 5s. 8d. In January of the following year the Council minutes report that the facilities would be available for full use during the coming season, “...and that as the scheme, pavilion and horticultural layout [ornamental conifers etc still extant] would be completed an official opening might also be considered to draw attention to these additional facilities...”⁴⁹ The new recreational facility was officially opened on 6th June 1964. The Council carried out a number of plantings at that time including the ornamental conifers at the boat house site on the lower pond (Figure 56).

The revised OS Map of 1963 does not show the newly constructed bowling green and tennis courts. It does depict however, the park becoming more wooded with the former grassland area to the north of Lady Brook now largely filled with trees or rough ground. The parkland area above the drive from Bramhall Green is also completely filled in with conifers planted in the 1940s and later replaced in the 1980s. Most intriguingly, the lower pond is now filled in or at least without water and covered with trees. The repairs referred to in 1945 were probably difficult or expensive to carry out and the lower pond became wet woodland until it was restored sometime before 1970 when it is again referred to in the Council minutes.

⁴⁶ *Ibid.* 20th March 1945

⁴⁷ HGBUDC Parks and Estates Committee minute 355, 18th July 1961

⁴⁸ *Ibid.* 535, 867 (1961), 1182 (1962)

⁴⁹ *Ibid.* 952 (1964)

There are three more items recorded in the Council minutes during the 1960s. Firstly, in 1966 the Council's 'Central Nursery' at the walled garden was re-surfaced with tarmac at a cost of £12,797. Secondly, the Cheshire County Fire Brigade were called out to unblock the under river feed pipe between No. 1 and No. 2 lake using high pressure apparatus, which for a small fee they offered to do twice a year, an offer gratefully accepted by the Council. Thirdly and more seriously, works began on repairing the eastern terrace walls starting with remedial repairs, but with the District Surveyor recommending and estimating a budget of £5,000 for complete rebuilding.⁵⁰

Concern over the condition of the terrace walls eventually led to the District Surveyor on 19th May 1970 to submit a scheme for re-building the terrace walls for an estimated cost of £5,500. The matter was deferred until February 1971 when F. J. Goodwin and Sons of Hazel Grove won the tender for £5,486.52.⁵¹ At the time arrangements for providing a coping were also deferred pending the availability of suitable material, but a photograph taken c1976 for the Guidebook shows a stone or a stone-like capping was used to contrast with the red brick (*Figure 57*). Comparison with earlier Guidebook photographs show that in rebuilding the walls small urns have been removed from the pillars and the previously 'sloping' stone capping on the flights of steps have been replaced with a rather visually jarring step arrangement. Since then there has been further repairs to the walls and the fronts have been planted with yew and in the case of the upper flight of steps with berberis.

During the early 1970s there are references in the Council minutes to testing the water quality at a number of points in the stream and lakes in order to promote angling. Following these biological reports the Council recommended that a fishery be established in No. 3 Lake (lower pond) and the fish stock be monitored etc. The Stockport and District Angler's Federation opined that the lake needed to be deeper and an impasse was reached when the Council responded that high costs would be involved in excavating and replacing the clay lining. It is not known whether the issue was resolved by Stockport MBC or whether angling was encouraged in the park at that time. However, it does prove that the lower pond had been repaired and was full of water again after spending the 1940s to early 1960s as a drained and vegetated area.

Finally, the desire for a nature trail, which was first raised in 1969, was fulfilled in 1971 when the Bramhall Park Trail was officially opened on Good Friday, 9th April, with a personally conducted tour of the trail by Dr. Benton of the Botany Department of Manchester University. The accompanying leaflet cost 5 pence.

2.4.21 *Recent Developments under Stockport MBC: 1974 to Present Day*

Since local government reorganisation in 1974 the management of Bramall Hall Park passed to Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council and a number of developments have taken place. The large car park to the south of the hall and the small 'overflow' car park at the entrance from Hall Road were already in place when the Borough Council took over the park but the smaller car park was improved in 1985. In 1983 a line of very large beech trees on the northern side of the walled garden, which were dropping limbs and causing damage to the ha-ha wall, were removed. Replacement beech trees were planted and the damage to the wall repaired (*Figure 58*). Tree planting was also carried out below the

⁵⁰ *Ibid.* 231, 623 (1966) 431 (1967)

⁵¹ *Ibid.* 27 (1970) 692 (1971)

northern front of the hall in 1989 to help stabilise the steeply sloping bank. This was part of the work undertaken on the chimney and included repairs to the footpath and retaining walls.

In the 1990s further tree planting took place, improvements made to the play area and further changes made to the walled garden. Different varieties of oaks were planted between the East Lodge and the bowling green area in 1992 as part of the Greater Manchester Arboretum Initiative. The play area was laid out in its current form in 1990 and subsequent updating of equipment carried out in 1994, 2005 and 2008 including the introduction of the adventure play area at the end of the former archery ground. The adjacent picnic area was built with the help of the Friends of Bramall Hall in 2002 with grant aid from a number of local green initiatives. The greenhouses within the walled garden, which were introduced by the former Urban District Council, were finally demolished in 2005 and in the same year the Bog Garden between the picnic area and the smaller car park was created. Other recent planting schemes have included an azalea and fern garden at the lower end of the Rockery and the regeneration of the rhododendrons alongside the main drive through a phased programme of cutting back.

The Council has also carried out a number of construction projects in recent years. A new flight of steps was constructed linking the end of the ha-ha with the pond below and lighting columns along the drives have been replaced with replica columns. In 2006 a programme of replacing and refurbishing the footbridges over Lady Brook was instigated.⁵² Immediately to the north-east of the Hall the replacement footbridge was constructed with the assistance of the local Round Table providing the labour. The previous bridge had been closed for many years. The new bridge had to allow for the less able and also had to be higher at the request of the Environment Agency to lift it above possible flooding levels. The stream rises higher than in past times due to fast run-off from increased hard surfaced areas upstream.

In 2009 the walls of the Walled Kitchen Garden were repaired including re-pointing, re-coping and stabilisation using steel columns.⁵³ In the same year the Bramall Park Road Bridge was refurbished.⁵⁴ Compensation provided by the North West Gas Alliance for the replacement of a gas main along the main drive has funded a number of projects including: archaeological watching brief, excavation and trenches in the Walled Garden; geo-physical investigation on the Archery Lawn and Croquet Lawn; new stone kerbs and new surface dressing of the main drive and footpath to Carr Wood Road; and the removal of Japanese Knotweed and installation of new drainage and gullies alongside the drive.

The Park is now managed by a dedicated Facility Park Manager with the support of a Grounds Maintenance Team. The Park staff are active in engaging with the visiting public and support the Friends Group in undertaking various garden maintenance and rejuvenation projects. The staff have also instigated a 'Green Hustle' project with young people, and has introduced a memorial bench scheme into the Park.

⁵² Structural work and costs included: Footbridge No. 1 (Structure No. 261) replaced at a cost of £77,000; Footbridge No. 2 (Structure No. 267) refurbished at a cost of £5,000; Footbridge No. 3 (Structure No. 397) replaced at a cost of £75,000.

⁵³ Bramall Hall Walled Garden (Structure No. 1554/B23) refurbished at cost of £85,000.

⁵⁴ Bramall Park Road Bridge (Structure No. 265) refurbished at a cost of £52,000.

In recent years the Council has entered a constructive dialogue with the Heritage Lottery Fund prioritising Bramall Hall and Park in its programme of applications. A multi-disciplinary working group has been established and in 2009 a consultant team appointed to carry out a Conservation Management Plan.

The Landscape elements of this Conservation Management Plan are supported by a Tree Survey (Appendix A) and a Vegetation Compartment Survey which is included in the Gazetteer.

2.5 Historic Landscape Development: Figures



Figure 5: Detail from Saxton's Map of Cheshire 1577 depicting a Deer Park at 'Bromhall'

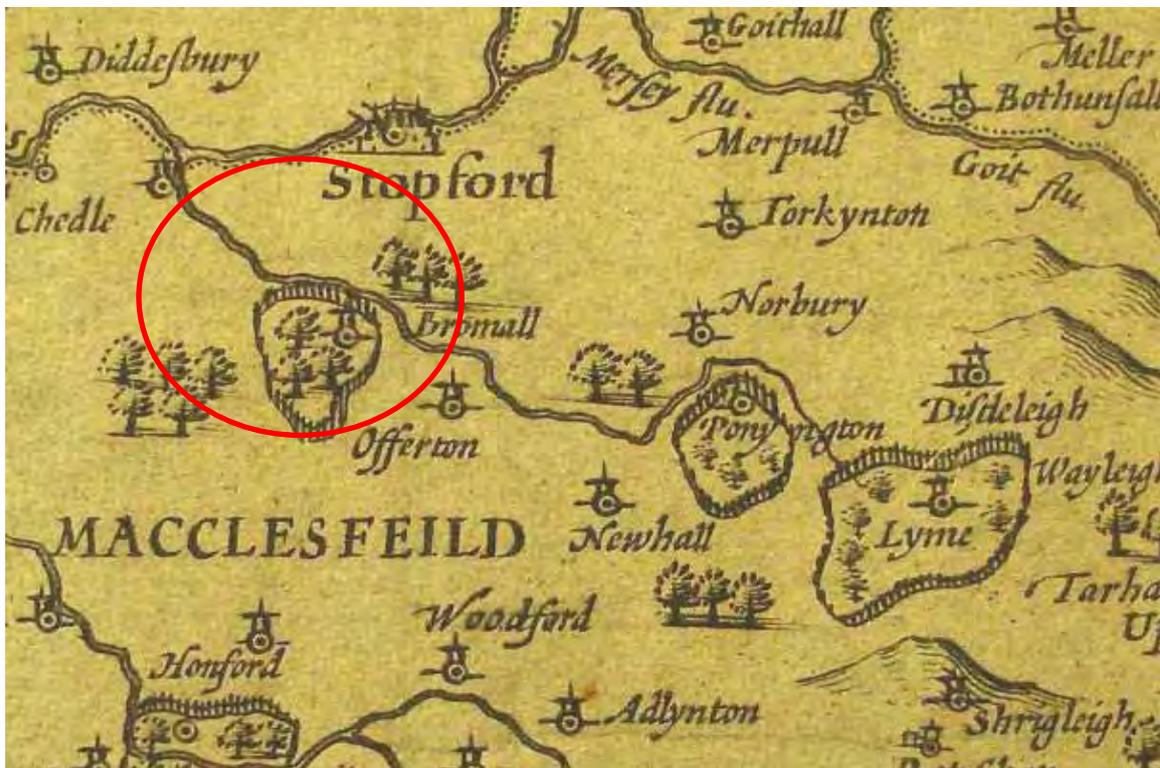


Figure 6: Detail from Speed's Map of Cheshire 1646 showing the Park Pale at 'Bromhall'

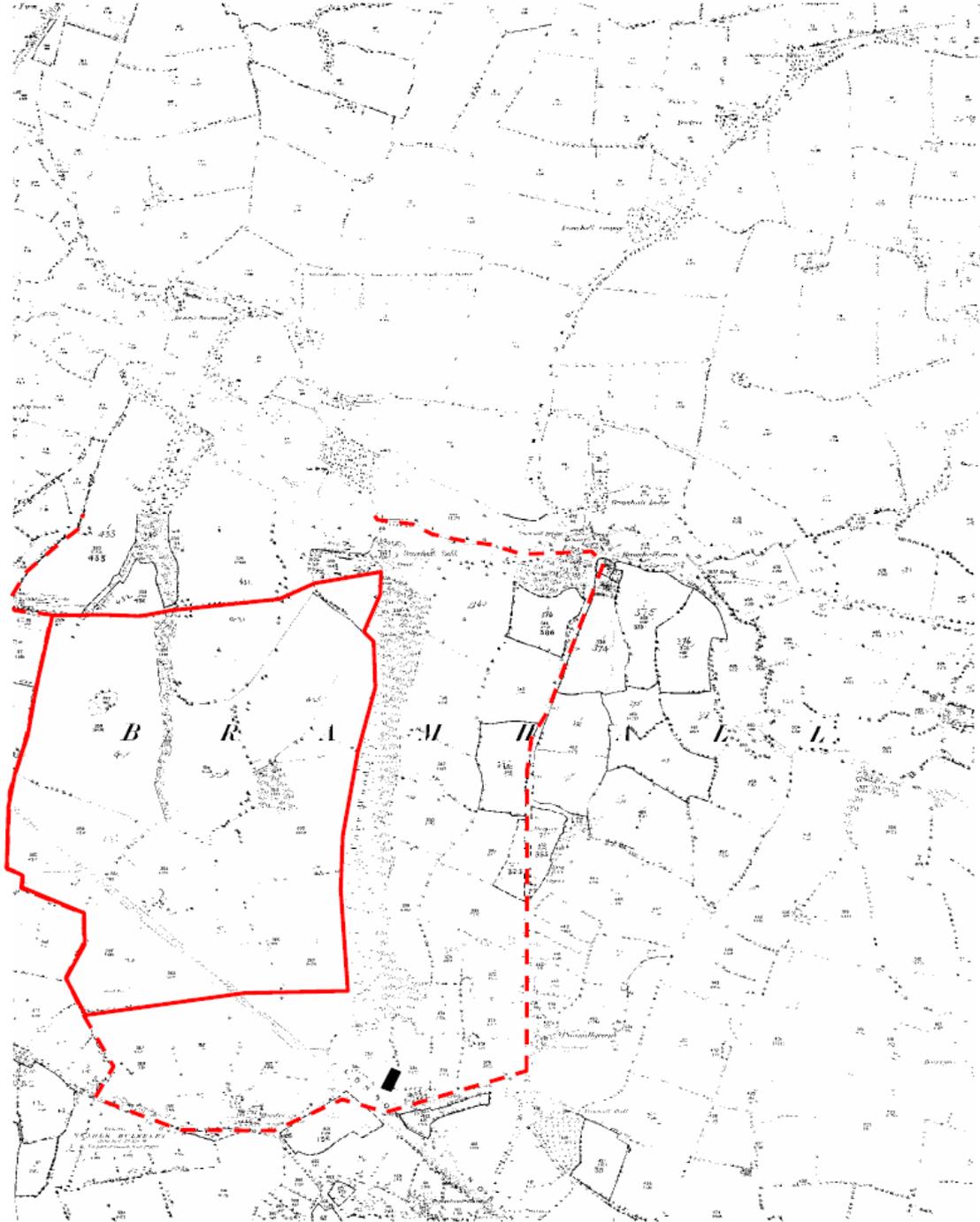


Figure 7: Possible extent of post medieval deer park at Bramall Hall, superimposed on 1872 OS Map base. Continuous line = minimum extent of deer park
Dotted line = maximum extent of deer park

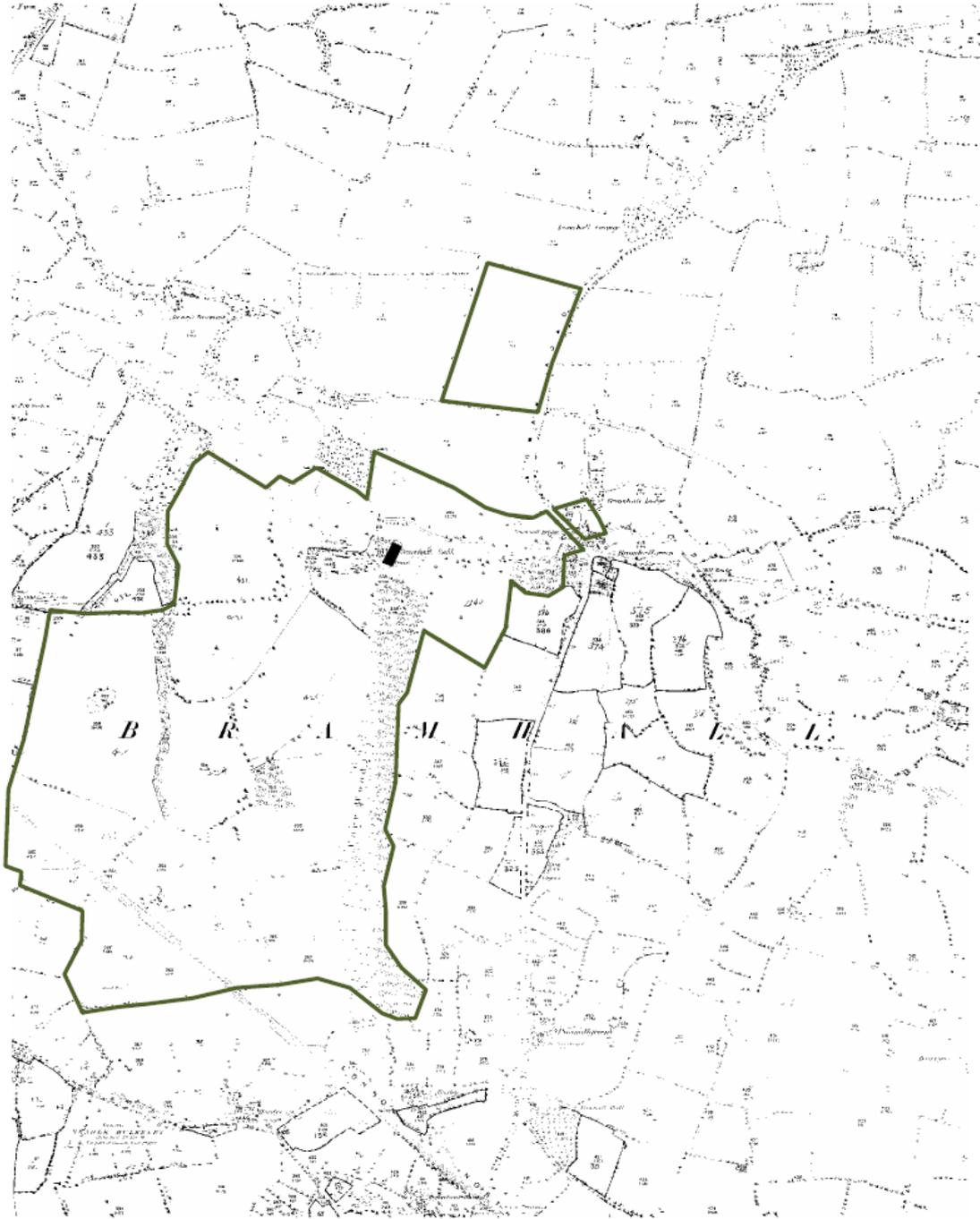


Figure 8: Area of Bramall Hall demesne recorded in 1718 superimposed on 1872 OS Map base.

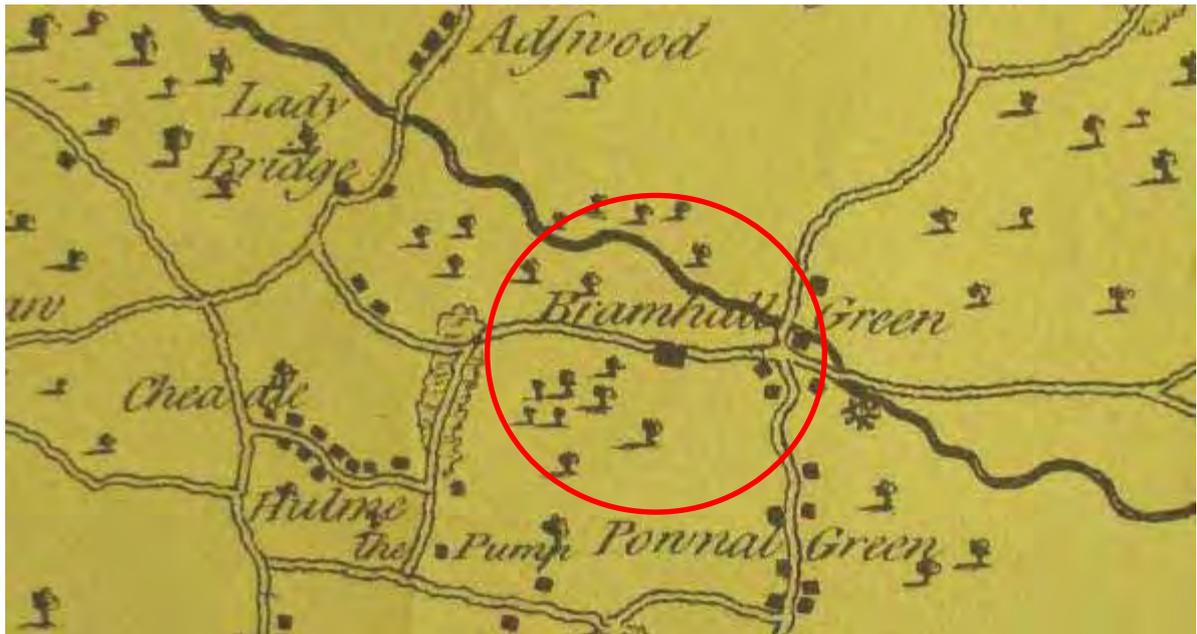


Figure 9: Detail from Burdett's Map of Cheshire 1777 showing the hall and parkland surrounds

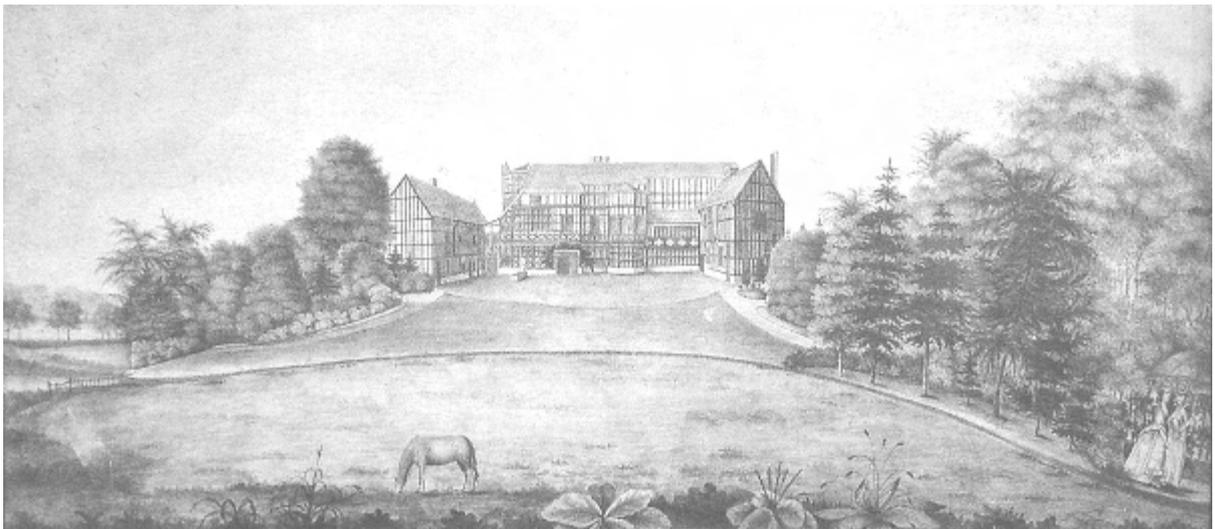


Figure 10: Late 18th century illustration of Bramall Hall from the west depicting its landscape setting



Figure 11: Bramall Hall from the east in the late 18th century overlooking parkland and fields



Figure 12: Bramall Hall from the west engraving by Peter de Wint c1809



Figure 13: Bramall Hall from the east engraving by Peter de Wint c1809



Figure 14: Detail from Greenwood's County Map of Cheshire 1819

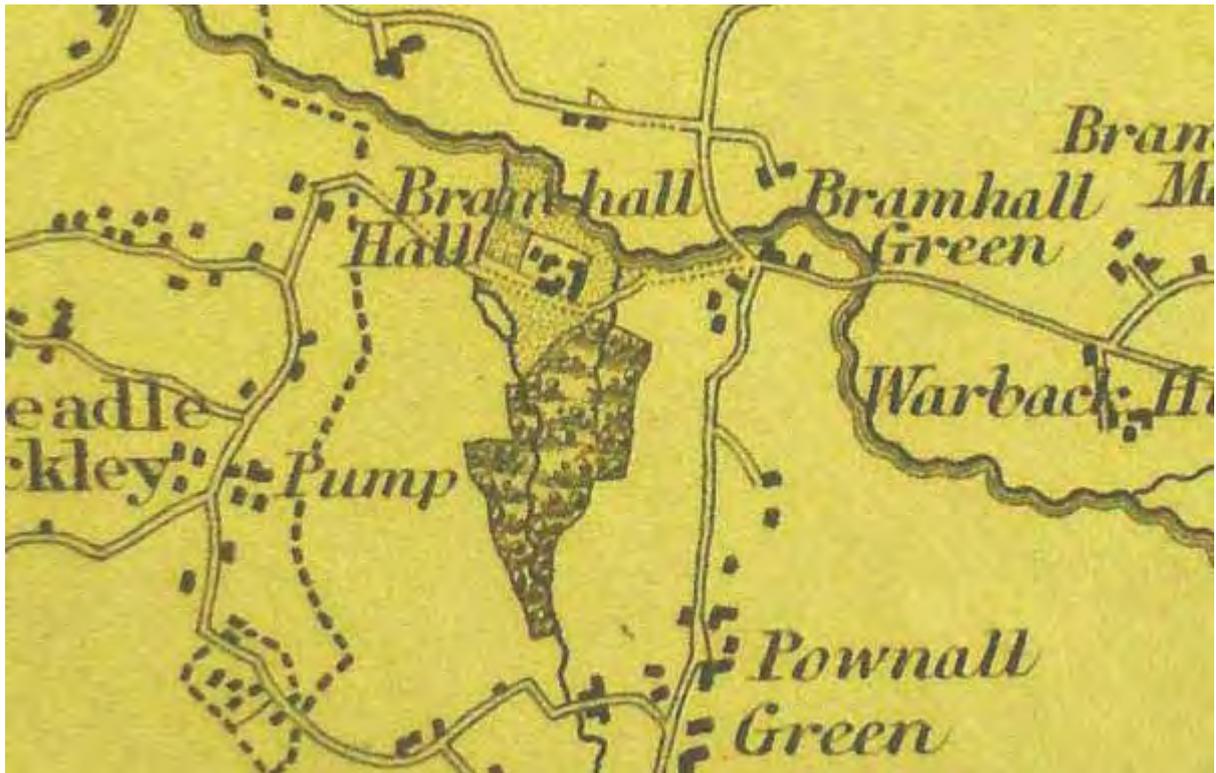


Figure 15: Detail from Swire and Hutching's County Map of Cheshire 1830



Figure 16: NE View of Bramall Hall The seat of Sir Salusbury Humphreys. Drawn on stone by W. Walton from a sketch by Ewan Christian (1836)



Figure 17: Bramall Hall Cheshire from a sketch by Ewan Christian (1836)



Figure 18: Extract from 1841 Tithe Map

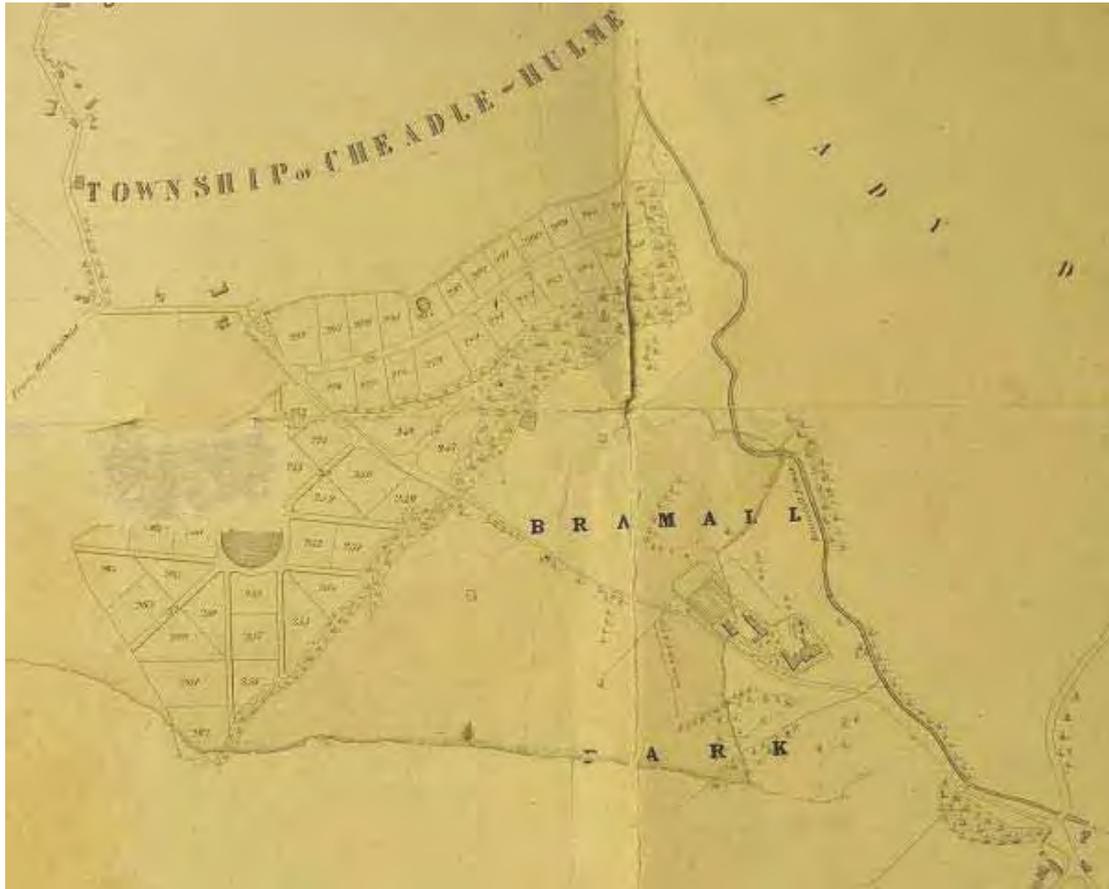


Figure 19: Plan of land laid out for building upon on the Bramall Hall Estate near Stockport in the County of Chester belonging to Lady Davenport by Mr. Neville, Surveyor of Stockport nd., c1850



Figure 20: Bramall Hall from the East, Manchester Photographic Society, 1855

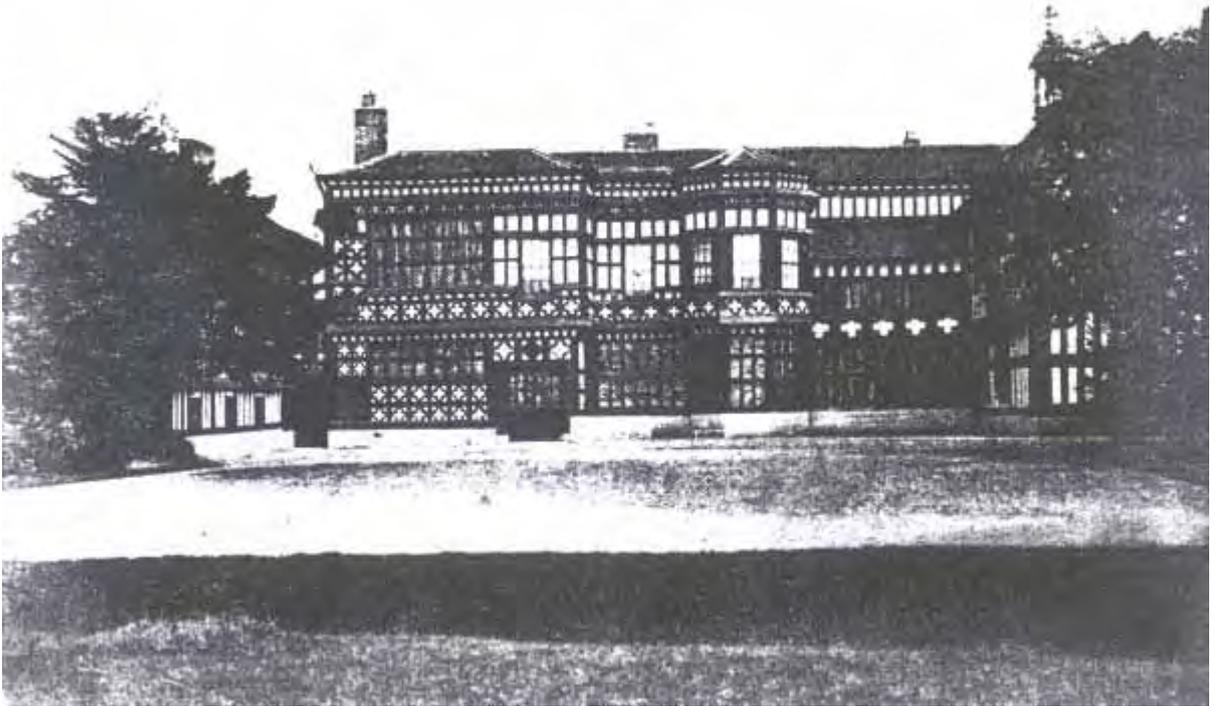


Figure 21: Bramall Hall from the West, Manchester Photographic Society, 1855

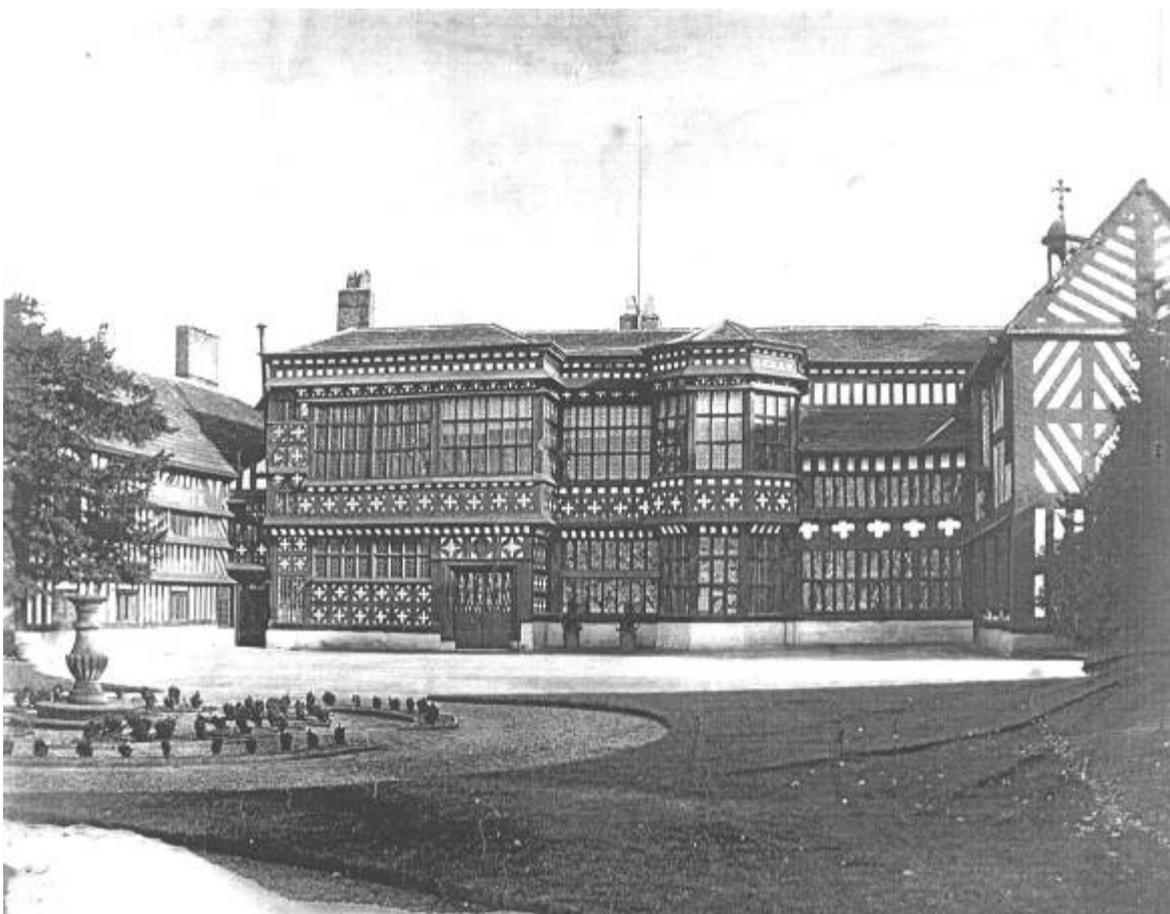


Figure 23: View of Hall from west by Malcolm Davenport c1870 (CRO DDX 74/3) showing the circular bed in front of the hall with sundial and newly planted edging plants (box?)

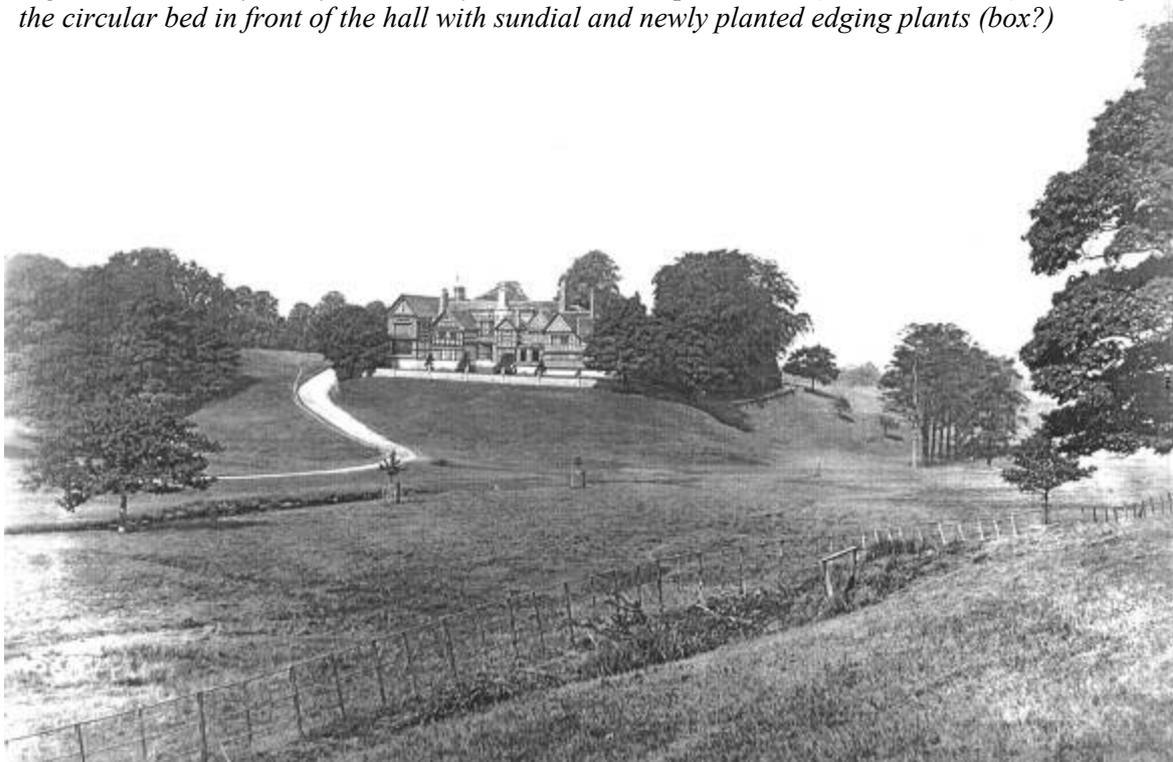


Figure 24: View of Hall from east by Malcolm Davenport c1870 (CRO DDX 74/2) showing the east drive sweeping up the well-maintained grass slope in front of the hall and the open parkland setting on all sides.



Figure 25: View of the Hall from the east c1880 (Bramall Hall Guidebook) showing the effect of the weir in Lady Brook creating a reflective water surface.



Figure 26: A close up view of the east terrace (nd but prior to Nevill changes). Davenport's terrace was built of stone, being roughly coursed at the base and regularly coursed on top with a stone coping. Note also the stone carved urns on top of the evenly space pillars. (Davenport Photographs – Album compiled by Friends of Bramall Hall 1947, Bramall Hall Collection)



Figure 27: The original main gateway into the Hall from the south side and (Bramall Hall Collection. The heads are now in the fireplace of the Great Hall.)



Figure 28: Bramall Hall c.1855 showing the garden beds in front of the south wing before Nevill's alterations and the introduction of the lawn area – shown in the top right corner (Davenport Photographs – Album compiled by Friends of Bramall Hall 1947, Bramall Hall Collection)



Figure 29: Plan attached to Title Deed of purchase by Charles Nevill 7th May 1883 (Stockport Town Hall Legal Department)

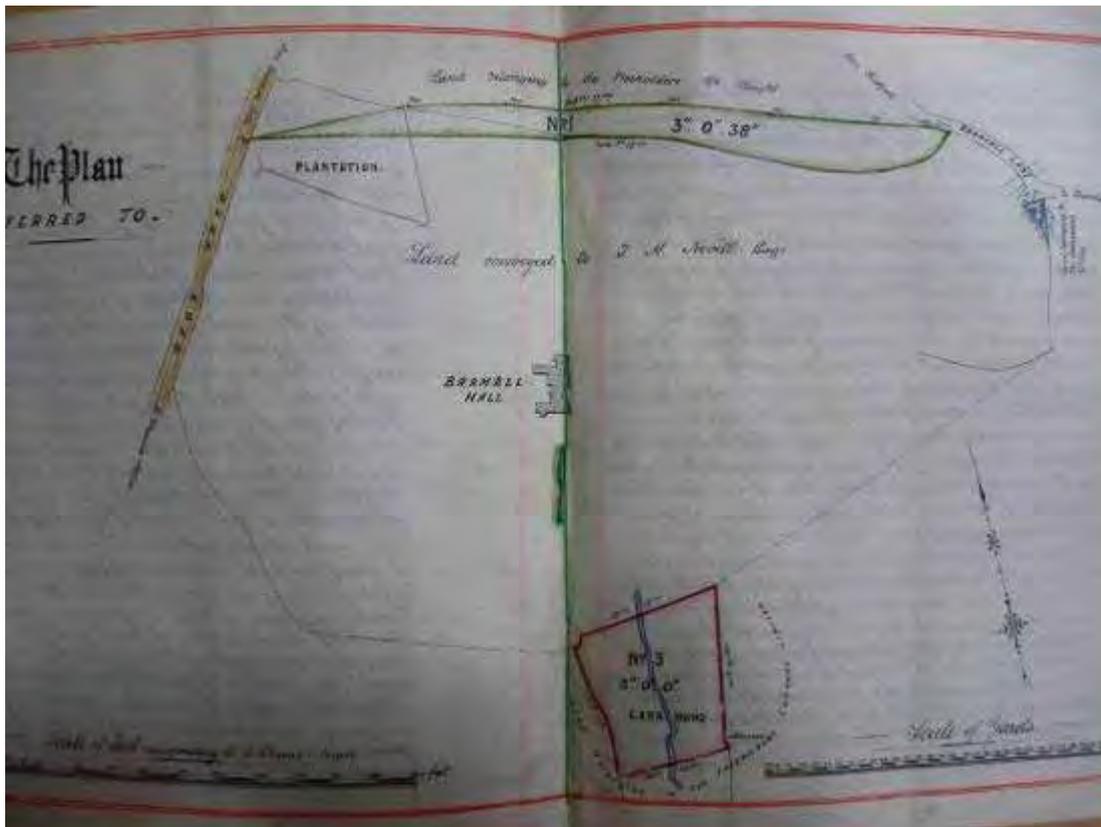


Figure 30: Plan attached to Deed of Sale of 3 plots between Henry Hankin, Thomas Lingard and the Freeholders Co. Ltd., and Thomas Nevill dated 26th February 1886 (Stockport Town Hall Legal Department)

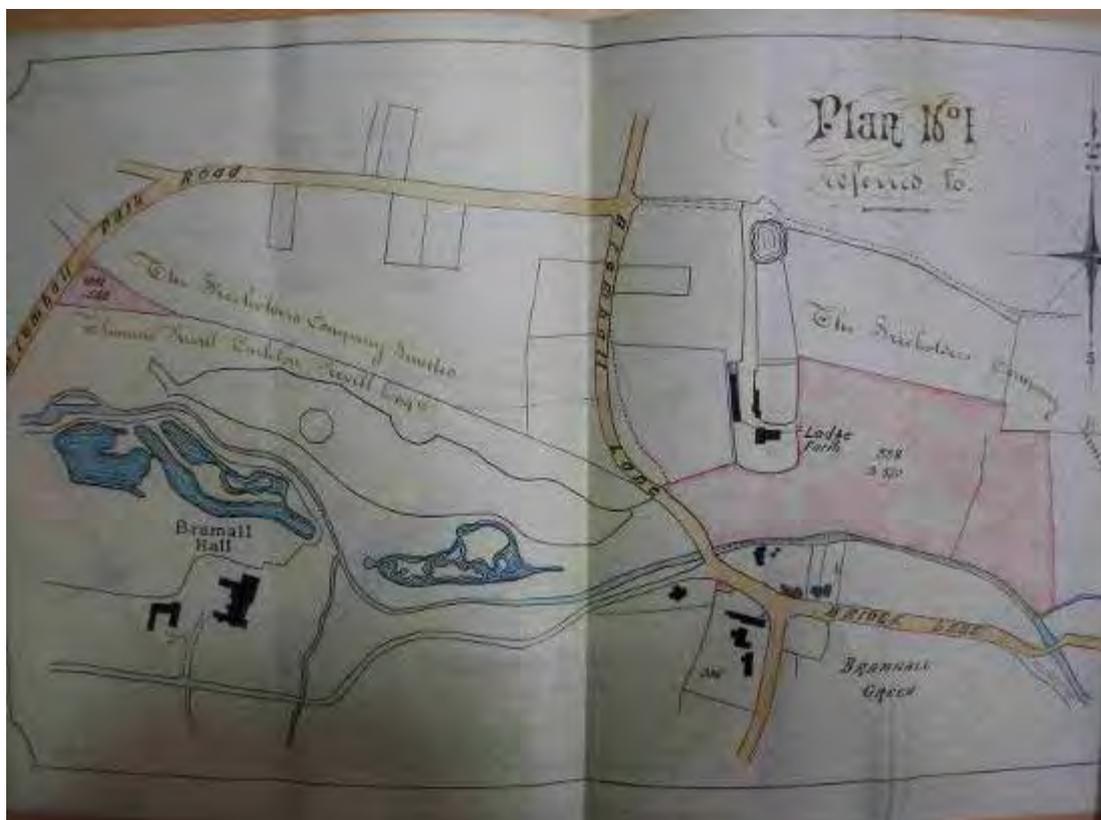


Figure 31: Deed of Sale between Freeholders Co. Ltd., and Thomas Nevill for 2 plots of land dated 30th May 1918 (Stockport Town Hall Legal Department)

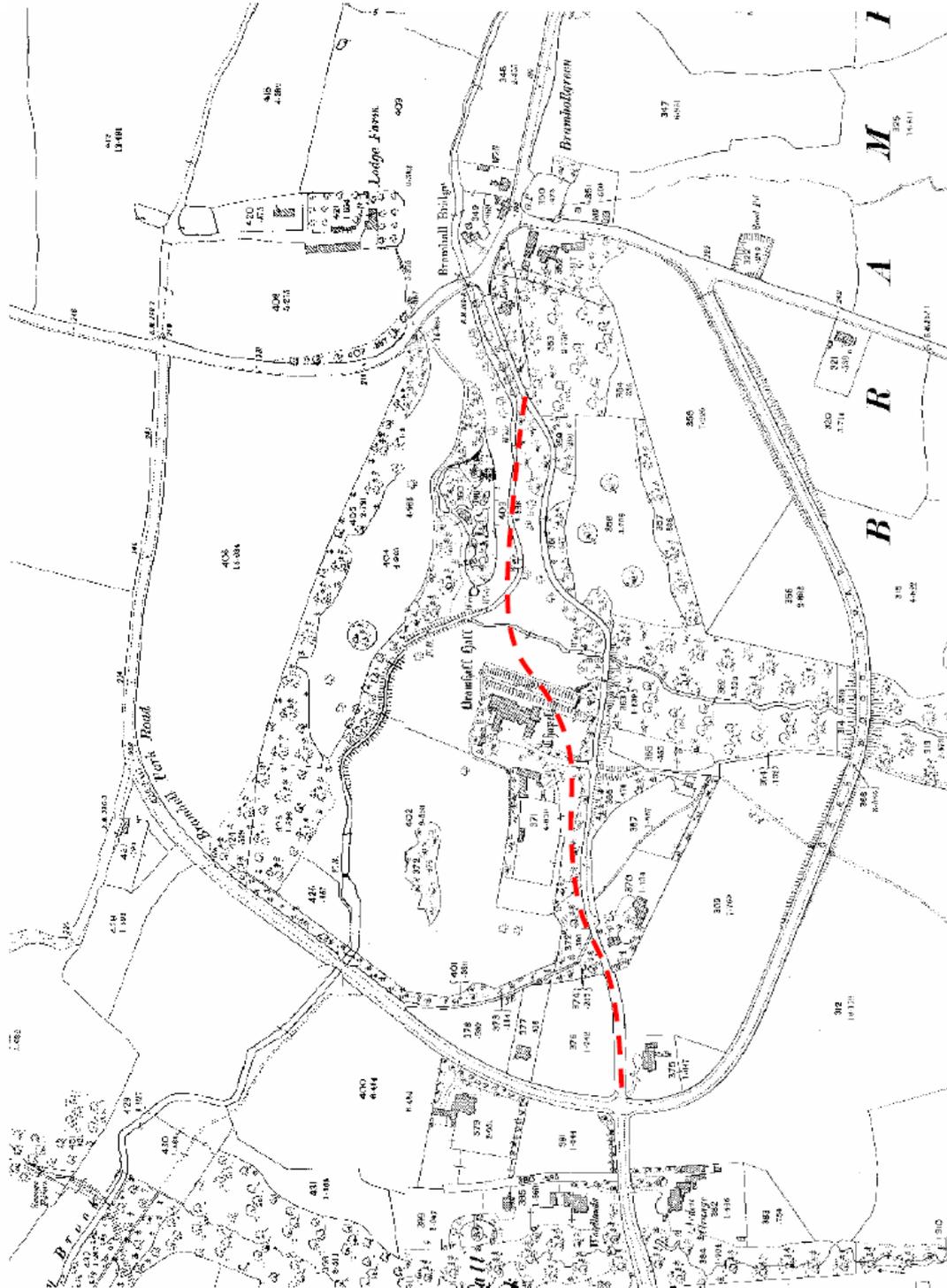


Figure 32: Extract from 1898 OS Map, 2nd Edition, 25" to 1 mile (Sheet XIX.II) also showing Davenport's original drive alignment (in red).

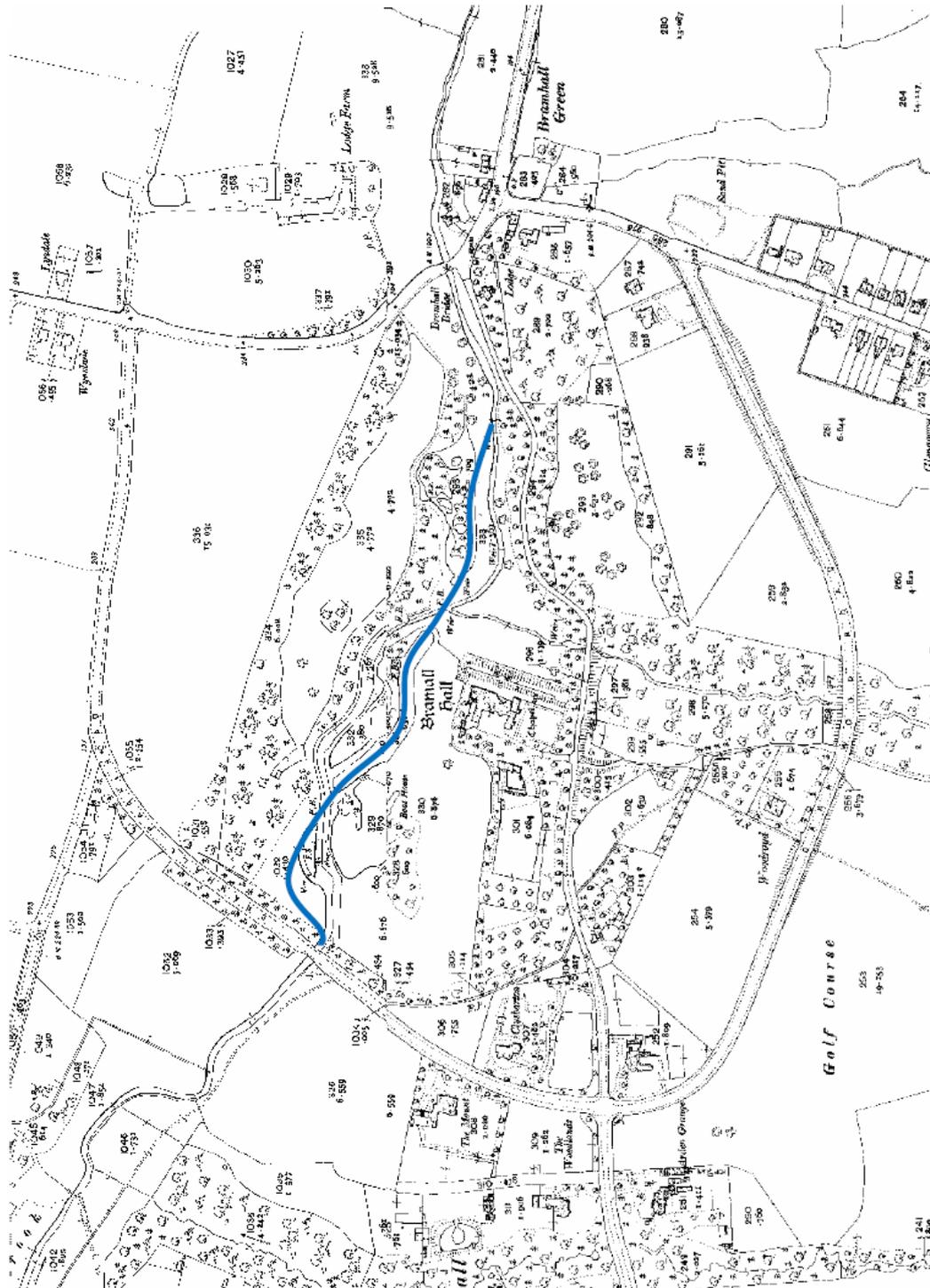


Figure 33: Extract from 1909 OS Map, 3rd Edition, 25" to 1 mile (Sheet XIX.II) also showing the original course of the Lady Brook (in blue) and how it was incorporated into the layout of the ponds.



a) The East Lodge built by 1888 and housing the head gardener. The gates probably remain from the earlier Davenport era.



b) From the gateway the drive follows the original route of Davenport's with long distance views of the hall, now screened by tree growth.



c) Nevill engineered a curving drive to give varied views and planted the margins with shrubs and conifers, some still remaining.



d) The new alignment necessitated the construction of a large embankment over Carr Brook.



e) As part of the new route a cutting was made through the ground above Carr Wood and retained by an ornamented wall on the hall side.



f) The entrance to the hall courtyard from the main drive with overgrown shrubbery flanking both sides of the low stone wall.

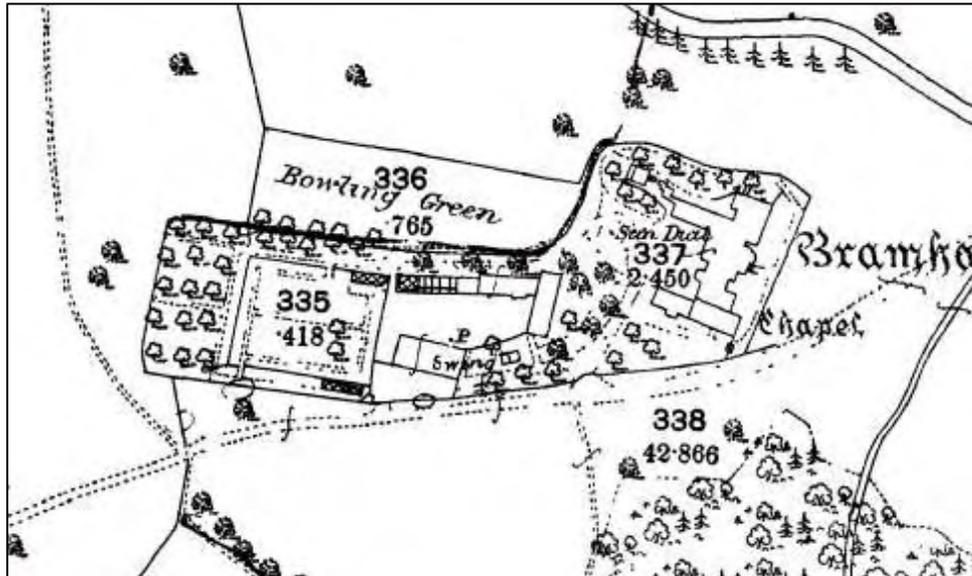
Figure 34: Nevill's new drive from the East Lodge at Bramhall Green to the south side of the hall



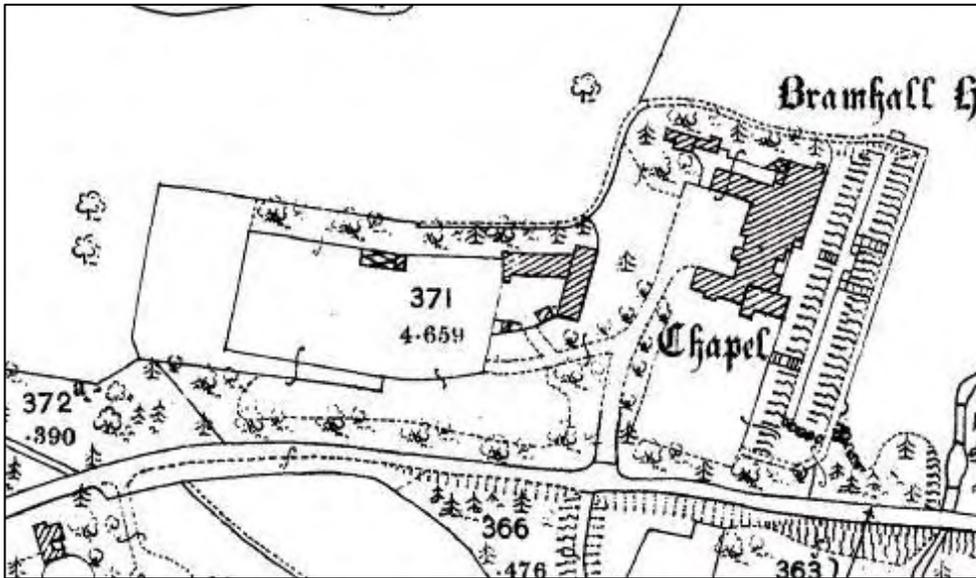
Figure 35: Photographs of Nevill's new eastern terrace and Bowling Green, illustrating an article in Country Life 1903.



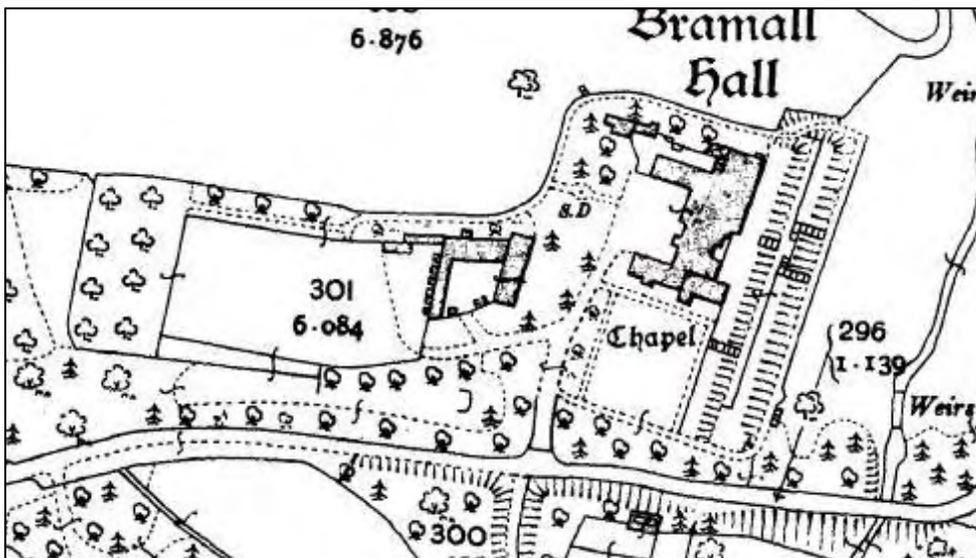
Figure 36: View of Nevill's terrace from the new drive showing the rockery formed at the southern end (above) and detail of the rockwork and stone cobbles path (below).



1875



1898



1909

Figure 37: Nevill's development of the stables and the walled kitchen garden as shown by map evidence. 1872 map extract shows Davenport's layout and subsequent maps illustrate changes carried out by Charles Nevill.



Figure 38: The new entrance arrangement to the Stable Courtyard introduced by Charles Nevill c1900



Figure 39: Inside the walled kitchen garden today. The gate in the wall was the entrance into the vinery or fernery as described in John William Handley Davenport's Inventory. The wall beyond was extended by Nevill to meet the new wing of the stable block added c1900.



Figure 40: The garden area created between the extended walled garden and the new alignment of the drive. Nevill planted the bank overlooking the drive with ornamental shrubs. The bed and beech hedge were introduced when the grounds became a public park after 1935.



Figure 41: The first weir introduced by Nevill on the original course of the Lady Brook which enabled him to divert water into the eastern pond. This was the first pond created by Nevill and is shown on the 1898 OS Map.



Figure 42: An early 20th century photograph of the eastern fishpond showing an open aspect when viewed from the hall and Nevill's island planting dominated by conifers.

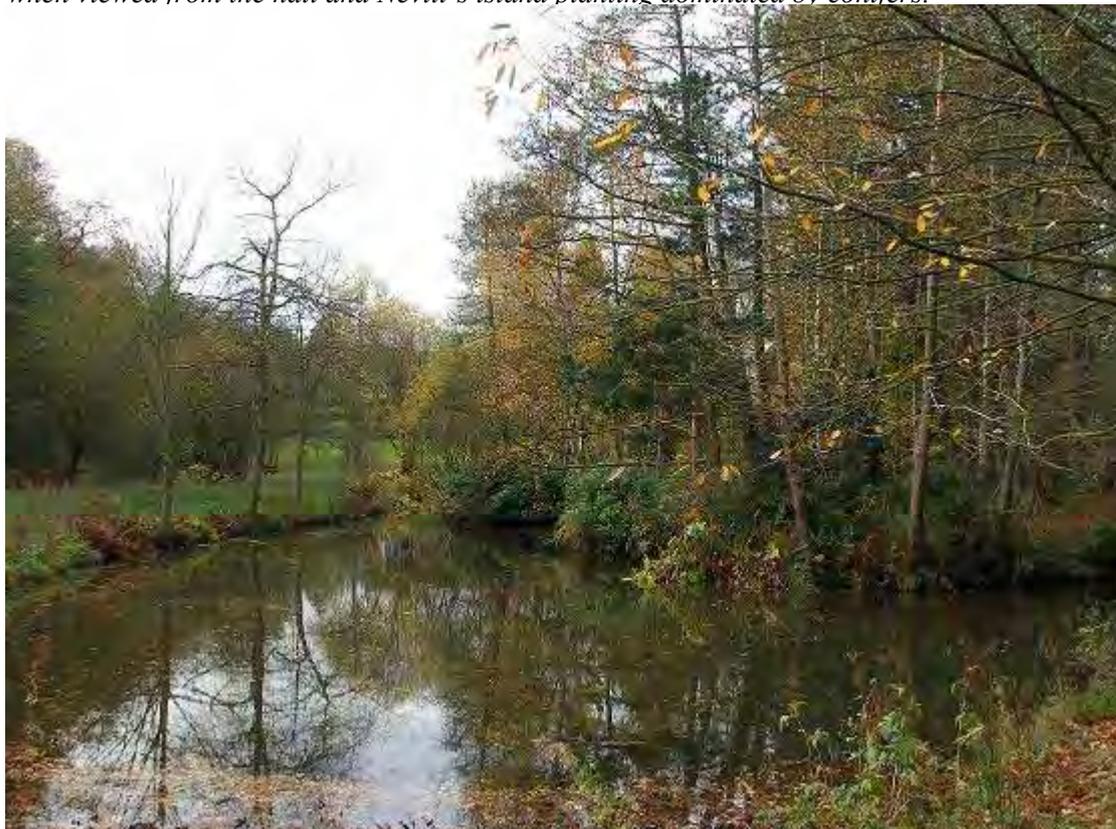


Figure 43: The same view today with self-sown tree growth obscuring views and Nevill's original planting.



Figure 44: Nevill created a swirling pool below a cascade flanked with rocky outcrops on the re-aligned river course, which is still appreciable today.



Figure 45: The western, lower lake was the last to be created with a deliberate larger open surface for aesthetic affect, complete with boathouse (now gone). The view from the hall and the lawn areas above has become obscured by recent tree growth around the lake.



Figure 46: Nevill introduced many new trees into the grounds of Bramall Hall including this beech clump at the eastern end of the park.



*Figure 47: Nevill's terraces with low shrubs against the brick walls and a formal plant bed in the lawn area (Illustration from *Bygone Bramall*)*



Figure 48: View from Nevill's terrace c1930 showing an open parkland with a clear view of the pond and river corridor (Illustration from early Bramall Hall Guidebook) and below the same view today.





Figure 49: Watercolour by Alfred Sale Watson painted in 1922 showing the character of Nevill's terraces and artificial lakes (painting held at Bramall Hall)

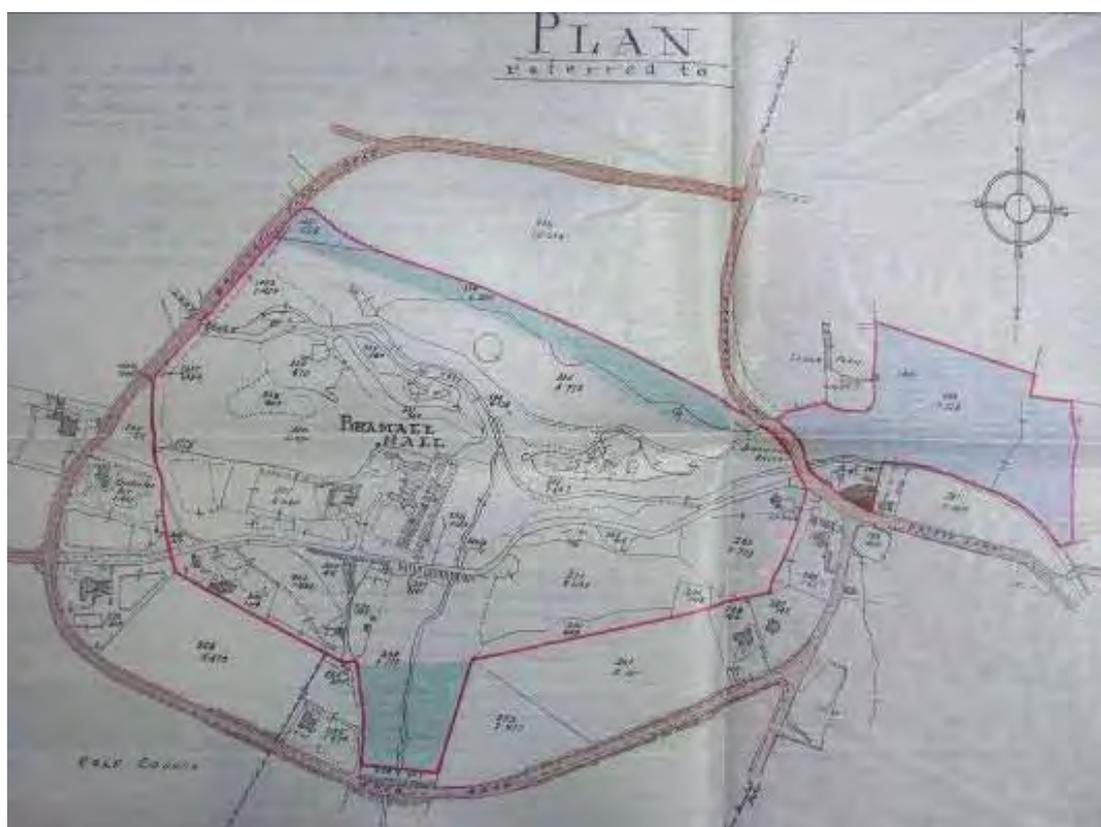


Figure 50: Plan attached to deed of sale between Thomas Nevill and John H. Davies dated 30th September 1925 (Stockport Town Hall Legal Department)



Figure 51: Plan attached to deed of sale between Mrs. Davies and Hazel Grove and Bramhall Urban District Council dated 7th October 1935 (Stockport Town Hall Legal Department)

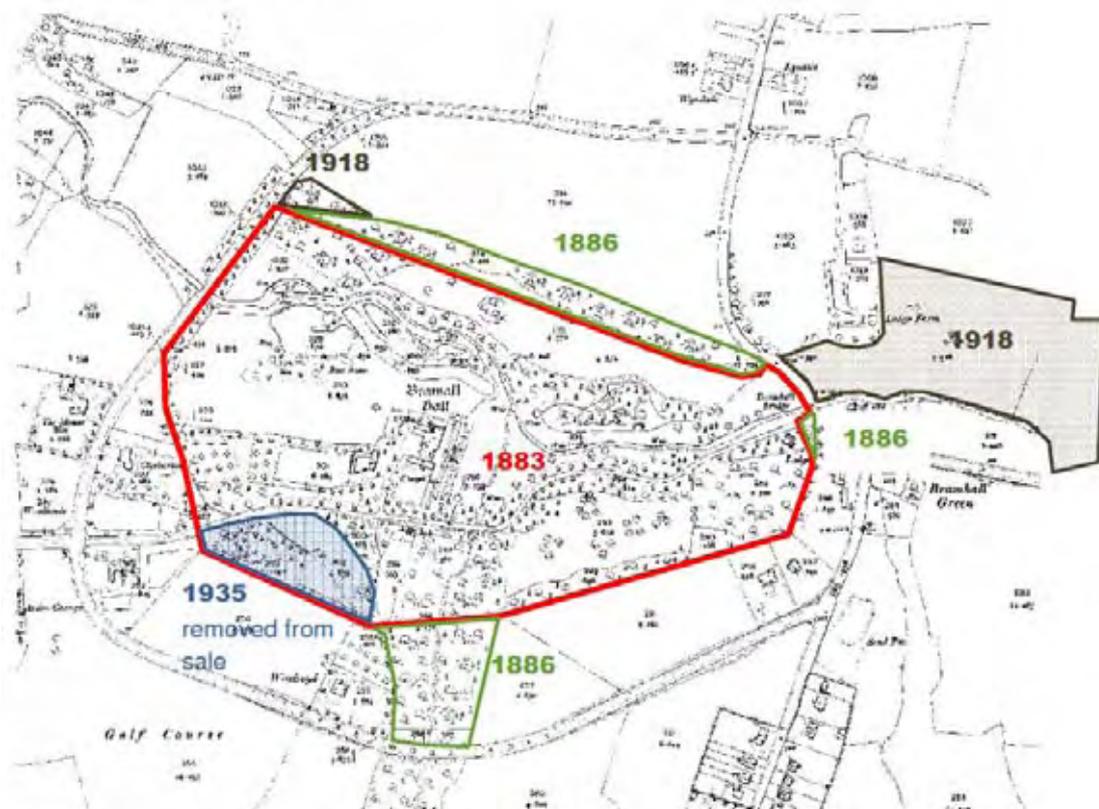


Figure 52: Changing park boundaries from 1883 to 1935 (on 1909 OS Base Map)

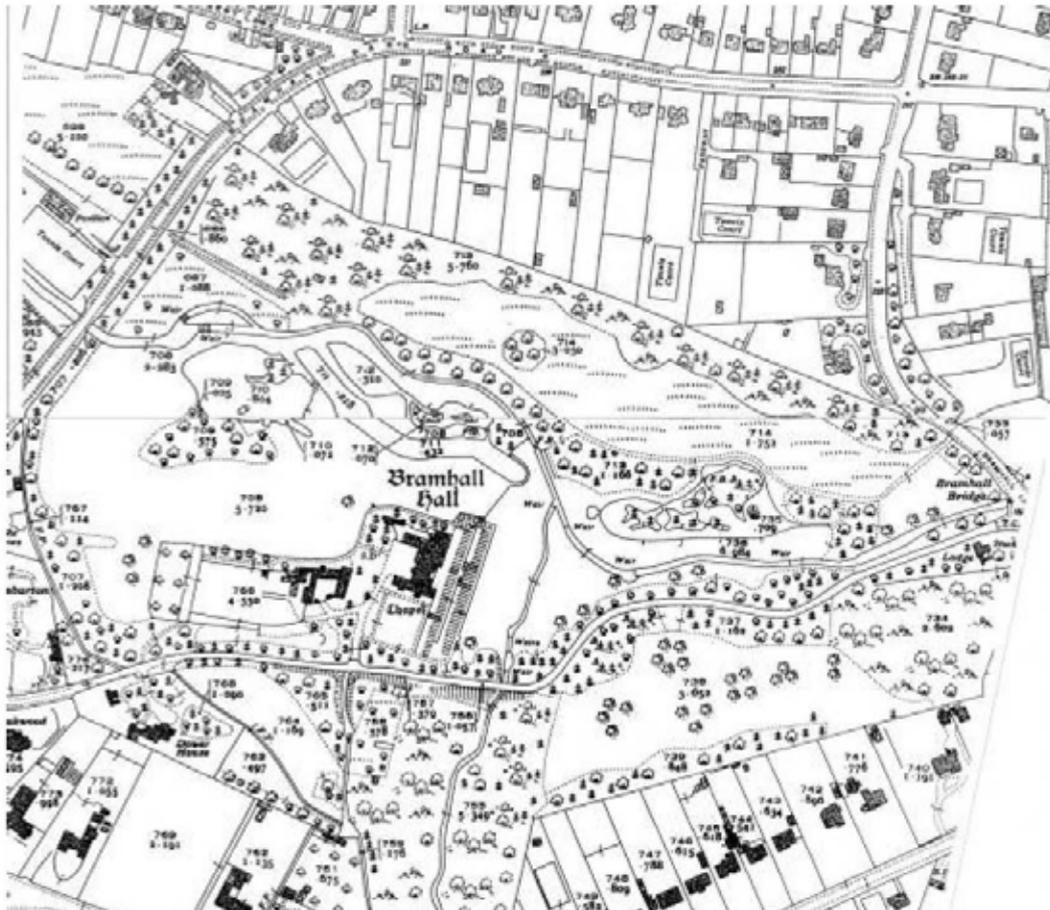


Figure 53: Extract from 1935 OS Map



Figure 54: Lakeside path introduced by Hazel Grove and Bramhall UDC following acquisition of the park in 1935.



Figure 55: Aerial Photograph c1940s

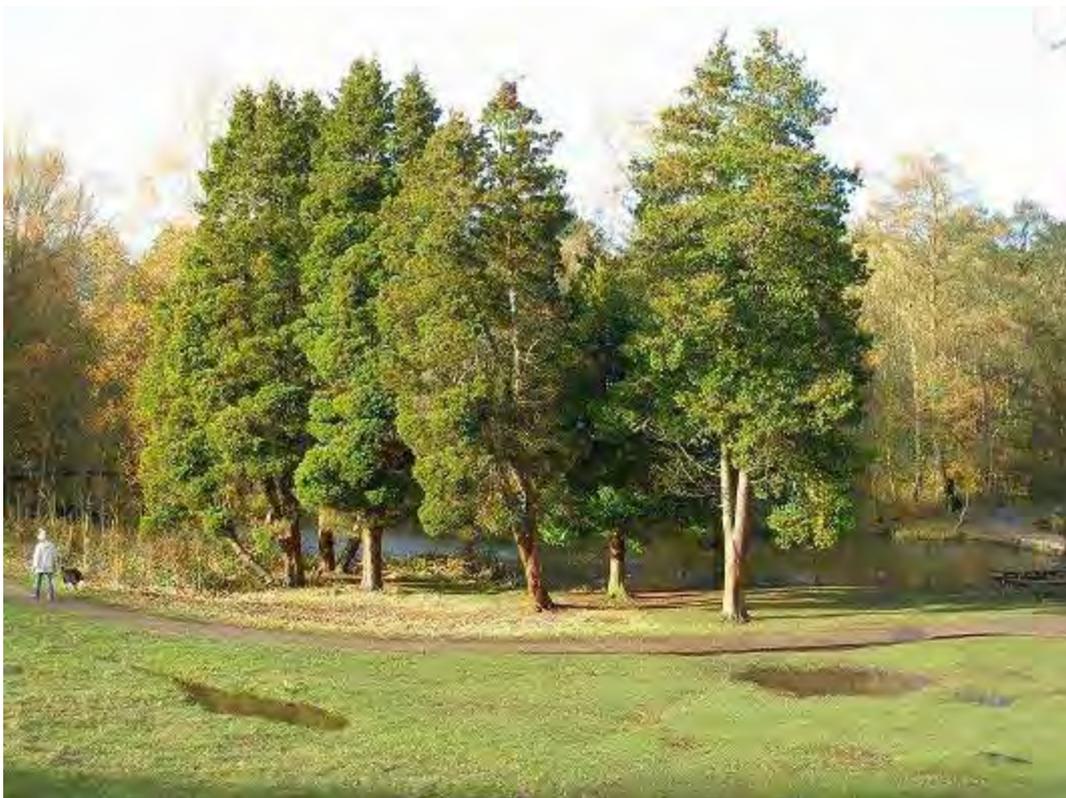


Figure 56: Ornamental conifers on the edge of the boat house lake planted by Hazel Grove and Bramhall UDC in the 1960s



Figure 57: Cover of 1976 Guidebook showing the restored terraces



Figure 58: View of ha-ha walk and beech avenue planted in 1983 to replace the over mature beech trees which had damaged the ha-ha wall.

2.6 The Development of Bramall Hall

2.6.1 *Timber-Framed Gentry Houses In South Lancashire And Cheshire*

Architectural and topographical writers have frequently commented on the exceptional heritage of large timber-framed houses in the South Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Cheshire regions of the North West of England. Sir Nikolaus Pevsner listed the ‘four best timber-framed Mansions of England’ (Pevsner & Hubbard, *Cheshire*, 1971) all in the North West: Bramall Hall, Little Moreton Hall (Cheshire), Speke Hall (Merseyside) and Rufford Old Hall (Lancashire). Anthony Emery describes Bramall as ‘one of the three outstanding timber-framed houses of the north-west’ (*Greater Medieval Houses of England and Wales*, Vol. II, 2000). The estimation of these writers, whose publications and research are national (or at least English) in scope, is helpful in setting Bramall Hall in national context.

Other significant timber-framed houses in the region include Samlesbury Hall (Lancashire), Ordsall Hall (Salford) and Baguley Hall (Manchester). A number of other examples have been lost, moved (for example Agecroft Hall) or substantially affected by later alteration (for example Wythenshawe Hall). One house which has been compared to Bramall, Sutton Hall near Frodsham, has survived very partially – a two-storey family wing, now encased in brick, with upper rooms and decorative timbering comparable in terms of elaboration to the South wing of Bramall Hall and to Tatton Old Hall.

The C16 and C17 timber-framed tradition in the North-West region flowered into extraordinarily elaborate timbered decoration, illustrated, for example, by Great Underbank Hall in Stockport, the later C16 houses of Nantwich and most noticeably by the great houses already mentioned. Nicholas Cooper comments on the apparently ‘competitive if not obsessive’ decorative timbering of houses in the region (*Houses of the Gentry 1480-1680*, 1999). In more general terms the houses illustrate a trend for increasing interior elaboration with specialization in room use and growing emphasis on privacy. This was marked by the introduction of storeyed halls, sometimes as a conversion of existing open halls, providing a high status upper chamber, with concomitant alterations to circulation and heating arrangements. Increasing desire for privacy is expressed through provision of more elaborate private family rooms.

A feature of all but one of Pevsner’s ‘best four’ is that they are courtyard houses (Rufford is the exception, though a courtyard plan may have originally obtained). In each case the houses were built incrementally, achieving the plan over a period of more than one generation, sometimes with much older remains incorporated, as at Speke. The basic plan conforms to the standard late medieval model, of central hall with cross-wings. A strongly hierarchical plan form is characterised by the presence of an entrance leading to a cross passage or screens passage, dividing the hall from the services, with the ‘high’ end opposite leading to private parlours or chambers. Early medieval kitchens were often detached. At a later period they were usually incorporated into the service end of the building. Most large establishments would also have a brew house.

This basic medieval plan-form is typically elaborated by the extension of the accommodation in both wings, maintaining the hierarchy. Thus extended service accommodation may be provided in the low-end wing, while additional family and guest rooms might extend from the high end; family chambers were also placed at first floor level over the services, as at Little Moreton Hall, for example. Other accommodation could include lodgings for family members, guests or a steward, a chapel, and a gatehouse. Typical refinements in the C16 included the provision of a long gallery, a room of high status which provided indoor exercise and association, very often enjoying fine views and acted as a status symbol. There would be stables for riding horses, and often associated barns and farm complexes.



Figure 59: Little Moreton Hall, with C16 long gallery built onto an earlier gatehouse range

Of the houses mentioned, Little Moreton Hall (*Figure 59*) probably represents the most complete example, retaining the courtyard plan and long gallery. The particular circumstances of its history mean that this house escaped substantial alteration in the C18 and C19. At Rufford only the great hall remains relatively untouched, with loss of family wing and rebuilding of the services. Bramall and Speke fall somewhere between – in both cases C19 owners effected repairs and restorations which enabled the buildings to continue in family use for a period at least. Another significant factor is the preservation of elements of the setting, which has been lost at houses such as Baguley, Ordsall and Sutton and severely compromised at Speke. At Bramall and Rufford, on the other hand, a parkland setting has been preserved, in part at least, and Little Moreton Hall stands in the countryside.

Later phases of building and restoration at Bramall are, as with Speke Hall, of significance in themselves. They are important historically, illustrating Victorian taste and attitudes to old buildings. In addition they have intrinsic cultural and artistic worth. At Bramall the approach of Charles Nevill, who acquired the place in 1882 through his father, was especially notable and unusually conservative in approach. Records show that he personally supervised much of the work and was anxious to keep as much of the fabric as he could. The input of his designer, G.F. Armitage, is of special merit.

The acquisition of historic houses by local authorities or trusts in the early C20 was often prompted by sales, abandonment or endowment by owning families. These could be ancient landed gentry with long historic association with the property, or others who had bought properties or estates from them, typically in the C19, at a time when newly enriched industrialist families often built or acquired great houses. Contributory factors to disposal could be dynastic failure, sometimes associated with loss of sons in the First World War and declining economic fortunes. This was accompanied by increasing public awareness of the loss of built heritage and appreciation of its worth. Local authorities, local groups, individuals and organisations such as the National Trust who acquired historic properties often allied preservation of heritage with more wide-reaching aspirations for public education and recreation, including enjoyment of open spaces as public parks. All of the principal four examples mentioned came into public or National Trust ownership during the first half of the C20.

2.6.2 *Development of Bramall Hall to the C17*

Although the ownership of the manor is well documented there are no specific records of a building on the site in the earlier medieval period. The manor was owned by the de Bromale family who had acquired it in the mid to late C12 (University of Manchester Archaeological Unit (UMAU), 'Bramall Hall Stockport An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment' Revised edition, 2006). The existing building could have originated in the C14, perhaps on or near the site of an earlier building, and may have been started circa 1370 at approximately the time of the marriage of Alice Bromale to John Davenport. Although certain elements of the present building suggest a pattern of evolution the exact sequence of events can probably only be retrieved by scientific dating techniques and intensive building analysis.

The present building stands on three sides of a courtyard with the hall (G8) in the central (east) range flanked by a cross-wing with opposing porches in line to the north. On the south side of the hall a short one-bay range (Anteroom G5, and Library, G6) stands in line with it, and was possibly under the same roof. To the north of the Great Hall is a gabled cross wing, for services but upgraded and remodelled in the late C16. This central core is flanked to the north-west by a long, narrow, formerly detached North wing. The narrow gap between this wing and the hall range was in-filled at a later, unknown date. The North wing is attached at the east end to a range of service rooms in a north east wing, including a large kitchen (G17) and pantries. At the other end of the main building and attached, is the South wing, with a chapel (G4) on the ground-floor, east end, and a superbly decorated upper room, west side (F2), sometimes called the Ballroom.



Figure 60: North wing, with in-filled gap between this and the hall range, to the right

The conjectural C14 building would almost certainly have consisted of a hall, open to the roof and probably heated by a central hearth, with a screens passage and services in rooms at one end and private family rooms at the other. Some sources suggest that the present hall structure may retain C14 work, but no direct evidence has been found to support this theory. A partly truncated closed truss between the attic (S3) over the Plaster Room and the attic (S4) over the Withdrawing Room may be the earliest fragment of roof structure extant in the hall range but appears to be no earlier than the C15 in date; dendrochronological dating may shed more light on the construction sequence.



Figure 61: One of two C15 open roof trusses in the N wing, the stack is a later insertion

The North wing (*Figure 60*) has been previously associated with a C14 date and is often described as a service wing. In fact the wing appears to have originated as a relatively high status range, probably for family members or possibly as independent lodgings, and with a roof consistent with a perhaps mid C15 date. With first floor rooms formerly open to the roof, this is comparable with the South wing in form, but almost certainly of earlier date. The North wing roof open trusses (*Figure 61*) have some parallels with Welsh examples where the suggested date range is the first half of the C15 (Dr Philip Dixon, pers. comm.).

The north wing was completely detached from the main building with a gap (subsequently in-filled) between it and the main building. This is shown particularly clearly on a late C18 view of the place from the West (*Figure 62*), held at Bramall Hall.

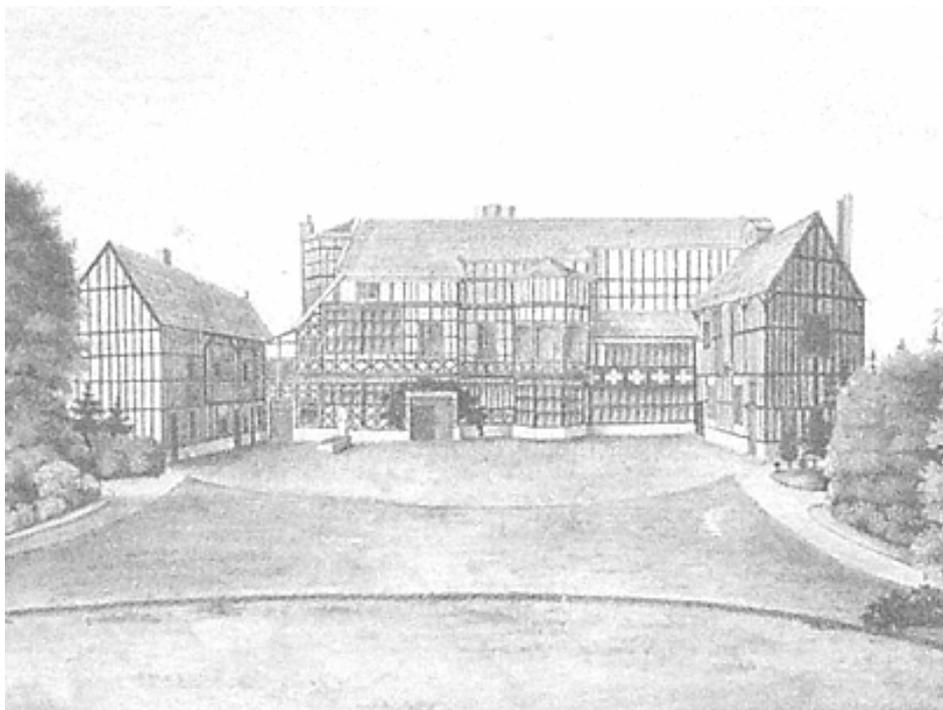


Figure 62: Plate 4 from UMAU report showing detail of late c18 view

The date of the South wing is also conjectural. The pattern of external timber-framing and bracing of the walls of the North and South wings is very similar, possibly in order to create a symmetrical appearance. The scale, roof structure and decorative detailing is quite different however, with details in the South wing suggesting a late C15 date, and a higher status. On the other hand certain elements such as the mullioned windows, including those uncovered in the chapel during the 1880s and an oriel supported by arms of the Bromale family, have led some writers to suppose that it is C14, substantially rebuilt in the C15 as high status family rooms with chapel and reception rooms below. Other sources (for example Emery) suggest that the wing, including the chapel, is of one late C15 build. The upper Western room (F2) in this range is exceptional for the high quality of the timber detailing, with cusped windbraces, brattishing and spandrel carving to arch-braced tie-beams (*Figures 63 and 64*). The latter feature is also seen at Little Mitton Hall, Lancashire, thought to date from circa 1500.



Figure 63: The roof to the Ballroom (F2)

The roof over the eastern part of the wing has a slightly different roof form, also richly decorated, with steeply cambered, moulded tie-beams and cusped wind braces, and evidence that the whole room was decorated with a polychrome painted scheme, in the early C17.



Figure 64: Richly moulded open roof in the east side of the South wing

Wall paintings on the north and east walls of the west upper room (F2) are exceptional, and represent the most extensive surviving decoration of its type in the North-West. The rarity of C16 wall paintings generally, especially in Northern England, underlines the importance of the Bramall examples. Two schemes of different dates have been identified. A recent study has concluded that the wall paintings are generally of C16 and early C17 date, with the earlier and more extensive scheme, based on tapestry design, thought to have been executed in the first half of the C16. (K. Davies, *Artisan Art, Vernacular Wall Painting in the Welsh Marches, 1550-1650*, 2008) (Figure 65). The style of costume of the musician figures was current during the early C16. The painted scheme features a dense range of scenes, figures, foliage and grotesques, as well as two large musician figures. Analysis of the motifs has the potential to identify sources for elements of the design which were often derived from Continental, especially Dutch and French sources, reflecting a love of dense, varied ornament.

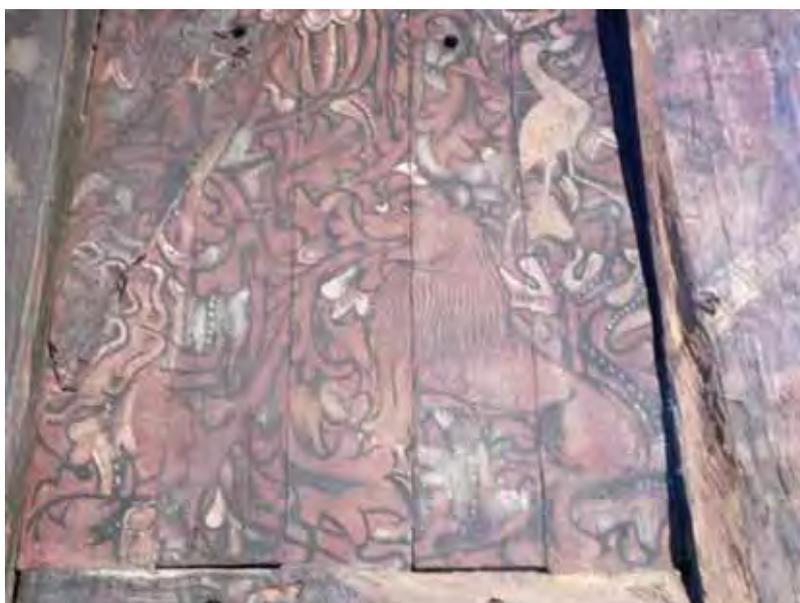


Figure 65: Detail of early C16 wall painting with a lion, on N wall of the ballroom (F2)

Broadly similar decorative work of about the same date can be seen in the Green Bedroom at Cothay Manor, Somerset, and on screens in Hornby Church, Yorkshire. Analysis undertaken during conservation in 1987 identified two or possibly three different hands responsible for the work, seen in the contrast between the accomplished treatment of the large figures and the somewhat cruder rendition of the hunting scenes. (C.Babington, Courtauld Institute, 'Bramall Hall Report on the Conservation of the Painted Imitation Tapestry in the Ballroom' Typescript dated Winter 1987). The same study also suggests the types of paint and techniques employed.

A later scheme, executed in a style often known as *Antique* work, is of early C17 date (*Figure 66*). A comparable local scheme is at Wythenshawe Hall, Wythenshawe. A similar design, with putti holding scrolls or drapery, is seen in both examples. Alfred Burton recorded the discovery of a black, red and white painted scheme in the roof space (S1) over the Chapel, with a date of 1610 and Davenport initials painted on the west end of this space, partly destroyed during 1880s roof repairs for Nevill. This scheme survives in good condition within the east gable and the fragment from the west end of the roof dated 1610 was salvaged and preserved in a frame, now in the Nevill Room (F5) (*Figure 67*). Advice to painters written by Henry Peacham in 1606 gives a good general idea of the approach which appears to have been adopted for both types of decorative work extant at Bramall: ‘An unnatural or unorderedly composition for delight sake, of men, beasts, birds, fishes, flowers etc without ... Rime or Reason ... You may, if you list, draw naked boyes riding and playing ... Ribands, Satyres, Tritons, Apes ... and any kind of wild trail or vinet after your own invention, with a thousand more such idle toyes, so that herein you cannot bee too fantastical’ (quoted in Davies, 2008).



Figure 66: Detail of early C17 'Antique' decoration within E gable of S wing attic (S1)



Figure 67: Fragment of decorated plaster dated 1610 from the west end of the roof space S1 over the chapel, now in the Nevill Room (F5)

The Chapel (G4) (*Figure 68*) is a room of very high quality which incorporates some original and some restored windows similar to those of the other part of the wing. The survival of a chapel in recognisable form is notable, with parallels elsewhere, although this is an unusually large example. Wall paintings here include a Crucifixion figure of pre-Reformation date overlaid by post-Reformation black letter inscriptions. Late medieval stained glass was reinstated to the east window as part of a 1940s restoration, following another major phase of restoration in 1938 paid for by Charles Wrigley and undertaken by the Manchester architects Oakley & Sanville.



Figure 68: The chapel prior to late C19 restoration by Nevill, showing painted text on the west wall (from a photograph in the chapel, probably taken by Malcolm Davenport between 1855 and 1869)

The Hall (G8) retains elements of the original layout, including doors to services at the North end. The central doorway (now late C19) leads to a central passage, probably in a medieval position, with a pointed arched opening to the right of this, referred to as the buttery hatch. There was probably a screen between the opposed doors of the east and west porches, but no clear trace of it remains and the hall ceiling has been restored on several occasions since the C16. Mention of a 'skreene' in an inventory of 1541 (UMAU Report) suggests it must have been present at that time. Doors flank a high-end bench at the south end of the hall. This is described in various accounts (including Henry Taylor, *Old Halls in Lancashire and Cheshire*, 1884) as being the 'Lord's bench' with Perpendicular carving, but only one bench-end seems to be of early date.

Of what was probably an ornate plasterwork ceiling only one part, with a pendant, survives in the hall bay; the present plaster ceiling for the body of the Great Hall is plain (*Figure 69*), with beams added by Nevill. The fragment of plaster pendant detail in the bay suggests that the whole room would have been decorated with a rich plaster ceiling, similar to the late C16 Withdrawing Room (F8) ceiling in the room above. The polygonal hall bay is a fine example of a type often found at the high end of houses of this status, comparable with those at Little Moreton Hall, Samlesbury Hall and others (*Figures 70 and 71*). The fireplace and doors to the west porch, shop and central service passage are late C19 in date, but the east porch door is a good example of an early framed door probably of C16 date, and the north door leading to the staircase is a fine quality panelled door of late C16 date that matches the first floor Withdrawing Room doors.

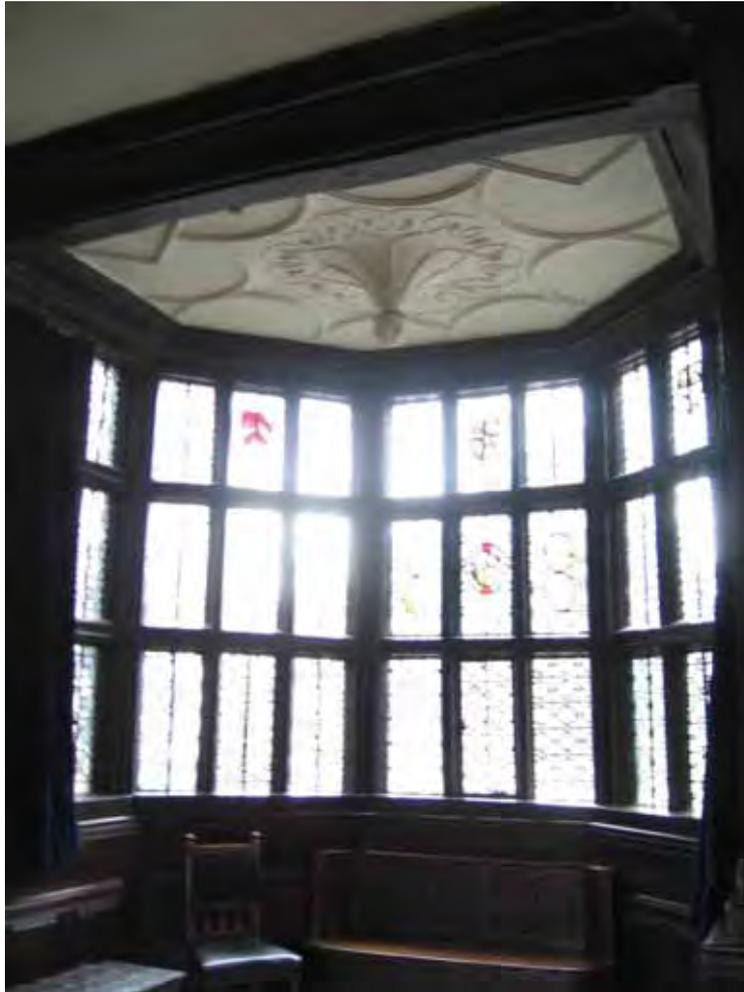


Figure 69: The hall bay with late C16 plasterwork



Figure 70: Samlesbury Hall, the hall bay, C16



Figure 71: Little Moreton Hall, detail of Hall bay

The arrangements in the hall range reflect a major phase of alteration for the Davenports in the late C16. The work included remodelling or, more likely, the rebuilding of the north part of the hall range to create a chamber above the hall, a long gallery at second floor level over the full length of the hall range and associated north-west stairs. The long gallery was taken down after 1809 (*Figure 72*).



Figure 72: Engraving by Peter de Wint from 1809 sketch, showing the long gallery; it was removed shortly after 1809

Many sources indicate that an existing open hall was remodelled at this time with horizontal subdivision of the space, however little evidence can be found to support this assertion and it is likely that the entire range was rebuilt with a higher roof level, though analysis of structural timbers has the potential for elucidating this point. Various date inscriptions have been recorded that suggest a building campaign undertaken at the end of the C16. They include dates of 1590 (E hall chimney, lost), 1592 (Withdrawing Room, over N door), 1599 (Plaster Room N wall) and 1609 (hall overmantel, lost). New heating arrangements were installed around the same time and brick chimneys (mostly replaced by Nevill) were probably inserted at this time. In this respect there is a parallel with Little Moreton Hall, where the horizontal subdivision of the hall was accompanied by the insertion of brick chimneys.

The Withdrawing Room above the Hall (F8) (*Figure 73*), a room often described as a Great Chamber, reflects increased levels of comfort and has a highly decorative treatment. This would have been, with the Long Gallery, the highest status area in the late C16 and C17, where the family could entertain guests in an environment reflecting their wealth, loyalties and aspirations.



Figure 73: Withdrawing Room from the SW

The ornate plasterwork ceiling (*Figure 74*) features curvilinear geometric forms incorporating trail designs with pendants of several different designs. The design, with stars, lozenges and quatrefoils, is a simplified version of one illustrated by Walter Gedde published in 1615. His *Booke of Sundry Draughtes* incorporated patterns drawn from a wide range of sources, including many current before the date of publication (*Figure 75*).



Figure 74: Withdrawing Room ceiling detail

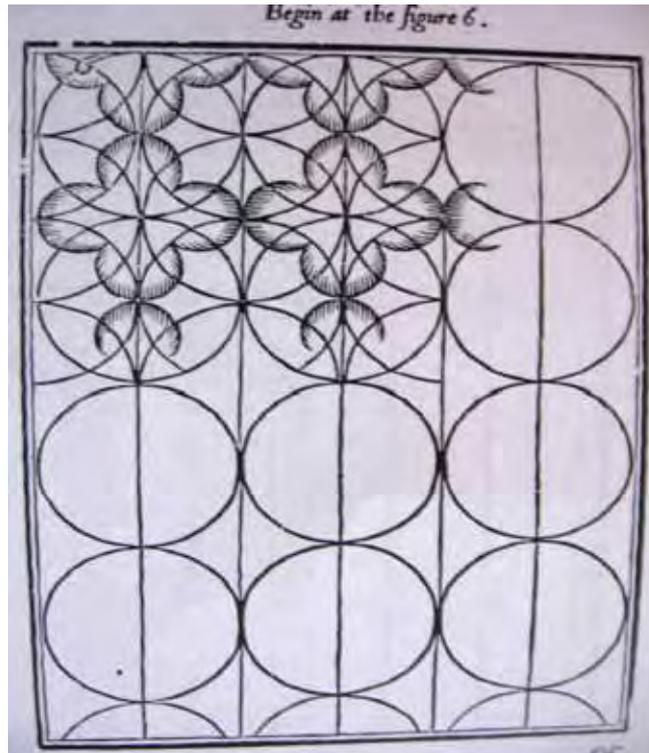


Figure 75: Pattern similar to that of the Withdrawing Room ceiling illustrated by Walter Gedde, 1615

The plasterwork chimneypiece (Figures 76 and 77) with demi-figures, or terms, and a strapwork overmantel cartouche reflects the taste current at the time. The cartouche is very close to patterns, widely disseminated at the time, by Jan Vredeman de Vries, published in Antwerp in the mid C16 and commonly used as a source in England thereafter.



Figure 76: Illustration of a strapwork cartouche by Jan Vredeman de Vries, mid C16



Figure 77: Withdrawing Room fireplace with late C16 overmantel (oak infill is late C19)

Vredeman's *Caryatidum* published circa 1565 (Figure 78) was another popular source for designs, and the terms at Bramall show some similarity with certain designs.

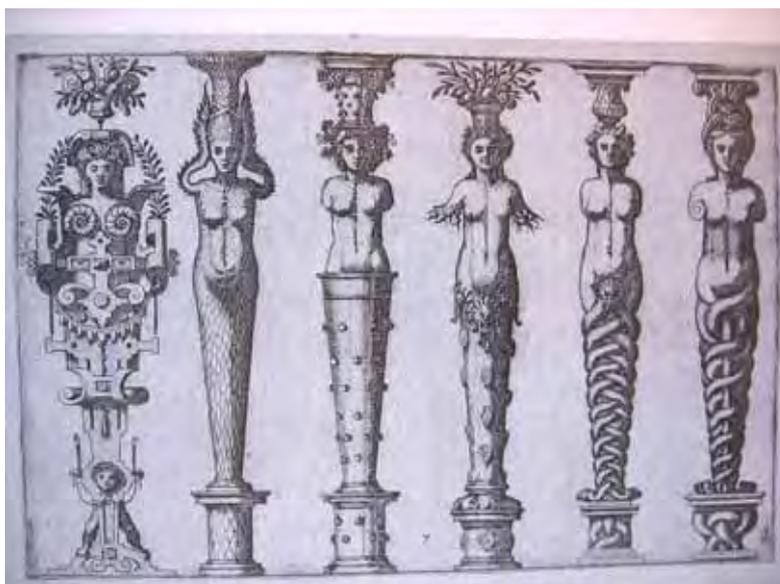


Figure 78: Illustration from *Caryatidum*, 1565, by Vredeman de Vries

One of the notable decorative features of the complex is the window leading. It was commented on by Henry Taylor, who described it as ‘having much beauty, the leadwork being arranged in ingenious interlacing patterns’. In some places it appears to be original, probably dating from the end of the C16, when the fashion for extensive glazing had been spread by improved constructional and manufacturing techniques and by liberally glazed Great Houses of the type designed by Robert Smythson. Some of the glazing patterns can be related to those appearing in Walter Gedde’s book of *Sundry Draughtes* noted in connection with the plasterwork. It is apparent that during the 1880s original patterns were copied for new or replacement glazing (*Figure 79*). One of the patterns is also used for windows in the bay at Little Moreton Hall, raising the possibility that this may have been a source for the design. The trompe-l’oeil effects are also seen in the tumbling cube design, also illustrated by Gedde, in the Anteroom window. The extremely high quality of the work, intricacy of the patterns and common features makes it possible that the same craftsman or team was involved at Little Moreton and Bramall (*Figure 80*). Such work is very vulnerable to accidental damage, as well as changing fashions, and it very rarely survives.



Figure 79: Leaded glazing, South stair, similar to a pattern illustrated by Walter Gedde, Figure 48, Booke of Sundry Draughtes



Figure 80: Comparable glazing detail, Little Moreton Hall

During the late 18th century, some of the Withdrawing Room windows were replaced with sashes, particularly on the west front and it is possible that as part of later reinstatement in the C19, historic glass was moved around.

The late C16 alterations required modifications to circulation arrangements, and the North stair (G11, F9) was almost certainly added at this time to give access to newly-created upper rooms. It is not known if the wing containing the North stair was built anew in the late C16 or if an earlier cross wing was remodelled to receive the stair. If remodelled, the space occupied by the stair would almost certainly have originally been a buttery or pantry at ground-floor level. The room now occupied by the shop (G10) was probably originally a buttery or pantry. The stair itself is of a type known as a cage newel stair (a much more ornate example survives in restored form at Staircase House, Stockport). The Bramall staircase was substantially restored in the 1880s by Nevill.

The original kitchen site is unknown. Kitchens were often placed in line with a central service passage, such as the one which exists at Bramall (G15, G25). The fall of land in this area means that it may not have conformed to the norm, and as at Chetham's Hospital (now School and Library) in Manchester, where land falls away in similar fashion, it could have been placed to one side. The exact history and date of the present kitchen (G17) is unclear. A plinth against the West wall adjacent to the passage suggests that it is of separate build to the North Wing, however it is in line with the wing and beneath the same roof line. Further investigation of the (currently inaccessible) roof structure may assist with interpretation and phasing here.



Figure 81: NE range with kitchen in gabled cross wing to left and pantries to right in added, plainer range

The short connecting block between the South wing and the Hall range (Anteroom and Library, G5 and G6) is possibly of C15 date, but windows in the North wall of the chapel suggest that the rooms on the north side of the chapel are later, and that the South wing was detached. Detached wings of uncertain function, but possibly provided as lodgings, have been identified in several North-Western contexts. Examples include Arden, Ardene or Harden Hall, Bredbury (wings demolished) Denton Old Hall, Denton (demolished) and Barton Hall, Barton where only the detached wing survives. Alternatively, the north chapel windows may have opened to a corridor or straight into the adjacent room; the sequence is not clear in this area. The Anteroom and Library may be of a different build to the existing main hall range, but the loss of most of the roof makes it difficult to recover the original form. The floor levels of the upper rooms (Plaster Room F6 and Paradise Room F7) are lower than both the South wing upper rooms and the Withdrawing Room, and appear to have escaped the late C16 remodelling when the Withdrawing Room was created at first floor with a higher roof. However, if F6 and F7 represent later infill it might be expected that the floor levels would coincide for ease of movement.

Panelling was removed from the Plaster Room in the 1980s and the exposed timber-framing shows doors in different positions, though the partitions (which do not follow partitions on the ground floor) are almost certainly the originals. There are traces of red coloured painted decoration on beams in the Plaster Room, the detail partly lost and partly obscured, but the colours suggest it may have been early C17 Antique work (*Figure 82*); it does not extend to the surviving roof truss on the partition line between hall and Plaster Room, suggesting the decoration was done after the Plaster Room was ceiled. The Paradise Room incorporates a plasterwork frieze of C17 character.



Figure 82: Stencilled decoration to tie-beam beam soffit, and C16 ceiling in the Plaster Room

2.6.3 Development C18- Late C19

Little is known of the history of the building during the C17 and C18. Probate inventories of C16, C17 and C18 date (UMAU report) give some indication of the numbers of rooms and their functions, and accounts by Barbara Dean (*Bramall Hall: The Story of an Elizabethan Manor House*, 1999) and Ormerod (revised ed. 1883) pinpoint sources which indicate the probable dates of demolition of the West gatehouse range (circa 1774) and the long gallery (by 1819). A clock was built on to South wall of chapel in 1739. A manuscript written by Alfred Burton states that the upper storey of the North wing was originally open to the roof, forming a dormitory for servants, and that a painted inscription recorded repairs of 1746 (Burton manuscripts, *The Manor*, quoted in Dean).

The 10th William Davenport, who inherited in the mid C18, seems to have been responsible for some alterations to the hall and estate. A ground-floor room in the North wing ((G26) now a staff room) has an overmantel with classical pilasters and panelling probably of mid-C18 date. This suggests the room enjoyed relatively high status, possibly acting as an estate office or private sitting room. The present stable range originated in the C18 as a symmetrical block facing the main building. It is possible that it was built after the demolition of the West courtyard range in circa 1774. The building seems to have been augmented in several phases, with the addition of a North range (now the café and kitchens) in the late C18 or early C19 (*Figure 81*).

An account of 1790 (by Lord Torrington, quoted in Dean) states that by that time many original windows had been replaced by sashes, also shown in views of the hall from the early C19, such as an engraving by de Wint of 1809 (*Figure 84*).



Figure 83: Bramall Hall from the east, in an engraving of a drawing by Ewan Christian (from Haberschon, 1836)

Photographs and images dating up to the 1850s show 12-pane sashes on main elevations, but photographs dating from 1855 to 1869 in Cheshire Records Office, show that most of these had been replaced with C16-style leaded windows, indicating an earlier 19th century phase of restoration before Nevill's work. Further research may identify which areas of historic glazing are in situ.



Figure 84: Sash windows to the west elevation, in an engraving by Peter de Wint from a sketch of 1809 (Ormerod 1882)

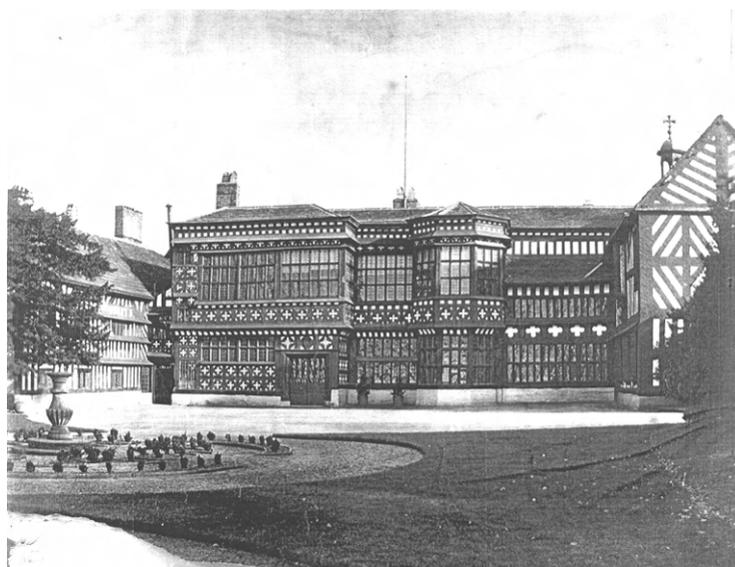


Figure 85: Restored mullioned and transomed windows to the Withdrawing Room west elevation, c.1870 (Cheshire Records Office)

It is possible that after demolition of the long gallery and the reconstruction of the roof in the early C19, structural timbers as well as panelling were re-used in different locations within the house. The existing roof over the hall range is a plain roof structure consistent with an early C19 date. The addition of a canted bay window to the Morning Room (G10, now the shop) may have occurred during this period; the basement level of this structure survives below the bay which was later remodelled by Nevill.

An account by Henry Taylor (*Old Halls of Lancashire and Cheshire*, 1884) prepared before Nevill's alterations began, probably in the 1860s or 70s, mentions 'numberless alterations'. Alfred Burton states that the rooms in the North wing were 'modern' before Nevill alterations began, and that the original layout was impossible to retrieve (Burton manuscript, Chetham's Library). Earwaker in 1877 had described the rooms in this wing as 'small, badly lighted and ill-arranged' (p. 449). Other changes of unknown date include the loss of the original Hall ceiling, which was probably of plasterwork with pendants similar to the ceiling in the chamber above, and removal of the screen. Various spaces were subdivided with partitions, including the first floor chamber above the chapel. Panelling was introduced to the Ballroom (F2) in the South wing and the Plaster Room during the early C19, concealing the timber-frame and painted decoration.

Bramall remained in Davenport hands, though it passed through the female line. It was leased to Wakefield Christy of the hat-manufacturing family from 1869 until 1876 during the minority of John William Handley Davenport. Photographs taken c.1870 (*Figures 85 and 87*), show that some of the sash windows present in 1855 had by then been replaced with mullioned and transomed windows, but it would be surprising if Christy undertook substantial restoration during such a short leasehold. The manor and lands were conveyed to Davenport when he came of age on the expiration of the lease. He made arrangements to sell the place almost immediately and a sale of contents took place in 1877. The estate was subsequently acquired by the Freeholders Company and the hall stood empty until the Nevill family bought it in 1882 (Dean, 1999).

2.6.4 *Development 1882-1916*

Bramall Hall and grounds were purchased in 1882 by Thomas Henry Nevill, a calico printer who owned Strines printing works near Marple. He gave it to his son Charles Nevill, who was effectively the head of the firm. Charles had married Mary Jane Booth, daughter of a Rochdale cotton spinner, in 1878.

A major programme of restoration and alteration followed Nevill's acquisition of the Hall. The work undertaken is reasonably well understood thanks to records made by Alfred Burton (plan dated 1883 and unpublished manuscripts at Bramall Hall and Chetham's Library) and by Henry Taylor. Two plans of circa 1883 or 1884 (*Figure 86*) showing proposals for 'Rearrangement' offer more information. Nevill was keenly interested in the history of the house, intent on keeping older elements and scrupulous by standards of the day in effecting restoration in matching style. In many cases existing work was preserved beneath new finishes, for example in the Nevill Room (F5) where new oak panelling and moulded posts overlays the preserved timber-frame.

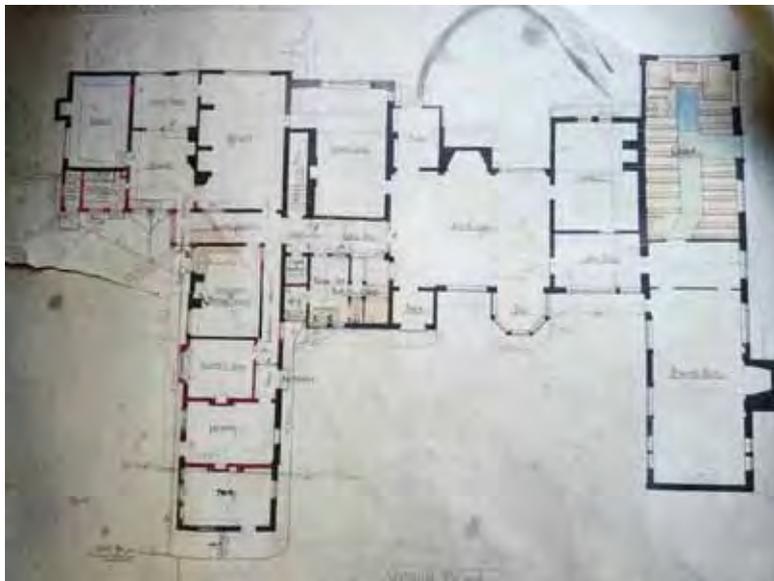


Figure 86: Ground floor plan of the 1880s, with red areas indicating proposed alterations in the N and NE wings (Stockport Council)



Figure 87: East front c.1870, before work by Charles Nevill was undertaken (photograph by Malcolm Davenport, Cheshire Records office)

Nevill's most external notable work involved remodelling the roof of the main hall range by adding gables he assumed has been lost by the addition and removal of the long gallery. Little Moreton Hall was used as a model for the gabled top of the Hall bay. There was substantial restoration of timber-framing, barge boards, decorative features and windows lost through decay or earlier replacement. Internally, major work included the renewal of the South staircase and repair and alteration of the North staircase, new joinery in matching or Arts and Crafts style to doors and architraves and the re-fitting of some rooms, relaying floors and planing and polishing timber framing, some recorded by Alfred Burton.

Nevill created a guest suite in the first floor of the North wing (F27, 28, 29, 30) and refurbished and altered servants' accommodation on that side of the complex. The undated late C19 plans suggest that the north-western wall of the North wing was partially rebuilt and re-fenestrated, and that partitions between first-floor rooms were rebuilt. Judging by Henry Taylor's birds-eye view showing the place before Nevill's work, this part of the North wing had already been rebuilt or encased in brick, hiding or partly removing the original timber frame.



Figure 88: Part of the servants' accommodation on the second floor of the NE wing, added in the late C19 by Nevill

In the North-East wing internal reconfiguration took place with a small second floor extension added to provide a series of rooms for servants' accommodation (*Figure 88*).

The late C18 or early C19 bay in the Morning Room (G10, now shop) was removed and a bay with flat roof and C16-style window was installed, as part of the remodelling of this room as a dining room; a hatch was installed in an internal wall connecting with the kitchen.

Extensive repairs and replacement of internal fixtures such as doors were carried out, with new door furniture added to historic doors. At the head of the principal staircase, an attic room was re-fitted as a sitting room for Mary Nevill, with Arts and Crafts fittings designed by GF Armitage, dated 1891 over the fireplace. Nevill was assisted by George Faulkner Armitage (1849-1937) of Altrincham, who created high quality fittings including carved fireplaces and fine door furniture to his own design (*Figure 89*). These elements of the refurbishment are of outstanding quality and reflect an eclectic taste incorporating stylistic elements associated with Arts and Crafts style and the Aesthetic Movement, notably in the use of Japanese motifs such as sunflowers.



Figure 89: Door plate and handle designed by Armitage on the outer face of north Withdrawing Room door

Armitage had exhibited art furniture and decorative pieces at the Huddersfield Exhibition in 1883, which drew him to the attention of the press. Other work by him include extensions to Stoneleigh in Huddersfield (circa 1891, listed building description), extensions to Abney Hall, Cheadle in 1893, the war memorial in Bowden, and carved misericords at Chester Cathedral (Pevsner, Hubbard, Hartwell and Hyde, *Cheshire*, forthcoming). He was also responsible for rebuilding Brockhampton Court (Herefordshire) in 1893 (listed building description), and remodelling Calder Abbey in Cumbria in the early C20 (M. Hyde pers. comm.). The celebrated architect and planner Barry Parker (1867-1947) was articulated to Armitage from 1889-1892 (*Dictionary of National Biography*, 2004-9). The fact that Parker (who did not start an independent practice until 1894) acted as clerk of works for Armitage at Brockhampton raises the interesting possibility that he may have also had involvement at Bramall. A small house by Parker in Marple of 1896 exhibits good ironwork detail, and he also designed several houses in Buxton in the 1890s and later in vernacular revival style, some of which are said to keep good ironwork and other original detailing (*Dictionary of National Biography*; *Listed Building Descriptions*; Hartwell, Hyde & Pevsner, *Cheshire*, forthcoming).



Figure 90: Richly carved fireplace installed in the first floor room above the chapel (F5), for Nevill, designed by Armitage with Aesthetic Movement motifs

The room above the chapel (F5) was fitted out with a new timber ceiling, moulded posts, fireplace (*Figure 90*), glazing and panelling, for use as a billiard room. This work was probably done in the 1890s; Burton does not refer to work in the room before his death in 1890. A two-storey projection on the south side of the chapel (G3 and F4) is also Nevill's work, dated 1896, but this is not shown on the 1880s proposal plans. Improved services such as heating, with apparatus installed beneath the hall floor, and almost certainly, new plumbing, kitchen and sanitary arrangements were made at this time. A cloakroom with WC (G14) was installed in the former butler's pantry below the principal stair, and the butler's pantry relocated to the panelled room (G26) in the N wing, with new fitted shelving.

Other work involved the outbuildings and ancillary accommodation. It is known that Nevill demolished some buildings in the walled garden area, including a shippon (Burton Ms), but it is not clear where this building originally stood. Current excavations have not found building footings in the area of a large building shown in the 1st edition OS map, but a timber-framed building could have had very shallow footings, vulnerable to loss during any levelling works in the walled garden area. Additions were made to the stables in circa 1900 (*Figure 91*) when a West range was added, comprising stalls for four horses and a tack room with loft over. For further details of the alterations of this period see Appendix B.



Figure 91: West stable range, added by Nevill c.1900

Charles Nevill was a Conservative who took a close interest in the local politics. He became a county councillor in 1889. He eventually resigned in 1896 owing to ill health (he suffered from a hip disease and later in life became lame in one leg), but remained active in local affairs. He also remained involved in business concerns, which seem to have diversified by the late C19 to include a smelting works at St Helens which became a munitions factory during the First World War. His wife died in 1901, and as they had no children arrangements were made for the property to pass to a nephew, Thomas Stiff, who later took the Nevill name. He inherited Bramall upon the death of Charles Nevill 1916. The younger man had married in 1910 and since that time had lived in the Hall Cottage with his wife (information on the Nevill family from Dean, 1999).

By the end of 1921 it was decided to put the Hall up for sale, probably because of the rising costs of upkeep in a difficult economic climate. The house did not sell but the contents were dispersed at an auction held in 1923. Another attempt to sell it came in 1925, and it was announced that the building and fittings would be divided into lots and demolished if a buyer could not be found. Attempts to save the Hall soon began, with considerable local interest and with the involvement of the SPAB and Ancient Monuments Society (Dean, p.80).

Stockport Corporation became involved in May 1925, but their offer of £15000 for the hall and grounds was turned down by Captain Nevill. The 1925 sale went ahead but no purchaser came forward until a few weeks afterwards, when John H.

Davies bought the estate for £15000. He stated that he wished to save the place from the housebreaker. Davies had married into the wealthy Tate family and made his own fortune in development and brewing. He died soon after, in 1927. His wife continued in residence until 1935 when she sold it to Hazel Grove and Bramall Urban District Council (UDC) having refused to let it go for development. The purchase was made with a grant from Cheshire County Council and the Hall was opened to the public in 1936 by which time a caretaker was living in accommodation in the northern part of the house.

2.6.5 *Development 1920-1974*

The chapel was restored at the expense of Charles Wrigley, a local resident by the architects Oakley & Sanville, work undertaken in 1938 using 19th century photographs by Cyril Davenport as a reference (Dean, 1999; plans held by Stockport Council Conservation department). The work included replacement of decayed timber, repairs to the fabric and new sanctuary fittings; photographs in the Bramall Hall collection show the chapel before and after this work. A new East window of nine lights was installed, and a small window of three lights installed on the South side. The Victoria and Albert Museum had bought ancient glass from the chapel in 1927 and this was returned on loan and reinstalled in the East window in 1947. The pews were renewed in two phases, on the north side in 1938 and the south side in 1945-46.

Other work of this period includes repairs to timbers of the Hall bay, with 'reinstatement' of the leading of the glazing. Adjacent panelling and plasterwork was replaced at the same time. Timberwork and glazing in the West and South elevations were also repaired. Electrical wiring was carried out by the Council Electrical Department. In 1943 repairs to the caretaker's wing (in the North wing) were undertaken (undated typescript, Stockport Heritage Library).

The stables were altered for use during the Second World War, when the premises were occupied by the National Fire Service (Dean, 1999). A control room was formed in the East range with a concrete floor and fourteen-inch thick walls (1942 plans in Stockport Council collection).

An active community group called the Friends of Bramall Hall was formed in 1947 and became involved in tracing and acquiring fittings and other items associated with the place. In the years which followed many items were obtained or loaned. The formation of the Friends organisation can be seen as a crystallisation of strong local interest in the Hall which manifested itself when the place was threatened with sale or demolition.

In 1950 the 'framework of the gable end of the banqueting hall [was] replaced together with attendant features.' In the following year additional central heating was installed. In 1952 a new Library (G6) fireplace was installed, as part of the library restoration work paid for by the Friends. In 1954 extensive work to the North wing included removal of decayed timber on the courtyard side and its replacement by sand and cement, with a base of brickwork, painted to resemble timbering (undated typescript, Stockport Heritage Library). Conservation work on the wall paintings took place in 1970 (undated typescript, Stockport Heritage Library). For a fuller schedule of repairs and alterations, see Appendix B.

2.6.6 *Development 1974 - Present*

Following local government reorganisation in 1974 Bramall Hall became the property of Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council. C19 panelling was removed from the Plaster Room (F7) in the 1980s, to expose the timber-frame and painted decoration on beams, during the curatorship of Susan Denyer. Works to improve the presentation of the hall to the public were undertaken, enabling more rooms to be seen; the kitchen was refurbished in c1990 and opened to the public in 1991 while servant's rooms in the north and north-east wings were furnished and opened for visitors in 1995 (Dean, 1990, p.110). Plans and elevations record major timber repairs in 1978, 1979 and 1980, by Browns of Wilmslow (Stockport Council drawings collection). The wall paintings were again conserved in 1987. In the late C20, the first floor of the North wing was remodelled as a conference suite, to help generate revenue; one of the rooms was divided to form a kitchen and insert fire escape. The north stable range was altered to provide a café with WCs added to the north side of the stable range. The west stable wing was adapted for grounds maintenance staff use.

2.6.7 *Further Research*

Further research could add to the fund of knowledge about the Hall. Dendrochronology has the potential for offering specific dates or date ranges for individual structural timbers and in some cases, other types of woodwork such as panelling. Expert advice should be sought on the likelihood of obtaining useful dating evidence. Individual timbers may not be suitable for close dating where outer layers and bark edges have been removed, or for other reasons, and care has to be taken to identify re-used or *ex situ* timbers which may complicate the picture. Measured drawings would be required of trusses and areas of timber-frame for this dating technique.

Some parts of the roof structure, especially in the North side of the complex, were not accessible owing to C19 boxing-in. Access to these areas has the potential of elucidating the relationship between the West and East ends of the North Wing. Intensive study of the roof over the hall range may help to elucidate the extent and detail of C18 and C19 interventions, and it is possible that earlier, re-used timbers may be identified.

Close study of the panelling in various parts of the complex might yield information on how it has been rearranged. In some cases dendrochronology can give dates for panelling.

Bramall Hall has notable C16 decoration and detailing. Careful study of the window glazing may help to identify how much is original, how much restored and which sections have been moved around or copied. There is also the potential for more research on sources for the designs in the C16 as well as the C19, and parallels between Bramall and places such as Little Moreton Hall. The same general point is true of the plasterwork, including that in the Paradise Room (F6) where further research might identify specific sources or parallels with other work of similar date in the region.

The wall paintings present an opportunity for more detailed study which also has the potential for identifying sources and parallels. A review of commonly used C16 printed and other sources, identification and study of possible parallels and research on the musical notation, musical instrument and dress of the figures are all areas beyond the scope of the present study which could be pursued. Expert

opinion on the analysis of pigments and techniques undertaken in 1987 may suggest if improvements and refinements in scientific methods in this field has the potential for increasing understanding of the paintings. Details of conservation and analysis of the wall painting in the Plaster Room (F7) and the roof space in the East wing (S1) have not been identified, and these areas are ones eminently worthy of further research.

Expert opinion could be sought on the possibility that paint analysis may yield useful information about successive decorative schemes in other parts of the building, such as the Banqueting Room (G1), roof spaces (S1) and Withdrawing Room (F8).

More detailed research could be undertaken into the work of G.F. Armitage which would help to set the work at Bramall into context. It would also be possible to make a study of Barry Parker's work and publications to see if any specific stylistic links can be established, and to try to establish if Parker was directly involved with work at Bramall.

2.7 Understanding the ecology of the site and buildings

2.7.1 *Appraisal of Site*

A walk over survey was conducted on the 8 October 2009 by Julia Drage, Consultant Ecologist, to identify the main habitat types present within the park. The standard reference, Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey, a technique for environmental audit (Nature Conservancy Council 1990) was used.

The following habitat types were identified.

A. Woodland

A.1.1.1. Woodland-Broadleaved-Semi-natural-Ancient replanted woodland

A.1.1.1. Woodland-Broadleaved-Semi-natural-Secondary

A.1.1.2. Broadleaved Plantation

A.1.2.2. Coniferous Plantation

A.1.3.2. Woodland-Mixed-Plantation

Wet woodland overlay

A.3.3. Parkland scattered trees-Mixed

B. Grassland and Marsh

B.2.2. Neutral semi improved grassland

C. Tall herb and fern

C.3.1. Tall ruderal

F. Swamp, marginal, and inundation

F.2.1. Marginal vegetation.

G. Open water

G.1.1. Standing water

G.2.2. Running water

J. Miscellaneous

J.2. Amenity grassland

J.3.6. Buildings

A habitat map has been produced to show the 13 main habitat types. See *Figure 92 Map* on the following page.

A desk study of existing information was also carried out to collect data on species that have been recorded in the past.

Information was provided by

- Greater Manchester Ecological Unit.
- South Lincs. Bat Group.
- Greater Manchester Bird Recorder.

Information on the location of a badger sett was also provided.

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2.7.2 *Assessment of Areas*

Habitats briefly described include:

A. Woodland

A.1.1.1. Woodland-Broadleaved-Semi-natural-Ancient

The Ancient woodland is south of the park boundary and not officially within the study area. The original designation of ancient woodland by the Nature Conservancy Council looked only at blocks of woodland greater than 2ha in extent. There is a distinct possibility that patches smaller than 2ha of ancient woodland do occur within the park.

The Tithe Map, dated 1875, shows a few small woodlands in a generally agricultural landscape that have been incorporated into the much larger planted woodland at a later date. These areas are most likely to support ancient woodland ground flora.

A.1.1.1. Woodland-Broadleaved-Semi-natural-Secondary

There are just a few small areas where woodland has been allowed to colonise naturally areas where there are no plantation trees.

A.1.1.2. Broadleaved Plantation

The 1898 OS Map shows the difference between broadleaved plantation on the west of Carr brook, and mixed plantation on the east.

A.1.2.2. Coniferous Plantation

There are few stands of pure conifer. Planting on the islands is mainly coniferous.

A.1.3.2. Woodland-Mixed-Plantation

Comparison of the Tithe map 1875 and the 1898 OS map shows the extent of the broadleaved and mixed woodland planting that was carried out on top of an agricultural landscape. A wide variety of species have been used.

The mature broadleaved woodland is important for its size and location within Greater Manchester and constitutes a BAP habitat of lowland mixed deciduous woodland.

Wet woodland overlay

There are many springs and wet seepage points on the steep valley sides within the mixed plantation woodland. These have naturally colonised with alder woodland in the last 100 years or so. In some places there are large, cut stools that have been coppiced. Unfortunately it is these areas that have also been colonised by the undesirable Himalayan balsam species. The Balsam shades out the more diverse native ground flora, but in patches important species such as opposite leaved golden saxifrage do survive and suggest that an associated invertebrate population may be present.

A.3.3. Parkland scattered trees-Mixed

A few of the remaining scattered parkland trees, largely beech, are old. These trees are important in their own right, and in that they have offered a stable refuge for deadwood invertebrates, fungi, lichens, algae so that they can move out into the wider woodland. Such species have poor dispersal abilities and need a continuously wooded environment.

B. Grassland and Marsh

B.2.2. Neutral semi improved grassland

There is virtually no rough grassland on site. The small patch that does exist is along the stream bank. This important habitat for small mammals, birds, invertebrates is sadly lacking as a food source as well as a habitat.

C. Tall herb and fern

C.3.1. Tall ruderal

To the west of the park there is an area of tall herb that is only lightly planted with trees, and densely colonized by Himalayan balsam. This open area is shown on the Tithe Map 1875 as parkland type grassland, and may be the only area that has been continuously grassed and has not been mown. This area was most probably grazed. It is recommended that this area should not be managed as woodland and is probably one of the most diverse areas for wildlife. Further study is necessary.

F. Swamp, marginal, and inundation

F.2.1. Marginal vegetation.

There is hardly any inundation or marginal vegetation - just one small patch in pond 3. This is an important habitat that should ideally be reinstated.

G Open water

G.1.1. Standing water

Pond 1, 2 and 3 were made after 1875. Pond 1 was made first and is shown on the 1898 OS map. Pond 2 and 3 were made at a later date for fish. Today they are highly eutrophic and support a large population of ducks which are fed by the public, artificially enriching the nutrient status of the water, to the detriment of many aquatic invertebrates.

G.2.2. Running water

Ladybrook and Carr brook are important fast flowing streams that have been slightly engineered to flow within stone lined banks. The streams flood their banks from time to time and support Dipper and Kingfisher, and so must have a reasonable aquatic invertebrate population associated with them.

J. Miscellaneous

J.2. Amenity grassland

Regularly mown amenity grassland has virtually no wildlife value.

J.3.6. Buildings

All the buildings were looked at for bat potential. There are many small roosting opportunities for both birds and bats within the buildings and under the large sandstone roof tiles.

Statutory and Non Statutory Sites.

Bramhall and Carr woodland Site of Biological Interest is designated as a Non Statutory Site for Nature Conservation.

It has been included on the Ancient Woodland Register as Ancient Replanted Woodland.

Protected species

Protected species within the Park that are known about are Badger, Brown Long eared Bat and Kingfisher. There is conclusive evidence from the Bat Group of Common Pipistrelle just outside the park boundary. Pipistrelle are almost certainly likely to forage within the woodland.

Bats

A bat survey was carried out by Julia Drage, Consultant Ecologist, on the 8 October 2009 under licence 20090436 within the Hall and outbuildings with a separate report on the maternity roost of Brown long eared bats is in Appendix C.

Badgers

There is a badger sett within the park, though its location is not marked on the habitat map for conservation reasons. No further information is available about this record.

Other Mammals

There are no other records available of mammals.

It is more than likely that Rabbit, Grey squirrel, Mole, Fox, Rat, Wood Mouse, House Mouse are present, but not recorded.

Anecdotal evidence from one the Rangers is that Mink often pass along the river.

Amphibians

There are no records available.

Anecdotal evidence from one the Rangers is that there is much frog and toad breeding activity in pond 1 in the spring.

Invertebrates

There are no records available except for a record of Blue banded demoiselle in Lady Brook , one of only two sites in Greater Manchester . Dated 1990.

Five common species of dragonflies. 1990. in the ponds.

There is a distinct possibility that this site is highly undervalued for its invertebrate importance.

Birds

The following species have been recorded as present within the last five years. This list is not very extensive, and is clearly missing a lot of the small woodland bird species that are most likely to be present.

Bird Species
Canada Goose
Coot
Kingfisher
Moorhen
Swift
Siskin
Sparrowhawk
Tree Creeper
Goldcrest
Cormorant
Great spotted woodpecker
Grey Heron
Mallard
Red Crested Pochard
White Throated Dipper
Wood Nuthatch
Song Thrush
Starling

Bird Species
Dunnock
House Sparrow

2.7.3 *Framework for Evaluation of Significance*

The evaluation is in accordance with the Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management's (IEEM) guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment (IEEM 2006).

These guidelines set out a 'best practice' approach to evaluate species and habitats in terms of their 'Geographical Frame of Reference' i.e. local, district, county, regional, national, or international importance.

The Nature Conservation Evaluation Framework (IEEM 2006)

Category	Context	Relevant Sites/Feature
International	Europe/UK	All internationally important sites such as Natura 2000 sites, SACs, SPAs, RAMSAR sites
National	England	SSSIs, National Nature Reserves (NNRs) and other nationally important sites
Regional	North West	These categories typically relate to resources that may be classified as non-statutory 'Local sites', as defined by Defra (2006). They are resources that would merit consideration for example as SBI in Greater Manchester.
County	Greater Manchester	
District or Borough	Stockport	
Local or parish	Bramhall	Typically within the scale of a parish/borough

Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) Habitats and Species.

This the UK Government's response to the Convention on Biological Diversity signed in 1992 and describes the UK's biological resources, and commits a detailed plan for the protection of these resources.

UK priority habitats within Bramhall Park are :-

- Wet woodland
- Lowland mixed deciduous woodland
- Eutrophic standing water.

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive requires Member States to endeavour to encourage the management of features of the landscape that are of major

importance for wild flora and fauna - features that, because of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping-stones, are essential for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange. Examples given in the Directive are rivers with their banks, traditional field boundary systems (such as hedgerows), ponds and small woods. Suitable planning conditions and obligations may serve to promote such management

As required under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, a revised list of 'Habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England' was published in May 2008. It lists 56 habitats and 943 species; this is known as the NERC S41 List or the England Biodiversity List. It supersedes a similar list in force previously, which was published in 2002 under Section 74 of the CRoW Act. The list is intended to guide local authorities in implementing their duty under section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 "to have regard" to the conservation of biodiversity when carrying out their normal functions.

The species richness, the presence of a Site of Biological Importance, the river corridor, and the potential for further improvement of species number and diversity make the Park of **District / County Importance**.

A serious limitation to the study of wildlife in this zone has been the lack of biological data available.

Evaluation of data from habitats within 1km from
Data supplied by Greater Manchester Ecological Unit.

Bird populations are assessed, using quantitative criteria, to determine the population status of each species, then placed upon one of three lists, red, amber and green.

Red list species are of high conservation concern, being either globally threatened, having historical UK population declines between 1800 and 1995 or a rapid population decline or breeding range contraction by 50% or more in the last 25 years.

(Population Status of Birds in the UK (Gregory et al. 2002))

English name	Protected species	Red listed	UKBAP
Dunnoek		*	*
House sparrow		*	*
Song thrush		*	*
Kingfisher	*	*	*
Starling		*	*

2.7.4 *Evaluation of Habitats at Bramhall Park*

Lack of woodland management

The landscape of Bramhall Park prior to Neville, was managed as grazed parkland with open grassland and individual parkland trees, or managed as farmland in the manner of the time with field hedgerows and field boundary trees. Very little evidence of either regime remains in place today with only a few clues as to the original park layout. Since Neville, extensive mixed plantation planting has converted most of the site from an open grassland pasture with trees to woodland with a few clearings or views. The plantations have developed into mature woodland with some beautiful individual trees. The lack of woodland management since the County Council purchased the property has allowed 80 years of colonisation by self sown sycamore, some rhododendron invasion, dominance of holly in the dark undergrowth, and very poor natural regeneration in some areas. In many, but not all, areas, this has led to a poor woodland structure with a closed canopy, a poor shrub layer, poor natural regeneration, and a poor ground flora. Opening the canopy to let light in to stimulate regeneration of these other layers would help provide a better environment for nesting birds, and allow a greater diversity of flora on the woodland floor to flourish which would in time increase the diversity of woodland invertebrates and biodiversity *in toto*.

Continuity of woodland habitat and importance of invertebrates.

Very little scientific investigation has been carried out within the park. It is possible that, as a proportion of the site has always been partially wooded or managed with parkland trees, that the continuity of woodland habitat would provide a suitable deadwood invertebrate fauna habitat. Indeed the Bramhall and Carr woodland Site of Biological Interest is designated as a Non Statutory Site for Nature Conservation as it has been included on the Ancient Woodland Register as Ancient Replanted Woodland. Many dead wood trees have been left in situ, or on the ground where they have fallen, not because a positive policy of deadwood management, but because of a lack of resources to move them. Dead elms have remained standing in some areas. The possible presence of deadwood invertebrates, which have a very poor dispersal ability, should not be overlooked, a preliminary invertebrate survey should be commissioned to look at the deadwood invertebrate on site, with special emphasis on the wet areas of woodland, sap runs on dying or damaged trees, rotting timber in moist areas and flower rich nectar sources such as umbellifers close to the woodland. A surviving saproxylic invertebrate fauna (i.e. those which are dependent, during some part of their life cycle, upon dead or dying, standing or fallen wood, wood inhabiting fungi, or upon other species associated with this habitat) would be of utmost importance and should not be overlooked.

Wet woodland

Wet woodland is a Biodiversity Action Plan Habitat. Although it is not possible to say what the wet woodland would have been like before the invasion of Himalayan balsam that currently dominates, there is a very high chance that it was wet alder and willow woodland, National Vegetation Classification (NVC) W6 *Alnus glutinosa-Urtica dioica* (alder and common nettle) and a W6b *Salix fragilis* (crack willow) sub community, and a W6d *Sambucus nigra* subcommunity. The wet seepage areas are considered in the woodland management plan (Woodland Management Plan Project Group, undated) as a

nuisance that require ditching and draining. These areas are potentially one of the richest and most important for invertebrates within the wood as they have been wet for possibly hundreds of years and have helped to provide continuity of habitat. Wet alder woodland is often rich in invertebrates. The wet areas must not be drained or ditched and should be protected from footpath erosion. The control of Himalayan balsam is also desirable, so that the more natural species can flourish here, but it is very difficult to control successfully without a large input of resources and man power, even then seed will be regularly introduced from upstream within the same catchment of the Ladybrook.

The ponds

The ponds were created by Neville for fish, cultural and landscape purposes, they consist of three main pools, stream fed from the Ladybrook. Pool one acts as a silt trap for the other two and is badly silted, shallow, full of leaves, probably has a poor dissolved oxygen level, and is used by frogs as a breeding ground in spring. Pool two is effectively a duck pond where the birds are fed by the public along the hard edge, and is highly nutrient enriched by droppings. Pool three supports a coarse fish population and is known to support common club rush, one of only two records in Stockport, and a rare plant in Manchester. Pool three also supports five species of dragonfly, including the blue banded demoiselle which has limited distribution in Greater Manchester. At some time in the past pool three has supported the invasive species, Azolla. All three ponds suffer from a lack of marginal and aquatic vegetation on account of steep edges and overhanging shade from self sown woodland.

Running water

The Ladybrook itself is a fast flowing stream, with a tributary from Carr Brook within the Park that at times of storm flow can burst its banks. The stream has been diverted in the past, and is contained within stone revetment banks, which in places have been eroded behind so the river is cutting a more natural channel. There is no evidence of water vole within the Park but restoration should include the possibility that water vole may once again thrive in this urban area. Currently mink are known to patrol up and down the Ladybrook and are a major deterrent to colonisation by water vole.

Bats

The maternity roost of brown long eared bats in the main hall is a good indicator of the quality of habitat within the park. Brown long-eared bats require a complex mosaic of habitats to support foraging, roosting and commuting behaviour. Deciduous forests with different ages of trees are preferred as foraging habitats, but less structured woodlands (including coniferous forests), forest edges, bushes and hedges, orchards, parks and gardens are used for insect hunting, where the highly manoeuvrable species can glean insects from the foliage. The species also likes to have a source of water nearby maternity roosts. Individual home ranges are related to habitat structures and prey abundance and vary between one and 40 hectares. Individual foraging areas overlap to a minor extent and during foraging flights bats usually stay close to the roost, travelling a maximum distance of about 3 kilometres, with core areas up to 1.5 km from the roost. Brown long-eared bat is a woodland bat that naturally roosts in tree holes, but has adapted very well to using loft spaces of large old buildings such as churches, barns and old houses, and in this instance Bramhall Hall. The species is also frequently found in bat boxes where they are located in woodland. Colonies move roosts

regularly throughout the summer when roosting in woodlands, but tend to be highly faithful to building roosts. Winter roosts are in caves, mines and cellars, where, animals prefer a temperature around 7°C, and occasionally in tree holes.

Other species of bat are bound to be present, including the common Pipistrelle, which has been found in several locations just outside the park boundary, Soprano Pipistrelle, and possibly the Whiskered, Natterers, and Noctule bat, but there are no records. The park is good feeding habitat for bats, the surrounding large gardens are also good feeding habitat, the hall and outbuildings along with the pools and water provide an ideal location for maternity roosts. Further investigative survey and emergence counts are required and should be commissioned between May and August in subsequent years. Care should be taken when felling old, or dead trees as these are often used as roosts.

Habitats not present

Habitats which are not present within the park but would be worth creating are:

- hawthorn and blackthorn scrub with no woodland cover, for birds and invertebrates;
- Rough, neutral grassland with tussocks for small mammals;
- Species rich grassland on the bank below the archery lawn for invertebrates and as a source of seed for birds;
- Fen and reed beds alongside the ponds in some places for birds and invertebrates and
- A series of small pools without fish for invertebrates and amphibian breeding.

Location

The proximity of the park next to the Golf course increases the area of habitat available for wildlife, as does the large private gardens in Bramhall. The confluence of the streams and the large extent of woodland, together with the quality of habitat, make this an important island of biodiversity in an urban environment. The lack of biological data available suggests that this habitat has been undervalued to date.

2.8 Understanding – Tenure And Current Management

2.8.1 Tenure

The property was acquired by Hazelgrove and Bramhall District Council in 1935 and since local government re-organisation in 1974 has been vested in Stockport Borough Council.

The council has the freehold of the site, however there is a small section of the site known as the Dower House field which remains in private ownership although it is not fenced separately and appears on site to be one with the main land holding.

The site includes the hall, stables, walled garden, lakes, car parks and access roads and the East Lodge. The West Lodge is privately owned and is not part of the estate.

The Land Registry entry for Bramall Hall and Park contains the following covenant which relates to access and purpose:

*“The Council hereby covenants with the Vendor to;
1) Forever to keep open and unbuilt upon and maintain the property first hereinbefore described as and for the purpose of public walks pleasure or recreation grounds”*

Other adverse rights exist in relation to electricity mains cables.

2.8.2 *Purpose and function of the hall and park within SBC*

In a sense the purpose and function of the hall arise from the fact of their existence within the boundaries of SBC and the duty of SBC to manage them for the benefit of the borough. The current management arrangements are therefore based around the following premises:

- The duty to care for a Grade 1 listed building
- The duty to care for collections – objects, documents and ephemera for the benefit of the Stockport community
- The duty to provide opportunities for outdoor leisure activity within the borough
- The duty to provide all-age learning opportunities within the borough
- The duty to care for designated natural habitats and landscapes

Incidental to, or consequent on these are the following:

- General duties of care to visitors
- The requirements of health and Safety legislation
- General and specific duties of care to staff
- The requirement for on-site toilets etc
- The need to provide suitable catering to facilitate visits
- The need to provide orientation within the site and house; and
- The need to work to a balanced budget

2.8.3 *Overall Management*

The management of the hall and park fall under two separate directorates within Stockport Borough Council. The Park lies within the remit of the Head of Parks, Sport, Cemeteries and Crematoria whilst the Hall lies within the remit of the Head of Culture, Tourism and Venues.

Within this broad division there are a number of other teams whose brief includes the management of aspects of Bramall, particularly events, weddings and the catering lease to Pure Innovations.

2.8.4 *Hall Management*

The hall has a General Manager who also manages Staircase House. She is supported by a team of three full time staff members. The team is responsible for the general running of the hall, heating, lighting and maintenance, for opening and closing the house, for the organisation of special events either solely or in partnership with other SBC departments or outside organisations. They are responsible for security, health and safety of staff and visitors. They are responsible for party and education bookings and for the use of the conference suite.

2.8.5 *Visitors And Retail*

The team dealing with public visitors i.e. admissions and guiding of visitors within the house is managed by an Acting Duty Officer who carries out the same role at Staircase House. He is supported by a team of 15 part time volunteer staff.

The ticket office and shop are within the former small dining room in the hall which forms the base for the visitor team. The shop is stocked with a range of gifts, cards, books and comestibles.

The selection of stock, control and ordering is carried out by a member of the house manager's team.

2.8.6 *Collections and Artefacts*

The collections and contents relating to Bramall, some within the house, some elsewhere are the responsibility of the Team Manager, Curatorial Services and Projects. Within the team there are two curatorial staff working at Bramall at various times.

2.8.7 *Learning and Education*

The Formal Learning Manager and site specific Education and Learning Officer for Bramall Hall deals with education and schools visits and all age learning opportunities and is based at the hall.

2.8.8 *Weddings and Other Events*

The Council runs a dedicated weddings booking service. The hall and grounds are used for civil wedding ceremonies and receptions.

2.8.9 *Park Management*

The park management lies within the remit of the Countryside Section Manager who also manages the other informal landscapes and open areas throughout the borough.

The site based team is managed by a Senior Ranger who is supported by a small team of site staff. The team carries out landscape maintenance, gardening, health and safety work, routine tree work, maintenance of signs and furniture. They have a work base in part of the stable block and park vehicles in the walled garden area which is also used for informal storage.

The rangers also assist with interpretation in connection with wildlife and habitat, organising outdoor events and assistance with major events e.g. parking arrangements.

2.8.10 *Building maintenance, repairs and projects*

Repairs to the hall and stable buildings are carried out by Norfolk Property Services, formerly Stockport's property team but now privatised. The need for planned maintenance arises from Condition Survey reports, whereas call-off response maintenance is instigated by the House Manager.

2.8.11 *Role of the Friends of Bramall Organisation*

Bramall Hall and park have a long established Friends Group who are active in fundraising for the hall and undertake projects of various types within the hall and grounds. The Friends are extremely enthusiastic and play a significant part in the life of the hall and park.

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3.0 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE SITE

3.1 Significance

The Understanding chapter describes in some detail what the historic site of Bramall Hall and Park consists of and begins to put it into its historic context. This chapter on Significance attempts to assess why the site is worthy of conservation and how it ranks alongside other sites with similar features.

Conservation is an act of stewardship. Every healthy society has a cherished culture, slowly evolving as it is passed on from generation to generation. This legacy was typically passed on through families, shared community values, belief systems and practices. Change was slow and external influences limited. As national and international communication increased, education became more formalised and widespread, and technological change accelerated so the rate of change accelerated.

Bramall Hall bears witness to many examples of these changes. For example, the influence of the Renaissance filtered into English culture through the more affluent and educated elements of society over a period measured in centuries, primarily from the 16th to the 18th century. In contrast the introduction of personal computers and now the internet has brought global change in less than twenty years at the turn of the 21st century.

This can be seen in the early Renaissance influences on wall paintings in the Ballroom (F2), the naïve Baroque design of the fireplace of the Withdrawing Room (F8) and the elegant Neo Classical panelling to the Staff Room (G26). While in the past visitors would have had to visit the Hall or track down one of a small number of publications to gain an understanding of the place, they can now browse the Hall website, read the Wikipedia entry, access images and other written information at any time and from nearly any place in a matter of minutes.

The rich cultural life we enjoy is the product of an inherent tension within society. On one hand people enjoy and take comfort in traditional culture. Layers of meaning built up across the generations provide grounding and social cohesion, often rooted in local language, climate and geography. But humans are also inventive and curious. We take delight in novelty and new discoveries. Some new cultural phenomena become established by fulfilling a social or spiritual purpose while others quickly fade. Conservation can be thought of as a way of reconciling these tensions in relation to historic buildings and artefacts, ensuring that one single generation cannot “throw the baby out with the bath water”.

Throughout the Industrial Revolution, and most particularly from the mid 19th century onwards, the rate of change and social mobility increased so much that the traditional means of passing on cultural heritage were inadequate and new means were needed. This saw among other things the birth of the modern conservation movement. Recording of ancient and vernacular buildings, archaeology, folk stories and other aspects of traditional culture began in earnest. There were campaigns, direct action and philosophical arguments designed to slow the rate of change for those cultural artefacts held most dear.

Bramall Hall exemplifies this process of passive and active conservation. The main house is an example of a vernacular building technique (medieval timber framing of NW England) gradually pushed to new limits under the influence of new ideas and inventions (such as continental Europe in the Renaissance, changing social structures and the availability of glass). This product of the 15th and 16th centuries then went through a period of only modest change for another two centuries.

The Davenport family, through a combination respect for the past and limited social ambition and resources preserved much of the late Medieval fabric of the Hall during the Georgian period. The expectations of their day were catered to, through the introduction of smaller rooms, fireplaces, panelling and sash windows but the main structure and principle rooms were retained despite their deeply unfashionable design. Considerable energy was however expended on the surrounding Park. They removed the gatehouse wing to improve views of it from the house and expanded the range of ancillary buildings.

By the mid 19th century the Stockport area was increasingly industrialised and urbanised. The long dynasty of Davenports waned. These social conditions threatened the Hall, yet the new sensibility of valuing ancient buildings, along with the wealth created by industry, proved the building's salvation. The Hall then went through another period of rapid change and creativity, this time aimed at unpicking the work of the Georgian era and revealing its 16th century glories.

For most of human history "conservation" has occurred either through the continuation of a living tradition or through benign neglect. The last two centuries have seen individuals and communities making very deliberate choices about what to conserve and when to allow artefacts from the past to pass from history; when to be active and when to be passive. Significance is a tool we use for making such choices. It asks and attempts to answer the question, "What do we value and why?"

3.2 Ways of looking at Significance

The latter part of the twentieth century saw a dramatic change in the approach to the management of historic sites in most developed countries. Beginning with the International Council on Monuments and Sites' Athens Charter of 1931 and followed by others from the 1960s onwards, the philosophy of conservation has been codified and developed as a national and international endeavour. It has been cast as a responsibility of government, rather than that of special interest groups such as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Today there is a wealth of international charters, gradually expanding in their scope from individual monuments to towns and cities, gardens and landscapes. Recognition of what is valuable has moved on from individual great works of artistry and patronage to vernacular buildings and the notion of cultural landscapes, shaped and inhabited by ordinary people.

In England recent publications by English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund set out the current thinking on what is significant and how it is to be described. These are broadly similar, both including the four following value categories:

- The site as a source of evidence or knowledge (evidential)
- The site as a link to the past, the people who shaped it and a means of learning about it (historic)

- The site as a source of sensory or intellectual stimulation, designed or incidental (aesthetic)
- The site as an embodiment of social or spiritual values (communal)

To this might be added a fifth category; natural or scientific value, to include more fully items such as geology and ecology which might sit awkwardly alongside the historical element of evidential value.

Within these value categories there will be different levels of importance. This requires a judgement about which aspects of significance are greatest or least, which can have implications for the management of change. These can be expressed by terms indicating the ranking of significance values. Examples of ranking systems include:

- Descriptive (Exceptional; High; Medium; Low; None; Negative)
- Geographical range (International; National; Regional; Local)
- Designation (World Heritage Site; Grade I or II*, Scheduled, SSSI; Grade II; Conservation Area or other local designation)

Although these all create a hierarchy the various levels cannot be directly compared, for example part of a site may be of medium historic interest but exceptional value to a local community. Most sites are complex and will exhibit a range of values categories and levels of significance within them. Individual parts of a site may also have a complex range of levels and values.

3.3 The Contribution of Past Generations

Within the ebb and flow of Bramall's history some individuals and eras have made major contributions that have survived into the present. Others have simply lived with the efforts of their forebears, preserving either through active choice or by default. Yet other have had their own work swept away by later generations.

The individual names of some of the contributors is not currently known, for instance it is not clear which members of the Davenport family built the North and South Wings of the Hall. Set out below is a simplified chronology illustrating the main phases of development at Bramall that have been passed down across the centuries and that give the Hall and Park their special interest today. The highlighted items are those that have survived substantially intact.

Date	Significant People	House	Park
C 14th	Alice Bromale and John Davenport	Original hall	Hunting park
C15th		N wing S wing S end of Hall wing	
C16th early		Wall painting in Ballroom	
C16th late/ C17th early	5 th Wllm and Dorothy Davenport	Main part of Hall wing Wall painting in Ballroom and above Nevill Room	Park within a pale

Date	Significant People	House	Park
C17th			Deer park existed during Civil War
C18th early		Panelling and sub-division of N wing and part of S wing	Agricultural landscape Productive gardens
C18th late / C19th early	10 th Wilm and Martha Davenport	Sash windows added Gatehouse wing demolished Long gallery removed	Tree planting in landscape style Ha-ha East terrace Stables
1829 - 1845	Salisbury and Maria Davenport	Removal of sashes	Field boundaries removed More parkland planting
1869 - 1876	Wakefield Christy (John Davenport's minority)		
1876 - 1883	Freeholders Co.		
1883 - 1916	Charles and Mary Nevill	Major restoration of house including: new roof and gables; restored glazing; staircases; major interiors etc Creation of servants quarters	Major tree planting Water features Drive realignment East terraces Stable yard Lodges
1916 - 1925	Thomas Nevill		
1925 - 1935	John and Amy Davies		
1935 - 1974	Hazel Grove and Bramhall UDC	Restoration of chapel, west gable of south wing Tracing and acquiring lost contents	Car parks Tennis courts Conifer planting Paths Repairs to water features
1974 -	Stockport MBC	Repairs to roof, frame and chimney Service installations Reorganisation of uses in north and north east wings	Tree planting Play areas Bridges Café Self generated woodland

3.4 Architecture and Design

3.4.1 *Timber Framed Construction in NW England*

The previous chapter, Understanding 2B, described how the 16th and 17th centuries saw a flowering of elaborate timber framed houses in north west England. This was the culmination of a long tradition of timber framing in the region, with similar techniques found throughout the west midlands and Welsh borders. Other timber framing traditions developed along different lines in the south east and in the north east, especially Yorkshire.

The majority of timber framed buildings were constructed in a series of bays, formed by wall frames and trusses. External walls were framed into panels, often square in shape and sometimes formed by closely spaced vertical studs between the main posts and rails. The panels were in-filled with daub applied to light timber laths or wattles and finished with plaster. Early Medieval buildings typically had large panels, while later and higher status buildings typically used smaller panels, often further elaborated with geometric pattern. These included the insertion of diagonal studs to form chevrons and diamonds, cusped braces forming crosses and lozenges or boards pierced to form small quatrefoils.

The cross frames and trusses varied in form and included roof trusses supported by internal wall frames or by posts and cruck frames of various types (large pairs of curved timbers typically rising from ground to ridge). A wide variety of roof trusses were used, with tie beam trusses, arch braced trusses and hammer beam types all found in the region. Unknown in the north and west are the crown post trusses of the south east or early king post trusses of the north east. Any internally exposed frame or truss was likely to be decorated in some way.

From the Medieval to the Tudor period it was common for houses of any status to have a main living space open to the roof, usually known as the hall. In a lowly cottage this would be the only room in the house and would be small. In wealthy households the hall would be a high space often two or more bays long. There would be separate accommodation for storing and preparing food and drink at one end and a private room or series of chambers at the opposite end for the family. These family rooms may have been at ground and first floor. The service or lower end was usually separated from the main hall by a screen forming a “screens passage” which acted as a draught lobby to the hall. The upper end of the hall was sometimes given added status through greater decoration and the inclusion of a dais, canopy or large window.

In a very large house the service end and the upper end may have extended into wings at right angles to the main body of the hall, giving rise to L, T, U and H shaped plan. These were sometimes further extended to enclose an internal courtyard, accessed through a large gate opposite the hall. Kitchens were often built as detached structures adjacent to the lower end of the hall, to reduce fire risks. There are also instances of wings at right angles to the hall block but detached from it, probably for use by guests.

Right up to the 16th century it was not uncommon for the hall to have an open fire in the centre of the floor. As time progressed smoke was managed, comfort increased and fire risks reduced by the provision of chimneys, either at one end or to one side of the hall. Private chambers may also have been heated by a fire once fireplaces were introduced, and were increasingly used by family members to retreat from the communal life of the hall. By the end of the 16th century some halls were being built as single storey rooms with a large private chamber above. In existing halls a new floor might be inserted to create a ground floor hall and first floor chamber.

The Understanding chapter described how Bramall Hall sits as part of a cluster of high status timber framed houses in Lancashire and Cheshire region, each displaying some or all of a range of features. Bramall retains north and south wings of probable mid 15th century date, a hall wing of mainly late 16th century date and a service wing to the north east, also of the 16th century. It is **highly representative of this regional group**.

Of the comparable houses, Baguely Hall has the earliest surviving substantial structure; its hall of c1398. The others, (Ordsall, Samlesbury, Speke, Tatton, Rufford and Little Moreton) all have halls of 15th or early 16th century date. All of these are double height halls open to the roof, some with later floors inserted. The hall at Baguely is thought to be late 16th century and is **unique** among this group as being constructed **as a ground floor hall with a purpose built chamber above**.

All the houses in this group exhibit the **frenetic external decoration** so typical of the region, except for Ordsall and Tatton which have been encased in brick. Some parts of Bramall have been encased, but the hall wing and courtyard elevation of the south wing retain extensive decorative framing, and in this Bramall is **highly representative**.

Many of these houses have lost timber framed wings as the result of demolition and or later rebuilding. Some, but not all, ranged around an internal courtyard. Only Speke and Little Moreton retain all their wings to enclose a courtyard. At Bramall, four out of an original five timber framed wings remain from the **courtyard layout**. It is **substantially intact in its early plan form** compared to others such as Baguely, Samlesbury and Rufford.

The presence of **two high status wings** (north and south) at Bramall is **unusual** and the **exceptional quality of the upper chambers** in the south wing (the intact Ballroom and partial survival in the roof space above the Nevill Room) is **unique**. These spaces **compare in quality to the halls of other examples**, which are of similar 15th century date.

A feature that has been **lost** at Bramall is the **long gallery**. Little Moreton retains this feature, and at Speke the galleries around the courtyard fulfilled a similar purpose. The most striking other surviving long gallery in the region is at Astley Hall in Chorley, which is not otherwise directly comparable to this group.

The late date and relative simplicity of the hall at Bramall represents the declining status of this space in the 16th century and **an advance in domestic arrangements**. The chamber above, **the Withdrawing Room, superseded the great hall** as the place where important guests would be received and entertained. A similar room at ground floor was provided at Speke Hall, known as the Oak Parlour. At Speke however it is in the conventional Medieval position in a wing adjoining the upper end of the hall. **Bramall's decoration shows Renaissance influence** to a higher degree than Speke and the quality of craftsmanship displayed at Bramall is of the highest standard. The decorative plaster work, glass and wall paintings at Bramall are discussed further below.

Access to the Withdrawing Room is via a grand **caged newel stair** adjacent to the hall. The stair at Bramall was substantially restored in the 19th century but its **location** close to the main entrance, size and convenience is **unusual** and sets it apart from the structurally similar stair at Speke. In most houses of this age and type the staircase was not a centrally placed or prominent feature.

The large **polygonal bay window** located at the upper end of the hall and the withdrawing room, to add further status and luxury to the family accommodation, is **highly representative** of these features. In many houses they were added later, while here at Bramall they are contemporary with the hall and withdrawing room.

Any one of these features would imbue Bramall Hall with a high evidential, historic and aesthetic value. In combination they make Bramall a place of **exceptional value as an example of a timber framed great house**. This is reflected in the **grade I** status it is given as a listed building, placing it among the top two and a half percent of listed buildings **nationally**.

3.4.2 *16th and 17th Century Decorative Arts*

The Understanding Chapter describes in some detail the design and quality of the decorative 16th century plasterwork and glazing at Bramall Hall, most especially in the Withdrawing Room. Late 16th century publications disseminating Renaissance designs were clearly familiar to the artisans responsible for the Hall Wing. The Davenport family of the time had high aspirations and were happy to seek out and employ some of the best craftsmen available.

As an **intact** set piece of **late 16th century high status architecture and decoration** the **Withdrawing Room** is an example of **exceptional historic, evidential and aesthetic value**. Individually the **plaster ceiling**, the **chimney piece**, the **panelling** or the **glazing** would be of high importance; together their value is multiplied. This group value is further enhanced and augmented by **other examples** around the house, such as in the hall bay window and the Paradise Room.

The **wall paintings** at Bramall illustrate the transition from late Medieval to early Renaissance design as part of a continuing tradition. It appears that the paintings represent work of the late 16th and early 17th century. **Late 16th century wall paintings are rare** and such a **complete scheme** as that in the first floor **Ball Room** is especially so.

The earlier work is **similar in design to tapestries** of the period and the design flows seamlessly across the wall, ignoring the pattern of frame and panels beneath. Leisure pursuits such as hunting and music form the main themes. The later painting also treats the wall surface as a blank canvas, but the design, known as “**Antique**” work uses motifs such as putti (wingless cherubs) and scrolls. These intact schemes are of **exceptional regional and national historic, evidential and aesthetic value**.

Other **more fragmentary wall paintings** remain, in the roof space above the Nevill Room, the Plaster Room, the ground floor Banqueting Room and Chapel. These too are important individually and together with their context are of **exceptional value** as evidence of the extent of wall painting throughout the high status parts of the house in the 16th and 17th centuries.

3.4.3 *Classical Revival*

The slow infiltration of Classical design ideas into English architecture has been touched on previously. By the beginning of the Georgian era in the early 18th century anyone of wealth or education would aspire to the new forms of architecture, inspired variously by Baroque design from across continental Europe, and later by Palladian buildings and the discovery of first Roman and then Greek ancient architectural styles.

These design ideas represented a radical break with the gradual evolution of Medieval domestic architecture which preceded them. Aristocratic families across the country abandoned or demolished their ancient homes and built new ones in the latest style. Others without either the money or ambition for such grand projects updated their existing houses. Some timber framed mansions were clad in brick, others had individual wings demolished and replaced in a more contemporary fashion, and others were rendered over or had vertically proportioned sash windows inserted. Internally smaller rooms were created which were easier to heat. They also reinforced the increasing importance of social hierarchies and differentiation of activities. These were often panelled, a means of reducing drafts and also creating a complete Neo Classical interior.

At Bramall Hall the Davenport family followed the route of inserting sash windows, **cladding** one elevation in brick and **subdividing the large spaces** of the original house to form smaller rooms with individual **fire places and chimneys**. This process of subdivision took place throughout the north wing and the space now occupied by the Nevill Room. Illustrations and descriptions from the 18th century indicate that the decorative **external timberwork was not hidden** by render or paint.

Among the most dramatic alterations of this century was the **demolition of the gatehouse wing**, which enclosed the entrance court on the west side. Approaching the house through a narrow gate and confined courtyard would, by the mid 18th century, have seemed very out dated. In Neo Classical houses the main door is usually a prominent central feature. The removal of this wing also enabled **extensive views to the west** to be enjoyed from the withdrawing room. Bright natural light and views were integral parts of the new Classical approach to design.

Much of the 18th century work at Bramall Hall was removed during 19th century restoration; however it seems that the subdivision of the north wing (but not the detail and decoration of the rooms) dates from that time. A description of the house in 1790 was given by a visiting gentleman, John Byng. He noted the mixture of ancient and modern in the house, which he attributed it to the differing tastes of the 10th William Davenport and his wife Martha. Sash windows had been inserted in some parts and, “The rooms for use are trick’d up a la mode”.

A flavour of what the house may have looked like can be seen in the ground floor **Staff Room**, with its **ionic timber pilasters, cornice and panelling**. The quality of this room is high and may or may not be typical of what was done throughout the house. Such a **high status interior** within the service area may seem odd; the room perhaps served as an estate office designed to impress tenants and those visiting on business and was later the Housekeeper’s room. This one surviving example is of high evidential, historic and aesthetic value.

Where **other elements** of this phase remain they are fragmentary representations and any original detail is lost, for example in room layouts and chimney stack. Such elements are of **moderate or low** evidential and historic value.

3.4.4 *The English Picturesque*

Connected to the classical revival in architecture was the emergence of a form of gardening and landscape design influenced by the landscapes of Italy, seen during young aristocrats’ Grand Tour and captured in the paintings they brought home. Prior to this gardens had been symmetrical, axial and formal, based on Renaissance models from Italy, France and the Low Countries.

The invention of the “ha-ha”, an asymmetrical ditch impossible for livestock to climb but barely visible when viewed obliquely, allowed extensive areas to be designed as ornamental parkland to be seen from the house and garden, without the visual intrusion of a fence. Such landscapes were also regarded as extended pleasure grounds to be seen from a carriage or on foot. The key elements were the removal of obvious signs of agriculture to be replaced by a sweeping greensward and naturalistic clumps and belts of trees. These would hide any undesirable features from sight and frame attractive features such as follies or emerging views.

This approach to landscape was introduced at Bramall by the 10th **William Davenport**. It was he who removed the gatehouse wing from the house, so allowing **views** out of the main living areas to the west. Close to the house on this side is a **ha-ha**, forming a sweeping curve around open grass now backed by mature trees. Surviving evidence of the tree clumps he planted can be seen in a number of very **mature beech trees** around the estate.

William created a **fashionable setting** for the house and improved the views out from it. It can be surmised that by this mid to late 18th century date the ancient and picturesque qualities of the house itself were coming to be appreciated, aided by its artful location above meandering brooks that may originally have served a modest defensive and practical purpose. The distant **view of the Lyme Hills** would also have been much appreciated at this time.

Engravings of this time show a well wooded and picturesque scene, although the continued evidence of agricultural fences and fields was not out of sight. As well as the ornamental improvements he made to the park, William constructed **the walled kitchen garden, a fish pond**, an orchard and is probably responsible for **the stable block** and the **monolithic gate piers** to the east entrance.

The landscaping work begun in the late 18th century was carried on by **Salisbury Davenport** in the second quarter of the 19th century. He removed more field boundaries to create an **expansive parkland** area. As fences and hedges were removed any mature trees were retained and augmented by new **tree clumps and plantations**. It seems that during Salisbury's occupation a simple retaining wall was built to the garden on the east side of the house.

Both Salisbury and the 10th William Davenport implemented landscape improvements based on the prevalent fashions of the time, and their surviving work is **representative of a late 18th and early 19th century approach**. We are fortunate today that the **fine veteran beech trees**, now well over 200 years old, survive in some numbers. While not every tree planted or feature constructed during this time survives much does remain and gives an **underlying structure of a Picturesque landscape design** to the park we see today.

Bramall Park is a moderately intact example of an 18th century landscape. While it is of little interest in the national context as an example of this type, it has other values, discussed below, in relation to its later phases and as a setting for the Hall. Within the Greater Manchester context this phase of the Park's development is of **moderate local value** from historical, evidential and aesthetic perspective.

3.4.5 *A Working Estate*

Along with most country estates the Davenport household would have been largely self sufficient in food production. In addition to tenanted farms across the estate, their own farm would have been stocked with a range of animals, for produce and motive power on the farm. The family would also have had horses for their own use, for riding and perhaps also for drawing a carriage.

Several specialist types of building were required for a working farm and estate and for the production of crops. These might have included a barn, shippon, stables, pig sty, sheds for carts and tools and dovecote. The existing **stable block** group is made up of **18th and 19th century** buildings of varying dates. The group was originally larger and included a wider range of building types, although their individual uses are not fully understood ay present. Close to this group in the vicinity of the bowling green is the site of a possible dovecote. The extensive walled garden retains its original footprint plus an extension to the east and the loss of associated buildings such as potting sheds and glass houses. All the existing buildings are **brick with predominantly stone slate roofs**.

Closest to the Hall is the **east block**, thought to date from the **mid to late 18th century**. It was built as **stables with a hay loft**. The elevation to the Hall is **symmetrical** and includes **decorative brickwork**. The roof is surmounted by a small **cupola**. The main structure is **relatively complete** but the interior has been much altered in the 20th century and minor alterations have been made to the exterior. Very much **in the tradition of Cheshire vernacular** agricultural buildings this block also demonstrates an interest in **more formal** design.

The **north block** is perhaps a little later, around **1800**, and is a **pure vernacular** building. It is likely that part of served as a **barn**. The courtyard elevation has **attractive Flemish bond brickwork** with a pattern of contrasting headers. It too has been **much altered**, mainly through a number of **small extensions** of generally poor design. The interior too has been altered and adapted but the main structural elements remain.

To the **west** is a newer block constructed by Nevill in the **late 19th century** as **stables and tack rooms**. The courtyard elevation is of red brick with contrasting headers, reflecting the earlier buildings in a **vernacular revival** idiom. The walled garden elevation and interior have been much **altered in the 20th century** to create accommodation for outdoor staff.

The long wall around the productive **walled garden** is also of local brick. Glass houses and other structures were removed in the 20th century and the garden is no longer in use. New gateways to the walled garden and stable courtyard were built by Nevill.

The **20th century alterations** illustrate the ways in which the functions of Bramall Hall and Park have changed within their social context. Adaptations reflect the Second World War, the increasing importance of leisure and education and the improved working conditions of outdoor staff. The lack of use for the walled garden illustrates the difficulties of maintaining such labour intensive techniques when their **original social and economic value is removed**.

Despite some losses in the 19th and 20th centuries the stable block is **an attractive group of vernacular buildings** constructed within an evolving tradition over a period of two centuries. They gain in value from their relationship to each other and to the Hall. The group is **highly representative** of agricultural estate buildings of the 18th and 19th centuries and is of **high local value** for evidential, historic, aesthetic and communal reasons.

3.4.6 *19th Century Conservation and Revival*

During the early 19th century the appreciation of Medieval buildings as antique or picturesque which had emerged in the 18th century gained momentum as a scholarly and ideological Gothic Revival, aided by the Romantic movements in poetry, literature, music and painting. This prompted a battle of the Styles between Neo Classical and Gothic. Greater interest was also shown in repairing and restoring Medieval buildings.

Building conservation in the 19th century consisted of both repair and often drastic alteration or “improvement”, as seen in the ecclesiastical work of architects such as Wyatt and Scott. To the modern mind, influenced by the polemic of William Morris and the SPAB, conservation and authenticity are bound up with preservation of the original fabric. For much of the 19th century this was not so.

The “restoration” of Bramall Hall began even before Nevill bought the house. Photographs from the first half of the 19th century show that sash window had been removed and a range of casement windows put in place.

Charles Nevill and his architect Armitage were rather **unusual** in the **deep respect** they showed for parts of the **original building fabric** at Bramall Hall. In the creation of the Nevill Room for instance much of the 17th century panelling and ceiling was retained and new decorative posts installed, using profiles based closely on the original posts behind the panelling. In the south wing staircase, the original structural frame was revealed and polished, where many other owners would have covered the frame with something “better”. Great care also seems to have been taken to match and restore missing glass from the Withdrawing Room windows.

New work in some important parts of the building was carried out to a **very high standard** of design, such as the ironmongery by Armitage in the Great Hall. The survival of a **complete** Arts and Crafts inspired 19th century interior in Mary Nevill’s Boudoir is **rare**.

In **other areas** such as staff bedrooms simple detailing **typical** of the period, for instance match boarded wall linings, were used. Likewise, the fitting out of rooms in the north wing is attractive but unremarkable for its date. The alterations made to the roofline of the north east wing to accommodate extra rooms are visually unappealing. What is **unusual** is the survival of **complete suites of rooms** for servants and guests.

Externally Nevill’s work is perhaps **more representative** of work to elaborate timber framed buildings in the later 19th century. With the loss of the second floor long gallery in the early 19th century Bramall’s original roof was compromised. Nevill set about “**improving**” the appearance of the Hall with a **profusion of gables**. Today such a degree of change and conjecture in the design may not be considered appropriate. However, the end result is a striking, beautiful and coherent building; the ebullience of his work is a match for the profusion of elaborate original decoration.

He showed great restraint and respect for the early framing of the north and south wings, where other may have been tempted to add decoration and “improve” on their simplicity.

Bramall Hall stands as an **excellent example of late Victorian restoration** of a timber framed house with **generally high, and in some parts exceptional**, evidential, historic and aesthetic value within a regional and in some instances national context..

3.4.7 *The Eclectic Landscape*

As the 19th century progressed it was not just the dominance of Neo Classical architecture that was undermined but also the English Garden Landscape that accompanied it. The widening British Empire and ever more daring botanical explorations brought about a range of new influences and possibilities for plant varieties. Boredom set in with the limited palette of trees and grass. Just as **Romanticism** grew in other art forms, so it brought changes in landscape design.

During the mid part of the 19th century planting for botanical interest, for example tree specimens within an arboretum, became popular. So did a revival of the Italianate garden with hard landscape features such as terraces and geometrical boarders. As the century progressed an appreciation of plants in their native habitats developed. This led to the informal planting of a wide range of herbaceous, shrub and tree species in “wild” gardens. In large private and public parks the use of a picturesque framework remained, but with an ever wider range of smaller scaled details and features to add to their interest.

Charles Nevill’s landscape exemplifies these Victorian trends and created a coherent design within the parameters set by the sale of land around the Hall for residential development.

The perimeter of the park was fringed with **a belt of trees** and larger **plantations**, with additional land purchased to maintain a **long open view to the east**. Within this envelope further **tree clumps** were created and existing groups retained. The open spaces were left as open grassland, again in the English Landscape tradition. **This framework of structural planting remains intact** and is now mature. Some open grass has however been lost to **self seeded woodland** which has **blurred** the original design.

The course of the Lady Brook was radically altered, to create a series of **irregular shaped ponds and islands planted with pine trees**. It is believed that these ponds were created for trout fishing but their design is almost that of a **miniature landscape**, perhaps intended to imitate the lakes and fjords of Scandinavia where he made fishing trips. Sadly it has not remained an ideal miniature landscape; the trees have matured, the ponds silted and the brook has attempted to return to its original course. However **the original design intent is clearly evident**.

Nevill improved the steep gradient on the east side of the house through the creation of **stepped terraces in the Italianate tradition**, with low walls and statuary. Structural repairs have lead to the replacement of the walls, now hidden by hedges, but **the basic layout remains**.

Other features of interest were created such as the **dramatic cascade** on the brook to the west of the fish ponds. A **fine rockery** was also created as part of the realignment of the main drive from the east.

Along with the ornamental and personal aspects of the park, Nevill also created new buildings and functional structures. The east and west entrances were both graced with black and white timbered **vernacular revival lodges**, very much in keeping with the character of the Hall. The walled garden was enlarged and further stables built. Again this **stable block emulates the existing vernacular buildings**, with contrasting headers laid in Flemish bond and a stone slab roof.

Bramall Park represents **a complex layering of evolving landscape design** movements. From the mid 18th century’s modest Picturesque setting for the Hall to the eclecticism of the late 19th century, landscapes based on an informal framework of trees and open grass ornamented with hard landscape features and buildings have **each built on the one before**. None of them has sought to erase the past, but to develop it further. Each **is highly representative** of its time.

While not all of **William 10th's work** survives, his effort **underpins the landscape** we see today. Likewise, while some of what **Salisbury** knew and created has gone, **much remains**.

Bramall Park fits into **the 19th century trend of rich industrialists** buying and restoring country houses, or building new mansions and developing gardens and surrounding parkland. During the 20th century these properties are often sold or donated to the local corporation to become a museum / gallery / public park (such as Astley, Townley, Cuerden and Philips Park, Prestwich). Bramall Hall is a good example of this process and remains **largely unaffected by later development**, unlike some of the others. Some contemporary gardens have a more clear and definitive theme such as Mellors Garden in Rainow, developed by a cotton mill owner in the 1840s. Others are examples of architect designed gardens such as Thomas Mawson's commissions for wealthy industrialists in Lancashire and Cumbria - Graythwaite 1886 and Brockhole 1895.

The Park is **highly representative** of this trend, with typical planting and straightforward elements such as the terraces and no known designer involved. Although of **high local value** for its evidential, historic and aesthetic value, the Park as a whole is of little national interest. However, **the transformation of the river** corridor into an intricate pattern of water bodies is very interesting, **unusual** and **possibly unique**, in the local, regional and national context.

As a **setting for the Hall** the Park has a **high value regionally** and at the national level, a medium value. Bramall, through virtue of its topography and lack of subsequent development has allowed the setting to be **preserved almost completely**, whereas other old halls in the region have become much more developed in terms of public amenities or commercial development.

3.4.8 *20th Century Restoration*

Nevill's work to the Hall was extensive but not complete in its scope. Once the Hall had passed into public ownership a new round of repairs and restoration began.

The first major project was the **restoration of the chapel** funded by a local resident. Great efforts were made to find documentary records to inform the work. Sadly the descriptions made by Burton had not been discovered but two photographs from the mid 19th century came to light. Dismantled panelling was reinstated and missing items replaced in high quality oak joinery. Gifts were received including original prayer books and contemporary furniture.

Throughout the 19th century the south wing had been painted in a variety of mock timber framed patterns over the brickwork casing. During the 1950s the UDC took the decision to **reinstate timber framing to the west gable** of the wing, both internally and externally.

While both of these schemes involved a degree of **alteration and conjecture** that may not be considered appropriate today, the work was carried out to **a high standard and with a high degree of respect and authenticity** in relation to the existing fabric.

The later 20th century has seen extensive **repairs to the roof coverings** and structural **repairs to the large north east chimney**. First floor rooms within the north wing have been repaired and redecorated for meetings. These **represent a late 20th century approach to conservation**, with matching materials used and any new techniques, such as steel pinning and concrete foundations carefully concealed.

Less praiseworthy was the rendering of **the north wing's courtyard elevation**, painted to replicate the pattern of timber framing and the fitting out of some rather utilitarian spaces for **modern services** and display within the Hall. Similarly the vast majority of **alterations made to the Stable Block** during the 20th century have not been well considered or well executed, and these **sadly detract** from an otherwise attractive vernacular building.

3.5 Society and People

3.5.1 *The Davenport Dynasty*

The Davenport connection with Bramhall seems to date to around **1370** when **John Davenport married Alice de Bromale**. Little is known about possible occupation of the site of Bramall Hall prior to this, but it seems likely that there may have been a house on the site.

Management and development of the estate during the Medieval period was without major incident. It continued as a mixed landscape of agriculture and woodland. By the 16th century it is known that a park, possibly originating as a deer park, existed within an enclosure. By this time the house that we see today had begun, with the north and south wings already built, presumably adjacent to an earlier great hall. The last mention of the deer park occurs in correspondence dating from the English Civil War period in the mid 17th century. After this it would have been subdivided into fields. All evidence of the park paling is lost.

The design of the Hall itself is discussed in detail elsewhere, but what it clearly demonstrates is that the Davenport family had great wealth, status and aspirations during the 16th and 17th centuries. If wealth and status are displayed in building work then they seem to have declined in the 18th and 19th centuries. Throughout this time the Davenports were fortunate in having **a continuous line of male heirs**. In a few cases the heir died young or without a son of his own, but in each case a younger brother was able to take up the baton and carry on the family name.

During **the eighty year tenure of the 10th William Davenport** the old house was modestly adapted to suit the Georgian lifestyle but no radical rebuilding took place. A greater degree of energy was expended on the estate, with new farm buildings and productive gardens. Landscaping was carried out that had aesthetic rather than commercial value, suggesting that William had a degree of social and creative ambition but little inclination to alter his historic family home.

The estate was divided into a series of tenanted farms, perhaps prompting the expansion of the stables and other ancillary buildings close to the Hall as a "home farm".

The Davenport **family dynasty came under threat** in the early 19th century when there was no legitimate heir to follow the 10th William Davenport. A pragmatic solution was found when captain Salusbury Pryce Humphreys married Maria, an illegitimate daughter of William, and assumed the Davenport name by licence. Their son William settled with his wife at Bramall Hall after the death of Salusbury. But **the Davenport story at Bramall came to an end** after five hundred years when the 11th William Davenport's son John sold the estate almost immediately after he inherited **in 1877**.

The end of the Davenports' tenure is **typical of those families** who were unable to amass sufficient wealth and power in the 18th and 19th centuries and **failed to survive** in the changing social and economic circumstances of **the industrial revolution** as landed gentry. The family's decline also reveals a number of **personal stories** of dashed hopes and aspirations through bereavement, childlessness, infidelity and split loyalties.

The Davenports' occupation and development of the Hall and Park **over six centuries** could be the story of countless gentry families across the country. They are **highly representative** of the system of land ownership and management throughout their periods of ownership. They are an integral part of the history of Stockport and through centuries of intermarriage, they have links with many of Cheshire's ancient families. The particular ebb and flow of luck, wealth and ambition within the family over time has left **the legacy of a fine timber framed mansion within an attractive landscape setting**.

3.5.2 *Changing Times*

The fate of Bramall Hall and Park during the 19th and early 20th centuries was determined both by **changing social values** and by the **personal motives** of numerous individuals. Salusbury is thought to have lived beyond his means and Maria attempted to sell the estate after his death. Their son William appears to have been a solid citizen who made his place locally as a justice of the peace and opened up the estate to visitors. What motivated Salusbury's grandson John to sell the estate is a topic for further investigation. Deeply personal reasons may have been significant.

He divorced his wife after the sale of Bramall, a rare and drastic act for the times. His loyalties and identity also seem to have dominated his life, as witnessed by the number of times he changed his name, ending up with the impressive title of John William Handley Davenport-Handley-Humphries. Pressure for the development of land around Stockport was growing and sale for development was perhaps more attractive than running a country estate stranded in the midst of burgeoning suburbs. A lack of ability does not seem to have been behind the sale, since he later became the active and successful squire of his uncle's estate in Rutland (Dean). Whatever the reasons, **six centuries of Davenport family history** and continuity made way for **the commercial climate of the Victorian age**.

The **Freeholders Company Limited**, based in Manchester, bought the Hall and Park; the contents were sold off separately. They attempted to lease the Hall, as the trustees had done prior to John's inheritance, but failed and the Hall stood empty for some years. The estate was parcelled up and a new park around the Hall defined by the layout of a roughly oval drive designed to give access to the housing plots. The massive **expansion of industrial towns** and cities throughout the 19th century bears testament to the **growing wealth and aspirations of ordinary people**.

The areas around the Hall became an **affluent middle class suburb**, with large detached houses in spacious gardens and Bramall Hall was fortunate in retaining a substantial park around it. Baguley Hall, not far off in Wythenshaw is now hemmed in by dense housing estates within little more than a small garden for its setting.

Many country houses were sold at this time and Bramall's tale is familiar. Some, such as Speke Hall in Liverpool, were bought by private individuals with sufficient wealth to maintain and restore them. Others, like Ordsall Hall, found **new uses** as educational or public institutions. Many were **demolished** and their interiors **stripped** of high quality joinery.

Bramall Hall avoided such an unfortunate fate and joined Speke Hall among those **houses saved by wealthy individuals**. Bramall Hall and Park are **highly representative** of this era in the history of the English country house within the national context and of **exceptional regional and local value**.

3.5.3 *Charles Nevill*

Charles Nevill was given the Bramall estate by his father, Thomas Henry Nevill, a wealthy cotton printer. Thomas bought the estate from the Freeholders after they failed to find a suitable tenant. Charles was effectively the head of his father's company. He was reputedly a strong willed, decisive, humorous and clever man. In many respects he **represents the new wealthy upper middle class** of the 19th century; those who made their money through **trade and manufacturing** rather than the gentry whose wealth had originally been based on large agricultural estates.

He could not however have been described as brash or lacking in refinement, charges which are often associated with "new money". His main passion was fishing, which he indulged with trips as far afield as Norway, accompanied by his less enthusiastic but tolerant wife Mary.

His **considerable wealth** also allowed him to make other trips abroad, including exotic cruises. As well as an interest in travel, Charles was an enthusiastic **amateur antiquarian**, much aided by the local Bramhall historian Alfred Burton.

In addition to these private interests and pursuits he was a **philanthropist**. Active in local politics he also used his wealth and contacts for public benefit. In addition to opening the Park to visitors he supported the development of a local church to cope with the expanding population of Bramhall and anonymously donated to funds supporting troops and the wider war effort during the First World War.

In later life he suffered a degree of disability as the result of a diseased hip. He and Mary had no children and Charles outlived her by some 15 years. He arranged for his nephew Thomas Stiff to be his heir, Thomas living and working with Charles at Bramall for some years and taking the Nevill name prior to Charles' death.

Charles' two main interests, **fishing and history**, both had a significant impact on his work at Bramall. His desire to reveal the hidden histories and late Medieval design of the Hall are evident in his own words as well as the work he did to the house. In a letter to Cyril Davenport (a grandson of Salusbury and Maria) he wrote "I think I know more about its probable age and construction than anyone... Repairs have...from time to time exposed the very backbone and ribs of the house – the parts that have not been touched for hundreds of years". (*Quote from Dean, p68*)

He welcomed the involvement of **local historian Alfred Burton**, who was evidently in the house during many phases of repair and restoration. Burton advised Nevill, who in turn provided Burton with the opportunity to study and describe the house in detail, with a view to publishing a history. Sadly Burton died before his book was complete and his work was forgotten for many years.

Nevill was wise in his choice of professional advisors, employing the Altrincham based **architect George Faulkner Armitage**, 1849 -1937. Armitage was renowned for his work in the "Old English" vernacular revival style and was a prolific furniture designer.

Just as Nevill revelled in creating an authentic and at the same time rather romantic vision for the house, so too he built on the landscape framework created by the 10th William Davenport and Salusbury Davenport. In general terms Nevill continued in the landscape tradition of his time, but with highly individual and ambitious touches. **Substantial engineering work** was required to divert the line of the main drive and to create the water features along the line of the Lady Brook. The irregular pools, planted round with pine trees and stocked with trout, along with the cascade both catered to his love of fishing and created unusual and highly evocative landscape features in their own right.

In both the Hall and the Park Nevill built on the framework of the past with confidence but not arrogance. He made his mark with **imagination, boldness and respect**.

3.5.4 *People Power*

The sale of the Hall and Park to the Freeholders in 1877 came as a shock as **local people had come to regard the estate almost as a public park**. Those living and working in the dense urban centres of towns and cities welcomed the opportunity to enjoy open green spaces at weekends and on their rare holidays. Local newspapers mourned the break up of the estate and its contents and the end of a centuries old tradition. Fears were expressed that the Hall would be demolished and the Park developed for housing.

During Nevill's ownership **the public continued to enjoy use of the Park**. Charles Nevill had no direct heir and passed the estate to his nephew Thomas. In a reflection of the Davenport's demise Thomas too had no heirs. This, combined with the cost of running the estate during the economic depression following the First World War, prompted Thomas too to sell in 1925. It is ironic that he refused an offer from Stockport Corporation in favour of another private owner, John **Davies**. He too **continued to open the Park to the public**. After his death his widow Amy continued to live at Bramall until a more manageable house that she and her husband had previously owned came on the market again. Determined to protect the Hall and Park from developers Amy Davies sold them to Hazel Grove and Bramhall Urban District Council in 1935.

Public ownership of former country houses was a major innovation of the 20th century. A few instances occurred during the 19th century but it was the combination of the massive failure of so many country estates and historic houses following the First World War, growing appreciation of the nation's architectural heritage and increasing demand for leisure activities that saw the National Trust and local authorities across the country saving great houses from demolition and decay.

Hazel Grove and Bramhall UDC's stewardship of Bramall saw the installation of a caretaker in a flat within the Hall and **some examples of excellent conservation**, such as the work carried out to the Chapel and the reinstatement of timber framing to the west end of the south wing. **Treatment of the Park was more typically municipal**, with modest provision for sports and the creation of car parks.

This trend continued after the transfer to Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council under the local government reorganisation on 1974. The Hall is open to visitors and available for limited use by the public as a wedding venue. The stable courtyard buildings house a café and estate depot while the Park is widely enjoyed as a public open space. This **current pattern of use is typical of historic houses and estates in public ownership**.

Public participation has flourished at Bramall Hall. After acquisition by the Urban District Council the hall remained sparsely furnished and the chapel in a state of disarray. The repairs to the chapel, noted above for their high standard, were funded by local resident Charles Wrigley. Attempts began to trace furniture and other items sold in 1877 through reports of the auction in contemporary newspapers. This first bore fruit with the return of the Davenport tapestry in 1945. A local fund raising campaign for this purchase led to the creation of the **Friends of Bramall Hall** in 1946-47. Their continued work has led to numerous articles, including family portraits, being bought, loaned or gifted to the Hall.

The Hall continues to be of **high local and sub-regional value as an educational resource**. Every week a number of school groups from Stockport and Greater Manchester visit the Hall. The people who benefit in this way number many thousands each year. Some later return with family members. Unfortunately only a small percentage of local visitors to the Park visit the Hall as well. Many people do however visit the Hall in its capacity as a **wedding venue**, where the large scale yet domestic and highly attractive interiors form a fitting backdrop.

The Park enjoys a high level of use by local people for **informal recreation** and is especially popular with families. It is clearly of **high local value** although its location in a leafy and relatively leafy area diminishes its strategic value as open space within Stockport, where parks in dense urban areas are even more highly prized. The provision of a café is now an essential part of many public parks. The café at Bramall is limited in size and its range of catering, yet forms an integral part of many visits and their reasons for coming to Bramall Park.

Nearly a century and a half have passed since the security of Bramall as the country estate of the gentry faltered and public alarm was raised that the house and park they had come to enjoy might be under threat. **The sense of public ownership**, now formalised by local authority ownership, **remains undiminished** today. Bramall is of **high value to its local community**.

3.6 Archaeology and Ecology

Bramall Hall sits on a natural promontory formed by the valley of the Lady Brook (a tributary of the Mersey) and two smaller valleys of the Carr Brook and an un-named and now almost dry valley to the west. The area is formed of boulder clay above Permo-Triassic pebble beds, with some glacial sand and gravel deposits along the valley sides.⁵⁵ Natural defence and fresh water were attractive features for pre historic settlers.

The early history of Bramall is hinted at by a small number of finds in the surrounding area. The oldest are **Early Bronze Age items found a little to the north of the current Park boundary**. A bronze arrow head and various flints were located, suggesting hunting activity. In addition to these, during a building development in 1975 a circular feature in the ground was discovered, possibly the site of a hut which would indicate more permanent settlement.⁵⁶ The presence of Bramall on higher ground above the nearby peat bog of Kitt's Moss, plus the presence of water courses would have made the vicinity of Bramall attractive for hunting and settlement during this period.

Again there is no direct evidence for settlement or activity on the site of the Hall or Park from the Roman period. Finds in Bramhall Green and the surrounding area include a rotary quern stone and two spindles. Two Roman Roads also pass nearby, although not as close as 19th century OS maps suggest.⁵⁷

The Anglo-Saxon era gave Bramall its name, derived from Bromhalh. "Brom" indicates the presence of the native shrub broom while "halh" means a small valley. This might be the Lady Brook valley. At the time of the Norman conquest Bramall was one of just three places of sufficient importance within the modern boundary of Stockport to be **included in the Domesday survey**, the others being Norbury and Cheadle. Bramall Manor was at the time split into two. There was clearly settlement of some note at this time but its location is currently unknown.⁵⁸

⁵⁵ *Op. Cit.* UMAU Report p 7 3.3

⁵⁶ *Ibid.* p 9 4.1

⁵⁷ *Ibid.* pp 10-12 4.2

⁵⁸ *Ibid.* pp 13-15 4.3

Recent archaeological investigations during the installation of gas pipes through the Park identified possible demolition rubble adjacent to the location of the lost West wing. Finds included pottery shards from the 13th to the 18th centuries along with 16th or 17th century brick and some beam slots. Together these suggest that **the site was occupied by the 13th century** and that the West wing was altered during the 16th or 17th centuries using brickwork.⁵⁹ The possible existence of a brick kiln of 16th or 17th century date in an area of the former park, Deer Hay, now occupied by the golf course may suggest a connection with this phase of the Hall's development.⁶⁰

The absence of earlier dating evidence may indicate that the site was not occupied before the 13th century or, perhaps more probably, that extensive activity during the Medieval and later periods has removed evidence of earlier settlement. Throughout the region generally physical evidence of Anglo-Saxon activity is sparse.⁶¹ Within the region Bramall remains a likely location for activity during this era.

Most recently excavation within the walled garden yielded little information, most likely due to the extensive disturbance of the ground in the 19th and earlier 20th centuries. Other archaeological work has included geophysical surveys in the vicinity of the Hall. These have identified what may be the location of a former dovecot or gazebo beneath the current bowling green and a possible location below modern paving for the West Wing.⁶²

The topography of Bramall Park and the scattering of finds suggest that **human activity has taken place in the area**, if not on the site of the Hall, **since around 2000BC**. The lack of development within the Park during the 19th and 20th centuries, unlike the surrounding areas, may account for the lack of found artefacts. By contrast the numerous phases of development at the Hall, during the Medieval and Renaissance periods may have destroyed below ground evidence of human activity. The **potential** of the Hall site and of the Park **for below ground archaeology remains high**.

The standing buildings, in particular the timber frame of the Hall also hold **immense potential** for further understanding. Building archaeology, including frame analysis and dendrochronology, have not yet been undertaken at Bramall Hall. These could provide further support for the emerging understanding of the phased development of the Hall and its many components.

The Park at Bramall **contains a wide variety of habitats**, reflecting the natural topography created by the Lady Brook and its tributary the Carr Brook and the many centuries of human activity on the site. It seems that industry has never played a role in Bramall's landscape; rather the changing face of agriculture and later designed landscapes have created the mix of woodland, grassland and water features seen today.

The most ancient and a potentially rich habitat is fragmentary **ancient woodland** in Carr Wood, which adjoins a larger expanse of ancient woodland outside the

⁵⁹ Wilson, Garratt and Grimsditch, *Bramall Hall Park, An Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation*, University of Manchester Archaeological Unit, July 2008, p1 1.2

⁶⁰ *Pers. Com.* Norman Redhead, July 2010

⁶¹ *Op. Cit.* UMAU Report p 15 4.3

⁶² *Op. Cit.* Norman Redhead

Park. This ancient woodland is **designated** as a **Site of Biological Interest**. Along with this are a number of trees planted by the 10th William Davenport, in particular more than a dozen **beech and oak trees** identified as being around **250 years old**. Other woodland areas and individual trees are of lesser age but are also of value and provide wildlife habitats for many species.

Perhaps less visually attractive are some areas of self seeded **wet woodland**. While a lack of management and the unwitting human introduction of Himalayan Balsam have diminished their current value, they have the **potential** to provide a rich and uncommon habitat.

The woodland areas and trees provide a home and food source for **numerous species of animal**, including invertebrate, birds and mammals and in particular **protected species** such as **badgers** and **bats**.

The value of the woodland is further enhanced by their location within a wider green space area and the **wildlife corridors** provided by the **two streams**. The natural fast flowing water and the still **pools** created by Nevill also provide varied habitats. Invertebrates such as dragon flies and amphibians make use of the still water while **kingfisher**, a protected species, use the stream. Enhanced management could unlock further **potential value** in the ponds.

Open **grassland** within the Park is **of little nature conservation value**, however this too has the potential to be improved without conflicting with the character of the designed landscape.

Together these wooded areas and water bodies are of historic, evidential, aesthetic and communal value. In particular their **ecological** value within the Greater Manchester is of **high local and sub regional value**.

3.7 The Sum of the Parts

Anyone who visited Bramall Hall and Park in the late 19th or opening years of the 20th century would recognise it today with no difficulty. Trees have matured and some smaller features such as bridges and footpaths have been created since the estate came into public ownership, but what we see today is primarily the result of Charles Nevill's actions.

That is not to say that everything we see is 19th century, but it is **presented to us through Nevill's vision**. The house is largely 15th and 16th century, the park has many 18th century elements and the topography itself is little changed over millennia. Nevill's great contribution was to take the legacy of past centuries and to add to it. He undertook major projects and made it his own, creating a unified whole while retaining much of what came before.

Bramall embodies fine works of **architecture and design** from **seven centuries**. The possibility remains that people have used the site for up to four millennia and the never ending cycle of **nature**, which rolls on in the face of human activity, is as evident today as ever.

The contrasting human urges to hold on to the familiar yet to strive towards invention are illustrated in both Hall and Park. Countless **individual lives**, the influence of **changing tastes** and **evolving traditions** along with several major periods of **British history** are **written in its timbers and its trees**.

Nevill's actions **retained the evidential and historic values** of the Hall to a greater extent than the work of many other 19th century conservationists. His life itself **added to the historic value** of the site and **the current aesthetic value** of the Hall and Park are down to his interventions. His active yet respectful preservation and the careful conservation and stewardship of the 20th century have gifted the current generation **a place of great, sometimes outstanding value** in its individual parts and even greater significance as a whole.

3.8 Summary of Significance

As described in the sections above the values and significance embodied in and represented by Bramall Hall and Park are complex and multi faceted. The table below and the following plans (*Figures 93, 94 and 95*) summarise the main features, themes and phases of particular importance relating to the Hall itself.

The Hall as a whole is of considerable evidential, historic and aesthetic value. It serves a valuable local community function as an education facility and venue. Many rooms, due to their multiple phases of development, have more than one level of significance. For example the Great Hall is contained within a range who's structure and external appearance is exceptional, some features of the room (such as early doors and ironwork by Armitage) are of high value, while the 19th century finishes are of medium interest and the treatment of the fireplace actually detracts from the whole. The table and plans are therefore necessarily simplified in their representation but provide a useful broad brush picture. A more detailed analysis of the significance of the Hall, Stables and Park is given in the Gazetteer.

Level	Feature	Themes	Phase
Exceptional	Withdrawing Room	Construction, form and decoration. Intact	C16 th
	Chapel	Construction, form and decoration. Intact. C20 th restoration	C15th and later
	Ballroom	Wall paintings. Construction, form and decoration. Intact	C15th and C16th
	Attic over Nevill room	Wall paintings. Construction, form and decoration.	C15th and C17th
High	Other parts of the S wing	Construction, form and decoration. Largely intact. Restoration and additions of the C19th	C15th and later
	Other high status and intact parts of Hall wing	Construction, form and decoration. Largely intact. Restoration and additions of the C19th	C16th and later
	Main structure and roof space of N wing	Construction, form and decoration. Largely intact.	C15th
	Main structure of NE wing	Construction and form	C16th
	Nevill and Armitage's best work	Restoration and additions of the C19th	Nevill
Medium to high	C18 th panelled staff room	Early C18th work of good quality	C18th
Medium	Most other work of the C19 th	Adaptation to C19 th household	Neville

Level	Feature	Themes	Phase
Low	Utilitarian work of the C19th	Adaptation to C19 th household	Neville
	C20th century alterations and fittings	Public ownership	Post 1935
None	C20th century alterations and fittings	Public ownership	Post 1935
Negative	A few C20th alterations and fittings	Public ownership	Post 1935

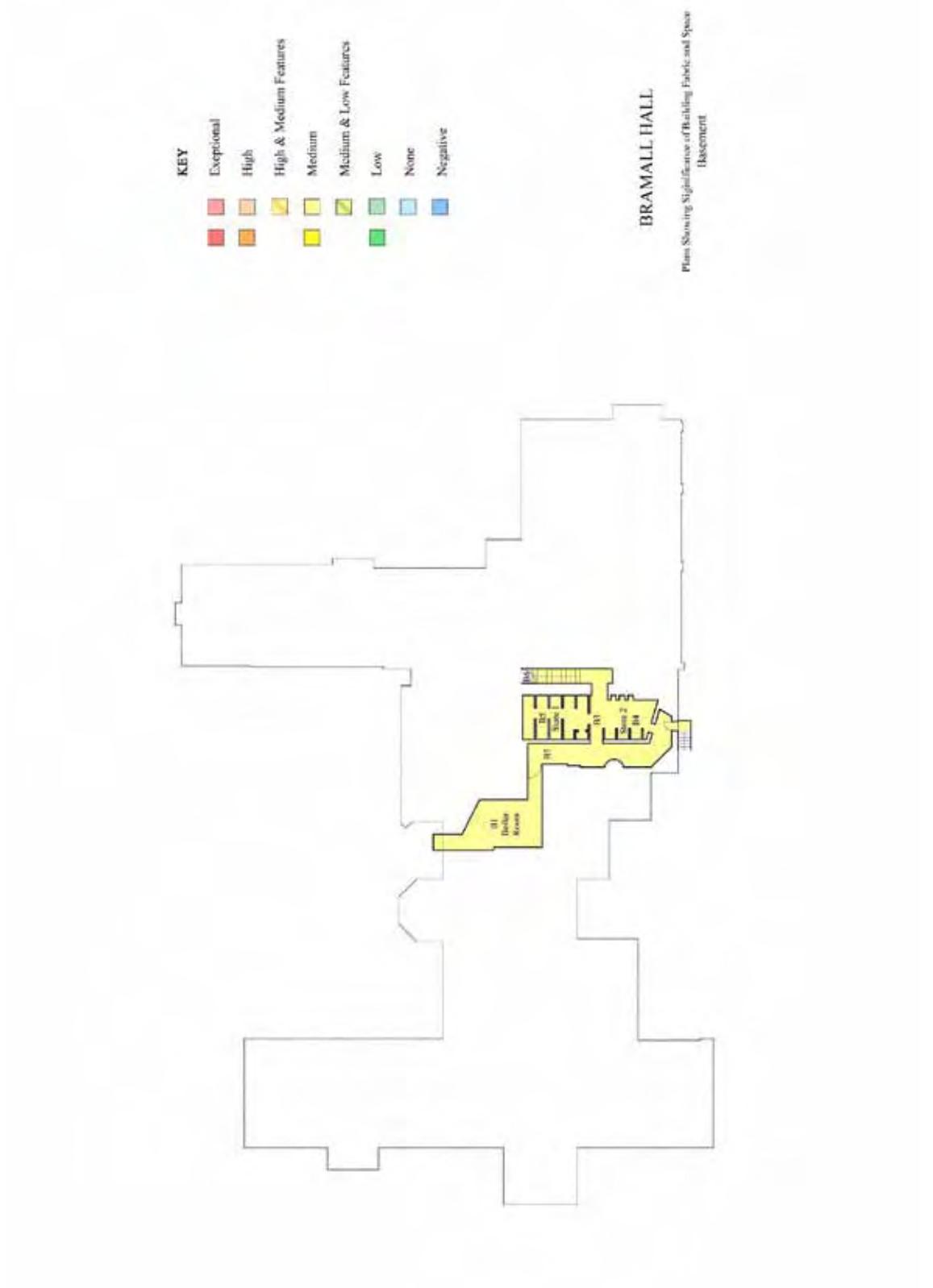


Figure 93(A): Generalised Significance Plan, Basement



Figure 93(b): Generalised Significance Plan, Ground Floor

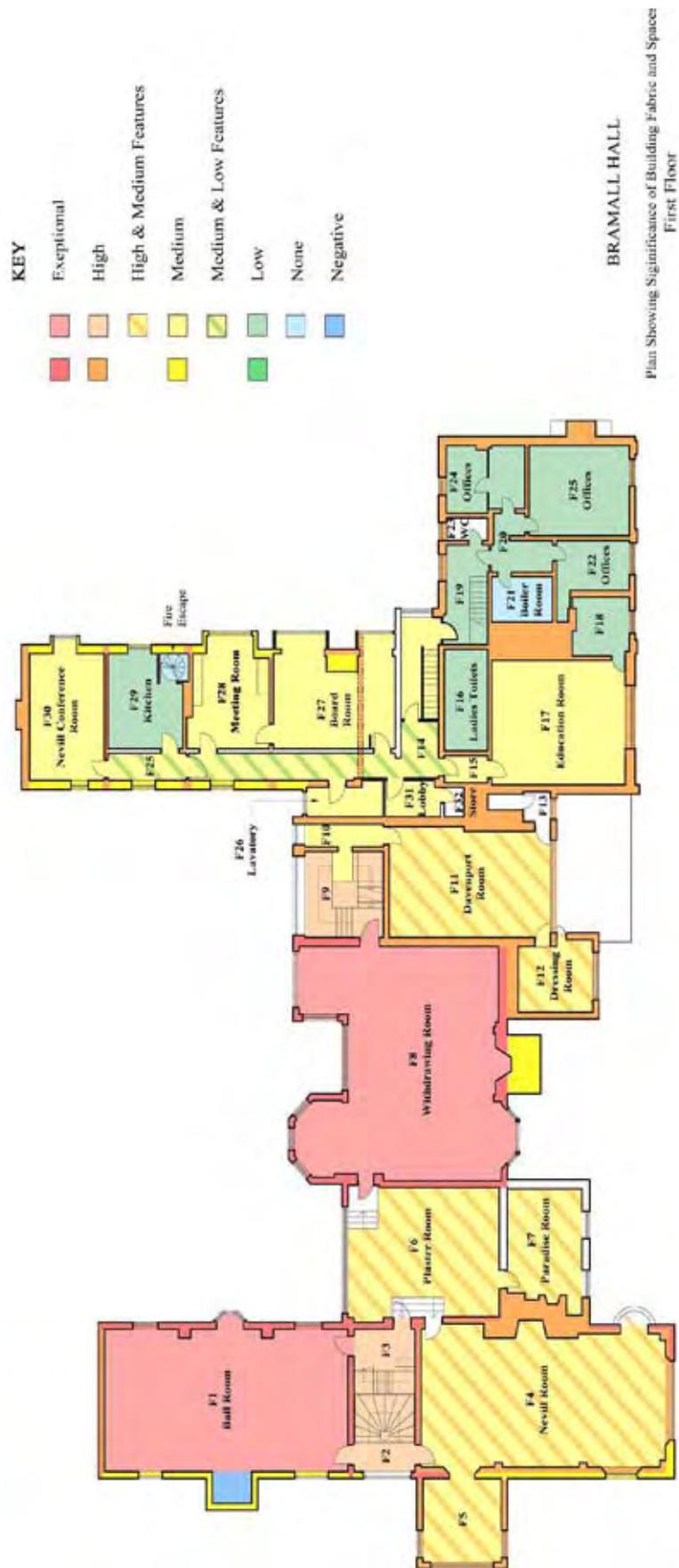


Figure 94: Generalised Significance Plan, First Floor



Figure 95: Generalised Significance Plan, Second Floor

4.0 RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

This section is based upon the following:

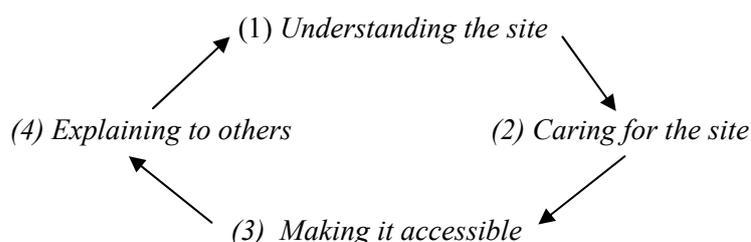
- discussion within Steering Group meetings,
- meetings with key site management staff officers and others
- meeting with representatives of Pure Innovations
- historical and documentary research
- consultation carried out with users of the site, both individuals and groups
- a walking survey of the site
- synthesis of the issues raised in the Gazetteer section.

The ‘risks’ identified refer to particular problems with physical aspects of the site and with the way it is owned, administered, managed, maintained and used. They have been identified through the processes described above. They may be both actual and also perceived issues, which are no less real or ‘actual’ to those who experience them.

The risks also include ‘vulnerabilities’, which are those ways in which the site and its elements can be threatened by change or pressure from outside causes e.g. inappropriate development, or causes such as overuse which are a result of the way the site is managed (or not managed). Vulnerabilities are thus potential risks, and indeed the distinction is not always clear.

The section cannot contain an exhaustive account of the problems, issues and vulnerable areas of the site as it is large and complex, but it seeks to address the main points. The less significant points, or those which perhaps occur only once are not always addressed in this text but may be referred to in the Gazetteer section.

The section has been set out in progression reflecting the ‘virtuous circle’ concept used by English Heritage and others:



4.1 Research and Understanding

4.1.1 *Multiplicity of archive sources*

It was clear to researchers endeavouring to plot the history of Bramall that the documentary and archive sources were widely dispersed, appearing in national collections, regional collections such as Chethams library, family archives, Stockport Borough Council’s own archives and in boxes of files held on site and elsewhere. Where possible and reasonable it would be desire to consolidate records in a location where they can be curated and accessed adequately to allow further in depth research.

At the simplest level a comprehensive list of sources held at Bramall and perhaps at local libraries would help to further the aim of accessibility.

4.1.2 *Un-catalogued collections*

A number of boxes of miscellaneous papers in connection with Bramall, the Nevills, Davenports and others were searched as part of the information gathering process. It seems that these collections are un-catalogued, and in some cases inadequately conserved.

4.1.3 *Private collections*

There is significant material relating to Bramall in private family collections. As noted above it would greatly help to improve the understanding and interpretation of the hall if the presence of this information were systematically recorded, and where appropriate and subject to suitable agreements acquisitions could be made towards a Bramall collection.

4.1.4 *Collection of the Lord of the Manor*

As part of the research for this plan, discussions were held with the Lord of the Manor of Bramall, who holds significant records relating to the history of the hall and park. It is understood that he is prepared to pass these to the Hall in due course subject to suitable security, conservation and access arrangements.

4.1.5 *Confusion on phasing and dating*

Despite the best endeavours of those carrying out research into the development of the hall there remains a number of presently unanswerable questions. It is clear from visible evidence that there are a number of distinct building phases displayed in the mainly timber framed structure of the hall. There have also been a number of significant alterations, including additions, demolitions and re-stylings which have tended to obscure the basic evidence. It is important that as further opportunities arise to record and elucidate the history these should be taken.

The carrying out of dendro-chronological research would almost certainly help to understand further something of the sequence of the earlier construction phases.

4.1.6 *Archaeological opportunities*

The Arrowsmith report indicates that the site of Bramall Hall and park is such that it may well have evidence of some early occupation. The hall is set on a raised promontory of land with (formerly) good open views and with water filled channels on at least three sides. Thus it has the possibility of being a defended site. There have been some remote ground – sensing investigations and excavations in connection with service lines, some of which showed evidence of occupation of the site.

In order to enhance the understanding of the early development of the site there is the opportunity to undertake further archaeological research and the development of a formal programme of investigation is desirable.

4.1.7 *Unpublished archaeology reports*

In order that the results of archaeological programmes and investigations are widely disseminated, and capable of peer review and assessment it is vital that reports are brought into the wider domain through publishing in appropriate journals. Any ‘backlog’ material relating to Bramall should be published as soon as practicable, so that relevant information can be woven into the threads of understanding of the site. In the winter of 2009 there was excavation in the kitchen garden area by the University of Salford archaeological unit – the results of which are awaited.

4.1.8 *Ecological data*

The ecologist has reported that there is a dearth of ecological data relating to the site, and owing to the longstanding nature of some of biological communities there is the opportunity for further unusual species to be present. The presence of decaying fallen timber holds the possibility of unusual beetle species for example. A programme of detailed and sustained recording is desirable. (This is covered further in the Ecology section).

4.2 **Ownership and Management**

4.2.1 *Ownership of triangle*

In the south west corner of the site, adjacent to the property known as the Dower House, in the angle between the west drive and the larger car park is a triangle of land which is not in the ownership of Stockport BC. The land is largely wet woodland with some ornamental planting. A particular issue with this site is that it is not fenced or separated visually from the remainder of the park and it is easily assumed that it is part of the park. Regrettably the land is not as well kept as the remainder of the park which can seem to reflect badly on the park maintenance.

It is desirable to seek a resolution to this, perhaps through a management arrangement.

4.2.2 *Divided management structure*

The hall and park are presently run by two separate Stockport BC management teams. The park comes within the remit of the department of *Parks, Sports, Cemeteries and Crematoria*, the hall within the remit of the department of *Culture, Tourism and Venues*.

It is very clear that at a day to day site level the park and hall teams work well together to manage the daily running of the site. However it is apparent that this division leads to a somewhat fragmented forward planning process. Various activities, and events tend to proceed as they always have done – relying on a previously worked out or evolved system. However it is more difficult for teams to innovate where there is the need for cross-team working due to differing priorities, uncertainty of budgets etc.

It is evident also that within the general scenario of a well run site there are a number of differences of objective which have the potential to give rise to difficulties in planning and compromise of outcome. A key example of this is the continuing tension between the objectives of the collections team and those of those who deliver education provision or more commercial events for example, weddings.

4.2.3 *Financial planning and objectives*

Although it has been outside the remit of this study to look in detail at financial arrangements there are certain observations which can be made at a general level concerning the overall management of the site.

It is suspected that it would be very difficult to draw up an overall ‘balance sheet’ for the hall and park, and to understand whether, or at least to what degree it is an income generator for Stockport, or whether it is subsidised by the local community. The division of responsibilities and reporting indicated above suggest that costs are shared across a number of portfolios – in addition to those indicated.

It would be a very complex, and perhaps unhelpful process to analyse every detail of the running of the hall and park as this now takes place, but a simple plus and minus analysis for each of the main teams may help to illuminate the picture.

Without the level of understanding which this exercise would provide it is difficult to measure the success of the park in delivering its current objectives. Qualitative aspects of services can be assessed by appropriate surveys and sampling, but the costs of delivering any one objective may be difficult fully to account for.

4.2.4 *A clear vision for the site*

The staff who have contributed to the study are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm for the site, and the depth of their commitment to the provision of the services with which they are charged. What seems to be lacking however is an overall vision for the site. It is unclear what are the overall aims and objectives for the hall and park, and the lack of this coherent vision, and each team’s role within it, is the underlying cause of some of the various tensions within the site.

The drive for particular aims and objectives will arise from a number of duties or obligations –

Some arise from legal obligations:

- to care for a Grade 1 listed building
- to care for an important historic landscape
- to care for certain ecological sites and species
- to care for the health and safety of staff and employees
- etc.

Some arise from the constitutional duties of Stockport Borough Council:

- to deliver value for money for its tax and rate payers
- to provide well maintained open space for relaxation and recreation
- to provide educational opportunities for residents
- etc.

Some arise from broader ‘moral’ responsibilities:

- to make publicly owned assets available to the public as far as possible
- to recognise the hall’s national importance by making it available to the wider public beyond the local community
- to research and promote understanding of the hall and park generally
- etc.

And so the list continues, containing importantly the need for efficiency and financial accountability. An understanding of any hierarchies within these objectives, and the way they are complementary or tend to be mutually exclusive is important in refining the vision.

4.2.5 *Role of Friends and community groups*

Bramall is fortunate to have a long-standing and active Friends Group who undertake specific pieces of work to improve the environment or setting of the hall and park. It is important that their involvement is retained and encouraged as it undoubtedly is of great mutual benefit to the hall and to the individuals concerned.

It is important that the contributions of the Friends, of other community groups and of donors are both adequately recognised, and appropriately channelled. Sometimes it is hard if an individual or donor, wants to sponsor a particular piece of work, or establish a particular artefact in the hall and park to know how to respond. The forward planning referred to above should anticipate such possibilities and allow ready channels of communication and dialogue so that projects, works or gifts can be seen to contribute to the greater whole and not (in the worst case) be seen as problematic or undesirable.

4.2.6 *Forward planning of repairs and capital works*

The lack of a long term vision for the hall and park, has resulted in some areas falling below an acceptable standard of provision, and in ‘short term-ism’. This is apparent in the stable block, the kitchen garden, and less obviously in the wooded areas of the park as a whole. For some there seems to be an air of ‘wait and see’, or ‘we don’t know what we are going to do with this yet’.

It is vital for the morale of staff, for the long term good of the buildings, and for the continuing engagement and inspiration of visitors that this position is resolved quickly.

The building condition section refers to certain areas of the buildings where maintenance issues could be eased through works carried out as part of redeveloping or rationalising areas of the site.

However the situation is resolved there seems to be a more fully resolved response to the need for regular and call-out maintenance, and the responsibility for oversight and quality control.

4.3 Landscape and setting

4.3.1 Density of tree cover

Since the last significant landscape planting campaign by the Nevills there have been only relatively modest interventions within the landscape. The tree planting has mainly consisted of conifer planting and certain specimen trees. Since the 1930s there appears to have been only limited woodland management, with the consequence that there has been a considerable amount of self seeding and natural regeneration.

One of the consequences of this is that the dense tree canopy prevents growth of under-storey and shrub layers and limits the diversity and extent of ground-flora. This is detrimental not only for ecological reasons (see subsequent section) but is also for arboricultural and visual reasons. The net effect at the moment is a confusing one with progressive natural regeneration of sycamore and beech producing an increasingly dense and unmanaged understorey. Positive management of the trees within a planned programme would help to reveal some of the riches of the hidden specimen trees, produce a healthier balance of trees and allow for planned progression to maintain character.

4.3.2 Loss of planned vistas

A further consequence of the uncontrolled regeneration has been the loss of some of the designed vistas from within the park, for example the distant view of the house from the East approach. Also some previously open areas have now been compromised with the planting of conifers and in some areas, specimen trees. A comprehensive landscape masterplan linked to a 10 year management and maintenance plan would allow for the recovery of the designed landscape in a controlled, phased and sustainable way and allow for a proper appreciation of the park, the Hall and its setting.

4.3.3 Recovery of the quality of the streams, lakes and their setting

The Ladybrook and its tributary as well as the three artificial lakes form a very strong element within the park's landscape. They have strong aesthetic, ecological and social values, adding considerably to the delight of the landscape. However there is strong evidence and opinion that in all categories, but particularly the first two, the values have diminished.

Whilst the streams, with their weirs, waterfalls and introduced rocks provide movement and sound within the landscape, the lakes were intended in part to be placid mirrors of the landscape, house and sky albeit with a functional status linked to the pursuit of angling.

Generally, the streams were contained by stone revetments to prevent the natural processes of erosion of the banks. Weirs were planned to allow water to be diverted into the lakes and rocks to provide movement and an imitation of wild mountain streams. It is important that these designed features are respected and conserved so that their original design intention can be respected.

The open water area has also been reduced by the growth of shrubs and trees into the water body, particularly from the north banks and on the islands. There is also severe erosion of banks and retaining structures in some areas. The main paved causeway between the two lower lakes is an exceptional piece of landscape design but needs to be maintained.

The water quality of the lakes, particularly the middle one is eutrophic (mineral rich) due to the numbers of ducks, geese and gulls attracted by artificial feeding. This produces a black, lifeless water quality low in aquatic organisms. A programme of de-silting and water improvement is required.

The setting of the lakes includes the grass areas, paths and bridges. The lakeside paths were introduced in the 1930s when the park moved into the public realm to provide an easy, low level promenade from which to view the lakes, landscape and house. Although, functionally it serves its purpose well, the tarmac surface is very urban in nature and consideration should be given to resurfacing it with a proprietary gravel chipping surface treatment. The bridges which form important links in the park wide footpath network across the river and streams are of fairly recent construction but are of inconsistent appearance. Several do not reflect the quality of the landscape in terms of materials or design and consideration should be given to finding appropriate high quality design solutions which match the integrity of this fine historic landscape.

4.3.4 *Land drainage*

This issue is the subject of a difference of approach. Whilst a current management plan stresses the need for land drainage to remove the wet areas within the woods and elsewhere, the ecologist's view is that these give rise to valuable ecosystems, which it is desirable to conserve. The issue and the appropriate response needs therefore to be clarified to guide future management.

4.3.5 *Stable Courtyard*

This has a cobbled surface and is used as an informal external seating area for the café. The cobbles have become very uneven, and in places hazardous, and there is opportunity through appropriate redefining of the surfaces and external furniture considerably to enhance the courtyard and setting.

4.3.6 *Landscape treatment of principal courtyard*

Bramall has three principal 'public' facades. From the south east the house is viewed above a setting of formal terraced gardens and from the south west across the sunken lawn with herbaceous borders. Although there may be opportunities to make minor improvements to these settings they are generally appropriate and complementary to the hall building for which they provide a foreground.

The view of the hall from the north west however is less satisfactory. The U shape of the hall encloses three sides of a courtyard which is entirely surfaced with black tarmac. The tarmac surface is plain and unrelieved, and is used for parking and deliveries. This means that at many times part of the view of the hall is obstructed by cars or vans.

From a distance, across the archery lawn, as the ground is fairly level the tarmac forecourt is not too obtrusive until the viewer is reasonably close. However from the south west, which is the main public approach to the hall this tarmac courtyard is dominant, and is indeed a continuation of the main approach drive.

In general the tarmac surface extends up to the base of the walls on each side without margin and so the setting of the building and its fabric is very much compromised.

Adjacent to the north wing is a set of stocks which is a listed structure in its own right. This sits within the general tarmac area, without any immediate landscape framing or setting, and therefore looks highly incongruous.

There is an opportunity to significantly improve the setting of the hall on this side, by the reintroduction of more appropriate surface treatments (e.g. cobbles or setts) and the use of resin bound gravel surfacing to relieve the urban monotony of the tarmac surface. Smooth bands of sandstone flags can also be incorporated if necessary within the general cobbles to allow for easier walking and wheelchair access. This front of the hall was probably always the place for visitor arrivals and departures, where there were horses, carriages and drays and so planting is probably inappropriate.

Removal of the tarmac would provide a unique opportunity for archaeological investigation of the lost west wing and gatehouse. Careful exploration below the tarmac surface may also reveal something of the earlier character of the court.

Access to the archery lawn also needs to be reconsidered as the present breach of the ha- ha is far from satisfactory and the desire-line across the lawn is unsightly.

4.3.7 *Play area*

Both areas are now looking tired and worn, and certain items of the play equipment are past their best. In terms of the location of both need to be revisited and a strategic decision should be taken as to the best location for a play area for all ages within the park. The park is well used by families with children and, indeed the provision of children's play is often a key incentive in making the hall and park into an attractive extended visit.

4.3.8 *Walled garden*

The garden is undoubtedly of significance in the development of the hall and as a survivor of a particular stage of high horticultural ambition during the Victorian period. Currently the garden exhibits no trace of its origins and so remains an unrealised opportunity. Part of the garden area is used for parking, part for general storage of materials and plant prunings etc. arising from the maintenance of the park. Also the open view into the garden from the hall side means that the former garden area is a significant visual detractor from the overall quality of the park. Officially this area of the park is not open to the public.

Whilst there has been a repair programme for the brick enclosing walls the other gates are generally not well maintained, and whilst the garden has no obvious function these elements all remain at risk of deterioration and loss.

There has been some archaeological investigation in the gardens but the general outcome seems to show that the upper layers, which should have yielded evidence of paths and planting have been removed.

4.3.9 *Sunken lawn and eastern terraces*

The hard landscape of the eastern terraces which consist of low walls and tarmac surfaced paths are utilitarian and urban in appearance and are not consistent with the historic setting. The planting surrounding the sunken lawn is now mature and limited in visual diversity. Consideration should be given to restoring both areas with an appropriate selection of plants and materials that match the historic context.

4.3.10 *Rockery*

With increased interest in the wonders and awe inspiring qualities of the natural world prevalent in the Romantic period of the early 19thC there was a natural desire to recreate rugged rocky landscapes within a landowner's private estate. Bramall is a significant manifestation of this, if rather late in the tradition. The rockery is in need of general overhaul and the re-instatement of a richer planting. As such gardens can be high maintenance the planning and planting needs to be chosen in such a way is sustainable given staffing and funds available.

4.3.11 *Landscape furniture*

The heading 'furniture' includes seats, bins, dog bins, signs, handrails, gates and barriers. As with most sites, Bramall Park shows an accretion of such furniture from many different periods. Although some of the furniture shows evidence of good design some is very standardised, Condition is variable with many items worn, damaged or weathered. In order to improve the visual quality of the park it is recommended that a standardised and consistent range of fittings be selected, possibly even purpose designed, and that locations are well thought through. Care should be taken in both the design and placement. In some cases e.g. seats, the individual component may be well designed, but it is then set on an unattractive concrete base.

4.3.12 *Car parking*

At peak visitor times there is pressure on current car parks, such that the archery lawn is used for overspill. The use of this space impacts on the setting of the Hall and also causes conflict with other uses and the surface of the lawn itself. The landscape setting of the West car park is also rather unsatisfactory. This issue therefore needs careful thought at a strategic level which takes into account the setting of the Hall and the impact that any improvement in landscape quality arising from a programme of conservation may have on increased visitor numbers. Alternative sites within the park may need to be considered.

4.3.13 *Woodland paths*

The present woodland paths at present are in a variable condition with poor surfacing and variable widths. Consideration should be given to establish a properly surfaced and drained path circuit around the outer limits of the park which connect to the inner circuit. Also consideration should be given to establishing internal links across the river at the eastern end.

4.3.14 *Boundary treatment and entrances*

Improvements should be made to the external identity of the park through improvements to the boundary fencing which is very standard on the western side and non-existent at the eastern side. Also the main western entrance needs upgrading, the visitor experience improved and the identity of the park enhanced through appropriate signage, surface treatment and planting etc.

4.4 **The Building Fabric**

4.4.1 *Introduction and Method of Approach*

This section of the Conservation Management Plan considers issues in relation to the building fabric under the following sub-headings:

The Hall's Construction History: This sub-section provides an overview of the both age and aging characteristics of the Hall's various structural components. It outlines the way these have been altered over time and sets out a general understanding of how the structure has come to the point at which it exists today. Without such an understanding, it would not be possible to properly identify the key conservation issues in relation to preserving 'authenticity and integrity' and appropriate technical responses that will extend the life of historic fabric.

Preserving Authenticity and Integrity: There are often a range of technically sound repair methods for dealing with, for example, water penetration or threats posed by decaying structural timber and many approaches to regular building maintenance such as re-decoration. However, in the case of an historic building what may be an adequate technical response could be inappropriate for a particular historic building in that it could harm or compromise its heritage value. This sub-section considers issues relating to the preservation of 'authenticity and integrity' and the guidance as set out by English Heritage. It is against these principles that the appropriateness of current maintenance practice and previous repairs should be considered.

Current Maintenance Practice: This sub-section outlines the current approach to the maintenance of the various building elements and materials. It tests these in relation to whether they are technically suitable and whether they are consistent with the objective of preserving ‘authenticity and integrity’.

C20 and C21 Interventions and Alterations: In reviewing the Hall’s heritage ‘Significance’ this Conservation Management Plan considers that all fabric and pre-dating the early C20 has some degree of historic interest. Some building repairs and alterations introduced later decades, however, can be seen at best questionable in conservation terms and at worst clearly detrimental. This sub-section highlights such instances and suggests possible alternative approaches.

Short Term Building Fabric Issues: A summary is provided of the repair and maintenance issues that should be addressed during the next five years as identified within the Overview Condition Survey (Appendix D)

4.4.2 *The Hall’s Construction History*

Originally the Hall, as developed some 600 years ago, probably comprised separate timber framed structures. By the C16 or C17 these had become linked together. The original structures were all oak framed, supported on a low sandstone plinth, with infill panels of wattle and daub. Oak is an extremely durable timber and resists fungal and insect attack but the outer sapwood will eventually succumb to decay and even the heartwood will be reduced by constant damp, weathering and exposure. The infill daub, mainly clay bound with animal hair and straw and finished with lime wash, inevitably has a limited life, especially in exposed locations and if not regularly maintained. Over time, and certainly by the mid C18 the original construction will have shown signs of distress. Timber and wattle and daub panels will have deteriorated and some of the timber frame will have decayed, especially the sole plates resting on the sandstone plinths will have been particularly vulnerable. By the early C19, progressive repairs will have resulted parts of the original building construction having been altered. (The most significant change being the removal of the Long Gallery). Brick, not used in the Hall’s original construction had, long since, come into common usage and at by that time had been used in a variety of situations:

- To replace wattle and daub infill panels,
- To replace decayed timber, especially at lower levels
- To provide an outer skin with the timber frame part retained within or to the rear of the brickwork

The introduction of brickwork may have had some benefits in ‘stiffening’ parts of the structure but it had the effect of adding weight that will have increased the stresses on the remaining frames. Also brick is not as efficient in ‘wicking’ away moisture from the frames and thereby, will have tended to accelerate timber decay. Today there are still significant areas of C18 brickwork remaining, notably the south face of the South Wing, and the north face of the North Wing. The brick itself has generally survived in good condition.

Major comprehensive repairs and alterations took place during the late C19 and early C20 when there was extensive replacement of original timbers and replacement of former wattle and daub panels with brick faced with cement render. These works were well constructed and the framing and panels are still generally in sound condition. Further substantial repairs were undertaken in the last half of the C20. Notably re-roofing and re-facing some brickwork with cement render formed to replicate timber framing.

4.4.3 *Preserving Authenticity and Integrity.*

The starting point for developing guidelines and proposals for repairs at Bramall Hall must be the English Heritage publication, 'Conservation Principles'. Its section Policies and Guidelines (108 to 137) set out general considerations to be taken into account when considering:

- Routine maintenance
- Periodic renewal
- Intervention to increase knowledge of the past
- Restoration.

The English Heritage guidelines provide a framework within which specific guidelines can be developed which address the values and conservation issues of a particular place. They are grounded upon a range of principles. Of very particular relevance to physical works are issues related to 'authenticity and integrity' (Paragraphs 91 to 95). The approach is a synthesis and development of approaches promoted internationally by ICOMOS and nationally by the Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings.

The 'Conservation Principles' stress the importance of protecting the significance of a heritage asset through the preservation of its 'authenticity'. Most obviously, 'authenticity' is embodied in the physical fabric of a place (assuming that it actually dates from the historic period from which it relates). However, the English Heritage also considers that 'authenticity' can be seen to lie 'in whatever most truthfully reflects and embodies the values attached to the place' (Principle 4.3). It can therefore relate to, for example, design or function, as well as fabric'. In some instances historic fabric may have decayed or have been removed for other reasons. In such instances authenticity, can be recoverable, in part, through major repair or restoration (i.e. new fabric), but perhaps at the expense of some evidential value (ref 91). To determine the best strategy in such instances 'requires a comprehensive understanding of the range and relative importance of the heritage values involved'.

These 'Principles' have particular relevance and application at Bramall Hall. There will be many situations where a decision will have to be made whether to undertake repairs 'as found' (i.e. as existing), or to revert to the design/construction of an earlier date which may be more appropriate to the values (or authenticity) of the place. There may also be instances where a relatively recent alteration or change can be seen to be detrimental to the buildings authenticity and integrity. However, in a building where its significance is derived from multiple historic periods and influences such decisions must be based on a sound understanding of the building and its values. Changes to current maintenance regimes, repairs that required the removal of existing fabric or restoration of lost features will require special consideration.

Where modifications to the status quo are considered the correct approach, the Conservation Principles (ref 93) suggests that ‘a desire to retain authenticity tends to suggest that any deliberate change to a significant place should be distinguishable, that is, its extent should be discernible through inspection’. It concludes that the degree of distinction that is appropriate must take account of the aesthetic values of the place. In repair and restoration, a subtle difference between new and existing is more likely to retain the coherence of the whole than jarring contrast.’

The following discussion of longer term maintenance issues and how to address previous changes that have been detrimental to the values of the site have been considered against the background of the authenticity principles outlined above.

4.4.4 *Current Maintenance Practice Issues*

The timber frame: Some repairs have involved the use of black rubberised mastic to make good gaps between frames and infill panels or brickwork or to fill minor cracks in the timber itself. Although this is now an approach employed by other bodies that care for historic buildings (e.g. National Trust) its introduction is relatively recent and its long term affects should be monitored. While still flexible and if preventing water penetration the mastic should be beneficial. However, in the long term flexibility will not be maintained and once water penetrates the mastic may result in more harm than good. For 99% of their lifetime the frames survived without the intervention of modern materials with gaps between frame and infill panels and cracks in timber being plugged with lime fillers and lime wash which are pervious and behave in exactly the opposite way to rubberised mastic and although less costly than traditional maintenance techniques may not prove be best in the long term.

The infill Panels: The vast majority of infill panels appear to be in C19 brickwork faced with a cement render and decorated in an impervious modern paint. As originally constructed in the C15 the infill panels will have been in wattle and daub. The introduced brickwork (industrially produced, denser and heavier than C17/18 hand made bricks) will have added weight and could in some circumstances have resulted in additional stresses to the timber frame which could have been responsible for some movement. Also the brickwork and cement render will tend to trap moisture and in the long term shorten the life of parts of the building. If investigations into any of the points of possible stress in the frame indicate that is appropriate, brickwork panels should be removed from the relevant locations and replaced with traditional wattle and daub. Localised repairs to panel render should be undertaken in a ‘like for like’ material. Where a number of infill panels require substantial repairs consideration should be given to the removal of cement render and replacement with a lime mix (see discussion on ‘authenticity below’).

Leaded Light Windows: Some ancient glazing remains and great care should be taken in any repair to properly understand the date and significance of the windows in question. The replacement glass should be of similar visual qualities and manufacture.

Roofs: As existing, the stone slabs are laid to diminishing courses, a traditional form which should be replicated in any future repairs. Although extremely durable grit/sandstone slabs will eventually succumb to delamination in the long term. Repairs should be undertaken with locally sourced stone.

Exterior Decorations: Bramall Hall's defining visual characteristic is half timbered construction decorated 'black and white' in the traditional Cheshire manner. The exposed timber members and window frames, mullions and transoms are have many layers of black oil based paintwork. The white panels are decorated with modern PVC or cement based paints.

The decision as to whether to continue with this in future maintenance regimes is not as obvious as it may superficially appear. There a number of key questions: a) what is the most appropriate in terms of maintaining heritage significance, b) would an alternative regime be preferable in terms of prolonging the life of the historic fabric?

In the south and east of the country timber frames buildings are traditionally left undecorated. In the north west the tradition is for black timbers with white infill panels. When this custom arose or whether it was part of the original design is unclear. At Little Moreton Hall, the National Trust suggest that timbers were originally untreated and have left their new timber repairs as 'bare wood'. However, RW Brunskill, in his *Traditional Buildings of England* implies the north west counties followed a custom of 'blackening the timber and whitening the plaster' from the outset. Paint (oil based) suitable for external application did not become available until the C18, so any original blackening must have been in a more transitory medium. Illustrations of Bramall Hall from the late C18 and early C19 certainly suggest 'black and white' decoration (a photograph from 1851 clearly indicates its presence). That the Hall has been decorated in this way for at least more than 200 years provides a strong precedent for continuing the tradition into the future both for existing framework and any new replacement. Leaving replacement timber untreated has some interest in making the recent conservation work 'visible' and very obviously distinguishable from the historic but this is at some expense of aesthetic unity and if all succeeding repairs were similarly treated the resultant patchwork would probably be seriously detrimental.

However, what is in the best interest of timber preservation? Does painting the timber have a positive, neutral or negative impact upon the longevity of oak? There is no published guidance from English Heritage or SPAB. It will be best to examine the surviving medieval timbers at Bramall. How old are the earliest paint layers and has there been significant decay beneath these layers? In all likelihood any serious timber decay will have occurred to the more vulnerable sap wood well before the introduction of oil paint in the C18 and its application thereafter will have had little or no effect on the durability of that which has survived.

4.4.5 *C20 and C21 Interventions and Alterations*

Much of the heritage value of Bramall derives from the fact that it is 'multi period', Changes over the passage of centuries give expression to the culture and technology of the various ages. Reaching a judgement on the value of later interventions is often difficult and becomes more so the closer to the present day. It will be for future generations to assess the worth of current interventions. However, quality of design, its relevance to its own period, how it responds to its historic context and the quality of the materials and workmanship will always be factors taken into account. Measured against such criteria there are a number of C20 features that have a negative rather than being of positive value.



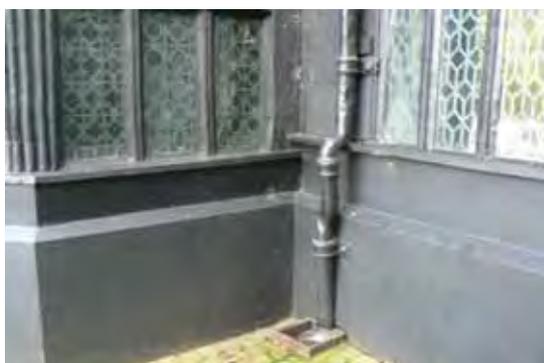
Hall's North Wing South Façade

Repairs and changes made in the mid C20 included major works to the south façade of the North Wing. Here the historic pattern of the timber frame was replicated with cement render and slightly recessed infill panels painted 'black and white' (on brick wall which replaced much or all of the original frame). This obviously lacks 'authenticity' in the sense of its 'newness' and its form of construction. Today such an approach would be highly questionable within the context of a Grade I Listed Building. This poses questions of management and presentation for the longer term:

- a) should it ideally be removed and the façade reconstructed either
- b) in historically accurate materials or
- c) in oak 'boards' to replicate the frame applied to the brickwork.
- d) in some form other than a 'copy', such as the South Wings brick façade.

The present arrangement, taken in its context could be seen, in part, meet with the authenticity criteria set out in the EH Conservation Principles document. The elevation forms the third (south) side of west courtyard. The west and north sides are half timbered and making the south façade appear similar is certainly true to the original aesthetic. Replacement with any other form would seriously erode the visual integrity of the courtyard as a whole. Replacement of the brick and render with an oak frame would be positive in terms of 'authenticity of construction technique' but possibly of doubtful justification in terms of the high costs weighed against the gains (which would possibly not be immediately apparent to the majority of visitors).

It could be argued that the 'rendered impression' is superficially convincing and may well be an accurate representation of the original. But on closer inspection it can be easily read now and always into the future as a surface image only and perhaps its greatest disadvantage is that it will never develop any patina of age apart from peeling paint. In the long term an appropriate objective may be to replace the rendered framing with oak (applied to the brick). This will not develop the natural twists and deflections of a true oak frame but it will 'age' and take on a similar texture. It will also match with the precedent set at North Wing's west gable and at parts of the North East Wing where a similar approach appears to have been adopted. One visual weak point that should be rectified in the shorter term is the treatment of the south west corner where the brick and applied timber frame of the end gable meets the 'mock' rendered framing of the south façade. The appearance of this corner and junctions of different materials is unconvincing.



Hall West Courtyard Rendered Plinth

There is a C20 plain rendered base to all three of the west courtyard facades. Originally the timber frame structures will have sat upon a sandstone plinth. This will have deteriorated and at various stages over the long history of the building replaced together with decayed sole plate and lower posts. It could be argued that a sandstone plinth be reinstated. It is a different case to the south façade's mock timber frame in that the rendered plinth has no 'authenticity' value either in its age, material or in its replicating the aesthetic appearance of the original. Its one virtue is its visual neutrality and simplicity (compare to base to east façade). At the north façade and parts of west the posts/studs appear sit directly upon the concrete plinth with no sole plate. (Most probably the sole plate and framing have been removed, if there are remnants of timber then they will be vulnerable to decay). This has eroded some of the character and visual interest of the original form of construction. There now being too much plain surface with hard edges painted dark grey compared to the soft red sandstone of the original.



Hall East Façade Cement Rendered Plinth

East façade C20 cement render applied (probably to brick) to give the impression, in low relief, of stone. It looks totally unconvincing.



Hall NE Wing West Facade

North East Wing (rear yard) C20 pipe-work and ground floor frames with outer polycarbonate sheet for security. Although, not on the visitor trail these interventions are of low quality in design and materials.



Stables North Range Courtyard Façade

Extension to the Stables café with its corrugated sheet roofing and roller shutter box is crudely designed and unsympathetic to its location. Alterations to the Stable East Range and the Stable North Range have involved concrete lintels, window openings and frames which are of poor design and out of character with the historic building.



Stables North Range Cafe Toilets

The design and material quality of the Stable Café Toilet Block are crude in their own terms and a poor fit with the historic building it abuts. (In comparison the public toilet block, although not of particular merit, integrates and sits more comfortably with the historic building, sharing a continuity of roof line and stone covering, no windows, and better quality brick.



Stables East Range East Façade

The East Range is the most prominent building in the stables complex and its east façade overlooks and is prominent from the Halls West Courtyard entrance. The building survives intact in its overall form, roof and upper parts of facade but later window and door openings have been randomly punched into its east façade eroding the ‘ordered’ character of the design. Especially unfortunate is the wide vehicle door with exposed concrete lintel. There is the possibility of improving the façade’s appearance by modifying the ground floor openings even finding new uses that would involve opening doors and windows.



Hall and Stables Generally Cement Re-Pointing

Recent cement mortar re-pointing which is found in various locations is harmful to the brick in the long term and visually out of character. The traditional binder for mortar is lime, and this would have been used throughout the majority of the building’s history. Lime has a much more sympathetic and forgiving character and is the appropriate material for use in the majority of historic building repairs.

4.4.6 *Short Term Building Fabric Issues*

A Survey providing an overview of the condition of the buildings within the Bramall estate is provided at Appendix D. The following notes highlight the maintenance issues where action in the form of further detailed investigation and if necessary maintenance and repair works should be undertaken within the next five years.

4.4.7 *The Hall*

As far as can be ascertained from an examination of the building which has not involved any 'opening up', the Hall generally appears to be in good condition. However, there are certainly localised problems of decay in timber and some evidence of structural movement which should be further investigated.

4.4.8 *Roofs Generally:*

The overall roof layout is complex with numerous valleys, hips and ridges. Internal inspection of roof spaces indicated that there have been many points of previous water ingress but all the main roof spaces that are currently accessible appear dry (however, many smaller areas and low points could not be easily accessed). Regular inspection and maintenance as necessary is essential

At one point a valley system is drained via an open gutter trough passing through the roof space between the Hall Range and the North Wing this is functioning but obviously vulnerable to blockage. Wire netting protects the opening and this needs to be kept clear. Regular inspection and maintenance as necessary is essential

Flashings appear generally sound but all require regular inspection. In some places there are tape repairs these need to be located and permanent repairs undertaken in lead.

4.4.9 *Rain Water Disposal Generally:*

The roofs drain to timber gutters and hoppers. These are reported not all to be lead lined and in some areas wet rot is evident. They generally need overhauled, repaired and all lead lined in the near future.

4.4.10 *Timber Frame Generally:*

Although there are many areas where timber framed elevations are leaning out of vertical or have twists and bows, for the most part these appear to be long standing, will have been stable for centuries and should not be of concern. Movement that is ongoing, however, does need to be identified, understood and addressed. Tracing the causes of movement in brickwork and deflections in timbers are not always obvious. It can result from a variety of factors including:

1. Failure of joints within the timber frame (fungal rot or insect decay)
2. Failure of posts and rail members (fungal rot or insect decay)
3. Compression and of sole plates or post end bearings (fungal rot or insect decay)
4. Changes in load paths through alterations or failure of timber frame components and or brickwork.
5. Alterations that have resulted in increased loads or affected lateral stiffness.

The parts of the timber frame that date from or where replaced in the late C19 are generally in good condition and those parts that date from early periods are generally satisfactory, there are no obvious indications of widespread decay from wet or dry rot or beetle. However, particular areas give cause for concern and require further detailed survey and investigation is required (eg. North Wing north elevation signs of decay in sole plate and post).

Concealed External Timber Frames Generally: In some areas timber frame members which will once formed part of the externally visible envelope are now concealed behind an outer brickwork skin or masonry base plinth. Such conditions could give rise to decay. For example, at the South Range (south west corner) cracks in outer brickwork face may be caused by decay/movement in concealed timber. For the building condition to be properly understood some further investigation is required involving limited opening up or endoscope survey.

Cement Repairs: There are some locations where cracks and decayed sections of timber may have been repaired with cement based fillers. These should be identified and replaced with lime based fillers.

4.4.11 *Brickwork Generally:*

The areas of brickwork that comprise parts of the Hall's facades are generally in sound condition.

A particular area of concern is the brickwork at the west end of the South Range, which has some obvious cracking between, below and to the side of the upper and lower westward window. This has obviously been a reoccurring problem that has been addressed at various stages but never successfully. The movement appears to be ongoing and the causes need to be investigated, probably requiring some investigation into the condition of the internal timbers, lintels and foundations of both the south façade and the gable return. The cracks extending below the corner of the lower window may indicate foundation issues.

4.4.12 *Leaded Lights Generally*

Although generally sound, a detailed survey is required and some repairs notably to the Great Hall east window.

4.4.13 *Interiors:*

West façade gable (south): Post and other timbers in roof space require further survey and possible major works.

Withdrawing Room: Investigate causes of cracks on west side of ceiling and vertical crack internally between window and chimney.

Ground Floor Rooms (south of Great Hall): Some opening up of joints in ceiling beams is apparent

Damp is apparent in the south facing wall of the North Wing at low level. This requires further investigation.

4.4.14 *Stables*

4.4.15 *North Range*

Main roof: there are some signs of slipping / delaminating roof slabs which require attention. Timber fascias painted black, some decay may be anticipated.

South elevation facing courtyard pointing needs spot repairs and lintel above door has crack. East of the door is a projecting bay onto which has been added a further extension for the café (see below). Adjacent to the waste gully there is some decayed brickwork. The appearance of the façade is spoiled by M&E installations. The projecting bay is part of the original C19 construction but the lower portion has been part rebuilt. This newer portion is not 'toothed in' and a vertical crack has opened up.

The North and South 'lean to' structures are all C20 in fair structural condition albeit of poor appearance.

4.4.16 *West Range*

Brick structure below a stone slab roof generally appears in sound condition

4.4.17 *East Range*

Pitched roof with stone slabs generally in good condition but requiring some attention required at the south end east slope and north end west slope.

Timber fascias painted black, some decay may be anticipated.

The Bell cupola with lead roof coverings flashings/soakers and timber posts are all in dubious condition. Vegetation is growing from its base

The west elevation facing courtyard is much covered in ivy which should be best removed.

The brickwork is generally sound but with some cracking below the central roundel opening (part rebuilt (east elevation)). Pointing requires attention in parts.

4.4.18 *Walled Garden*

The garden is enclosed within a high brick wall of various bond patterns.

The perimeter wall has recently been re-pointed and appears generally in good condition.

4.4.19 *Boiler House*

The boiler house is late C19, a simple rectangular brick structure with pitched stone slab roof.

Roof is in poor condition with the north side having completely fallen in as a result of timber decay leaving the sloping top of the gable wall exposed.

Lack of part of the roof will threaten the stability of the brickwork.

Reinstatement of roof with new roof structure is required.

Complete internal re-instatement required.

4.4.20 *Entrance Lodge*

Externally, this is in a poor state of repair. The 'half timbered' effect is created by timber members 'planted' onto a brick structure with rendered panels. Both timber and render are showing signs of decay and distress and roof and rainwater goods all need attention.

Internally, the property has little of architectural or historic value and is in need of major refurbishment.

4.5 **Condition of Building Services**

An inspection of the electrical, communications and piped services has been carried out as an adjunct to this study by the KGA Partnership. A copy of the full report is attached to this document as Appendix E.

Table of works required
<i>A summary of the works considered to be definitely required within the next five years is as follows (estimated costs are given in the report):</i>
Replace Main House boiler and associated flue, controls and pipe insulations, including upgrade of boiler house ventilation and gas safety system
Upgrade emergency lighting in Main house
Replacement of a proportion of existing light fittings
Relocate main House Kitchen distribution board, will involve rewire
Stable Block School lunch room provide new lighting
Stable Block tea Room essential emergency lighting
Stable Block tea Room provide fire alarm system
Improve circulation of hot water circuit and improve insulation of pipes in Tea Room
<i>Optional Schedule of works which would be desirable but not essential over the next five years</i>
Lightning conductor system for main house
Improve number of socket outlets in Main House involving partial rewire

4.6 Collections, furnishings and exhibitions

4.6.1 *Nature of collections, sources and future acquisitions*

Since almost all of the items relating to the house were dispersed in the early 20th Century there remains little which specifically pertains to the house. However following the acquisition of the hall by the local authority in the 1930s certain pieces were acquired or were donated in order that it shouldn't be seen in a completely empty state; some of these had had connections with the hall in past. However the majority of the furnishings, paintings and artefacts now seen come from Stockport BC's general collection.

There remains a small collection of items – stone pieces etc. which relate to the hall and are not displayed, as currently there is not a suitable context, and there would be specific interpretation requirements, however it would be desirable to bring this into public view.

It is known that there are certain collections, for example family portraits, remaining in private hands which it would be desirable to acquire for Bramall, however to display these there would need to be major reconsideration of the present layout as well as the need for environmental improvements.

4.6.2 *Opportunities for other displays / exhibitions*

Stockport BC has significant collections in the field of decorative arts, watercolours and other paintings which, though not directly related to Bramall could well be displayed in the house, and would complement other artefacts on display. It would be desirable to create space in which these could be appropriately put on view.

There is also the opportunity to hold short terms of contemporary (perhaps local) art, sculpture or installations which relate to the house in a suitable environment at the site.

4.6.3 *Balance of management between education / events / collections*

Bramall is the jewel in the crown of Stockport's own building estate and the council and its predecessors have done a sterling job in maintaining the house and making it available for public enjoyment and education. However the continuation of this task relies on the maintenance of the delicate balance between seeming conflicting requirements. Among the duties and requirements are:

- Conservation of a Grade 1 listed building
- Conservation of artefacts
- Education and interpretation
- Fund raising
- Provision of leisure / recreation opportunity

In order to see that this balance is retained constant review is necessary, and the willingness of managers to adjust requirements and working methods. There is evidence that the use of the house for commercial opportunities, and even in education visits is in some cases causing an unacceptable level of ‘wear and tear’ on the house and contents. Examples quoted are the poor condition of the Arts and Crafts door ironmongery and the Pugin / Crace table.

4.6.4 *Development of education room*

Currently there is a room provided for schools visits in the stable block, however this serves mainly as a base for leaving coats and packs, and somewhere to eat. Learning sessions related to the hall are held in the various rooms. This does pose certain problems when sessions are extended as there can be problems retaining attention and control of children, avoiding ‘damage’ to historic fabric, and compromising the quality of visits for other visitors.

There may be opportunity to create a particular room within the house which could be used by visiting groups for extended learning / work sessions. This may avoid potential conflicts concerning care of the room settings and compromise of other visitors’ experience.

4.6.5 *Development of replica handling collections*

Whilst some replica items are used, there is still an over reliance on handling ‘real’ artefacts, some of which are in a delicate condition. It would be desirable to develop a wider range of items for use in this way.

Variety of approach to rooms – some as ‘not to be touched’ set pieces, some with much greater interactivity. Improving interactivity with collections / rooms

Rooms within the hall, where they are furnished to any extent are displayed as set pieces largely from the Victorian period. Some rooms, often those with a strong architectural character, are barely furnished for practical or resourcing reasons. There is opportunity to re-present rooms in a variety of ways – to show a wider range of historical periods, to illustrate particular phases in the life of the hall, to show off particularly important items from the collection. Displays could be strongly ‘artefact based’ or use modern interpretive media (sound, lighting holographic techniques) to illustrate the topics chosen.

4.6.6 *Address environmental problems – RH and UV*

Problems with control of RH levels within the house are reported due to uncontrolled ventilation and also due to the occasional rapid influx of visitors. Whilst some windows have UV control film this may be in need of replacement and careful control of general light levels in rooms with wall-paintings is particularly important.

4.6.7 *Conservation, of wall paintings*

The outstanding feature of Bramall Hall is its wall paintings- a ‘collection’ unrivalled in the area. These are of national importance and require the highest level of conservation management. This implies not only physical protection, but conservation of the base materials – plaster or timber, and the control of the environments in which they are set – particularly r.h. and u.v. levels (as noted above).

4.6.8 *Opening up of Georgian day room*

Within the house there is a strong feeling of the 16th and 17th century phases of its life, and also of the late Victorian, however despite the fact that the house thrived in the Georgian era, there is little which conveys this.

The present staff room, formerly a housekeepers room retains a fine panelled Georgian interior which remains hidden from visitors. Although the room contains some interesting shelving of the Victorian period, the general status and character of the rest suggest that this could probably be removed, along with later fittings, to reveal the complete Georgian interior. This could then be furnished or dressed appropriately as a way of filling in a gap in the visitor’s appreciation of the house.

4.6.9 *Develop collections and interpretation concerning the Victorian landscape park*

The strongest and most important surviving layer in the development of Bramall park is that which relates to the Victorian period, particularly the activities of the Nevills. Whilst their influence is well represented through the interior of the house, much remains to be revealed within the landscape through careful opening up and adjustment of management processes.

There is the opportunity to develop a collection of artefacts which illustrate the techniques and processes used in managing the land – from animal husbandry down to horticulture, and perhaps with an emphasis on angling. This would complement the ‘rediscovery’ of the Victorian landscape and balance the interior displays.

4.7 **Ecology and environmental issues**

4.7.1 *Lack of biological data suggest park has been undervalued*

The ecologist reports a general paucity of biological data for the site, and is in consequence recommending additional specific surveys. Given this situation it seems quite possible that the ecological value of the park has been understated. A systematic programme of survey and recording over time is recommended so that there is a firm baseline of information against which changes can be monitored over time. Voluntary groups should be encouraged and assisted to record within the park.

4.7.2 *Possibility of areas of ancient woodland smaller than 2ha*

Ancient woodland, i.e. woodland which has supported trees since 1600 is now rare in Britain, and where identified is protected by legislation. The ecologist has put forward the possibility that small fragments of such woodland may remain in Bramall Park and recommends that an appropriate survey be carried out to verify this or otherwise.

4.7.3 *Management of Himalayan Balsam*

Increasingly the 'natural' environment is subject to the influence of non-native species. To a degree this has always been the case but there a number of recent arrivals e.g. Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam, as well as some escapees from garden ponds which pose a real threat to balanced ecosystems. Himalayan Balsam is present in the park and threatens to exclude other species in some areas thus reducing diversity. As the plant is so successful at propagation it is unlikely that it can be eliminated from the park in the long term, but a management regime which is aimed at reducing its extent and then controlling spread is needed.

4.7.4 *Pond management to improve bio-diversity*

Through natural silting processes the ponds are becoming increasingly shallower, particularly that at the upstream (east) end of the park. As they reduce in depth the species which thrive in deeper open water become threatened and disappear and so a programme of de-silting is required.

In the middle pond particularly there is a thriving population of Mallard and mallard / cross ducks as well as Canada Geese and gulls. The population is supported by the propensity of the public to feed them. In consequence the water becomes fouled by waste food and guano, leading to a nutrient rich (eutrophic) waster condition which supports a very restricted range of natural species. Thus the water can be smelly and appears black and dead. The process is enhanced also by the presence of overhanging trees and the significant build up of dead leaves.

Again de-silting is required, followed by a process of management to discourage bird feeding.

As the pools have been artificially created, with a view to a particular landscape effect they tend to have rather sharply defined edges, in some cases formed of stones or setts. This means that there is little transitional or marginal habitat, and as with shorelines and wood margins these border areas tend often to be particularly rich in species as they offer a close association of contrasting environments. In order to increase the bio-diversity of the water bodies it would therefore be desirable to increase the area of shallow water margin where reeds, rushes and other marginal species can flourish. This would improve the environment for aquatic invertebrates such as dragonflies. (NB This is in conflict with landscape restoration objectives which would seek to return the pools to their original form and layout with distinct edges.).

4.7.5 *Invertebrate survey – particularly in dead wood*

The ecologist has drawn attention to the quantity of standing and lying dead wood within the park. Normally this is tidied up, and trees are artificially cropped of decaying timber for health and safety reasons. Fortunately (in this case) this has not happened. As much deadwood as possible should be left in situ as decaying timber provides an important habitat for many deadwood invertebrates. An invertebrate survey is recommended.

4.7.6 *Woodland management to open up canopy*

Where present, which is over a significant portion of the park, the woodland canopy is rather continuous and dense. As mentioned this has the effect of depriving light from the lower layers and thus there is a general paucity of shrub and herbaceous layer species. Carefully planned opening up of the canopy would have the effect of allowing these lower layers to regenerate naturally and thus the diversity of the woodland would be increased.

4.7.7 *Management of wet woodland rather than draining*

The wet woodland areas are particularly valuable as a habitat type and should be preserved rather than drained.

4.7.8 *Facilitate re-colonisation by water vole*

If and when water vole are less persecuted by mink, good quality habitat should be available for them to move into.

4.7.9 *Further bat survey*

Within the remit of this survey process it has been possible to undertake only a limited investigation to establish bat presence. A number of species are present as described in the Ecology section, but the surveyor recommends additional emergence surveys at specified times of the year to 'fill out' this survey and get a full picture.

4.7.10 *Develop further habitat types – hawthorn and blackthorn scrub, rough neutral grassland etc*

There is no scrub within the park, this habitat would be easy to create through planting and would offer good bird nesting habitat.

4.7.11 *Ecological interpretation and participation*

There is opportunity for considerably expanded ecological interpretation. This could refer to species, communities, threats and regeneration opportunities, management techniques and previous landscape management.

It would be desirable also to increase involvement of visitors and education groups in informal management opportunities – shrub clearance, Balsam removal etc. etc.

4.8 Access and signage

4.8.1 *Difficulty of finding site – inadequate road signs etc.*

The majority of visitors who are not immediately local and who come on foot or cycle, arrive by car or in a tour bus. Finding the entrance to the park is particularly difficult as the main entrance is off a local distributor road which has a mainly residential character. There are brown signs off the M60 which runs to the north of Stockport, but the approach from this side is through or around the busy town centre and involves many turns and changes of direction so it is easy to get lost.

Even as one approaches the site the signage is not obvious, and can be obscured by other traffic or vegetation. The last sign, down to the West Lodge entrance is particularly small and elusive. Lacking any presence on the street (for example a lodge or gates), and any visual markers which a taller building might offer, there remains a degree of uncertainty until the last.

4.8.2 *Shuttle bus service to Stockport centre?*

In order to reduce the dependence on cars, and to improve the site's 'green' credentials it is suggested that there may be a shuttle bus service between the park and Stockport town centre or other recognisable and accessible departure point. Depending on actual and projected visitor numbers it may be feasible to develop a 'park and ride' system.

4.8.3 *Present parking arrangements*

Currently there are two main car parks for visitors, and informal parking close to the hall and in the walled garden for staff. Buses park in the second parking area near Carr Wood. As there is no admission charge to the park, parking is on a pay and display basis with the usual concessions. These seem to cater for most of the normal levels of visiting to the hall and park.

On entering the park from the west the car park there is almost the first thing which comes into sight, and is not the ideal welcome. The park itself is sloping and includes a number of mature trees which restrict its capacity. Opportunities to remove this car park to restore the landscape and to provide additional capacity elsewhere should be sought.

4.8.4 *Overflow parking a problem*

In the case of larger events there is a need for overflow parking. As there are few appropriate level areas within the park this is a problem. However under current arrangements the problem is resolved by the use of the Archery Lawn to the west of the hall. This does cause problems as it crosses the children's play area, it takes away one of the level areas for outdoor games and it compromises the view of the hall from this side. Management of this parking also requires a number of staff dedicated to the duty, and since the events are usually at weekend it relies on volunteering or the payment of overtime rates.

4.8.5 *Navigation around park*

Partly arising from the density of tree planting, but also from inadequate mapping and signage it is quite challenging for those unfamiliar with its layout to find their way around. The park is much more extensive than appears at first sight and so many visitors from outside the area do not reach the lakes and wooded areas. Whilst this may be good for the environment and ecology in these areas it can mean that there is undue pressure on the 'hotspots'. In addition it can be argued that the best views of the hall are (or could be, given some tree removals) from the lakes and the eastern approach. To miss these views is to miss an important aspect of the hall and its relationship to its setting.

4.8.6 *Exploring the hall*

As with the grounds, so with the hall in that it is not easy to understand the internal layout. As the growth of the house has been somewhat organic this is not unexpected. Part of the character of some properties is that they are not easily 'read' and it is possible to get lost in them. These are certainly attributes which are applicable to Bramall, however it is important to communicate the basic layout effectively so that visitors can plan a visit, and know how to exit the house should the need arise. The numerous changes of level also pose a potential obstacle to some visitors with physical or sensory impairments.

4.8.7 *Consistency of signage (referred to also under Condition and Interpretation)*

As signage has been erected over a number of different periods and regimes, there is an inconsistency. It would be desirable if signs could be brought to a common design standard, which co-ordinates with the branding for the hall and park as a whole.

4.9 Education and interpretation

4.9.1 *Lack of good schools base*

School visits count for a very significant proportion of the total number visiting the site and are in the order of over 10,000 per annum. Given this level of visiting and its significance within the life of the hall, the facilities for schools are poor. The education room lacks facilities and is dark and unpleasant and not well suited to its purpose.

4.9.2 *Conflict between schools visits and public opening*

There is a perceived conflict between educational group visits and other visitors and the two happen at separate times by and large. However for either to have exclusive use of the hall at a particular time can be problematic for both groups. It would be desirable to plan ways of accommodating 'ordinary' and group visits at the same time.

4.9.3 *Outdoor education opportunities*

Most of the education offer is based around the house and takes place within the house. There is opportunity to offer a much wider range of information about the development of the house and the park, the landscape and ecology and for it to take place out of doors. It is understood that this is beginning to happen but better facilities to encourage this are desirable.

4.9.4 *A visitor centre for pre-visit info?*

Whilst the hall seemingly has large empty spaces which at first site could be devoted to improved exhibitions the reality is that this would hinder the general appreciation of the hall and also limit space for events and group visits. It is generally felt that a space for display and interpretation in another space is desirable. This would allow semi-permanent displays, a controlled environment for a/v work and would also relieve pressure on the hall at peak periods, providing a buffer zone.

4.9.5 *More period interpretations*

There is a desire to have within the house rooms set up to reflect a particular point in the history of the house, or particular events or stories rather than set piece Tudor or Victorian rooms.

4.9.6 *Lack of interpretation about development of house and park*

There is little in the house or gardens which conveys in an organised way their development and the activities of the various dynasties of owners. That there have been significant changes in the appearance of house and park can be gleaned from the study of the some of the pictures hanging in the hall – but these beg the questions when, who and why?

4.9.7 *Interpretation relating to the Victorian park and its management also horticultural items*

There are clear opportunities to re-present the park and the gardens, particularly the kitchen gardens as they were in the height of the Victorian phase of occupation under the Nevills. Opportunities to provide interpretation and engagement with the process of changing the park to this new form, and to interpret and engage with the reality of maintaining and running a Victorian house and estate should be taken up.

4.9.8 *Interpretation of the wall paintings*

The wall paintings are of national significance and opportunities to explain the background to the development of such paintings, the overall theatrical effect intended, the themes illustrated and techniques employed should be developed where possible.

4.9.9 *Permanent exhibition of Bramall related items linked to archaeology and the development of the site*

There is little yet on site which shows in a fully coherent sequence the development of the hall and park, its early period before the present buildings, the development of the present structures and the park. There is a tendency to understand the hall particularly as of one or perhaps two phases, whereas the reality is more complex and shows differing attitudes to the earlier timber framed buildings. At some stages it is covered up and obscured, at some stages celebrated, and made to appear more elaborate than it ever was initially. The opportunity to interpret and engage with archaeological processes is always popular.

4.9.10 *Ecological interpretation*

It is clear that the park already has significant wildlife value, and that there is opportunity for this to be enhanced. It would be desirable if these aspects of the park could be interpreted more fully, both for the sake of informing about plants, animals, insects, invertebrates etc. but also their conservation and care.

4.10 **Hospitality, catering and commercial aspects**

4.10.1 *Shop*

This seems to be well managed and well stocked. However there are issues about its location. One concerns the fact that it occupies an important room - the former small dining room - which cannot therefore be portrayed to visitors as fully as might be the case otherwise.

The other limitation relates to function – in that although visitors to the house have the opportunity to make purchases at the beginning and end of their visit, the shop is largely ‘invisible’ to general park visitors and is therefore a significant lost opportunity for income generation.

If the shop had more ‘visibility’ within the infrastructure of the park the range of goods stocked could be broadened to include possibly a wider range of foodstuffs, perhaps specialist ‘homemade’ brands, plants and goods which relate to the woods and ecology and open air activities.

4.10.2 *Cafe*

The café is run by Pure Investments who pay rent for the rooms in the stables from Stockport BC. Maintenance liability for the spaces and buildings remains with Stockport. The café provides a range of catering from teas, drinks and light refreshments to snacks, toasted sandwiches and hot meals.

The care premises comprise the main café area, with toilets, the kitchens, a specialist function room with separate access and toilets, a kiosk for ices etc. in the summer and a small office and store.

Pure Innovations is an organisation set up by former Stockport BC employees with the purpose of providing a bridge between sheltered care and employment within the community for those with learning difficulties. They have similar facilities at other locations within the borough and they also provide opportunities in connection with park management and local radio broadcasting.

The café seems to be high on the list of concerns with both house staff and management and the Pure Innovations management staff and so particularly careful consideration has been given to this topic.

The following points are shared concerns (some of which point to particular opportunities for improvement):

- The capacity of the cafe is too small, resulting in long queues in summer and at events, resulting in potential customers leaving frustrated or disappointed.

- The standard of décor and finishes within the café is low, giving the wrong visual impression, but also leading to difficulty of daily maintenance. Particular concerns are the floor finishes, inappropriate doors etc.
- The internal counter / servery layout has areas which are partly redundant, leaving other sections under pressure – general re-planning is required.
- The level and standard of toilet provision is inadequate
- The split between the function room and the general café leads to a lack of flexibility and under use of the former.
- Lack of facilities for staff.

There is a general view that a larger, purpose-designed café / restaurant / kitchen could be much more efficient, easier to maintain and run, and be generally more attractive to visitors.

There is a general concern that, whilst the café caters well for general local park visitors and families enjoying activity in the park, there is less take-up of the catering offer by visitors to the house. It may be that this is a question of ‘image’. It is suggested by both house staff and Pure that a change of emphasis towards the ‘National Trust tearoom’ atmosphere would meet the requirements of this market more fully. Pure Innovations staff are ready to embrace this change.

One of the fundamental points underlying the present state of affairs at the café and the lack of satisfaction with the building is the business base. Whilst it is not within the remit (nor the expertise) of this study to undertake business analysis it is clear that all aspects of the Bramall Hall and Park venture are under pressure to increase income generation.

Presently, the café remains an incidental aspect of a visit to the park – somewhere to get quick refreshments, or a light lunch as part of a longer stay. It also provides a place of refuge in inclement weather. The evidence that it is visited in its own right is low, and there is an opportunity to raise the standard and promote the café as a destination in itself. This may extend to evenings in the summer. The functions aspect of the café could also be improved and promoted, particularly in association with the unique venue which Bramall affords.

In order therefore to secure further investment in upgrading the café and associated facilities it will therefore be necessary to prepare a business plan which produces adequate returns over investment to supplement the ‘Bramall business’.

4.10.3 *Wedding functions*

Bramall provides an outstanding setting for weddings and associated events. Both hall and gardens provide a classic setting, and are well located near to a major conurbation and, as might be expected, the demand is strong.

The very quality of the setting however has within it the seed of potential conflict of interest and management aims. The exercise of setting up for, running and subsequent clearance following a wedding event can lead to considerable pressures on the fabric, contents and infrastructure of the hall and grounds. A clear management policy is in place to allow the process to take place with minimum (preferably no) damage to hall and grounds, and for maximum satisfaction of users but this remains under pressure in the following ways:

- Increased number of functions as they produce good income
- The need to limit the number of high quality artefacts in function rooms because of the potential for damage; and
- The compromise in appearance of these rooms for regular visitors
- The need to provide a contemporary kitchen in a historic house specifically for the catering needs of weddings (and consequent hiding of historic kitchen features)
- The consequences of the use of marquees on the lawns around the house, particularly security issues when they outstay the required period.

4.10.4 *General events*

There has been an extended series of events held on the site over recent years (list provided from 2001 onwards). The large majority of these take place in the park itself, with a relatively small number in the hall. The majority of events seem to be organised by local groups, many of them as light hearted fund raising activities.

There seems to be a surprisingly small number organised by Stockport BC, through the hall team or otherwise. Without compromising the efforts of local groups it seems that there may be a possibility, given certain infrastructure improvements to host a limited number of much larger scale events, which serve the aims of raising the profile of the park as a place to visit generally, but also fund-raising towards specific projects or objectives. It would probably be undesirable for the proceeds from events to go to SBC 'general funds' but the specific allocation of proceeds towards repairs, improvements or developments would be possible.

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5.0 POLICIES

5.1 Policy aims and format

Conservation is a process and not just a one off event. Inevitably the process involves a series of decisions informing actions, some of which are regarded as long term, others as 'day to day'. The Conservation Plan is concerned with assisting the process of arriving at and agreeing the former, the long term, possibly wide-ranging Policies, from which the shorter term 'day to day' management decisions are derived.

Within the CMP, the policies are grouped under various key headings arising out of the issues and opportunities raised. The categories are:

- Research and understanding **RU**
- Ownership, management and funding **OM**
- Landscape, setting and ecology **LE**
- Building fabric **BF**
- Building services **BS**
- Collections, furnishings and exhibitions **CO**
- Environmental issues **EN**
- Access and signage **AS**
- Education opportunities **ED**
- Interpretation **IN**
- Hospitality and the Visitor Experience **HV**
- Catering, commercial activities and events **CE**

The format of the Policy section is consistent -

Overall policy **Firstly there is an overarching policy for the whole section which stands through time and is unlikely to be changed.**

Issue *Secondly, within the overall policy area the issues are summarised in italics. These have generally arisen in earlier parts of the Plan and they highlight the need for specific policy.*

Individual policies
R.1 etc **Thirdly, policies derived from the specific issues are listed. These may be of shorter duration than the key policy statement; indeed some may be nearer to one off actions.**

These are numbered RU.1, RU.2, RU.3, OM.1, OM.2, OM.3 etc. according to the code letters referred to above.

Individual policies are set at varying levels, some are high level and set the framework for a wide range of activity; some have the nature of specific actions in themselves. Exact details of policy or action may need to be rephrased according to the standards of the relevant discipline.

5.2 Research and Understanding (RU)

Overall policy All the processes and aims of Conservation, including recording, repair, management and promoting understanding of the hall and park will be based on the best current understanding of the history, development and condition of the site.

Archive The records relating to Bramall Hall and Park are dispersed and so difficult to research; the archive remains un-catalogued and there remains material in boxes on site and in other locations which is at risk.

RU.1 Establish a schedule of the locations of all records relating to Bramall, to be built up and maintained as further information comes to light, and retain the schedule in key locations, including one on site.

RU.2 Ensure the progressive cataloguing of the archive materials – papers, maps, plans, photographs etc. – held in each location and add the catalogue to the schedule of locations previously referred to.

RU.3 Ensure that archive materials are conserved and curated in appropriate environments in accordance the British Standards' PAS197 (2009) and the Standing Conference on Archives and Museums' Code of Practice.

RU.4 Actively seek to locate and if possible acquire additional records relating to Bramall.

RU.5 Ensure that Council departments and agencies working on behalf of Stockport, and also Friends and other groups have adequate policy for the preservation of documents relating to the hall and park, or that they are passed to the archivist.
(Note: this is to avoid dematerialisation)

RU.6 Seek to develop an archive / research centre on the site where material be accessed and worked upon.

Historical research A considerable amount of historical research around Bramall Hall and park has been carried out and there are a number of excellent publications. However there remains scope for further investigation and writing in certain fields.

RU.7 Carry out an overview of the research and written history of Bramall with a view to identifying areas which are less well understood, and where there may be scope for further work.

RU.8 Compile a record or Bibliography of all Bramall related research or writings from whatever source, including school projects as a site based resource for informing further work.

RU.9 Formulate a list of suggested research topics which can be made available to amateurs, students or professionals who wish to undertake this work. Consider the encouragement of research through joint sponsorship or other means.

Archaeology Some archaeological research has been carried out at Bramall, largely in reaction to works on site. The record requires consolidation and publication and investigation work extended in accordance with an agreed archaeological research programme.

- RU.10** Form a comprehensive mapping record of the existing archaeological evidence from the site cross-linked to excavations, finds and reports.
- RU.11** In the light of desktop analysis, and the best available information from comparative sites prepare an overall mapping showing areas of the site which have the potential to provide additional archaeological evidence.
- RU.12** Develop an archaeological strategy for additional research, remote sensing, watching briefs and controlled archaeological excavation as a basis for planning further action and the seeking of funding.
- RU.13** Ensure that the requirements of the strategy are incorporated in any works requiring intervention into grounds or buildings.
- RU.14** Ensure that archaeological excavation reports are published at the earliest opportunity as, without this they remain of little value to the academic community and to the managers of the site.

Building recording

The buildings remain 'unrecorded' in archaeological terms. Individual timbers, panels, particular finishes, ironmongery etc. all carry evidence of their origin and dating and of subsequent changes and this is considerable opportunity to enhance the record and understanding of the property through this detailed work.

- RU.15** In preparation for a full archaeological building recording process obtain a detailed dimensional survey of the hall and other structures on an element by element basis. This should include plans at all key levels, recording the locations of timber posts and beams, elevations of all frames and sectional elevations through the building ranges to show every bay frame and truss. The most appropriate and flexible available survey technology should be employed. (See also policy BF.1)
- RU.16** Commission a company experienced in the recording of the timber framed buildings to create a detailed record of all the elements of the building structures including joint types, timber species, peg and carpenter's mark locations, pockets for stabilising props, tool marks, surface finishes infill panel types etc. This will be recorded onto survey drawings and supplemented by text and comment.
- RU.17** Consider and develop a strategy for using remote sensing techniques to locate building elements hidden behind later linings, panelling etc. This research may be through infra-red photography or other technologies which reveal elements normally invisible. The controlled use of endoscopes in planned locations may assist in revealing hidden elements or finishes.
- RU.18** In addition to this work prepare a strategy for dendro-chronology investigation informed by specialists in this work and commission such survey and analysis.
- RU.19** Identify any particular areas of archaeology or building recording where innovation in method is possible with a view to obtaining sponsorship or other financial support.

Oral history

The value of oral history in connection with understanding historic places has only emerged relatively recently. There has been considerable reliance on what is written, measured or photographed, and a neglect of the use of memory in revealing basic facts, but also elucidating meaning, understanding and significance which tend to change.

- RU.20** Undertake an exercise to establish a list of specific individuals – family members, former staff and others who may have memories of the hall and park in earlier periods. Identify also particular groups – Friends and former friends, local history groups, sports groups or other community members who have made use of the hall and park.
- RU.21** Based on this resource establish an oral history programme based on interviews, small group meetings, guided conversations etc. which can be recorded in order to capture memories of the place and its story
- RU.22** A vivid marker remaining in many memories is the Second World War. The war in Bramall (or at least its consequences) could form the focus of particular research and recording. Other particular events in the locality – the hot summer of 1976, certain cold winters, the miners strike, the Queen’s jubilee could also be the focus of particular ‘remembering’ sessions.

Ecology *Bramall Park, being a long established landscape, without too much major intervention has the capacity to hold a rich community of species. The Ecologist has already established this, and in her report draws out the significances of some. However it is clear that the site is generally ‘under-recorded’ in ecological terms and to remedy this may reveal additional levels of significance.*

- RU.23** Consolidate existing site records from the various professional and amateur sources in order to establish a body of ‘historical’ knowledge about the ecology of the site. Refer also to sightings of species reported anecdotally in building up this record.
- RU.24** Carry out a full ecological survey Joint Nature Conservation Committee standards to establish the baseline information.
- RU.25** Supplement the base line survey by particular species surveys at appropriate stages in the year (e.g. bat emergence in May) to fill out the picture of the non-human population of the site.
- RU.26** Continue monitoring at recommended intervals so that trends may be observed and related to particular external events, changes within the park etc.

Assimilation *There is a propensity for outcomes of research to remain within the particular discipline to which they relate. This allows misunderstandings to be perpetuated and limits the development of the holistic understanding of the site.*

- RU.27** In order to build up the complete understanding of the hall and park and to inform interpretation and education programmes and so that so that cross-links between disciplines can emerge, the results of research programmes and emerging research questions should be brought into the wider realm. This might be through the publication of ‘Bramall research papers’ or through an occasional newsletter.

5.3 Ownership and management (OM)

Overall policy All management decisions concerning the hall and park should be taken in the context of a full understanding of the legal constraints and responsibilities of ownership and trusteeship, and within a clear and agreed framework of aims and objectives.

Ownership and title *There remains some (albeit not great) lack of clarity of land ownerships, adverse rights and land-related responsibilities concerning the park leading to misunderstandings.*

- OM.1** Obtain keep up to date a concise statement of legal title, easements and restrictions in connection with the hall and park and circulate to relevant property and estate managers.
- OM.2** Establish a clear understanding of responsibility for boundaries and ensure relevant owners are aware of these.
- OM.3** Ensure there is a clear definition of adverse rights across the park – distinguishing between public rights of way and permissive paths for example, and take necessary measures to ensure no additional adverse rights are established unknowingly.
- OM.4** Establish a clear record of easements in connection with services and ensure utilities and others fulfil legal obligations in connection.
- OM.5** Establish rights and responsibilities in connection with waterways through the site and any implications these may have on site managers.
- OM.6** Seek a long term solution to the lack of management of the former fishpond area to the south of the western approach drive.

Objectives and purposes *The study did not uncover any clear statement of aims and objectives for the hall and park. This may be because they have 'always been there' and it's a question of making the most of given opportunities.*

- OM.7** Establish a clear understanding of the legal framework within which the running of Bramall Hall and park is set, including the expressed purposes for which it originally moved into public ownership, any covenants or restrictions which apply and also the relevant Stockport Council constitutional and policy frameworks which apply.
- OM.8** Carry out a cost / benefit analysis of the hall and park with a view to understanding the full levels of capital and revenue investment (taking into account staff time and resources from all participating teams), the financial returns and a qualitative assessment of the degree to which council's current objectives are met. It may be that a 'broad brush' analysis will be adequate to establish the general picture followed by further 'in depth' look at specific activities as required.
- OM.9** In the context of the Council's wider remit and legal responsibilities establish or confirm the role that Bramall will play in fulfilling these, and to what degree it should be a net contributor to council's finances, whether it should break even, or whether (either generally or in specific areas) there may be a degree of subsidy.

Management structure *The study has revealed that the site is managed by a number of different arms of Stockport Council and that some of the aims and objectives of the different teams are not well reconciled.*

- OM.10** In the light of this statement of role or purpose, and in the light of the legal / constitutional constraints propose and evaluate a number of management models for the hall and park which are capable of delivering these requirements. The options should consider the existing model as a comparator.
- OM.11** The evaluation process should include as wide a consultation process as possible commensurate with the nature of the proposals.
- OM.12** The management of the hall and park should preferably be organised within one team headed by an overall manager at a level suitable to the status of the post and comparable with that which pertains at other similar sites.
- OM.13** All teams operating within the site should report to the manager and shared or divided loyalties should be avoided where possible.
- OM.14** Where the park provides facilities or services for other Stockport council departments or outside agencies or organisations there should be clear service agreements incorporating financial provisions where required.

Forward planning *In order that activities on the site can be co-ordinated, and where necessary prioritised it is essential that the parties who operate on the site work within a co-ordinated and agreed forward plan.*

- OM.15** On the basis of the confirmed aims and objectives for the hall and park a 10 year forward plan should be prepared covering levels of business activity, and targets for service provision, with a resource plan to meet these deliverables.
- OM.16** The 10 year plan should be prepared in draft and subject to consultation, both with the immediate staff and with wider stakeholders and groups as appropriate so that wide ranging opinions are sought and the end result is as well informed as possible and commands the widest possible loyalty.
- OM.17** Within the overall 10 year plan there should be a clear definition of revenue works and projects and capital projects and the way each contributes towards the overall objectives.
- OM.18** A formal project list should be prepared with a view to identifying wider stakeholders and potential partners or funding sources.

Community involvement *Bramall is fortunate to have a long-standing and active Friends Group. It is important that the contributions of the Friends, of other community groups and of donors are adequately recognised and appropriately channelled.*

- OM.19** Seek to increase the level of the local community's involvement with the management of the park, both through the Friends and at the level of individuals or neighbours. (See also Catering and Events policies CE.19 and CE.20)

5.4 Landscape, setting and ecology (LE)

Overall policy **The landscape and setting of Bramall Hall and park will be maintained and developed in ways which express most clearly its historic significance, which conserve and stimulate ecological communities and which permit the maximum public understanding and enjoyment of all these as well as fulfilling a need for public recreation.**

Forward planning *The running and management of the parks team sits within the remit of the Stockport Parks department who have a general remit to deliver and maintain recreational opportunities and to manage landscapes. However it seems that, as mentioned previously there is a lack of clarity in objectives and forward plan. Some of the objectives may have seeming conflicting requirements (e.g. open access and ecology, or health and safety and ecological tree management) which particularly need to be addressed.*

LE.1 The overall policy set out above requires to be tested, refined and expanded where necessary so that it forms a base for detailed planning of activity within the park.

LE.2 On the basis of the defined and agreed policy objectives set out, formulate a long term management for the park and gardens which reflects also the objectives for the site as a whole. (See also Management policy OM.15)

LE.3 Ensure that there is adequate resourcing for the carrying forward of policy, and identify partnering or funding opportunities as relevant.

LE.4 Ensure that any changes to the park which are carried out are capable of being maintained to an appropriate standard and that maintenance requirements are understood, adequately budgeted and provided for.

Recovery of earlier landscape design *Documentary and site research has revealed that within the current Bramall landscape lie substantial remains of the late Victorian landscape layout prepared and executed by Nevill. Amongst the layers of landscape remaining this layer has been identified as the most significant and worthy of recovery.*

LE.5 With the aid of appropriate professional advice develop the Forward Plan for the site and the park with the intention of ‘recovering’ the Nevill landscape plan. This will be through selective removals of tree cover, redesign of certain landscape features and regenerative planting to an agreed landscape plan based on the original.

LE.6 Plan for the restoration of lost vistas which are apparent in early views of the park but have been lost by planting and natural regeneration.

Reflect ecological values *Since the Victorian design was executed, the science and study of ecology has emerged and is now an important constituent of the values of the park.*

LE.7 Whereas the earlier landscape did not consider the ecological values of the site it is now necessary to ensure that the emerging 10 Year Forward Plan takes these into account and allows for adequate habitat conservation and development and respect for protected species.

LE.8 In all proposals affecting the general landscape and habitat carry out an ecological impact assessment prior to planning and implementation of works.

LE.9 Retain dead wood in situ so far as possible, and following tree works allow fallen wood to remain so that wood decay beetles and fungi can develop.

- LE.10** Increase species variety through selective opening up of woodland canopy to allow better light penetration and the increase of transitional or marginal habitat. Increase range of habitat type by allowing the development of scrub and low tree growth areas.
- LE.11** If, as part of the landscape survey, ancient woodland is identified appropriate management techniques should be put in place.
- LE.12** As there is invasion of Himalayan Balsam carry out appropriate management to control and if possible eliminate growth. Monitor for other invaders e.g. Japanese Knotweed and others and take appropriate control measures.

Recovery of
quality and
design and
water
bodies

The lakes were formed by Nevill for both visual and recreational values. They were a mirror for the house and provided opportunities for Nevill and his friends to enjoy fishing. They are now recognised also for their potential ecological value.

- LE.13** Within the overall plan for the site and for the park give special consideration to the water bodies and streams, with a view to improving structures, water quality and providing other recreational opportunities.
- LE.14** Carry out de-silting of the lakes to increase depth, reduce nutrient levels and to allow for re-establishment of deeper water species.
- LE.15** Repair and re-construct as necessary the water conduits, weirs, dams and the containing elements such as revetments and stone margins and re-establish any clay or concrete linings so that leakage is managed to an acceptable level and the risk of embankment collapse or water escape is removed.
- LE.16** Clear advancing vegetation and overhanging tree growth, as well as unnecessary planting around the water so that the water body remains open to light and is less affected by leaf litter.
- LE.17** Consider policies to control numbers of gulls, mallard and mallard cross ducks and Canada Geese and devise a feeding policy which minimises nutrient enrichment and eutrophication of the water.
- LE.18** Designate lengths of water edge which can be allowed to develop in a more natural way such as with gradual shelving edges, marginal plants and reed beds.
- LE.19** Consider limited introduction of angling where the visual and ecological impact can be held to an acceptable level.

Walled
garden

Presently the walled garden consists of walls only with the interior used for parking and storage. It has the opportunity to become a major feature within the park and to contribute significantly to its enjoyment at a number of levels

- LE.20** Prepare a simple statement of significance for the walled garden itself, outlining its development, main features and demise. Record also the main repair campaigns and a present statement of condition of walls, gates etc.
- LE.21** Formulate a specific development plan for the garden itself which contributes to the overall objectives for the hall and park. Uses might include:

- Allotments
- Recreated period garden
- Open seating in conjunction with new restaurant
- Small children's play area
- Site related national plant collection
- Contemporary glass houses with aviary / butterflies / cacti / tropical plants etc.
- Productive vegetable garden
- Productive soft fruit collection
- Rose garden
- Gardening teaching area
- Etc.

LE.22 Ensure development proposals take into account ongoing management / horticultural requirements and that these are resourced.

Development horticulture *A very limited amount of horticulture takes place at Bramall – on the south and west terraces, outside the walled garden and close to the hall. There is opportunity to develop this further to enrich the setting of the house.*

LE.23 In the overall forward plan for the house and park determine whether there is a role for increased horticultural activity. If carried through this would have a number of advantages:

- More clearly expressing the character of the Victorian estate
- improving the setting of the house,
- widening the audience of those visiting to include garden lovers,
- taking pressure off house visits at peak times
- providing educational and employment opportunities
- providing an attractive location for certain outdoor events
- improving attractiveness for film and photography sessions

LE.24 Consider improving and redeveloping the gardens in the immediate vicinity of the house. It may be desirable to create a contained garden area incorporating the south lawn, rockery, east terraces and the west area up to the stables and the ha-ha. This could also double as a pay perimeter. (See also LE.27)

LE.25 Repair and replant the rockery with appropriate species, bearing in mind the maintenance needs.

LE.26 Generally, consider using a palette of planting materials to reflect the late Victorian period.

Hard landscape and furniture *The quality of the hard landscaping in the vicinity of the hall does not complement that of the building, being rather utilitarian in nature.*

LE.27 Prepare a new landscape design for the area between the west façade and the ha-ha incorporating a more sympathetic hard surface element – cobbles or setts, with appropriate smoother inlays to facilitate wheelchair traffic. Provide an appropriate setting for the stocks within this scheme and consider re-establishment of the large stone bowl planter on the axis towards Archery lawn. Extend the surfacing towards the gateway leading off the main drive. (See also LE.24)

- LE.28** Re-consider the landscape setting of the stables courtyard, easing surfaces and drainage, removing jarring elements of signage etc and introducing more appropriate furniture.
- LE.29** Replace black tarmacadam surfaces within the park with bound gravel of appropriate specification.
- LE.30** Prepare a co-ordinated design for landscape furniture including seats, signage, bins, gates, handrails including appropriate fixing details.
- LE.31** Prepare new designs for bridges to appropriate structural and safety standards which complement the character of the Victorian landscape park.

Facilities for children *The present facilities are in reasonable condition but are well used and will soon reach the end of their lives. The area round the climbing bars and rope cradle is in poor condition. The play area is generally out of sight and not readily supervised and generally contains standard equipment.*

- LE.32** Prepare an overall strategy for the provision of children's recreational facilities across all age ranges from toddlers to young teenagers. Ensure that the ensuing equipment or installations is to appropriate health and safety standards, is adequately screened from dogs, is capable of being supervised or overlooked by parents in a ready manner and offers sufficient challenge and appeal.
- LE.33** Integrate the location and layout of the facilities within the overall landscape so that it functions well and is complementary to the overall scene.
- LE.34** Consider innovative facilities for youngsters such that they may become an attraction in themselves rather than incidental to provision for adults

Adult recreation opportunities *The park sits within an urban setting and one of its primary functions is to provide outdoor recreational space for all ages – from dog walking to gentle ambles to running, tennis and formal outdoor sports events.*

- LE.35** Review and re-assess the provision of facilities for adult's outdoor recreational activities in the context of present and emerging requirements and other local provision.
- LE.36** Within the overall aims and objectives of the house and park re-consider and redesign outdoor activity provision as necessary to accommodate compatible requirements.
- LE.37** Maintain, upgrade or provide new paths as needed to accommodate walking and running activities. Consider the provision of a circular walk within the perimeter of the park which can be joined at a number of locations.
- LE.38** Provide a new footbridge within the park at the east end so that this circuit can remain within the park environment.
- LE.39** Maintain, upgrade or provide new courts / pitches / greens as deemed appropriate for tennis, team sports, bowls etc.
- LE.40** Consider provision for target sports within appropriate areas of the park.

5.5 Building Fabric (BF)

Overall policy The conservation of Bramall Hall will be based on the best understanding of the building's construction and development, be carried out to the highest international conservation standards using appropriate materials and skills and in accordance with legal requirements.

Informed repair and appropriate skills *Repairs and alterations executed without a full knowledge of their context within the building fabric, a proper understanding of the materials concerned and lacking appropriate skills and expertise can have the propensity to damage the building fabric and to compromise essential values.*

- BF.1** A full dimensional survey of the building complex will be carried out using laser and digital technology including all principal levels, all elevations and sections showing all trusses (See also policies RU.15-RU.18)
- BF.2** Use this survey as a basis for plotting building construction materials and conditions and for tracing and recording building movement through time.
- BF.3** Commission a full and detailed condition survey of the building to be carried out by an architect who has detailed knowledge of historic timber framed structures and their characteristics. Obtain a prioritisation of recommended repairs with approximate costings.
- BF.4** On the basis of this detailed survey formulate a forward programme of repairs and secure the necessary budgets to enable them to be carried through.
- BF.5** Obtain additional professional advice from a suitably skilled structural engineer, specialist conservator and others as necessary to ensure that there is adequate specification of repair works and prepare specifications and repair schedules as required sufficient to describe the works.
- BF.6** Having in mind the building's Grade 1 listed status carry out consultations with English Heritage and other bodies as necessary to ensure that proposed repairs are of acceptable character and standard and obtain any formal legal permissions which may be required.
- BF.7** Ensure that contractors and craftsmen employed in working on the building have proven levels of skill appropriate for the task for which they are employed. There will be a particular requirement for craftsmen experienced in the repair of historic oak framing, in the use of lime plasters and in the repair of historic glazing, among a range of other specialist skills.
- BF.8** Ensure that work planned and executed is carried out with an appropriate philosophical approach to historic buildings repair; key principles being:
- Carefully record repair works in progress through sketches and photographs
 - Retain the maximum amount of historic fabric
 - Respect and retain historic surfaces and finishes
 - Use 'like for like' repair techniques and renewals where needed
 - Fit or adapt new repairs to old structure, rather than vice versa
 - Do not attempt to fake repairs to look like other than they are
 - Respect new craftsmanship and let it speak for itself

- Carry out significant interventions in contemporary style rather than reproducing the work of an earlier age
- Use traditional materials of proven longevity rather than short term ‘products’ whose life and sometimes consequential effects are not understood
- Repairs should generally be designed to be reversible

Timber frame maintenance and repairs *Much of the significance of Bramall Hall lies in its use, at various historical periods, of oak framing. Repairs to this need to be carried with appropriate materials, appropriate levels of understanding and skill.*

BF.9 Building on the survey and recording processes described previously (policies BF.1–BF.3 and RU.15–RU.18) ensure that there is a full understanding of the structural principles of the hall, particularly in the light of subsequent changes.

BF.10 The principle cause of decay of timber is contact with water or repeated wet / dry cycles. Ensure that through ordinary maintenance works and in necessary repairs, measures are taken to mitigate the effects of continuous wetting.

BF.11 In carrying out repairs or replacements use English oak seasoned to an appropriate degree and fitted using traditional joints and pegs. Oak to be hand finished where exposed to remove mechanical saw marks.

Oak frame finishes *As discussed in the ‘Issues’ section the question of the use of blacking for oak frames is much debated. It is not yet clear whether the blacking of the Bramall framing extends earlier than the 19th century.*

BF.12 It is known that during the 1980s repair sequence the entire exterior of the oak frame was sandblasted to remove existing paints before re-blackening. It is unlikely therefore that early finishes remain, and it may be that the remaining historic oak now needs the protection of its black finish to stave off decay. The ‘tradition’ of blacking should therefore be continued. Avoid the use of impermeable finishes which trap moisture and tend to break down through time.

BF.13 Where repairs are carried out which allow the opportunity to discover more about internal external or internal timber finishes these should be recorded.

Carved timber *Bramall has a range of historic carved oak decorative elements from various periods which should be recorded and conserved.*

BF.14 Carry out a thorough recording programme of carved architectural elements at Bramall, including corbels, bargeboards, carved finials, the bracket of the s. wing oriel window. Form an archival record of photographs and dimensioned sketches for comparative study and to enable accurate repairs to commissioned if needed.

BF.15 Ensure that any repair works to carved elements are carried out by those with sufficient technical skill, and with due to reference to context.

Infill panels *Panels were traditionally filled with wattle and daub, however this has been replaced in many locations with brickwork.*

- BF.16** Where wattle and daub panels remain these should be retained and carefully repaired in situ using similar materials when needed. Avoid the use of unsympathetic modern resins, foams or finishes which generally tend to trap moisture and can fail readily in ultra violet light.
- BF.17** Where historic brick panels remain and these are stable and are not causing decay of surrounding oak through moisture entrapment these should be retained in situ and repaired / repointed with lime based mortar as needed. Replacement bricks of required should be soft burnt and absorbent and of similar character to others in the panel.
- BF.18** Where infill panels are of hard brick, blockwork or of composite modern construction and there is evidence of damage to the surrounding timber frame, consider removal of the infill and replacement with traditional wattle and daub infill.
- Panel finishes** *As with the timber framing (except in this case where it has been sandblasted) the panels can bear evidence of earlier finishes and decorative designs. The surface, subject to weathering is often recoated and so materials should be appropriate to the situation.*
- BF.19** Panels appear currently to be finished with modern plastic or cement based paints. These may have the virtue of whiteness and a degree of longevity, however they are largely impermeable, and through their non-absorbent character tend to concentrate water penetration at the edges of panels. In future redecoration programmes seek to remove non-breathable paints if this can be achieved without damage to the underlying panel structure, and re-coat with traditional limewash.
- BF.20** In any paint removal or restoration programme seek opportunities to record previous paint layers and note particularly any use of coloured schemes or decorative designs.
- Leaded glazing** *Bramall has leaded glazing from a number of historic periods, from early diamond leading to the more mathematical patterns of the late 17th and 18th centuries and late Victorian glazing. Each has its distinct character which should be retained and conserved.*
- BF.21** Work on recording Bramall's glass has been partly undertaken. Prior to any repair programme this recording should be extended to include all locations with historic glass, and should refer to leading pattern and date where possible, glass type, the use of any coloured or painted glass and condition.
- BF.22** Repairs to glass should be carried out by specialists who have sufficient knowledge and proven experience of working on historic glass of this character.
- BF.23** In cases where it is deemed necessary to provide additional layers of glass for health and safety or security reasons this should always be true glass rather than Perspex imitation which clouds, and should be installed in such a way as not to allow moisture entrapment or otherwise to cause decay to the original glazing or its metal and/ or iron frame. Additional glazing applied externally will have the effect of taking away the lively sparkle of the variable surfaces of the original to provide a uniform reflection, and on principal facades, particularly this should be avoided.

Roof finishes and rainwater goods *The roofs of Bramall consist largely of sandstone slabs in diminishing courses, with lead flats and lead detailing. It is essential that the character and quality of works is of the highest standard for aesthetic and functional reasons.*

BF.24 As part of the quinquennial and annual inspections carry out a full inspection of roofs and rainwater goods, including an inspection of roof voids (preferably in wet conditions) in order to detect any leakages.

BF.25 Roof and guttering repairs should be carried out using traditional materials and methods and approved Lead Development Association details.

BF.26 A number of failings have been noted where rainwater downpipes take a convoluted route to ground level. Where possible seek to rationalise these and use appropriate cast iron or lead rainwater goods without undue bends or the use of hoppers.

BF.27 A number of roof gutters or of lead lined timber, a system which is particularly vulnerable if the timber decays. Overhaul such gutters as necessary, ensuring that lead linings are correctly detailed, with adequate falls and with lead kept within recommended sizes to reduce the effects of thermal movement. There is one case where the lead-lined timber gutter runs through the roof void (above the west porch gable) this needs regular inspection and it is vital to ensure that the mesh guards remain in place to prevent pigeon and leaf entry. (If an alternative and safer rainwater disposal route could be achieved it would be desirable to remove this feature altogether.)

Roof voids *‘Out of sight, out of mind’ is often the approach to roof voids, however as these are among the vulnerable points for water penetration they should be capable of being inspected regularly and easily.*

BF.28 Ensure that material stored in the roof spaces is kept to a minimum both to reduce fire load and also to allow ready access and inspection of surfaces.

BF.29 Ensure that there is ready and safe access to all roof areas through the provision of secure ladders and walking boards over vulnerable ceilings. Provide hand rails or safety lines where required.

BF.30 Ensure that wiring routes are well defined and protected and are not subject to being walked over or compressed through applied load of any sort.

BF.31 Ensure that there is adequate lighting in roof voids to reduce the need for torches.

BF.32 Provide snow melting tapes in low pitch gutters and valleys

BF.33 Install lightning protection system

North wing, south face and other timber false work. *This façade of the north wing is problematic, in that although it has the appearance of timber framing it is entirely created in hard cement based render. It will never develop historic patina and it is vulnerable to cracking from structural or thermal movement which will tend to allow water penetration.*

BF.34 Thoroughly investigate the character of the construction of this façade, through investigating records, through remote sensing as previously described and through selective opening up.

- BF.35** Consider a programme of work to the façade which will bring it back to a more satisfactory constructional state, which may yet be exposed brickwork, a softer, more permeable render, or a reconstruction in oak framing.
- BF.36** Elsewhere, particularly in connection with the North East wing there are facades of brickwork covered with thin oak boards in imitation of timber framing with rendered panels between. The boards are particularly vulnerable to distortion through damp and heating / cooling and thus to the penetration of water and subsequent decay. The use of mastic or other fillers might provide short term solutions but not a permanent answer. Where this work occurs it is desirable to consider its value to the external appearance of the building and whether an alternative finishing might be preferable.
- BF.37** This method of construction wall finish is used extensively on the East Lodge and is beginning to fail extensively particularly at low level or where exposed to frequent wetting. Since the design of the building relies on this finish it should be repaired on a like for like basis, taking the opportunity to improve flashings, or otherwise reduce the probability of recurrence.
- Plinths and the use of cement render** *In various locations within and around the building cement based render has been used as a finish, in a number of cases trowelled in imitation of stonework. It is possible that this render is hiding defects or trapping moisture, but aesthetically it almost always compromises the general appearance of the building or element.*
- BF.38** Externally there are a number of sections of wall which have concrete-faced plinths, either smooth finished or in a number of cases worked to look like render. In most cases these are generally unsatisfactory for reasons given, and should be carefully removed and any refinishing or consequent repair carried out with more appropriate materials.
- BF.39** Internally in the Great Hall and in the south west room fireplaces have been lined with render, marked out to look like stonework. This is representative of a period in the life of the hall, but is nevertheless of poor quality and detracts from the overall quality. Removal and replacement with more appropriate finish is recommended.
- Stable block** *The former stables building is a building of moderate quality and character set in close proximity to the hall, and through the curtilege rule is Grade 1 listed; however it is not as significant as the hall building. Its character is marred by inappropriate uses and extensions and a generally low standard of maintenance and internal environment and it has the capability of contributing more positively to the life of Bramall.*
- BF.40** The building has developed over a number of historical periods, with a Georgian wing to the east and Victorian wings to the north and west thus completing the U – shape. These are generally of reasonable quality with some particularly good features, however the quality of the whole is compromised by poor quality more recent extensions – the lean to which accommodates part of the catering area within the courtyard, and the lean-tos which house the toilets and have been added to the north side. These poor quality additions should be removed to restore the clarity of the earlier construction.

- BF.41** Many of the openings within the walls, and the dormer windows on the west side now contain inappropriately designed doors and windows. In addition the bell cote and a number of the historic features are in poor condition. The unsatisfactory elements should be replaced with those of more fitting design and any remaining historical elements restored to reflect their original form.
- BF.42** The layout and some of the current uses of the building are either inappropriate or poorly laid out and there is considerable scope for redesign, or at least rationalisation. Carry out a feasibility study to consider layouts and uses to arrive at a more viable and fitting layout for the interior. (This topic is considered further under the section on educational and commercial aspects. In particular see policies CE.6-CE.10 and HV.1).
- BF.43** In a number of areas the walls of the stable block have been re-pointed with cement based mortar. This is not compatible with historic brickwork and should be raked out and re-pointed in lime based mortar. Generally lime mortars should be used for repairs to historic fabric
- Boiler house** *This small building to the west of the north wing of the main house is now in poor condition with part of the roof collapsed and internal timber floor decaying. Urgent remedial action is required, followed by the formulation and adoption of a long-term solution.*
- BF.44** Carry out necessary works to make the building safe and secure from water penetration.
- BF.45** Taking appropriate safety measures remove contents of the interior of the building, recording principal structural elements and features. Recover and record historic glazing and other historic materials from the interior.
- BF.46** Remove decaying timbers and carry out structural stabilisation as required to leave the building in a stable condition pending works to bring the building back to a suitable use.
- BF.47** Carry out feasibility studies into future uses and take forward the agreed solution.

5.6 Building services (BS)

Overall policy **Building services will be maintained in a sound and effective condition and use will be made of emerging technologies where possible to minimise the physical impact of service installations on historic fabric.**

- BS.1** Continue to carry out regular inspections of services in accordance with recommendations of CIBSE and legal requirements.
- BS.2** Undertake necessary repairs and remedial action as necessary to maintain in a safe and serviceable condition.
- BS.3** Where services fittings (e.g. lights and switches) have a historic character retain and adapt these to contemporary standards where possible or remove, store and replace with well considered current equivalents.

- BS.4** Use wireless techniques where possible to interlink installations, switches, sensors etc. and computing facilities.
- BS.5** In accordance with M&E surveyor's recommendations replace primary heat source within the hall to comply with latest legislation on safety and efficiency. (See also Environment policies EN1 and EN.2)
- BS.6** Review internal environments within historic spaces to ensure that heating and ventilation is adequate and sufficiently controlled to provide suitable environmental conditions for building fabric and contents. (See also policies CO.7 and CO.8)

5.7 Collections, furnishings and exhibitions (CO)

Overall policy **The house will continue to be furnished and dressed to illustrate its history, character and the lives of its occupants at key stages in its development, preferably using original furniture and artefacts where adequate provisions for environment and security can be provided.**

- CO.1** Continue to develop and review a collections policy for Bramall Hall to inform displays and exhibitions to be set. (See also Interpretation (IN) policies).
- CO.2** Develop a variety of approaches to the display of rooms at Bramall, some as set pieces, some with more interactive installations using recent electronic technologies.
- CO.3** Continue, where practicable, to acquire artefacts, documents, paintings or other items which have a strong association with Bramall and plan for the acquisition of such items where it is known that they may available in the future.
- CO.4** Provide an appropriate display setting for stone and other artefacts relating to Bramall which remain in store.
- CO.5** Continue to develop with other teams appropriate policies for the holding of events and provision of education opportunities within the hall compatible with the display of artefacts and furniture. (See also Catering and Events policy CE.13)
- CO.6** Where historic artefacts of particular educational value are at risk through handling, develop alternative means of understanding their role and purpose by providing replicas, or through virtual technology techniques.
- CO.7** As referred to in M&E policy BS.6 address internal environment issues (RH, UV and air-borne dust) so that the recommended standards are met or exceeded.
- CO.8** Continue to monitor the valuable collection of wall paintings within Bramall Hall to assess and record any degradation. Correlate condition assessments with internal environment records and visitor records so that any changes may be more fully understood. (See also policy Building Services policy BS.6 and Environment EN.2)
- CO.9** Seek to display, or otherwise through remote cameras, make the painted surfaces within roof voids available for public view and provide appropriate interpretation (see also Interpretation policies, in particular IN.6).

- CO.10** Whilst the house displays well aspects of its history from the 15th and 16th centuries and from the 19th century, evidence of life, or of change in the Georgian period is almost ‘invisible’. The house does contain one high status Georgian room which remains outside the normal public areas and is currently used as a staff room. The room could well be conserved and brought into the public visitor domain as a way of indicating that the Davenports were active in changing and developing the house in this era.
- CO.11** The collections shown at present illustrate life within the house, however there is little which relates to the management of the estate and gardens or to outdoor activities. With the redevelopment of the walled garden and conservation work in the park this lack of artefacts could be made up as a way of illustrating the developing technology of horticulture and of park management.

5.8 Environmental issues (EN)

Overall policy **The house and park will be managed and run in the most sustainable manner, with due regard to minimising carbon footprint, local sourcing of materials, employing staff from the immediate area, minimising waste and maximising recycling opportunities.**

- EN.1** Carry out an environmental audit of the house and park to identify in a holistic manner the principal energy uses and opportunities for recycling to inform the creation of a long term energy policy. (See also Building Services, policies BS.5 and BS.6)
- EN.2** Consider ways, within the house and other buildings to increase energy efficiency through moderation of requirements and increase in insulation values. This work should be carried out with the audit and monitoring of the internal environment. As the building has high historic significance, which particularly rests in the construction and finishes, there will be limits to degree of alteration of the historic fabric which will be acceptable and these limits need to be defined in consultation with English Heritage and others. (See also Collections policies CO.7 and CO.8 and Building Services BS.6)
- EN.3** Carry out an audit of operational functions to assess to what degree environmental impact can be reduced (reduction of paper waste, reducing the use of single use, disposal products).
- EN.4** Within the running of the estate seek to employ closed recycling systems e.g. maximising the use of compost, growing food for kitchen use etc.
- EN.5** Investigate opportunities for locally sourced energy which can be used efficiently for localised heating of buildings (e.g. ground source heat pump to supply heating for redesigned stable block).
- EN.6** Consider ways of reducing carbon emissions arising from transportation methods (e.g. the use of shuttle buses from town centre, link into local cycle network, discounted parking for low carbon vehicles).

5.9 Access and signage (AS)

Overall policy **Access to the house and park will be improved so that it is readily located from a distance, so that movement in and around the property is made as unrestricted as possible, and that opportunities for experiencing and understanding the property are as widely available as possible.**

Finding the property *Partly as a result of the complexity of the local road system, but also due to poorly located signage the site is difficult to find.*

- AS.1** Formulate a first tier strategy for signage to the site entrance by identifying the primary routes for vehicular access and planning a sequence of approach signs along each route positioned at each major junction. Ensure that local signage on the final approach to the site is clear and obvious and part of the consistent branding design.
- AS.2** Mark key entry points to the site with a well designed and welcoming entrance sign which clearly conveys basic information and the location of main facilities.
- AS.3** Ensure that road signs are well positioned and that they do not become screened by vegetation.
- AS.4** Plan the website for Bramall so that clear routing instructions are given and ensure that publicity leaflets have clear maps.
- AS.5** Plan and provide for key information hubs at arrival points. These will be positioned so as to relate to the mode of arrival – car, bus, cycle or on foot. At car park(s), bus park, cycle park and at pedestrian entry points provide key second tier information points. These may include site plans, walking routes location of main facilities, emergency information points etc. all in a co-ordinated manner. There will also be space for provision of temporary signage relating to ‘What’s on’, things to see, ongoing projects.
- AS.6** Plan and for provide for third tier signage to enable ready navigation of the site and walking routes to main facilities.
- AS.7** Fourth tier information will provide information on important features or aspects of the park and hall and will be combination of fixed signs, information plaques, printed information and hand held electronic devices.
- AS.8** Signage and information should be planned and designed in a co-ordinated fashion so that each stage readily leads to the next and so that the information provided at the most specific level can be updated or revised as circumstances require.
- AS.9** Consider the possibility of increasing the use of the East entrance either on a temporary basis in association with events, or on a permanent basis to ease traffic flow at site and to increase parking opportunities.

Car parking *Presently car parking is in two locations, one adjacent to the western entrance, the second further into the site. There are problems of capacity and visual intrusion.*

- AS.10** Carry out car parking survey to identify current and future requirements and any marked difference in use patterns between the two present sites.

- AS.11** Consider ways of improving the present larger park, by extending and possible re-planning. Consider re-location of coach parking to allow increased car spaces. As revealed by parking survey and through forward planning consider provision of additional car parking preferably adjacent to or in conjunction with the present larger parking area.
- AS.12** Consider removal of present western parking area and re-landscaping to improve the approach to the site from this direction.
- AS.13** Re-consider overflow parking arrangements in order to avoid the need for the use of the archery lawn for this purpose.

Accessibility Within both the Hall and Park changes in level, surface materials and gradients present potential physical barriers to access.

- AS.14** Carry out an access audit to identify any substantial physical barriers to access and identify potential physical or management interventions.

5.10 Educational opportunities (ED)

Overall policy **Bramall Hall and Park will continue to provide the widest range of opportunities for education and learning across age groups and through a wide range of media as appropriate for the topic.**

Improve experience of school groups The current schools base is of low quality, and there are certain clashes between the need to provide for school groups and regular visitors.

- ED.1** Provide new purpose-designed schools base, with appropriate internal environment, secure storage for pupils' coats and bags, and opportunities for learning. Provide dedicated toilet facilities.
- ED.2** Within the hall consider the provision of a dedicated learning room with adequate A/V facilities, storage for equipment and work space. This can also be a location for replica artefacts and themed graphic displays.
- ED.3** Encourage opportunities for learning in connection with the park based around ecology and wildlife, trees and landscape studies. With the development of the walled garden consider widening learning opportunities in connection with plants, horticulture, food science, nutrition and sustainability topics.
- ED.4** Expand opportunities for formal and informal learning about the house and park, the families, the design and management of the park and archaeology.

5.11 Interpretation (IN)

Overall policy **Interpretation of the story of Bramall and associated themes will be prepared in the light of the best current and emerging knowledge and using media which provide the most comfortable and effective means for visitors and park users.**

- IN.1** Based on the Bramall Story, and having in mind the needs and interests of visitors prepare an overall interpretation strategy for the site, which sets out what information will be conveyed in each location and the media to be used. (See also Collections (CO) policies).

- IN.2** Prepare a hierarchy of information release starting with the contextual information at main locations, moving to the specific stories and more detailed information at appropriate locations in the house and park, preferably in locations to which the specifics relate.
- IN.3** Consider providing introductory information about the hall and park in more neutral environments at the outset of the visit. These displays may have a higher graphic content or use A/V to set the scene prior to the more artefact or location specific material. The space for this display may be in the lower significance rooms in the hall or indeed in a refurbished stable block.
- IN.4** Consider the use of a range of scenarios within the hall, such that some spaces are dressed as ‘don’t touch’ period piece rooms with larger numbers of artefacts, others making use of A/V, sound, light and smell to give more of the flavour of particular activities or significant events within the room or space.
- IN.5** Widen the range of interpretation topics in the hall and park to include the less obvious and mainstream areas of study and have in mind emerging areas of interest such as sustainability or genealogy. Consider explaining also the processes involved in the management of the estate, both now and at earlier periods.
- IN.6** The images contained within the unique wall paintings offer many possible topics for interpretation and invite the novel use of different media. Seek also to display those within roof voids. (See also Collections policies CO.2 and CO.9)
- IN.7** Develop particular interpretation areas relating to the ecology of the site and also archaeology.

5.12 Hospitality and the visitor experience (HV)

Overall policy **Those responsible for the running of the house and park, particularly those who receive and cater for visitors will continue to ensure that visits are of the highest possible standard and remain enjoyable throughout, and that facilities, including those for staff, are adequate and of the highest standard.**

Arrival and finding your way around *Whilst the welcome at Bramall remains warm and helpful, negotiating entry is a somewhat uncertain experience due to the unusually placed shop and ticket desk. From this point the way around the house is not clear for visitors without guide or explanation.*

HV.1 Consider relocation of the shop, ticket and information point so that it is positioned earlier in the encounter with the house. These could be located in the refurbished stable block, with a ticket check at the entry to the house, or even the pay perimeter extended to include the immediate environs of the house.

HV.2 Consider strengthening the ‘self navigation’ route around the house. Whilst it may be desirable to retain that air of mystery around the visit, some degree of general orientation is desirable to assist understanding of the historical development, and more practically to enable efficient emergency escape if needed.

On-site facilities *There is limited toilet provision within the house, and what exists makes use of historic cloakrooms and sanitary fittings. Toilet within the park is limited to that built on to the stable block (except for café users who have additional provision). For a site of the potential capacity and status of Bramall the level and the quality of the toilet provision is seriously inadequate.*

HV.3 Reassess the need for toilets, facilities for those with disabilities, baby changing requirements, showers for sports users and associated needs and ensure that there is adequate provision to the required recommendations and standards.

Staff enquiries and carrying out business *The staff rooms are not well located as far as visitors to the site are concerned, are difficult to late and somewhat remote from general activity. Staff welfare facilities are rather improvised in their nature and they do not have exclusively available toilet facilities.*

HV.4 Reconsider the location of staff facilities and offices so that there is a readily available contact and space for the carrying out of business e.g. booking for events and tours, and for those needing to carry out day to day business such as receiving deliveries, dealing with on-site contractors etc.

HV.5 Ensure that staff have exclusive welfare facilities – rest room, kitchen, storage for clothes and equipment w.c.s, medical area etc.

HV.6 Retain a meeting room for staff and others visiting, to provide for staff social events, presentations, staff meetings and briefings etc.

5.13 Catering, commercial activities and events. (CE)

Overall policy **Continue to provide on-site catering, merchandise, to hold commercial activities and events on the site to the highest possible standard and with a view to community outreach, but always consistent with the *a priori* need to conserve the site, the ecology, the hall and its collections.**

Café and catering *The present café whilst catering reasonably well for one sector of the visitors to the hall and park does not provide adequately for the full range, and does not have the capacity to meet the requirements of visitors on busy days. The café does not fulfil its potential to provide a greater income stream for Bramall Hall and Park.*

CE.1 Reconsider the requirements for catering at Bramall Hall, particularly in the light of future development of the site, and reconsider also the way in which the site provides opportunities for meeting the wider aims of Stockport Council (in the case of the café, the provision of transitional work placements for those with learning difficulties). Assess which is the best option for taking forward the catering requirement for the hall and park and develop a business model and plan accordingly.

CE.2 Redevelop the café restaurant to provide a more attractive contemporary environment with increased capacity and efficiency and the opportunity for a wider catering offer.

CE.3 Benchmark the offer and the standards at Bramall against those at other comparable sites to design the commercial offer, and its character accordingly.

CE.4 Consider raising the standard and offer at Bramall so that the café / restaurant has the capability of being a destination in itself. (There appears to be little local competition in a primarily residential area with significant spending capacity.) Consider expanding opening hours beyond those of the hall.

CE.5 Consider the capacity to cater for larger events outside the normal offer.

- CE.6** Redevelop ancillary facilities accordingly – kitchens, prep and stores, offices and exclusive staff facilities.
- CE.7** Continue with the provision of a refreshment counter for cold drinks, ices and sweets during busy hot days.
- CE.8** Consider catering provision for schools and party visits.

Shop and items for sale *The present shop is located within the Hall and can be passed by fairly readily. Its range of gifts is traditional and though well chosen could be widened to include more relating to the gardens and landscape and more local produce.*

- CE.9** Relocate the shop in a more prominent position so that visitors necessarily have to pass through it once, if not twice, to maximise spend opportunities.
- CE.10** Consider locating the shop in an improved reception area within the stable block to improve the space available and its general visibility within the site.
- CE.11** With the provision of a larger and lighter space increase the range of goods offered to cater for the general gift market as well as those items with strong connection with the site. As for the catering offer there is a reasonably large local community with good spending power and limited nearby competition. A shop outside the immediate pay area and within easy walking and parking access could be much more widely used.

Weddings *Bramall Hall and Park provide an outstanding setting for the carrying out of civil wedding ceremonies and the celebrations following. Continue to provide for these but in ways which do not compromise the prime need to conserve the site, its fabric and contents.*

- CE.12** Reconsider the way wedding functions are organised in order to reduce the pressure on the hall, its collections and immediate setting. The holding of wedding functions is in effect purely a business venture and its proceeds help to support the running and conservation of the hall. If in the process of running the event the outcomes go against these primary aims then adjustments will be required.
- CE.13** Re-evaluate the way in which the interior of the hall is used for such functions so that the areas which visitors use are precisely controlled and the potential for damage to fabric and contents is minimised (in theory non-existent). (See also Collections policy CO.5)
- CE.14** Ensure that the process of setting up for, running and dismantling after a wedding do not compromise the experience of the normal paying visitor or school party.

Other events *A range of other events is held at Bramall with the aims of community development, fund raising etc. There is capacity for increasing events providing that they do not compromise the overall conservation and running of the hall and park.*

- CE.15** Formulate an events policy which considers the category of events possible (e.g. charity fund raising, community development, sport and fitness etc.) and the likely audience and infrastructure requirements.

- CE.16** Devise an overall events calendar for the year, with an appropriate balance of slots for the different organisers and purposes. Within the diary include ‘traditional’ Bramall events and include opportunities for larger scale activities organised by Bramall and other outside bodies.
- CE.17** Assess infrastructure and staffing needs (parking, additional site staff) etc. and plan for the provision of these needs.
- CE.18** Re-evaluate charging and hiring policy to ensure that, at least all expenses are met, and where fund raising is intended, the desired outcome is achieved taking into account all real and hidden expenses.
- CE.19** Consider more Bramall related fund raising activity, possibly in association with the Friends, with proceeds dedicated to specific works at the property. (See also Management policy OM.19).
- CE.20** Provide a range of events which encourage community development and involvement and by which means there can be an increased sense of long term commitment to the hall and park, and sympathy with the management actions required to continue to run it. (See also Management policy OM.19).

6.0 GAZETTEER

6.1 Introduction

Whereas the Plan so far has treated the site at a broad level, looking at influences and issues which affect the park or the house as a whole, the Gazetteer considers the site in its constituent parts. For each identified element there is a brief description, a note of its protected status, summary of the history and references to the important Issues and Policies.

This material of this section is divided into two - Part A, being the Gazetteer for the hall and stables, Part B, the Gazetteer for the park and landscape features.

Part A commences with floor plans of the house showing the principal zones, which in themselves reflect the main structural divisions of the house. The zones are coloured to aid identification.

The zones in the order of consideration are:

- South Range
- Hall Range
- North East wing
- North range
- Stables

Rooms are numbered sequentially on each floor, prefixed by a floor designation letter as follows:

- B = Basement
- G = Ground floor
- F = First floor
- S = Second floor

Part B is prefixed with a plan of the park which identifies the features referred to in the following gazetteer pages.

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Part A
Gazetteer of House and Stables

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall South Wing: overview
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Summary

listing grade	I
Date	C15 th , late C18, 1880s-1890s
Phase	Multi-phase
Function	High status wing, now visitor route

History and Description

Original Form

- C15 – precise date unknown
- 2-storey, 7-bay with 3-bay chambers either side of central staircase bay
- Timber-framed with close-studding on stone plinth. Built in separate phase to S end of hall range; probably slightly earlier.
- Stone slate roof with timber bellcote, timber rainwater gutters – original roof covering unknown
- Timber mullioned windows with cusping to GF chapel windows and GF banqueting hall and FF ballroom. Central stair lit by mullioned and transomed window.
- High status interiors arranged with two large chambers on each floor separated by central lobby and staircase – unusual example of symmetrical arrangement for the date.
- E ground floor space used as a private chapel.
- Upper floor chambers originally open to roof with rich interior design of painted decoration on moulded and cusped timbers of roof, the timber-framed walls and plaster infill panels. Date of 1610 and Davenport initials recorded by Burton in 1880s on plasterwork on W gable of E roof-space (lost in 1880s).

Later Adaptation

- First phase of alteration probably late C17 when east upper chamber ceiled, creating an attic, and first floor chamber subdivided into two spaces (recorded by Burton).
- Second phase of major change - in late C18, cladding of S wall and W gable-end in red brick, laid in English garden wall bond. Evidence of red tinted colour wash. Octagonal bellcote possibly added in same phase
- Early C19, wall paintings in Banqueting Hall covered with light panelling
- Substantial repair and restoration phase by Charles Nevill in 1880s and 1890s - repair or renewal of timber-frame and reinstatement of some mullioned windows, roof repairs, S chimney stack rebuilt in more elaborate C16 style (dated 1888 on south face)
- Interior, late C19 - discovery and exposure of wall paintings, loss of painted plasterwork at W end of E attic, insertion of new fireplaces and services, discovery of N chapel windows and repairs to chapel structure, rebuilding staircases and new joinery.
- Addition of oriel window to first floor E chamber and building of 2-storeyed timber-framed chapel 'transept' for organ loft in 1896 (carved date on S face), also by Nevill
- 1930s restoration to chapel included re-hanging of the bell in bellcote, renewal of sanctuary fittings and one side of pews. 1940s chapel works included reinstatement of stained glass to E window and more new pews

- Post-war repairs to structure included work to W gable and renewal of interior W gable 'timber-frame', render removed from W face of gable to expose brick at unknown date.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- High to exceptional significance

Risks and Policies

- Recommend dendro for roof and frame to more closely date the wing and its relationship with the S end of the hall range
- Condition – structural repair issues ?
- External finishes - retain or reinstate external colour washing of brick
- Interiors – conservation of wall paintings, monitor impact of modern services, visitors and light

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
Burton MSS, Chetham's Library
1930s photographs of chapel prior to restoration (Stockport Council)
Davenport photographs c.1870, (Cheshire Records Office),
1883 Burton floor plan (Stockport Council)
1936 floor plans (Stockport Council)

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone
Item
Ref No**

Hall, South Wing
Overview



South elevation, 2009



South wing before the Nevill restoration c.1870 (Stockport Council collection)



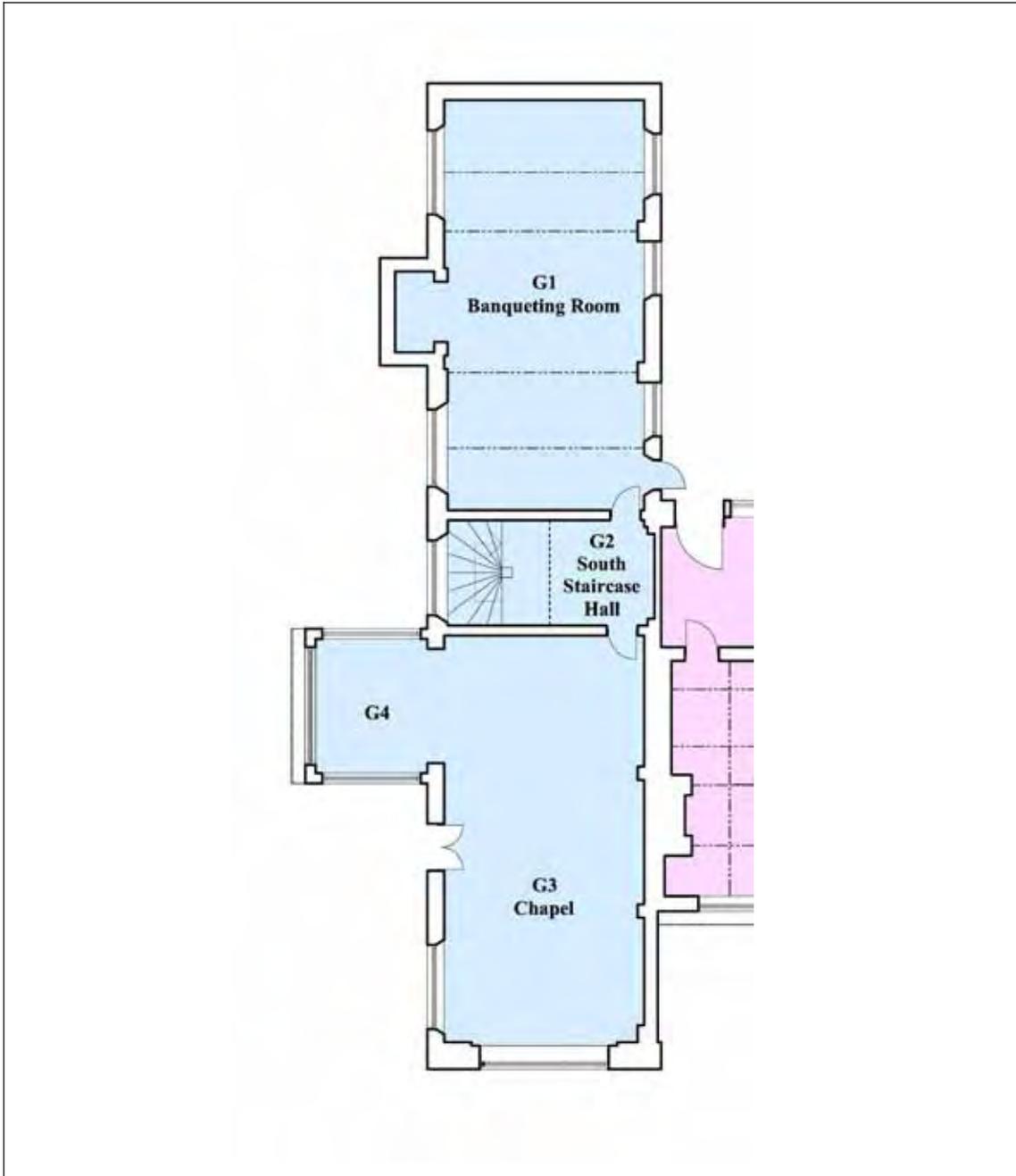
N elevation

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER

ZONE PLAN showing room references

SOUTH WING

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone: South Wing Item: Banqueting room Ref: G1
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Summary

listing grade	I
Date	C15 th and later
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	High status chamber, now used for weddings & events
Key features	C15 timber-frame, moulded ceiling beams, 1880s fireplace

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 structure
- Construction: close-studded walls on stone plinth. 3 principal bays subdivided into half bays
- Form and appearance: 3-bay rectangular space with exposed moulded main posts and richly moulded beams to compartmentalised ceiling. Entered by arched doorway from E with matching doorway blocked to S end of E wall.
- Use: high status reception room
- Surviving elements: ceiling beams and timber-frame to E and N walls; partial survival of main posts to S wall. Traces of C16 painted decoration on N wall, E end suggest whole room was decorated in polychrome scheme.

Later Adaptation

- Date: late C18/early C19 - S and W walls rebuilt. Interior restored by Nevill in 1880s; used as a billiard room in c.1870
- Construction: brick-encased S and W walls lined with plaster, painted to resemble timber-framing. Some iron strapping to ceiling beams.
- Form and appearance: late C19 elements include gothic-style stone fireplace in re-built chimney stack (1888), oak boarded floor. Inserted external door on N wall, date unknown.
- Current use: weddings and events
- Late C19 services include perimeter cast-iron heating pipes

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- High, national significance

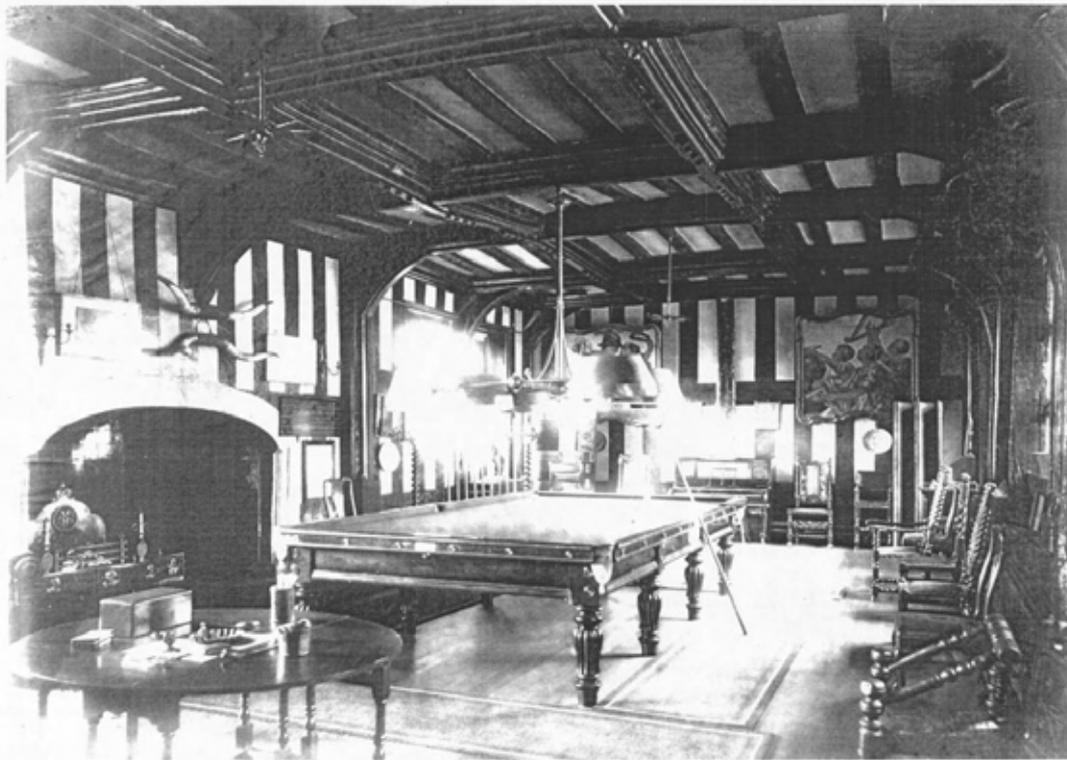
Risks and Policies

- Impact of services eg. lighting & heating

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, South Wing Ground floor Banqueting room G1
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Banqueting room from the NE



The same view in c1870 (Cheshire Records Office)



Surviving C16 painted wall decoration in NE corner of room

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
Burton MSS, Chetham Library
Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton (Stockport Collection)
Photographs c.1870, Stockport Council and Cheshire records office

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, South Wing
	Item	South staircase and hall
	Ref No	G2

Summary

listing grade	I
Date	C15 th space with 1897 staircase
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Circulation: Principal staircase to first floor and ground floor lobby
Key features	C15 close-studded timber-framed enclosure with arched doorways, 1890s staircase, stone lobby floor

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 timber-frame structure
- Construction: close-studded walls on stone plinth. One-bay space between chapel and ballroom
- Form and appearance: exposed timber-frame with arched doorways integral to frame. Historic stair described by Burton as a 'botch of old materials' with an octagonal oak newel. There was a space between the stair and south window.
- Use: vertical circulation and lobby
- Surviving elements: close-studded timber-frame to east, west and south walls

Later Adaptation

- Date: Staircase re-built by Nevill late 1890s recorded by 1897 date and carved text on oak corbel on ground floor west wall
- Construction: renewed oak newel stair occupies south part of bay, rising to first floor, sited against the south wall.
- Form and appearance: oak stair with octagonal newel and continuous handrail on wrought iron brackets. Soffit of landing renewed in oak 1890s in oak. Timber-frame surfaces planed and polished by Nevill. Diagonally laid stone floor in lobby may be pre- C19.

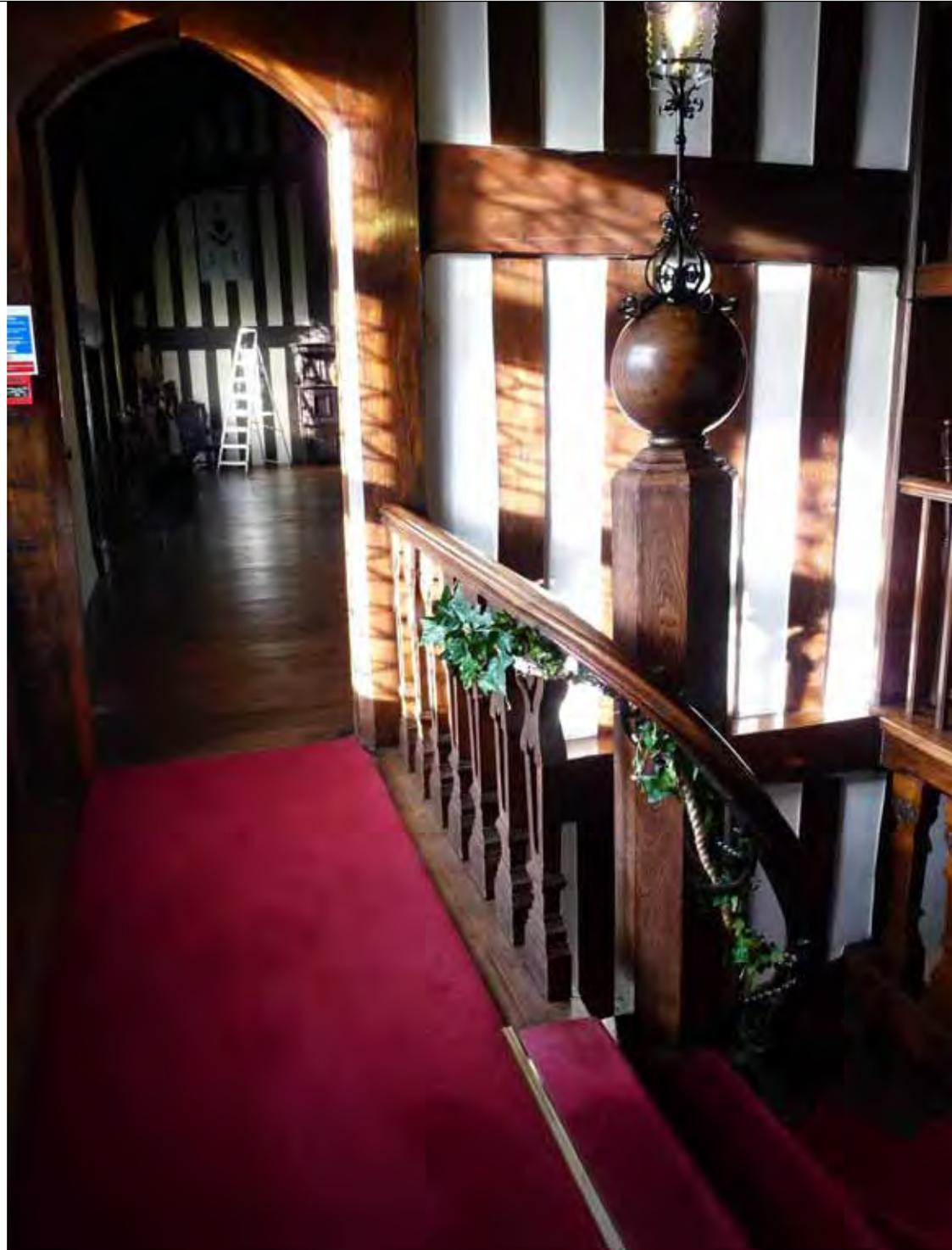
Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- High, national significance

Risks and Policies

- DDA

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, South Wing
	Item	Staircase & ground floor hall
	Ref No	G2



Detail of staircase at first floor landing, from the S



S stair lobby from N

References

- E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p.64
Burton 1883 MSS, Chetham's Library
Ground floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, South Wing
	Item	Chapel
	Ref No	G3 and G4

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C15 th , 1880s and 1930s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Private chapel now de-consecrated
Key features	C15 timber-frame, moulded ceiling beams, painted decoration to W wall, traceried timber windows, 1930s and 1940s fittings. Re-set C15/C16 stained glass. Chapel retains the late medieval character of the space due to exposed timber-framing, ceiling beams and wall paintings, but most of fittings are early to mid C20.

Summary

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 structure (S wing)
- Construction: close-studded walls on stone plinth. 3 principal bays subdivided into half bays
- Form and appearance: 3-bay rectangular space with exposed moulded main posts and richly moulded beams to compartmentalised ceiling. Entered by arched doorway from W with matching doorway blocked to S end of W wall. Lit by E and S windows window and formerly by windows in N wall.
- Use: private chapel
- Surviving elements: ceiling beams and timber-frame N, E and W walls. C16 painted decoration on W wall extended across timber-frame and plaster infill with further panels over doors.

Later Adaptation

- Dates: late C18/early C19 - S wall rebuilt in brick. 1880s repair and 1890s organ loft (G3) added by Nevill. 1938 restoration and new sanctuary fittings. 1940s further restoration.
- Construction: brick S wall lined with plaster, other walls retain C15 timber-framing with oak windows on N wall revealed by Nevill in 1880s. Ceiling reinforced with iron straps in 1930s.
- Form and appearance: Square bay added to S wall as organ loft, G3 (dated 1896 externally), in matching style. Stone flagged central aisle, pew platforms and sanctuary have boarded floor, multi-phase. Late C19 heating grille (plated over).
- Fittings: oak pulpit in memory of Arthur Nevill d.1860, restored 1938. Pews on N side and joinery in sanctuary date from 1938 restoration by Vernon & Smith of Hazel Grove, funded by Charles Wrigley. Pews on S side and E window stained glass restored 1945-47.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- Exceptional national significance

Risks and Policies

- Fragmentary state of wall paintings cf C19 photo
- Further research recommended into N wall windows & timber-frame in relation to phasing of S wing and hall range

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p.90

Burton MSS, Chetham Library

Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton

Undated resume of '*later alterations at Bramall Hall*' in Stockport Library

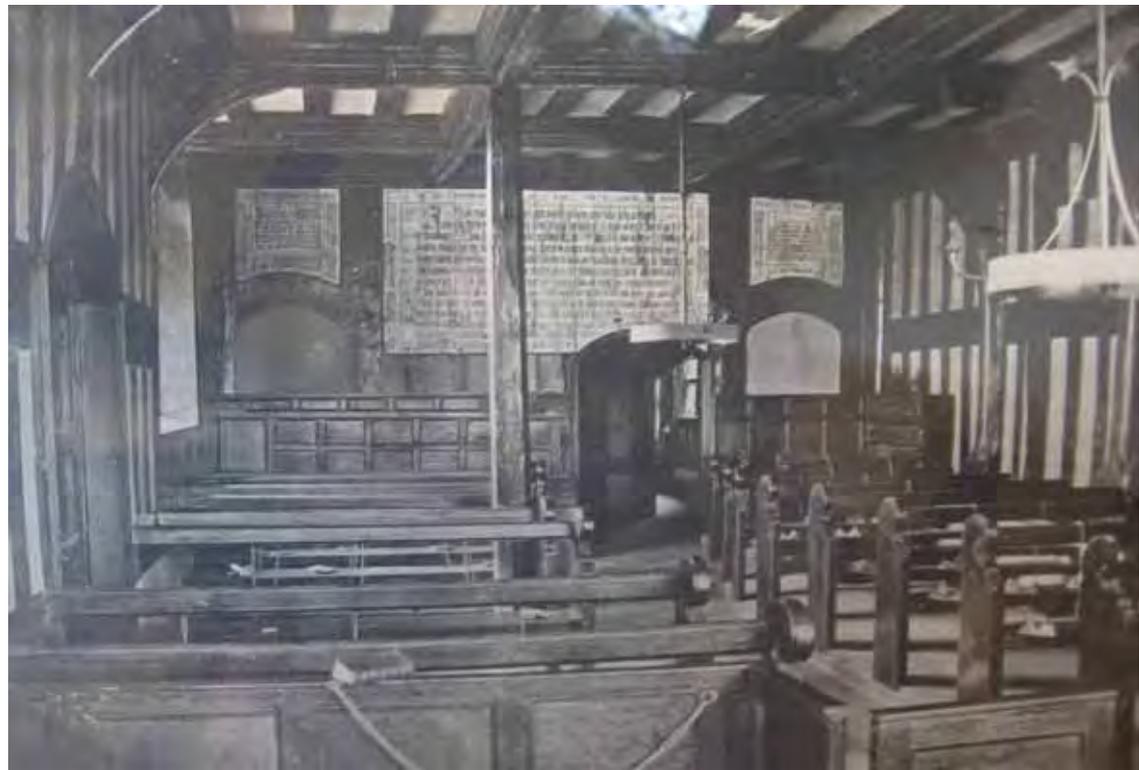
Framed photograph of c.1870 in the chapel, 1930s photos in Bramall Hall collection

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

Zone Hall, South Wing
Item Chapel
Ref No G3 and G4



Chapel from the E



Chapel from the E before c. 1870 (from a framed photograph in the chapel)



Sanctuary, restored 1930s with funding from Charles Wrigley

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

ZONE PLAN showing room references

SOUTH WING

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, South Wing
	Item	Service staircase and first floor
	Ref No	landing F1

Summary

listing grade	I
Date	C15 th space with 1897 staircase
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Circulation: service stair from first to second floor
Key features	C15 close-studded timber-framed enclosure with arched doorways, 1890s staircase

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 timber-frame structure
- Construction: close-studded walls on stone plinth. One-bay space between chapel and ballroom
- Form and appearance: exposed timber-frame with arched doorways integral to frame. Historic stair described by Burton as a 'botch of old materials' with an octagonal oak newel. This removed in 1890s and replaced with two separate staircases.
- Use: vertical circulation and landing
- Surviving elements: close-studded timber-frame to east, west and south walls

Later Adaptation

- Date: new service stair from 1st floor to attic over Nevill Room and Plaster Room built by Nevill in 1890s, at same time as new principal stair to first floor provided on south side of this space .
- Construction: Oak dog-leg staircase with open treads, square newels with ball finials, stick balusters and moulded handrail,
- Form and appearance: Timber-frame surfaces of enclosing walls planed and polished by Nevill. Stair separated from principal stair well to south by oak balustrade on landing.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- High, national significance

Risks and Policies

- DDA

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, South Wing Secondary staircase F1
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Service staircase from the S

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
Burton 1883 MSS, Chetham's Library
1880s floor plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, South Wing
	Item	Ball Room
	Ref No	F2

Summary

listing grade	I
Date	C15 th and later
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	High status upper chamber, now on visitor route
Key features	C15 timber-frame, wall paintings to N and E walls, exposed medieval roof, historic windows with early glazing
Summary	Perhaps the most exceptional historic room in the building due to survival of wall paintings and open roof.

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 structure
- Construction: close-studded walls. Open arch-braced tie-beam roof structure with cusped and moulded braces. Historic floor
- Form and appearance: 3 principal bays subdivided into half bays. Timber-frame has exposed moulded main posts. Roof has cambered tie-beams with carved spandrels to braces, cusped wind bracing. Entered by arched doorways in E wall from staircase landing.
- Use: high status upper chamber
- Surviving elements: roof structure and timber-frame to E and N walls; partial survival of main posts to S wall. Important C16 painted decoration on N and E walls. Historic wide oak boards to floor. Historic glass in north windows. Propped in the NW corner is an ex situ historic arched door with painted decoration, probably from the NE doorway to this room.

Later Adaptation

- Date: Wall paintings and timber-frame lined with panelling in early C19. Historic interior restored by Nevill in 1887 when wall paintings uncovered.
- Brick west gable repaired in 1950 and replica timber-framing applied to inner face
- Construction: S and W walls clad in brick late C18/early C19, and lined with plaster.
- Surviving elements and features: Plain fireplace of unknown date (C20 ?) in re-built chimney stack (1888), High level boarded door on E wall, function and date unknown. South windows have late C19 glazing. Late C19 arched doors at E end lead to stair landing.
- Use: now on visitor route
- Wall paintings conserved in 1970 and 1987

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- Exceptional national significance

Risks and Policies

- Continuing conservation of wall paintings, monitor impact of uv light and visitor pressure.
- Review visual and physical impact of services eg. lighting
- Enhance interpretation of high level doorway, informed by further research.
- Consider reinstating ex situ door to NE doorway
- Provide replica chimney piece in place of existing plain modern surround



Ball room c. 1870, from the W (Cheshire Records Office)

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone
Item
Ref No**

Hall, South Wing
Ball Room
F2



Ball Room from the E



Ball Room from the West

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, pp-67-68

Burton MSS, Chetham Library

1880s floor plan

'Resume of Alterations carried out at Bramall Hall', undated typescript in Stockport Library

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, South Wing
	Item	Nevill Room
	Ref No	F4 and F5

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C15 th , 1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	First floor chamber
Key features	C17 panelling with 1880s fireplace, replica main posts and panelled ceiling and beams, 1890s bay to south Character of room now determined by 1890s restoration and new joinery introduced by Nevill.

Summary

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 structure
- Construction: close-studded walls. 3 principal bays subdivided into half bays. Open to the roof until C17 or later when a plaster ceiling was inserted.
- Form and appearance: 3-bay rectangular space entered by door at W end from staircase lobby, with blocked arched door to hall range (Plaster Room) in N wall timber-frame. Lit by E and S windows
- Use: high status upper chamber
- Surviving elements: timber frame appears to survive behind the panelling and inserted Late C19 replica 'main posts'. Wainscot panelling added C17.

Later Adaptations

- Dates: Plaster ceiling inserted after C17 and sub-divided into two rooms until at least 1883. 1890s restoration to one space with addition of south bay (F4) by Nevill.
- Construction: S wall clad in brick late C18/early C19, other walls retain C15 timber-framing. Inserted ceiling lined with beamed timber ceiling in 1890s.
- Form & appearance; Oriel window on north wall added by Nevill 1890s. Square bay (F4) added on S side above organ loft (dated 1896 externally),
- Use: Nevill adapted the room for a billiard room, now part of visitor route
- Fittings: 1890s panelling, oak boarded floor, boarded ceiling with moulded beams, carved oak chimney piece with Nevill motifs. Jib door in N wall panelling reveals C15 timber-frame and blocked doorway.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- Medium – high, national significance

Risks and Policies

- Further research recommended into N wall timber-frame in relation to phasing of S wing and hall range

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, pp.64-65
Burton MSS, Chetham Library
Floor plan of 1880s

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone
Item
Ref No**

Hall, South Wing
Nevill Room
F5



Nevill Room (F5) from the E



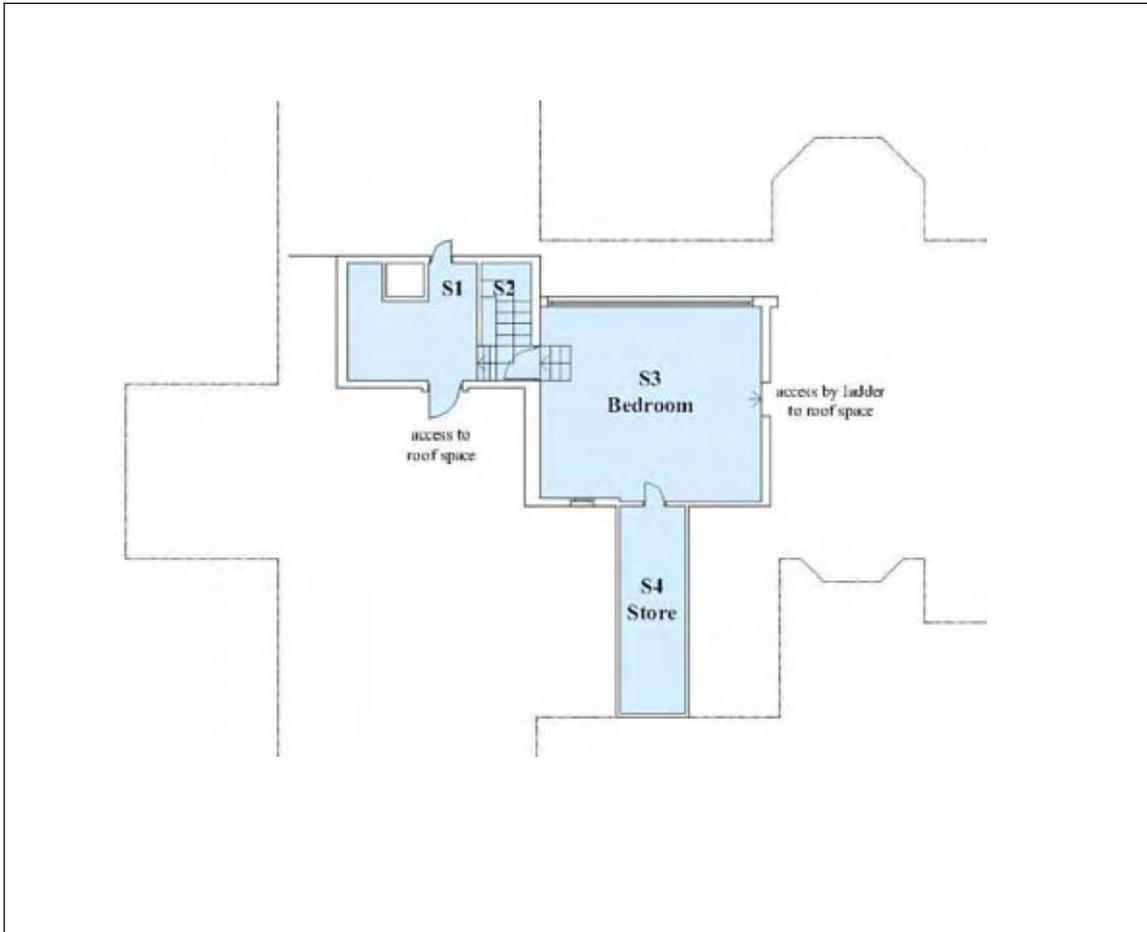
F4 - Bay on south side added in 1890s by Nevill, from the north

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

ZONE PLAN showing room references

SOUTH WING

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, South Wing Attic over Nevill Room S1
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Summary

listing grade	I
Date	C15 th and later
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Roof space
Key features	C15 roof structure and C16 or early C17 painted decoration

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 structure
- Construction: Chevron timber-framing to gable-end wall. 3 bay roof has cambered moulded collar trusses with 2 tiers of moulded purlins and cusped wind braces.
- Form and appearance: roof space was originally open from the first floor chamber.
- Use: part of high status upper chamber
- Surviving elements: roof structure, timber-frame to E gable-end and fine painted decoration from 1610 on timbers and plasterwork of E gable; dated fragment of plaster from W gable-end retained in framed case in Nevill Room (F5).

Later Adaptation

- Date: Floor inserted in later C17 or later, to create ceiling over Nevill Room. Nevill repairs to roof in 1890s led to loss of plasterwork on W cross wall of this space, along with a plaster panel dated 1610 with Davenport initials, recorded by Burton (now in F5). Further repairs to roof in C20
- Construction: timber second floor structure with boarded floor
- Surviving elements and features: boarded floor.
- Use: storage

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- exceptional significance

Risks and Policies

- Protect and maintain roof timbers and painted decoration
- Protect bats using this space whilst also protecting historic fabric
- Supervise and manage contractors to avoid damage to historic fabric & graffiti etc.
- Explore scope for dendro dating of roof to provide accurate dating of S wing

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, South Wing Attic over Nevill Room S1
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Roof space from the W



E gable end with painted decoration

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p65
Burton MSS, Chetham Library
1936 Second floor plan (Stockport Council)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, South Wing
	Item	Attic landing
	Ref No	S2

Summary

listing grade	I
Date	C15 th and later
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Landing at top of service stair
Key features	C15 roof structure and timber-framed enclosure

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 roof structure, C17 second floor
- Construction: close-studded walls, timber floor
- Form and appearance: Small service landing created when attic floor inserted added in C17 or C18
- Use: service landing giving access to bell cote and clock mechanism (date of 1738 on clock face recorded by Burton)
- Surviving elements: roof structure and timber-frame.

Later Adaptation

- Date: Floor inserted in C17 or later, to create attic over Nevill Room. Landing adapted in late C19 to provide a urinal in a cubicle – latter probably to serve the billiard room (F5, Nevill Room) or servants' room to N (S3)
- Construction: stud partitions
- Surviving elements and features: timber structure supporting bell cote (repaired C20). Late C19 urinal/WC and march-board wall and roof slope linings. Urinal cubicle removed after 1930s
- Current use: storage

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- Medium significance

Risks and Policies

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, South Wing Attic landing S2
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Landing urinal and late C19 joinery, from NE

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p65
Burton MSS, Chetham Library
1936 Second floor plan (Stockport Council Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall Range Hall range overview
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Summary

listing grade	I
date	Unknown primary phase, C16 remodelling with C19 and C20 alterations
phases	Multi-phase. For room by room analysis and alteration see separate gazetteer entries
use	The core of the late medieval house

History and Description

- Date: Probably built in the C14 or C15 as the principal hall range for the de Bromale family. Substantially altered or re-built late C16 for Davenports.
- Construction: close-studded timber frame on a plinth of sandstone. Original hall roof structure and form lost due to later alterations. One truncated closed tie-beam truss in partition between Withdrawing Room (F8) and Plaster Room (F7) roof spaces.
- Form and appearance: 2-storey with attics. 3 bay hall aligned N-S to the centre of the range, with short 1-bay wing continuing at upper end (S, now library etc) and cross wing at lower end (N, now shop etc). Cross passage entered by opposing entrances with porches.
- The arrangement of the lower end services altered by later upgrading of these areas and re-location of services further to NE, but line of central service passage probably reflects the original position.
- Upper end chambers retain some structural fabric and historic character and appear to be of perhaps C15 date, pre-dating the Withdrawing room late C16 phase.
- Use: core of the medieval house with high status accommodation for use by the owning family at S end, services at N end

Later Adaptation

- Date: The range was substantially rebuilt and adapted in the late C16 when N staircase (G9 & F9) was inserted on W side of the service area, serving a principal upper chamber (Withdrawing room, F8) and a new long gallery at second floor level (lost). Lateral hall stack and N and S stacks probably added in C16.
- The Withdrawing room is a creation of the 1590s with form, fittings and decoration of this period, for the Davenports. Around the same time, a ceiling was inserted to the Paradise Room (F6) and Plaster Room (F7). Wainscot panelling and plaster decoration added to F6.
- At an unknown date, but perhaps also in the C16, the buttery or pantry services on the E side of the lower cross wing were remodelled to create a family room (G10) and the services established in a NE wing, added around the same time.
- At an unknown date, the gap between N wing and hall range was in-filled to connect these two ranges.
- During the C18, an unknown level of internal upgrading took place, and the withdrawing room was refenestrated with sash windows;
- The long gallery was removed and the hall range roof (S4) re-built in the early C19, with plain eaves to the W elevation.
- The sash windows to F8 were replaced with mullioned and transomed windows between 1855 and 1870. In the 1880s, Charles Nevill further restored the external fabric and interiors, re-creating C16-style features such as architraves and fireplaces, rebuilding the staircase, renewing timber-framing and chimneys and introducing gables to the W and E elevations.

- Surviving elements: plan-form still legible but building envelope much restored with possibly C15 fabric partly embedded in or replaced by later fabric. The few internal features from a primary phase include timber-framed walls, chamfered beams and part of a roof truss at N end of Plaster Room (F7).
- Late C19 servants' accommodation improved by remodelling or creating attics in the cross wings either side of the hall
- Substantial repairs and replacement of external fabric, mid to late C20 in Council ownership. This included replacing much of the timber-structure of the hall's octagonal bay in the 1950s and 1970s
- In the mid to late C20, the interiors were furnished and decorated to present different periods to the visitor, with support from the Friends of Bramall Hall.

Significance / Values

- Probably one of the earliest parts of the complex, substantially remodelled in the C16 resulting in some fine interiors of this period. C19 restoration largely respects the historic character of the hall range but with speculative roof-work by Nevill.
- Possesses evidential, historic, aesthetic and social value
- Principal rooms (G5, G8, G30, F6, F7, F8, F9) and surviving timber-frame structure are high to exceptional significance
- Roof structure over Great Hall (S4), the library (G6) and refurbished low end cross wing interiors (G10, G12, G16, G18, F11 and 11A) are medium significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information about and analysis of the surviving timber structure and its phasing – dendro and measured survey strongly recommended
- The structure is at risk of damage by modern services

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone
Item
Ref No**

Hall, Hall Range
Over view



Hall Range from the W, with late C19 gables added by Nevill



Hall range from the E, with East porch to centre

References:

Henry Taylor plan published 1884
 1883 Burton plan and undated 1880s 're-arrangement' plans (Stockport Council)
 Davenport photographs, c. 1870, Cheshire Records Office
 1936 UDC floor plans (Stockport Council Collection)
 Resume of alterations at Bramall Hall, nd, Stockport Library
 Burton MSS, Chetham's Library
 Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999

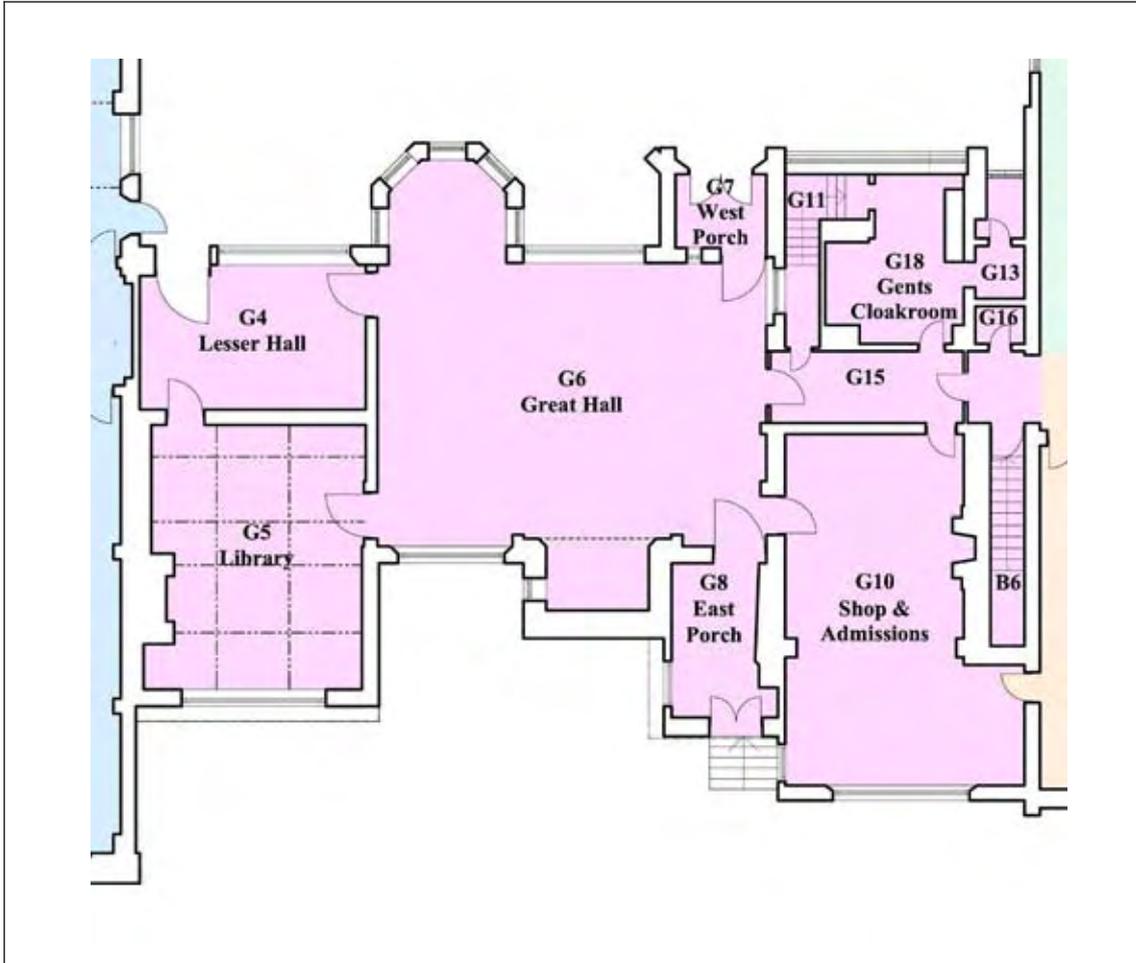
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**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

ZONE PLAN showing room references

HALL RANGE

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range, ground floor
	Item	Lesser Hall
	Ref No	G5

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C15 th /C16, late C19
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Circulation
Key features	C16 moulded beams to compartmentalised ceiling, stone floor, C17 panelling, historic window glass

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 structure
- Construction: Occupies GF part of a 1-bay link between the Great Hall and the S wing. Timber-framed walls, panelled internally
- Form and appearance: rectangular, unheated circulation space lit by W window, entered from hall and S wing.
- Use: perhaps part of a large chamber off high end of hall, later divided from present library (G6)
- Surviving elements: C16 moulded ceiling beams (as in library), historic window glass, upper part of arched medieval opening to S wing.

Later Adaptation

- Dates: C17 panelling. Late C19 – door to library inserted, S arched opening restored and panelling re-set by Nevill. Early C20, double doors inserted to N.
- Construction: timber-frame obscured by oak wainscot panelling of varying dates probably re-set.
- Form and appearance: Rectangular space lit by timber mullioned window to W. wall. Wainscot panelled late C19 doors. Diagonally-laid sandstone floor. Diagonal ceiling ribs probably early C19.
- Use: shown as ante-room on c.1860 plan, 'saloon' on 1883 Burton plan, now part of visitor circulation route.
- Features: panelling with re-set inscription on E wall.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic value
- High significance

Risks and Policies

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range Lesser Hall G5
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Lesser hall from the N

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range, Ground Floor
	Item	Library
	Ref No	G6

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C15 th , 1880s, 1952
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Library, now staff area
Key features	C16 moulded beams to compartmentalised ceiling

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: Probably C15 structure
- Construction: Occupies GF part of a cross wing between the hall and the S wing. Timber-framed walls, now obscured by plaster.
- Form and appearance: rectangular space possibly once part of larger high status space with G5, later subdivided. C16 beams to compartmentalised ceiling are same as in G5.
- Use: chamber off the upper end of the hall
- Surviving elements: C16 moulded ceiling beams with rosette bosses, obscured timber-frame

Later Adaptation

- Dates: Appearance of this room in late C19 unknown. Nevill installed the E mullioned window in place of two sashes. Door to lesser hall inserted late C19. 1950s restoration funded by Friends of Bramall Park
- Form and appearance: Rectangular space lit by late C19 window on E wall, plain plastered walls. Boarded floor obscured by carpet.
- Fittings: 1950s fireplace, modern strip lighting and services

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic value
- Medium significance

Risks and Policies

- Review function of room
- Impact of modern services eg. strip lighting fixed to ceiling beams

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton (Stockport Collection)
 Undated account of '*later alterations at Bramall Hall*' in Stockport Library

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range, ground floor Library G6
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Library from the E



Detail of rose boss on moulded ceiling beams in library

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range, ground floor West porch G7
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Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	CC16, 1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Circulation – front entrance
Key features	stone floor, 1880s doors

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C16 structure
- Construction: Timber-framed close-studded walls on stone plinth.
- Form and appearance: Porch to W side of cross passage, integrated into structure of C16 staircase
- Use: entrance porch/circulation
- Surviving elements: timber-frame

Later Adaptation

- Dates: 1880s restoration by Nevill
- Restoration works: timber-frame renewed externally and internally. New panelled inner and outer doors with ironwork by GF Armitage, glazing to outer door. Stone floor
- Use: principal visitor entrance

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- High significance

Risks and Policies

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range West porch G7
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W porch from the NW

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range, ground floor Great Hall G8
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Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16,1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Circulation and events
Key features	stone floor, historic window glass, 1880s dado panelling, fireplace and ceiling beams

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C16 structure
- Construction: Timber-framed close-studded walls.
- Form and appearance: Rectangular ground floor room on site of medieval open hall; upper end to S, service end to N. Opposing doors to E and W ends of former screens passage. Space lit by W windows and oriels to W and E at upper end, doorways lead to service end to N and to Library and lesser hall to S wing.
- Use: central hall/circulation
Surviving elements: timber-frame with moulded main posts, historic window glass, door to E porch with wicket. C16 door to north stairs. W. end of upper end bench C15 or C16, pointed arched buttery hatch in N wall to right of passage door (G15).

Later Adaptation

- Dates: 1880s restoration by Nevill; used as dining hall during C19
- Restoration works: timber-frame planed and finished as part of 1880s restoration. Floor excavated to install under-floor heating with cast-iron heating grilles. New stone fireplace, ceiling beams, dado panelling. Restored upper end bench and new doors.
- Use: events, visitor route.
- Features: 1880s fireplace, ceiling beams, dado panelling, door to W porch, glazed doors & screen to service area, all with high quality metalwork by Armitage.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- High significance: timber-framed structure, historic window glass, E porch inner door, C16 panelled door to N stairs and late C19 Armitage door furniture.
- Medium significance: Late C19 Nevill joinery including chimneypiece, ceiling beams and plain plaster, panelled doors.

Risks and Policies

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
Burton MSS, Chetham Library
Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range Great Hall G8
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Great hall from the N



Great hall from the S

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range, ground floor
	Item	East porch
	Ref No	G7

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16,1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	East porch, now storage
Key features	stone floor, timber-framing, inner door.

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C16 structure in two phases; porch extended to east c.1600
- Construction: Timber-framed close-studded walls with moulded sections, on stone plinth.
- Form and appearance: Rectangular porch at east end of screens passage.
- Use: E porch into hall
- Surviving elements: timber-frame , inner framed door with wicket in moulded door frame.

Later Adaptation

- Dates: 1880s restoration by Nevill
- Restoration works: timber-frame retained and repaired. Diagonally-laid stone floor probably C19. New outer doors with glazing and ironwork by Armitage. Inner door restored with added scrolled hinges, also by Armitage. Dado panelling added.
- Use: east porch, now furniture storage.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- High significance

Risks and Policies

- Porch not on visitor route and used as store for furniture used for events in hall – review use of this important space

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range East porch G7
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Porch inner door



East porch interior from the E

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range, ground floor Shop G10
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Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C15 or C16, 1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Shop
Key features	1880s joinery

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 or C16 structure
- Construction: Timber-framed close-studded walls, obscured internally by plaster.
- Form and appearance: Rectangular ground floor room on site of earlier services – at lower end of hall. Entered by door from central north-south passage (G5), blocked door from cross passage in hall (G8)
- Use: initial historic function not known but probably buttery, remodelled as family room at unknown date.
- Surviving elements: C16 timber-frame, obscured by later panelling
- Blocked, pointed arched 'buttery hatch' survives on hall side of S wall (in G8)

Later Adaptation

- Dates: c.1800 extended with canted bay to E. Shown as a morning room on plan of c.1860. 1880s restoration by Nevill, to create a dining room
- Restoration works: Flat-roofed east bay built in place of early C19 polygonal bay and interior re-fitted.
- Use: dining room after 1880s, now shop
- Features: Plain plaster ceiling with timber beam and pilasters. Oak fireplace in C16 style. Dado panelling and oak boarded floor. Serving hatch to kitchen in N wall. Richly carved door with ironwork by Armitage leads from passage (G15) to W.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- Structure (hidden) is of High significance; Nevill fittings are Medium to High.
- Late C20 shop fittings are of no significance

Risks and Policies

- Impact of late C20 shop fittings and services obscures the late C19 form and features of this room

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 Plan of c.1860 (Stockport Collection)
 Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range, Ground floor Shop G10
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Shop from the SW

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range, ground floor Electrical store G12
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Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16, 1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Services and store
Key features	none

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C16 structure
- Construction: Timber-framed walls (not visible)
- Form and appearance: Narrow space below the half-landing of the principal stairs, at lower end of hall
- Use: services
- Surviving elements: timber-frame

Later Adaptation

- Dates: Part of cloakroom in 1880s, electrical meter shown on 1836 plan, late C20 stud partition and door installed for E wall
- Use: electrical services and store.
- Features: 1880s window to W wall

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- Structure of High significance, Nevill joinery of medium significance and with modern fittings of No significance

Risks and Policies

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton (Stockport Collection)
 1936 floor plan of Bramall Hall (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range Electrical store G12
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Electrical store below stair landing, from the E

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range, ground floor Gents WC G14
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Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16,1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	WC
Key features	Late C19 window and dado panelling

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C16 structure, but date gap in-filled not known
- Construction: Timber-framed close-studded walls (not visible).
- Form and appearance: Small rectangular space in the 'gap' between the N wing and the cross wing of the hall range.
- Use: historic function unknown, but Shown as an entrance lobby on plan of c.1860
- Surviving elements: part of timber-frame

Later Adaptation

- Dates: Outer walls rebuilt 1880s by Nevill. Shown as part of the cloakroom on 1883 floor plan.
- Current use: gents WC and urinal
- Features: 1880s dado panelling and leaded window with obscured glass.

Significance / Values

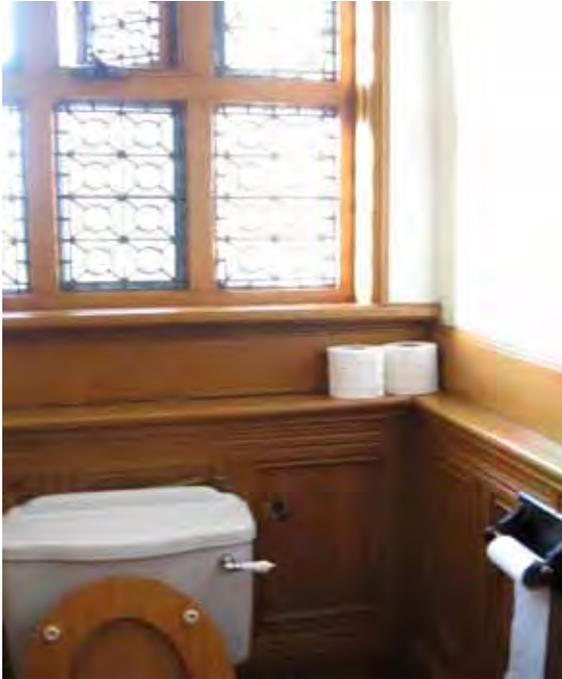
- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- 19th century structure and joinery of Medium significance and modern fittings of No significance

Risks and Policies

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 Undated floor plan of c.1860 (Stockport Collection)
 Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton (Stockport Collection)
 1936 floor plan (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range
	Item	Gents WC
	Ref No	G14



WC from the E



urinal from the S

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range, ground floor Service passage G15
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Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	CC16,1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Service passage
Key features	Late C19 joinery

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 or C16 structure (hidden)
- Construction: Timber-framed close-studded walls (not visible).
- Form and appearance: Narrow rectangular passage leading from Great hall to N wing.
- Use: route of historic passage to kitchen
- Surviving elements: part of timber-frame (not visible)

Later Adaptation

- Dates: Restored as service or kitchen hall in 1880s
- Current use: visitor route
- Features: 1880s dado panelling and joinery, glazed doors to Great Hall and foot of principal stairs with metalwork by Armitage, red tiled floor, lincrusta dado.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- Medium significance

Risks and Policies

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 Undated plan of c.1860 (Stockport Collection)
 Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton (Stockport Collection)
 1936 floor plan (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range Service Passage G15
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Passage from the N

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range, ground floor
	Item	Cleaners' cupboard
	Ref No	G16

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16, 1880s, late C20
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Cleaners cupboard
Key features	Late C19 joinery

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: Located in the 'gap' between the N wing and the hall range; date of in-filling unknown.
- Shown on c.1860 plan as part of a service entrance lobby.
- Construction: Enclosed by timber-framing to N and S.
-

Later Adaptation

- Dates: shown on 1883 plan as a china cupboard; date that former hallway subdivided not known.
- Divided from the gents WC (G14) by stud wall.
- Current use: store cupboard
- Features: C19 double panelled doors to passage G15

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- Low significance

Risks and Policies

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 c.1860 floor plan (Stockport Collection)
 Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton (Stockport Collection)
 1936 floor plan (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range ground floor Cleaners' cupboard G16
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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range, ground floor Gents cloakroom G18
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Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16,1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Gents cloakroom and store
Key features	Late C19 dado panelling and door joinery

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 or C16 structure
- Construction: Timber-framed close-studded walls (hidden by later finishes).
- Form and appearance: Inner room on west side of north-south service passage
- Use: historic function unknown but possibly on site of historic pantry. Shown as 'butler'[pantry] on c.1860 plan.
- Surviving elements: part of timber-frame (hidden)

Later Adaptation

- Dates: Outer timber-framed walls restored in 1880s by Nevill. Shown as a cloakroom or bathroom on 1880s floor plan, with bath in S alcove (since removed).
- Current use: gents cloakroom
- Features: 1880s t & g dado and joinery. Inner windows with leaded glazing light north-south service passage (G15), within cupboards

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic and social value
- Low significance

Risks and Policies

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 Floor plan dated 1883, by Alfred Burton
 1936 floor plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range Gents cloakroom G18
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cloakroom from the W, with former bath alcove to right behind curtain

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range
	Item	Paradise Room
	Ref No	F6

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16, 1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Circulation and visitor route
Key features	Wainscot panelled walls with late C16 strapwork plaster panel to W wall and plaster frieze, C16 ceiling, wide floorboards.

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C16 structure
- Construction: Timber-framed close-studded walls (hidden behind panelling and visible in cupboards)
- Form and appearance: Rectangular 1-bay space on east side of Plaster Room, within gabled bay facing E. Plasterwork decoration and panelling dates from late C16, incorporating arms of Molyneux's of Sefton.
- Use: Bedroom or upper chamber
- Surviving elements: C16 timber-frame (hidden), C16 ribbed ceiling, late C16 panelling and plasterwork.

Later Adaptation

- Dates: modest 1880s restoration by Nevill, and C20 presentation as bedroom
- Form and appearance: 1880s restoration provided new window with oak linings and window seat, oak chimneypiece with tiled hearth. Plasterwork over-painted in 1980s
- Use: visitor route.
- Features: 1880s oak fireplace,
- Name: Paradise Room refers to former early C17 bed hangings, embroidered by Dorothy Davenport and now at Capesthorpe Hall

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic value
- Medium to high significance

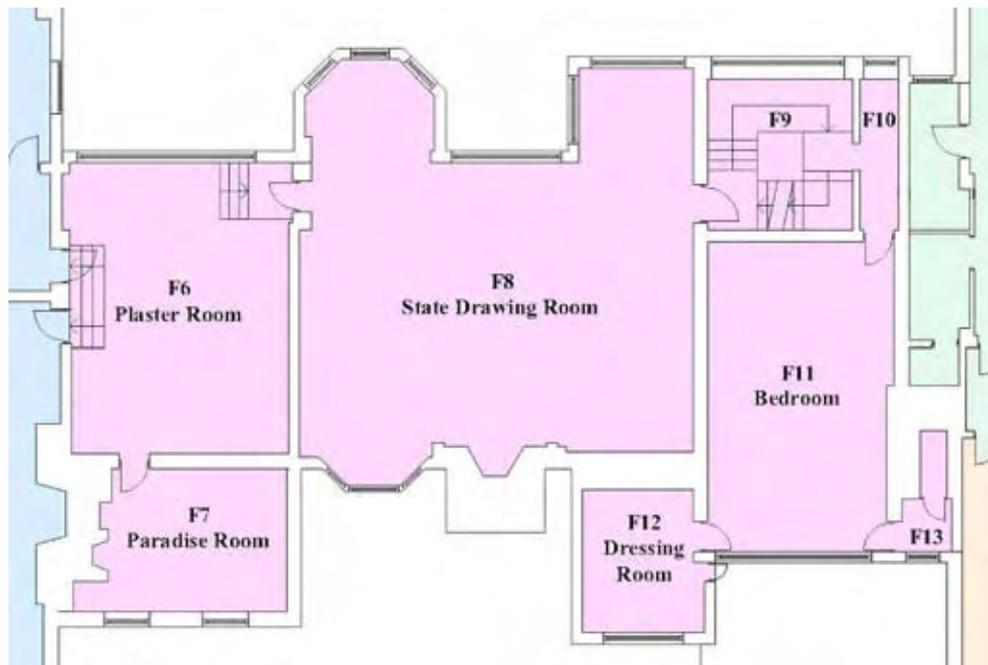
Risks and Policies

- Inauthentic over-painting of plasterwork

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p.113
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 Stockport Council, *Bramall Hall*, guide book, 1981,
 First floor plan, c.1883 (Stockport MBC collection)

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**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER****ZONE PLAN showing room references****HALL RANGE****FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range first floor Paradise Room F6
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Paradise Room – strapwork plaster frieze on W wall from the E



Paradise Room from the NW

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range first floor
	Item	Plaster Room
	Ref No	F7

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C15, C16, 1880s, 1980s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Circulation and visitor route
Key features	Exposed timber-frame, painted decoration to beams, late C16 ceiling. 1880s staircase joinery. Davenport tapestry in glass case against N wall

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 or C16 structure
- Construction: Timber-framed close-studded walls; the adjoining but separate frames to the S side of the hall range and the N side of the S wing form the S wall. Closed truss between this room and the Drawing Room to the N and timber-framed partition wall to E.
- Form and appearance: Rectangular 1-bay space over Lesser Hall and Library. Unheated. Lit by multi-light W window. Pair of doors to S and single door to N at higher levels; the floor to this room is lower than the drawing room floor (by 4 steps).
- Plaster tablet on N wall dated 1599, with Davenport initials, noted by Burton, probably recorded the insertion of the ceiling and decoration of beams.
- Use: High status upper chamber, but not evidence of being heated.
- Surviving elements: timber-frame to all walls, historic window glass, blocked arched door to S (in frame to S wing) at raised level. Late C16 ribbed ceiling and stencilled red decoration to deeply chamfered beam soffits (best-preserved on N beam).
- Room reputedly had a lime ash or 'plaster' floor, removed at unknown date; the room name is derived from this early floor.

Later Adaptation

- Dates: 1880s restoration by Nevill and early 1980s restoration by SMBC, under S. Denyer
- Construction: historic timber-framed structure exposed during 1980s restoration when early C19 applied panels removed and painted decoration to chamfered beams restored.
- 1880s restoration provided new stairs up from this floor level to first floor levels in S wing and drawing room to N.
- Use: events, visitor route.
- Later features: 1880s oak stairs with moulded square newels and pierced 17th century-style balusters. Oak boarded floor. Davenport heraldic tapestry displayed in glass case against N wall in 1980s, after conservation; said to have been in Great Hall, historically.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic value
- Medium to high significance

Risks and Policies**References**

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p.113
Burton MSS, Chetham Library
First floor plan, c.1883 (Stockport MBC collection)
Stockport Council, *Bramall Hall*, guide book, 1981,

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

Zone Hall, Hall range
Item Plaster Room
Ref No F7



Plaster Room from the NW



Plaster room and Davenport tapestry from the SW

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range 1 st floor
	Item	Withdrawing Room
	Ref No	F8

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C15, remodelled 1590s, restored 1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Circulation and visitor route
Key features	Timber-frame, late C16 plaster ceiling, fireplace overmantel, panelled doors and N door architrave, C16 & C17 panelling.

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C15 or C16 structure remodelled late C16 by William Davenport
- Construction: Timber-framed walls lined in panelling; position of main posts visible to 3-bay space
- Form and appearance: Large upper chamber over the Great Hall. Lit by multi-pane windows with octagonal bay to SW. Principal 15-panelled N doorway with Davenport initials from N stairs, 8-panelled doorway to S, both late C16.
- Use: High status upper chamber
- Surviving elements: timber-frame, historic window glass, N doorway, chimney piece and overmantel with Royal Arms, late C16 pendant plaster ceiling and panelling. Some historic glass re-set in windows.

Later Adaptation

- Dates: Windows restored between 1850 and 1870 (C18 sashes removed), 1880s interior restoration by Nevill
- Construction: historic structure & form retained during Nevill restoration.
- Restoration works: W windows restored between 1850s and 1870s (sashes shown in 1855 photograph). 1880s restoration included new oak lintel to fireplace with Nevill initials in 1883, and S doorway surround in matching style to N doorway. Fine 1880s metalwork door furniture by GF Armitage. Floor re-laid and panelling polished.
- C20 restoration to W window bay in 1930s and 1950s
- Use: visitor route.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic value
- Exceptional significance

Risks and Policies

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p.65
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 First floor plan c.1883 (Stockport Collection)
 Resume of Alterations, Stockport Library, nd
 Historic photographs of exterior 1850s and 1870s (Cheshire County Council and other collections)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range 1 st floor Drawing Room F8
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Drawing Room from the SW



Drawing room from the NW

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range 1 st floor
	Item	Principal staircase
	Ref No	F9

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16,1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Circulation and visitor route
Key features	Exposed timber-frame, 1880s staircase

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C16
- Construction: Timber-framed walls
- Form and appearance: 'Caged' staircase with continuous square newels, described by Burton as 'very rude in construction' in 1880s.
- Use: Principal stairs serving late C16 drawing room and second floor long gallery
- Surviving elements: timber-frame

Later Adaptation

- Dates: Staircase restored in 1880s by Nevill
- Construction: historic timber-framed structure & form retained during Nevill restoration;
- Restoration works: Staircase structure restored retaining central newel posts, 'planed and smoothed' and 'made more ornamental', so that joinery now appears to be 1880s. W Window renewed.
- Use: visitor route and access to attics above Davenport Room.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic value
- High significance

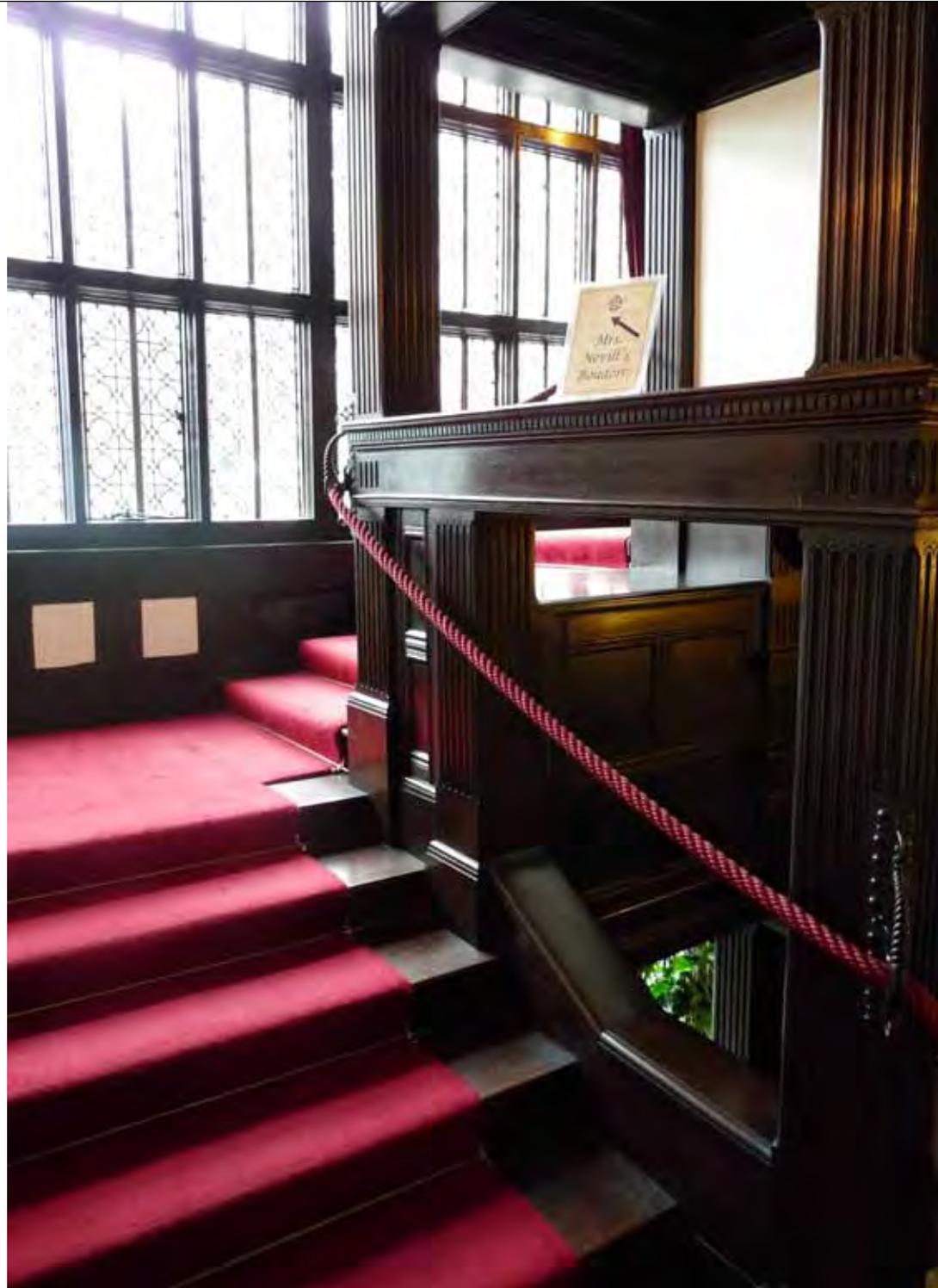
Risks and Policies

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References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p.66
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 First floor plan c.1883
 Historic photographs of exterior 1850, 1870s

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range 1 st floor Principal staircase F9
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Stairs from the SE

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range 1 st floor Landing N of the principal staircase F10
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Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16, 1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Circulation and visitor route
Key features	Timber-frame

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C16 structure
- Construction: Timber-framed walls
- Form and appearance: Narrow part-bay landing on N side of staircase
- Use: Historic function of this part-bay space not known
- Surviving elements: timber-frame

Later Adaptation

- Dates: 1880s interior restoration by Nevill
- Construction: historic structure & form retained during Nevill restoration.
- Restoration works: Plastered wall and ceiling finishes. Renewed W window
- Use: visitor route.

Significance / Values

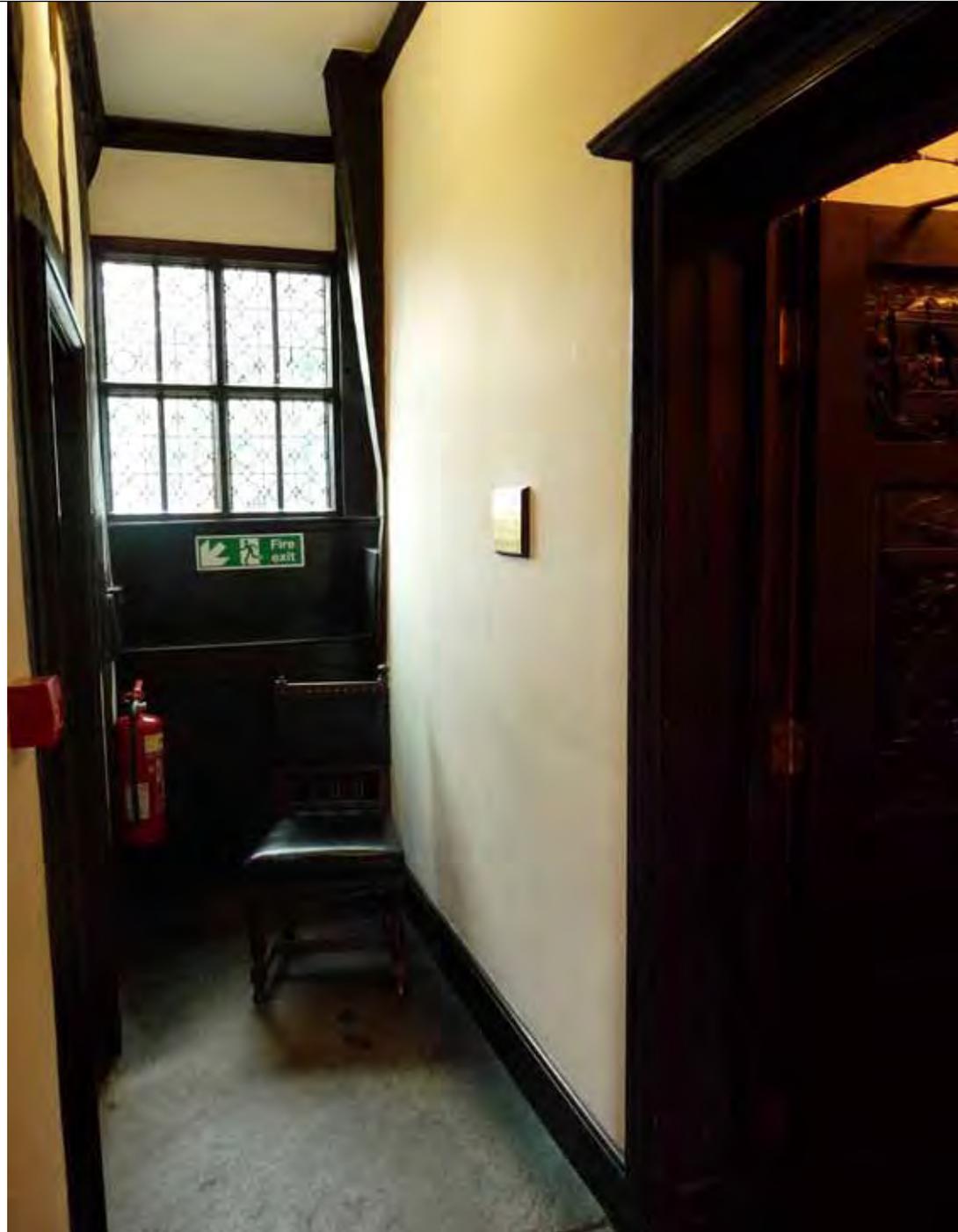
- Evidential, historical, aesthetic value
- Medium significance

Risks and Policies

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p.65
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 First floor plan c.1883
 Historic photographs of exterior 1850, 1870s

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range 1 st floor Landing N of the staircase F10
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Landing from the E

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range 1 st floor
	Item	Davenport Room
	Ref No	F11

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16, C17, 1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Upper chamber on the visitor route
Key features	Re-set C17 panelling, late C19 fireplace.

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C16 structure
- Construction: Timber-framed walls (obscured by panelling).
- Form and appearance: Rectangular chamber lined in wainscot panelling, reached from landing off north stairs. Lit by mullioned and transomed window to E.
- Use: Upper chamber
- Surviving elements: timber-frame lined with C17 panelling, C18 panelled door.

Later Adaptation

- Date: 1880s restoration by Nevill
- Construction: historic structure retained during Nevill restoration.
- Restoration/alteration works: new oak chimney piece in C17 style with overmantel. Coved plaster ceiling with incrusta frieze. Window restored with leaded glazing. Oak floor boards. Opening cut in NE corner to create access to wardrobe over cellar stairs.
- Use: visitor route.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic value
- Medium to high significance

Risks and Policies

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999.
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 First floor plan c.1883 (Stockport Collection)

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

Zone Hall, Hall range
Item Davenport Room
Ref No F11



Davenport Room - from the W



Davenport Room from the S

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range 1 st floor
	Item	Dressing Room off Davenport Room
	Ref No	F11A

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16, C17, 1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Dressing room, now store
Key features	late C19/ early C19 fitted cupboards

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: C16 structure
- Construction: Small timber-framed room above the East porch.
- Form and appearance: Small rectangular space. Lit by window to E.
- Use: Dressing room
- Surviving elements: timber-frame part obscured by later panelling; jowled main post visible on N wall.

Later Adaptation

- Dates: 1880s restoration by Nevill
- Construction: historic structure retained during Nevill restoration.
- Form and appearance: Dressing room fitted with cupboards on W wall, walls finished in lincrusta paper.
- Use: storage
- Features: Early C20 fitted cupboards or press, panelled door to flat roof over shop.

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic value
- Medium to high significance

Risks and Policies

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999.
Burton MSS, Chetham Library
First floor plan c.1883 (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range
	Item	Dressing Room off Davenport Room
	Ref No	F11A



Dressing room to Davenport Room, from SE

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

ZONE PLAN showing room references

HALL RANGE

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range
	Item	Attic room over Plaster Room
	Ref No	S3

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16, Early C19, 1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Bedroom, now storage
Key features	Early C19 roof structure

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: Early C19 roof space constructed after removal of long gallery
- Construction: Timber-framed wall to W, but concealed by later linings. King post roof trusses have tie beams and raking struts
- Form and appearance: Rectangular 1-bay space over Plaster Room. Lit by W window. Entered by single door from S staircase landing, floor level lower than landing.
- Use: Attic bedroom
- Surviving elements: Truncated closed truss of possibly C15 or C16 in partition between this room and attic to N (S4), visible behind lining. Early C19 roof structure with tie-beam trusses

Later Adaptation

- Dates: 1880s restoration by Nevill to create bedroom or male servants' dormitory
- Form and appearance: 1880s restoration included lining walls and roof slope with match-boarding. Further attic store to east over Paradise Room.
- Use: shown as bedroom on 1936 floor plan, now store
- Features: match-boarding to walls and roof slope.

Significance / Values

- Evidential and historical value
- Medium

Risks and Policies

References

E. Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999,
Burton MSS, Chetham Library
1936 floor plan, Stockport Council (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range Attic over Plaster Room S3
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Attic from the S



Truncated truss behind lining of N wall

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range Roof space over Withdrawing Room S4
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Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16, C18, 1880s
Phase	Multi-phase
Use	Roof space
Key features	C18 roof structure, 1880s gables to W and E elevations

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: Early C19 roof space constructed after removal of long gallery
- Construction: 3-bay roof of tie-beam trusses with raking struts
- Form and appearance: Rectangular space with projections to E and W over bay windows.
- Use: Roof space
- Surviving elements: Early C19 roof structure.
- Lath and plaster construction of late C16 ceiling visible within roof space

Later Adaptation

- Dates: 1880s restoration of roof by Nevill to add gables to W and E
- Form and appearance: machined pine roof structure above bay windows
- Use: roof spaces with boarding walkways over withdrawing room ceiling

Significance / Values

- Evidential and historical value
- Medium

Risks and Policies

- Requires further investigation

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999,
Burton MSS, Chetham Library
1936 floor plan, Stockport Council (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range second floor Attic over Drawing Room S4
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Roof space from the S

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Hall, Hall range second floor
	Item	Mary Nevill's Boudoir
	Ref No	S6

Summary

Listing grade	I
Date	C16 and C18, restored 1891
Phase	Nevill phase interior
Use	Attic room, now visitor route
Key features	Joinery and fittings probably by GF Armitage

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: West part of roof probably early C19, constructed after removal of long gallery. East part could be earlier but not investigated.
- Construction: walls lined and not seen
- Form and appearance: Long rectangular space aligned west-east over Davenport Room. Lit by E gable window. Entered by door from N staircase landing, at W end. Door leads to roof valley to N.
- Use: Attic room
- Surviving elements: C18 and possibly earlier roof structure

Later Adaptation

- Dates: 1880s restoration by Nevill to create current room layout; east part referred to as 'Newfoundland' by Burton in 1883
- Construction: earlier structure may be retained behind linings but not seen.
- Features: 1880s restoration - plaster walls and flat ceiling with oak beams, fireplace lintel inscribed Mary Nevill and 1891, dado plate rack, fitted cupboards, shelves and day bed, in Arts & Crafts style
- Use: shown as nursery on 1936 floor plan, now presented as Mary Nevill's Boudoir to visitors

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical and aesthetic value – good example of late Victorian interior in earlier structure
- High

Risks and Policies

- Security, DDA for visitors.
- Roof structure in this area not fully understood

References

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p110
 Burton MSS, Chetham Library
 1936 floor plan, Stockport Council (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, Hall range Mary Nevill's Boudoir S6
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Boudoir from the W

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall: Hall range, third floor Upper attic area over S6 T6
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	Late C19
phases	Nevill
use	Storage

History and Description

Later History

Date

- Late C19 roof structure and attic space, added in the 1880s as servants' accommodation by Nevill

- Described as 'rooms over nursery' on 1936 floor plan

Form & appearance

- Attic area aligned E-W, with gable facing east, reached by extension of stairs off Principal Staircase.
- Walls and roof lined with matchboard to reflect low status of room. The area is divided into a landing at the top of the stairs and a room, by a light partition. Steep roof trusses are visible. Window in east gable.
- It is possible that certain areas, such as the stair, incorporate parts of earlier structural elements. The lined cross wall between this space and the roof space (S4) above the withdrawing room contains historic timber-framed structural fabric.

Significance / Values

- The roof-space appears to be a C19 addition and is of medium significance, interior finishes and features are of low significance
- Examination of fabric may reveal earlier structure in floor, cross walls, etc.

Risks and Policies

- Susceptible to damage by insertion and maintenance of services.
- Further investigation of structure recommended

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall range Attic over S6 T6
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Attic and attic stairs from the W

References

1936 plan for Hazelgrove Council (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall: Hall range Basement B1 to B6
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C17, C19 and C20
phases	Multi-phase
use	Boiler house & Storage

History and Description

Later History

Date

- Probably C17 primary phase, with later remodelling.

Form & appearance:

- Cellars reached by straight flight of stone stairs with barrel vaulted ceiling, located in the 'gap' between the hall range and N wing.
- Main chamber to the S of the stairs and below the N cross wing of the hall range ie. below the probable early phase of the historic service wing of the hall range. This was later divided into separate cellars (historically B2, B4 and B5 were part of one large space). Primary walls are painted rubble, with lime-washed chamfered beams of C17 type. Stone floors.

Use: storage

- Early C19 structure on E side comprises lower part of canted bay window to morning room (G10), with central door to garden entrance and two small flanking, blocked windows.
- Late C19 wine bins added in B4 and B5, in painted brick, and space divided by brick wall to form corridor (B2) on S side of wine bins. Second cellar (B1) to S probably excavated by Nevill under hall floor (below G8) as part of heating improvements; this has a concrete ceiling
- Late C20 gas boiler installed in B1, with blocked coal chute to W wall. Late C20 building services

Significance / Values

- The basement appears to date from the C17, modified in early C19 and again in late C19.
- The structure, finishes and features are of medium significance,
- Possesses evidential, historical, and social value relating to provisioning of the house

Risks and Policies

- Susceptible to damage by insertion and maintenance of services.
- Vulnerable to neglect as only in partial use
- Further investigation of structure recommended
- Boiler needs replacement

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall range Basement B1-B6
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cellar stairs from the E



gas boiler in S cellar chamber (B1)



Late C19 wine bins with C17 beam to ceiling (B4 and B5)

References

- 1880s Burton MSS (Chethams Library)
- 1936 plan for Hazelgrove Council (Stockport Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall Boiler House
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Summary

listing grade	Grade I
date	Late C19
phase	Part of Nevill's additions to the property
use	Vacant and derelict

History and Description

Original Form

- Built in 1880s for Charles Nevill
- Form: 2-storey, block with semi basement, simple double pitch roof.
- Use: boiler house
- Surviving elements: stone basement, brick walls over a few timbers from the first floor structure and half a stone slab roof, the remainder having collapsed

Later Adaptation

- Since removal of boiler used as store, but now derelict.

Significance / Values

- The building is evidence of the late 19thC modernisation of the building and of the demand for increased comfort levels. The provision of a separate and detached building is evidence of the space and environmental requirements of boilers at the time.
- Possesses evidential, and historical value.
- Local significance

Risks and Policies

- Currently in derelict state and considered unsafe for use. Needs significant repair programme
- Currently has no designated use therefore vulnerable to neglect
-

References

1872 and 1897 and subsequent OS maps

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall: North East Wing NE Wing Overview
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Summary

listing grade	I
date(s)	Unknown, probably C16, adapted in C19 and late C20
phases	Secondary. For room by room analysis and alteration see separate gazetteer entries
use	Ground floor kitchen services with bed chambers and servants accommodation over, now part visitor route and part offices or services

History and Description

- Probably built in the C16 in two phases to provide new services for the hall, as earlier services were upgraded to higher status accommodation
- Construction: close-studded timber frame with decorative quatrefoil panels to E gable, on a sandstone plinth. Original roof structure and covering not known
- Form and appearance: 2-storey with attics. T plan roof form to rectangular wing. Gabled cross wing to S containing main kitchen and wing to north of similar depth divided into smaller service rooms.
- A plan of c. 1860 shows a spiral staircase in the space now occupied by G21 and a N projection into the service yard for part of scullery – both features removed late C19.
- Use: kitchens, larders, sculleries and pantries to ground floor with chambers above, perhaps for lower status household members
- Surviving elements: much restored building envelope, partly embedded in or replaced by later fabric. N wall encased in later timber-framing, late C19 and repairs undertaken during mid C20 and late 1970s

Later Adaptation

- Date: Late C19 remodelling for Nevill included rebuilding of chimney stacks, rebuilding of W wall facing the yard and addition of second floor servants' accommodation in new attics by raising the W roof pitch. E elevation substantially restored with new timbers, some refenestration eg. kitchen window sill lowered.
- Between the late C19 and the 1930s, a small service stair and partitions in the scullery (G23) were removed.
- Substantial repairs and replacement of external fabric, mid to late C20. This included cladding and repairing the timber-frame on the N elevation with new timber-frame cladding, precise date unknown, but probably 1950s or post-1974.
- Conversion of upper floor to staff offices, late C20.
- Presentation of kitchen and pantries as part of public visitor route second half of C20

Significance / Values

- Important as the service wing, probably built C16 to replace earlier services
- Possesses high evidential historic, aesthetic and social value
- C16 structure, the kitchen and larders: high significance
- Late C19 alterations for servants' accommodation and to upgrade first floor rooms: medium significance
- Late C20 alterations, catering kitchen and services: low significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information about origins of this wing and lack of analysis of the surviving structure – dendro and measured survey strongly recommended
- The structure is at risk of damage by insertion and maintenance of modern services

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No:**

**Hall : NE Wing
Over view**



NE wing from the E



NE wing from the NE – Nevill stack and upper floor additions

References

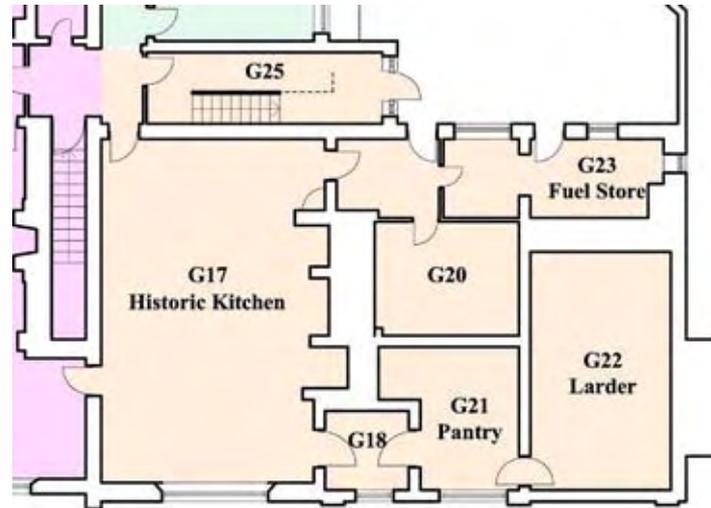
c.1860 floor plan 1880s plans, 1936 UDC plan

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

ZONE PLAN showing room references

NORTH EAST WING

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North East Wing Kitchen G17
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C16 and later
phases	Multi-phase
use	Kitchen, now visitor route

History and Description

Original Form

- Kitchen in NE wing probably added to replace earlier kitchen on unknown location in C16
- Construction: Timber framed walls on stone plinth, deep chamfered C16 ceiling beams, stone floor.
- Large kitchen fireplace on N wall with chamfered stone surround, possibly C17
- Lit by mullioned window to E
- Features: C18 cupboard on W wall, C19 dressers on S and W wall, cupboard doors added to S wall in late C20. 6-panelled doors to lobbies probably c.1800.

Later Adaptation

- Kitchen window renewed and cill lowered in late C19
- Presented as part of the visitor route in C20; C19 cast-iron range installed in fireplace c.1990

Significance / Values

- Envelope of high significance
- C18 and C19 fixtures and fittings of medium to high significance

Risks and Policies

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No:**

**NE Wing
kitchen
G17**



Kitchen from the E



Kitchen from the NW

References

1880s plans, 1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North East Wing pantry G18
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C16 and later
phases	Multi-phase
use	pantry, now visitor route

History and Description

Original Form

- Part of NE wing probably added to provide new services in C16
- Construction: Timber framed walls on stone plinth, stone floor,
- Narrow pantry against E side of chimney stack probably created by subdividing a larger cook's pantry shown on 1883 Burton plan into two spaces, in late C19.
- lit by high level E window

Later Adaptation

- Presented as part of the visitor route
- Reached via door now off N side of kitchen
- Doorway to N down steps into cold larder not shown on 1936 plan
- Features: C19 dresser on W wall probably ex situ.

Significance / Values

- Envelope of high significance
- Fixtures and fittings of medium significance

Risks and Policies

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No:**

**NE Wing
pantry
G18**



pantry from the S

References

1880s plans, 1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North East Wing Catering kitchen G19/G20
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C16 and later
phases	Multi-phase
use	Catering kitchen

History and Description

Original Form

- Part of second phase of NE wing, added to provide additional services in later C16
- Construction: Timber framed walls on stone plinth, not visible.
- Shown as scullery on 1883 Burton plan.
- lit by W window.

Later Adaptation

- Cooking range and other features from interwar kitchen believed to be concealed by current fit-out.
- Re-fitted, floor covered and walls lined with tiling in late C20 as catering kitchen
- Door to yard inserted C20
- Features: none visible

Significance / Values

- Envelope of high significance
- Fixtures and fittings of no significance

Risks and Policies

- Impact of modern services and fittings

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No:**

**NE Wing
Catering kitchen
G20**



kitchen from the S

References

1880s plans, 1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North East Wing pantry G21
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C16 or C17, C19
phases	Multi-phase
use	pantry, now visitor route

History and Description

Original Form

- Part of second phase of NE wing, probably added to provide additional services in late C16/C17
- Construction: Timber framed walls on stone plinth, stone floor,
- Small pantry probably created by subdividing a larger cook's pantry shown on 1883 Burton plan into two spaces, in late C19.
- lit by E window
- Wall shelving pre-C20

Later Adaptation

- Presented as part of the visitor route
- Doorway to S up steps into pantry not shown on 1936 plan, so later insertion
- Door to W to catering kitchen now blocked
- Features: ceramic sink replaced as part of C20 visitor route presentation

Significance / Values

- Envelope of high significance
- Fixtures and fittings of medium significance

Risks and Policies

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No:**

**NE Wing
pantry
G21**



pantry from the S

References

1880s plans, 1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North East Wing larder G22
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C16 or C17 and later
phases	Multi-phase
use	Larder

History and Description

Original Form

- Part of second phase of NE wing, probably added to provide additional services in late C16/early C17
- Construction: Timber framed walls on brick plinth, stone floor.
- Shown as larder on 1883 Burton plan.
- lit by small N windows.

Later Adaptation

- Presented as part of visitor route, date of suspended fittings not known
- Features: stone shelves on brick piers probably C19

Significance / Values

- Envelope of high significance
- Fixtures and fittings of medium significance

Risks and Policies

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No:**

**NE Wing
larder
G22**



larder from the S

References

1880s plans, 1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North East Wing Fuel store G23
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C16, C19
phases	Multi-phase
use	Fuel store

History and Description

Original Form

- Part of NE wing probably added to provide new services in C16
- Construction: Timber framed walls on stone plinth, repaired late C19
- Services room on W side of the NE wing entered yard, shown on 1860 plan as part of scullery and on Burton plan as two spaces, a WC and a cleaning room with service staircase

Later Adaptation

- Two spaces combined to form one larger store by early C20, oil stove shown here on 1936 plan
- Features: none

Significance / Values

- Envelope of high significance
- Fixtures and fittings of little significance

Risks and Policies

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No:**

**NE Wing
Fuel store
G23**



store from the S

References

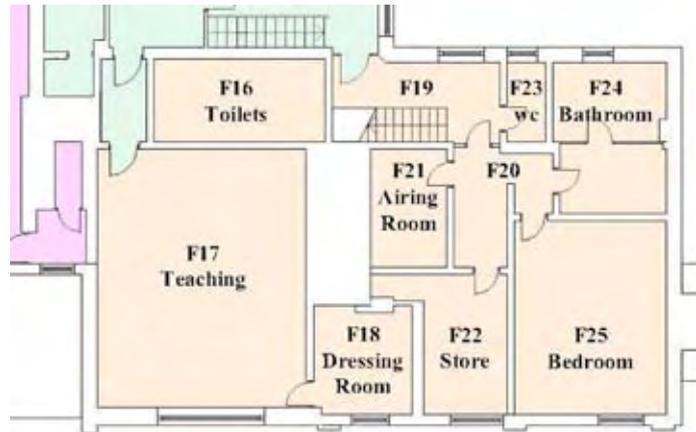
1880s plans, 1936 UDC plan

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

ZONE PLAN showing room references

NORTH EAST WING

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall :North East Wing Lobby F15
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15 or C16 wing, adapted C19
phases	Nevill phase
use	Lobby

History and Description

Original Form

- Within first floor of NE wing, probably C15 or C16 timber-framed structure.
- Space created by subdividing a large first floor chamber over kitchen
- Timber-framed structure - deep chamfered beam - visible along S wall

Later Adaptation

- The large bedroom at the S end of the NE wing was subdivided to create an inner dressing room and lobby, possibly in C18 or early C19,
- Shown as a lobby on the 1880s plan of 'rearrangements'.
- Late C19 shelving against S wall

Significance / Values

- The main structure of C15 or C16 date is of high significance
- The C19 finishes and fixtures are of medium significance.

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information and analysis of the NE wing

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No**

**NE wing
lobby
F15**



F15 lobby from the E, with C19 shelving to left, part of timber-frame above to left

References

Undated 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North East Wing Ladies WCs F16
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15 or C16 wing, adapted C19
phases	Nevill phase
use	Bathroom, Visitor WCs

History and Description

Original Form

- Within first floor of NE wing, probably C15 or C16 structure.
- Space created by subdividing a larger chamber

Later Adaptation

- The large bedroom at the S end of the NE wing was subdivided to create an inner dressing room, possibly in early C19,
- Shown as a bathroom on the 1880s plan of 'rearrangements'. Top-lit by roof light. Walls lined with match boarding.
- Late C20 adaptation for visitor with modern cubicles and fittings

Significance / Values

- The main structure of C15 or C16 date is of high significance
- The finishes and fixtures have no significance.

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information and analysis of the NE wing

References

Undated 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No**

**NE wing
Ladies WC
F16**



Ladies WC from S

References

Undated 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall :North East Wing Education Room F17
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15 or C16 wing, adapted C19
phases	Nevill phase
Use	Bedroom, now Education Room

History and Description

Original Form

- Within first floor of NE wing above kitchen, probably C15 or C16 timber-framed structure.
- Current space created by subdividing a larger chamber
- Lit by windows to E, heated by fireplace on N wall (kitchen stack).
-

Later Adaptation

- The large bedroom at the S end of the NE wing was subdivided to create an inner dressing room and lobby, possibly in C18 or early C19,
- Large rectangular room lined with reset C17 wainscot panelling, moulded plaster cornice to flat ceiling.
- Shown as a bedroom on the 1880s plan of 'rearrangements'.
- Door in NE corner inserted late C19 to provide access to dressing room (F18)
- Late C19 oak fireplace with cast-iron grate. Boarded floor
- Adapted for education staff office late C20, with few changes except for strip lighting.

Significance / Values

- The main structure of C15 or C16 date is of high significance
- The finishes and fixtures are of medium significance.

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information and analysis of the NE wing
- .Impact of modern services eg. lighting

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No**

**NE wing
Education room
F17**



References

Undated 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall :North East Wing Education Room small office F18
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15 or C16 wing, adapted C19
phases	Nevill phase
Use	Dressing room, now Education Room office

History and Description

Original Form

- Within first floor of NE wing above larder, probably C15 or C16 timber-framed structure.
- Current space created by subdividing a larger chamber
- Lit by window to E, heated by fireplace on N wall (off kitchen stack).

Later Adaptation

- A large bedroom in the middle of the NE wing was subdivided to create an outer dressing room, an inner linen room/store and a lobby, in late C19,
- Current room is small plain space with late C19 joinery and plaster cornice, papered walls
- Adapted for education staff office late C20, with few changes

Significance / Values

- The main structure of C15 or C16 date is of high significance
- The finishes and fixtures are of low significance.

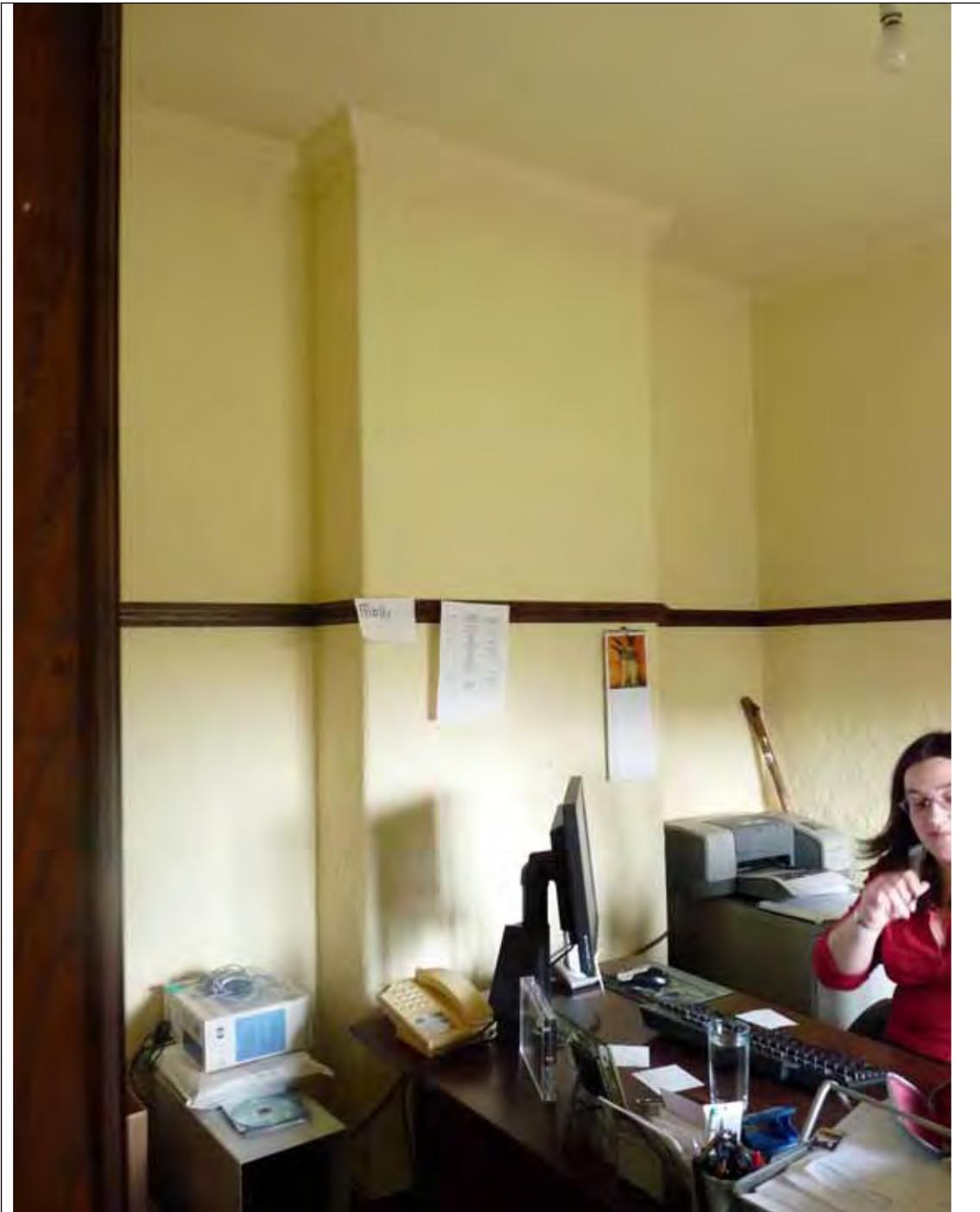
Risks and Policies

- Lack of information and analysis of the NE wing
- Impact of modern services

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No**

**NE wing
Education room small office
F18**



References

Undated 1880s 're-arrangement' plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall :North East Wing lobby F20
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C16 wing, adapted C19
phases	Nevill phase
Use	inner lobby

History and Description

Original Form

- Within first floor of NE wing, probably part of second phase of this area, probably late C16 or C17 timber-framed structure.
- Current space created by subdividing a larger chamber
- Unlit lobby

Later Adaptation

- A large bedroom in the middle of the NE wing was subdivided to create an outer dressing room, an inner linen room/store and a lobby, in late C19,
- Current room is small plain space with no features of interest

Significance / Values

- The main structure of C16 date is of high significance
- The C20 finishes and fixtures are of low significance.

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information and analysis of the NE wing
- .Impact of modern services

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No**

**NE wing
lobby
F20**



F20 from the N

References

Undated 1880s 're-arrangement' plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North East wing First Floor Boiler Room F21
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	Unknown, possibly C17, C18 C19 and C20
phases	Multi-phase
Use	Services

History and Description

Original Form

- Rooms above kitchen and ancillary service accommodation possibly of C16 or earlier origin, probably servants' accommodation. Formerly part of one larger space, this area backs on to the kitchen chimney.

Later Adaptation

- Converted or subdivided as service accommodation in the 1880s. This inner room is described as a linen room on a plan of circa 1883.
- The room described as an airing room on a plan of 1936
- Converted to boiler room, probably late C20.

Significance / Values

- The envelope is of high significance
- Fixtures, finishes and fittings have no significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information about the original date and function of the room.

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	NE Wing Boiler room F21
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**References**

Undated circa 1880s plan, 1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North East wing First Floor Offices F22
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Summary

listing grade	1
Date	Unknown, possibly C16, C18 C19 and C20
Phases	Multi-phase
Use	Office

History and Description

Original Form

- Room above ancillary service accommodation; probably part of second phase of this wing, late C16 or C17.
- Lit by window on E elevation, formerly heated by blocked fireplace on E side of kitchen stack

Later Adaptation

- Large space converted or subdivided to create smaller servants' rooms in the 19th century.
- Described on 1936 plan as a store
- Converted to offices, late C20.

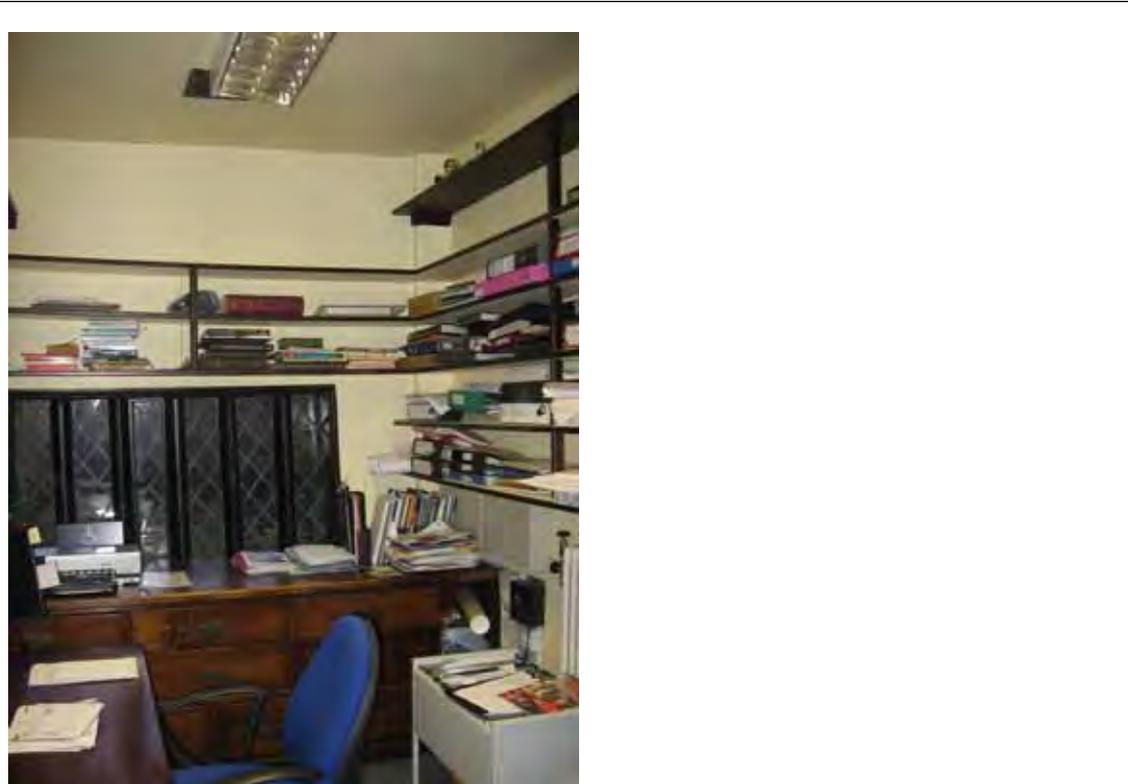
Significance / Values

- The envelope is of high significance
- Fixtures, finishes and fittings low significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information about the original date and function of the room and this area.

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	NE Wing First floor Small office F22
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**References**

Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall: North East wing, First Floor Offices F24
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Summary

listing grade	1
Date	Unknown, possibly C17, C18 C19 and C20
Phases	Multi-phase
Use	Office

History and Description

Original Form

- Rooms above ancillary service accommodation probably part of second phase of this wing, late C16 or C17.
- servants' accommodation or secondary room

Later Adaptation

- Late C19 remodelling of roof-form to create new upper floors on W side of this wing. Later, at an unknown date after circa 1883, the room was enlarged by moving the E wall further to the E, so that a section of F25 was incorporated.
- Probably altered early C20 to create bathroom. Described in 1936 as 'a maids' bathroom (F23)
- Converted to offices, late C20.

Significance / Values

- The envelope is of high significance and medium significance
- C20 Fixtures, finishes and fittings low significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information about the original date and function of the room.

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	NE wing office F24
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Office from the S

References Undated circa 1880s plan, 1936 plan for Hazelgrove Council

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North East wing: First Floor Offices F25
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Summary

listing grade	1
Date	Unknown, possibly C16, C18 C19 and C20
Phases	Multi-phase
Use	Office

History and Description

Original Form

- Room above ancillary service accommodation, probably part of second phase of this wing, late C16 or C17.

Later Adaptation

- Converted or upgraded as servants' accommodation in the 1880s.
- The room was reduced in size by moving the W partition further E, so that the adjacent room (F24) was enlarged. The work was done at an unknown date after circa 1883.
- Possibly altered in the early C20, and described in 1936 as a bedroom
- Converted to offices, late C20.

Significance / Values

- The envelope is of high significance
- C20 fixtures, finishes and fittings low significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information about the original date and function of the room.
- Impact of modern services

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	NE wing Office F25
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**References**

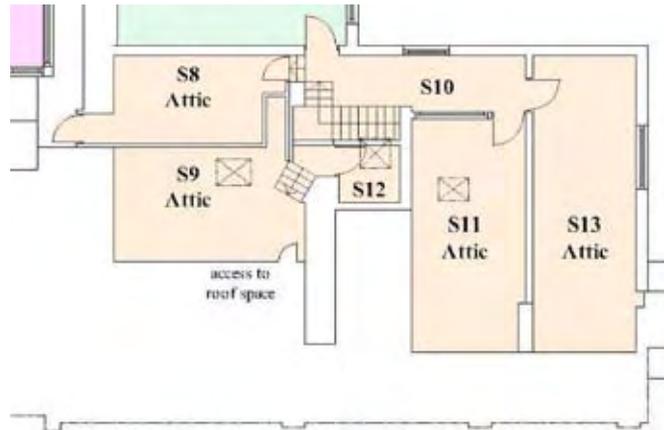
Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan for Hazelgrove Council

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

ZONE PLAN showing room references

NORTH EAST WING

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Second floor, NE wing Footman's Room S8
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Summary

listing grade	1
Date	Unknown, possibly C16 and late C19
Phases	Nevill remodelling
Use	Servants' accommodation, now visitor route

History and Description

Original Form

- This room occupies attic space possibly of C16 or earlier date above the kitchen, original form unknown.

Later Adaptation

- Creation of attic room at unknown date
- Original structural timbers not accessible
- Created or adapted as servant accommodation probably in the 1880s
- Unheated room with cased-in or modified purlins and ridge-piece and match-boarding lining walls and ceiling. The finishes, partitions and the door are probably of late C19 date, for Nevill.
- Door to roof on south side of unknown date

Significance / Values

- The envelope if of high significance
- The finishes and fixtures of medium significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information about structure.

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	NE wing Footman's room S8
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**References**

1936 UDC plan for Hazelgrove Council

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Second floor, North East wing Valet's Room S9
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Summary

listing grade	1
Date	Possibly C17, adapted late C19
Phases	Nevill
Use	Servants' accommodation

History and Description

Original Form

- This room occupies attic space above the kitchen, original form unknown.
- Original structural timbers not accessible
- Beneath the same roof line as the North wing

Later Adaptation

- Creation of attic room at unknown date.
- Adapted as servant accommodation, probably in the 1880s
- Unheated room with cased-in or modified purlins and ridge-piece and matchboard walls and ceiling. The finishes, partitions and the door are probably 1880s
- Described as Attic No. 2 on 1936 plan

Significance / Values

- The envelope is of high significance
- The C19 finishes and fixtures are of medium significance

Risks and Policies

- Chronology and form of roof structure needs more investigation in this area
- DDA.

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	NE wing Valet's room S9
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From the N

References

Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan for Hazelgrove Council

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North east wing attics Second floor stair landing S10
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Summary

listing grade	1
Date	Late C19
Phases	Nevill
Use	Circulation

History and Description

Original Form

- Attic circulation area partly within raised area of roof, circa 1880s by Nevill. Below low-pitched roof covered with lead. Wall construction unknown, but rebuilt and extended in late C19.
- Insertion of stair during 1880s as part of conversion of attics to servants' accommodation
- Match-board ceilings and walls
- C19 pine stair with square section newels with ball finials

Later Adaptation

- Presented in mid C20 as part of the visitor route

Significance / Values

- Envelope medium significance
- Fixtures and fittings medium significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information regarding date and origin of envelope.
- DDA

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	NE wing Second floor stair landing S10
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References
1936 UDC map

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North East Wing Second floor sewing room S11
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Summary

listing grade	1
Date	Partly C16/C17 and 1880s
Phases	Nevill phase
Use	Service accommodation, presented on visitor route as the Sewing Room

History and Description

Original Form

- Attics above C16 or earlier service accommodation

Later Adaptation

- Partly within area of second floor below raised roof, added in late C19 for Nevill.
- Walls, ceiling and partitions of matchboard, probably part of 1880s refurbishment for servants' accommodation; original function not known.
- Unheated space, lit by borrowed light from an internal window with leaded glazing
- Described as Attic No. 4 on 1936 plan
- Presented as sewing room on visitor route

Significance / Values

- Envelope of high and medium significance
- Fixtures and fittings of medium significance

Risks and Policies

- Basis for interpretation of use for visitor route unclear, as sewing traditionally requires high level of natural light
- DDA

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	NE Wing Sewing room S11
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From the W

References
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North east wing, attics Wash room S12
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Summary

listing grade	1
Date	C16 and C19
Phases	Nevill
Use	Wash room, now visitor route

History and Description

Original Form

- Unknown, part of possibly C16 attic areas

Later Adaptation

- Small space of the second floor staircase, converted to a servants' wash room with sinks, probably in the late C19
- Matchboard ceiling and wall finishes, lead-dressed sink units
- Fittings appear late C19
- Shown with two basins on 1936 plan

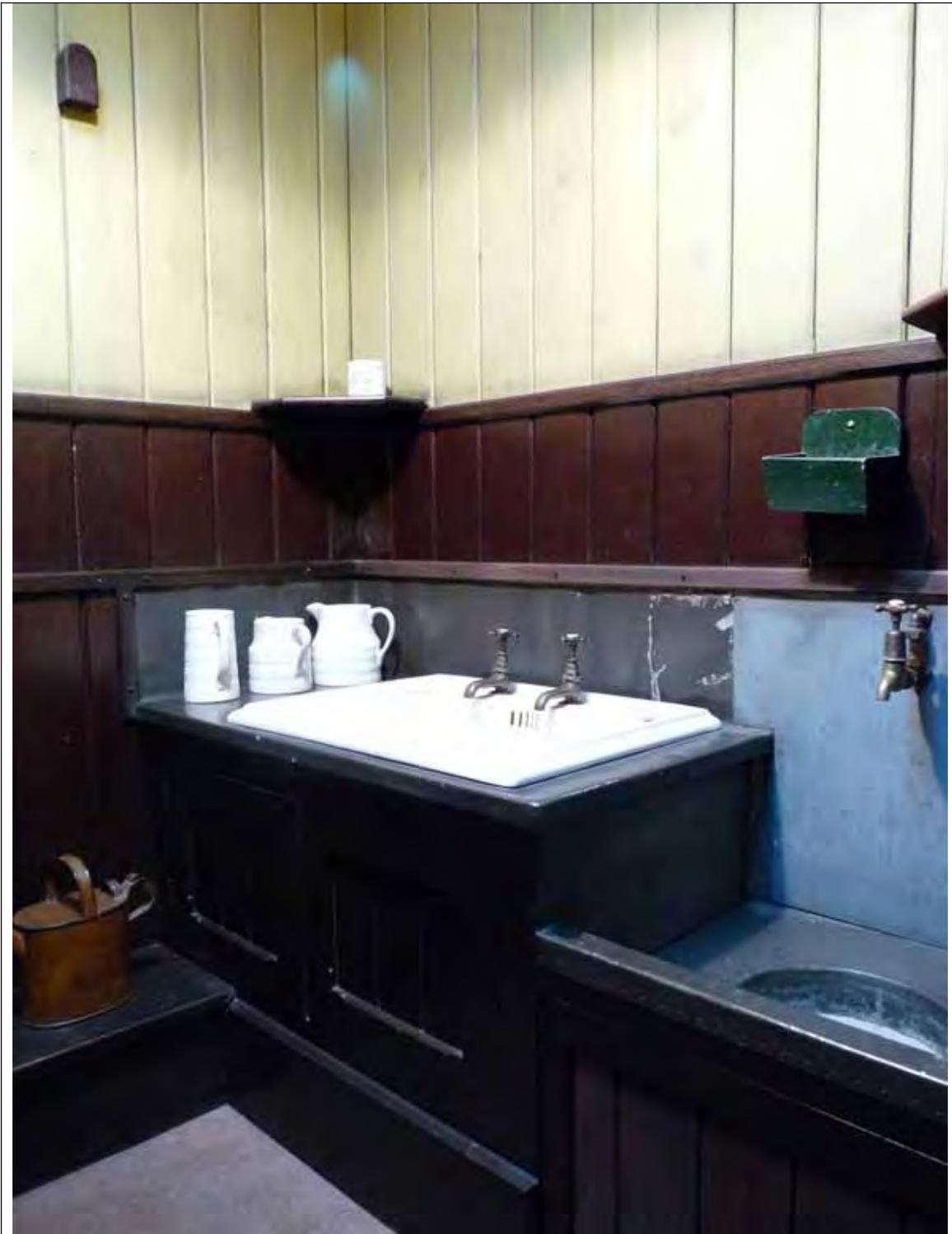
Significance / Values

- Envelope high significance
- Fittings medium significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information about original date and origin of the space.
- DDA
- Lack of information concerning provenance/authenticity of sinks.

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	NE wing attic Washroom S12
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**References**

1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item	North East Wing Second floor Housekeeper's Room
	Ref No	S13

Summary

listing grade	1
Date	1880s
Phases	Nevill phase
Use	Service accommodation later described as House keeper's Room

History and Description

Original Form

- Partly within attic above the north end of the NE wing; this area probably part of second phase of this wing.
- C16 roof structure to E side of ridge, 1880s structure on west side ridge.

Later Adaptation

- Roof raised on W side of the ridge in late C19 for Nevill, to create new attic rooms.
- Described as Attic No. 5 on 1936 plan
- Construction: Walls, ceiling and partitions of matchboard, probably 1880s
- Heated by fireplace served by rebuilt N chimney stack
- Features : Cast-iron chimney piece probably late C19, ceiling beams and window also late C19.
- Presented as part of the visitor route in late C20

Significance / Values

- Envelope of medium significance
- Fixtures and fittings of medium significance

Risks and Policies

- DDA.

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone:	NE Wing
	Item:	Second floor Housekeeper's room
	Ref No:	S13



From the W



Fireplace in Housekeeper's Room

References

1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North Wing Over view
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Summary

listing grade	I
date	Unknown, probably mid C15
phases	Primary. For room by room analysis and alteration see separate gazetteer entries
use	Unknown, probably family accommodation

History and Description

- Probably built in the mid C15 as an addition to the principal hall range
- Construction: close-studded timber frame on a plinth of sandstone with curved braces to main posts. Left hand bay of south elevation slightly projects. Original roof covering unknown.
- Form and appearance: 2-storey 5-bay range on the north side of the courtyard originally separated from the principal range by a gap of about 4 feet. The building contained two 2-bay upper rooms open to the roof with richly moulded cambered tie-beams and cusped roof trusses designed to be visible.
- Use: relatively high status accommodation for use by the owning family and their guests, or possibly as lodgings.
- Surviving elements: much restored building envelope, partly embedded in or replaced by later fabric. Original roof trusses in the attic include two open arch-braced trusses with cusped X-shaped upper members, one closed truss with close-studding and other trusses embedded in later fabric or inaccessible at the time of the survey.

Later Adaptation

- Date: The range could have been altered when the west gatehouse range, to which it was probably attached, was demolished in the C18. Partial rebuilding of N wall and west gable-end in brick from C18 onwards.
- At an unknown date the first floor rooms were ceiled in at tie-beam level, the upper floor was divided into smaller rooms and brick stacks inserted. A corridor was created along the south side of the wing to give access to these rooms.
- C18 remodelling of ground floor room (G26) with panelling indicates continuing high status of at least this space.
- By the mid - late C19 the status of most ground floor rooms had declined for use as service and servants' accommodation.
- 1880s - first-floor rooms adapted as guest suites for Nevill, with new finishes and fireplaces. Ground floor rooms and corridor refurbished for service accommodation, with butler's pantry fittings added in G26. Exterior refurbished, including new stacks, W gable added over the existing roof truss, new fenestration including oriels to N side.
- Creation of servants' accommodation by creating attics in the east part of the wing, late C19, for Nevill.
- First floor converted to caretaker's accommodation, probably during the 1930s.
- Substantial repairs and replacement of external fabric, mid to late C20. This included replacing the timber-frame on the courtyard elevation with render and brick, precise date unknown, but probably either 1950s or post-1974.

- Conversion of upper floor to a conference suite, including subdivision of one room to form a kitchen and insertion of fire escape, late C20.

Significance / Values

- Probably one of the earliest surviving parts of the complex, with relatively high status rooms in the C15
- Possesses evidential historic, aesthetic and social value
- High significance: remaining C15 timber-frame structure and roof form
- Medium significance: post-medieval and late C19 work

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information about the origins of this wing, and lack of analysis of the surviving structure – dendro and measured survey strongly recommended.
- Lack of interpretation of medieval function, often wrongly assumed to be service accommodation, but roof form suggests higher status.
- The structure is at risk of damage by insertion and maintenance of modern services
- Survival of timber-frame behind modern finishes unknown – further investigation recommended.

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER****Zone
Item
Ref No**North Wing
Over view*Courtyard elevation**N elevation*



One of two cusped open roof trusses in N wing

References:

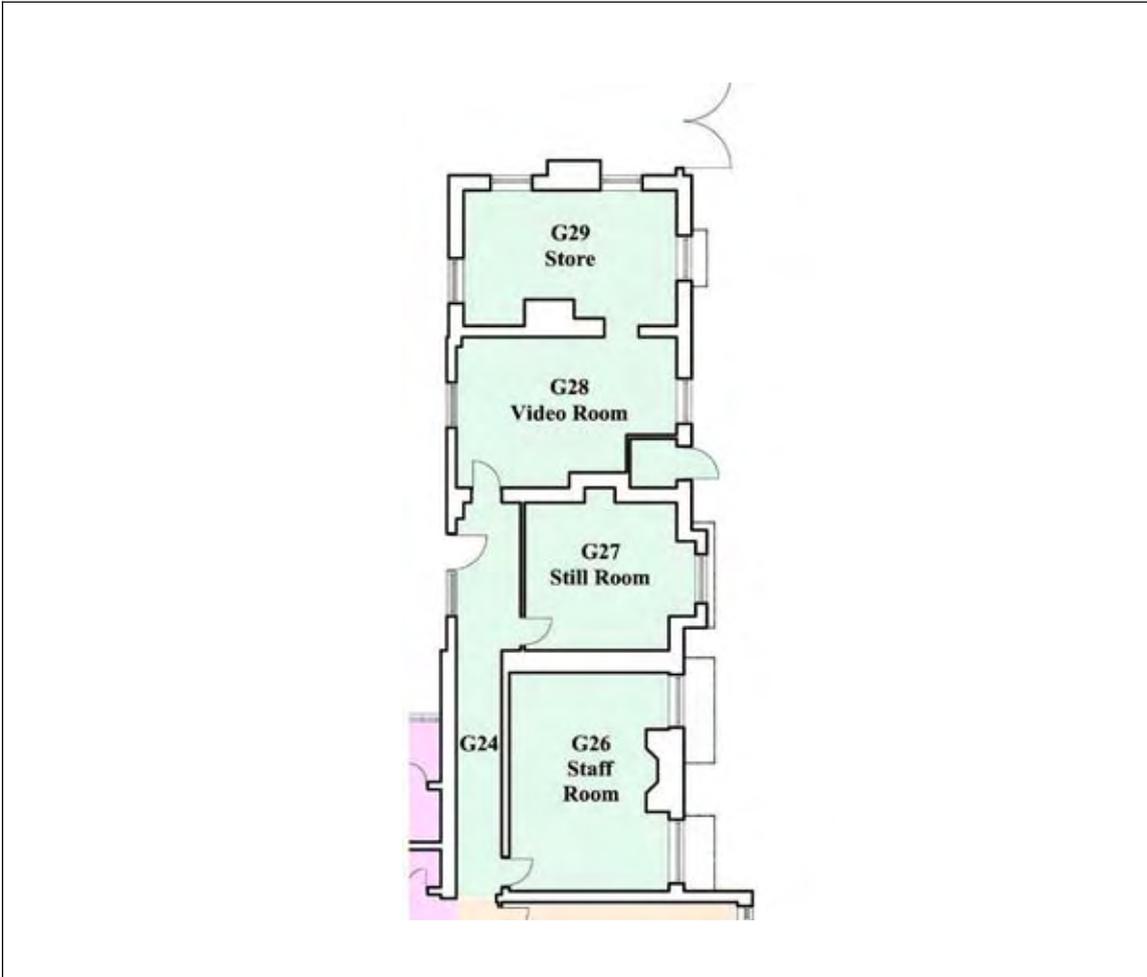
Henry Taylor plan published 1884
1883 Burton plan and undated circa 1880s plans
Burton MSS, Chetham's Library
1936 UDC floor plans
Resume of alterations at Bramall Hall, nd, Stockport Library

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

ZONE PLAN showing room references

NORTH WING

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, N Wing Ground floor corridor G24
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Summary

listing grade	I
date	Unknown primary phase, late C19 remodelling
phases	Multi-phase.
use	Service staircase, hall and rear entrance

History and Description

- Runs along the S side of the C15 N wing
- Construction: brick outer walls re-built late C19
- Plan form of unknown date, but at least C18 when G26 lined with panelling. Moulded plaster cornice probably early C18. Shown for part of its current length on c.1860 plan and marked as 'servants corridor' in existing form on 1883 Burton plan.
- Form and appearance: narrow E-W corridor.
- Use: service corridor

Later Adaptation

- Date: The N wing was substantially adapted in the Late C19 for Nevill.
- Form & appearance: Late C19 pine boarded dado and red tiled floor. Windows on S side also c.1890.
- In the mid to late C20, the wing was adapted for visitor access – this is now part of escape route but few changes made

Significance / Values

- Service corridor dates from at least C18 subdivision of N wing
- Possesses evidential, historic, aesthetic and social value
- Medium significance space within High significance wing

Risks and Policies

- Impact of modern services

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N Wing Corridor G24
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Corridor from E

References:

1883 Burton plan and undated 1880s 're-arrangement' plans (Stockport Council)
1936 UDC floor plans
Resume of alterations at Bramall Hall, nd, Stockport Library
Burton MSS, Chetham's Library
Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, N Wing Service stairs and hall G25
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Summary

listing grade	I
date	Unknown primary phase, late C19 remodelling
phases	Multi-phase.
use	Service staircase, hall and rear entrance

History and Description

- Within the E end of the C15 N wing
- Construction: brick outer walls re-built late C19
- Staircase of unknown date shown in this area but on W side of the hall, on Burton's plan dated 1883
- Form and appearance: narrow stair hall aligned N-S with external entrance to N and stair against W wall of the space
- Use: service stair in kitchen corridor (Burton plan)

Later Adaptation

- Date: The service wing was substantially adapted in the Late C19 for Nevill. Staircase rebuilt on the E side of the stair hall c.1890.
- Form & appearance: Late C19 pine staircase with open string, turned balusters, moulded handrail and match-boarding dado linings to walls. Red tiled floor. Glazed doors also c.1890.
- In the mid to late C20, the wing was adapted for staff offices and to present service wing to the visitor – fire doors inserted at both ends of the stair hall and C19 yard door on W side of hall closed.

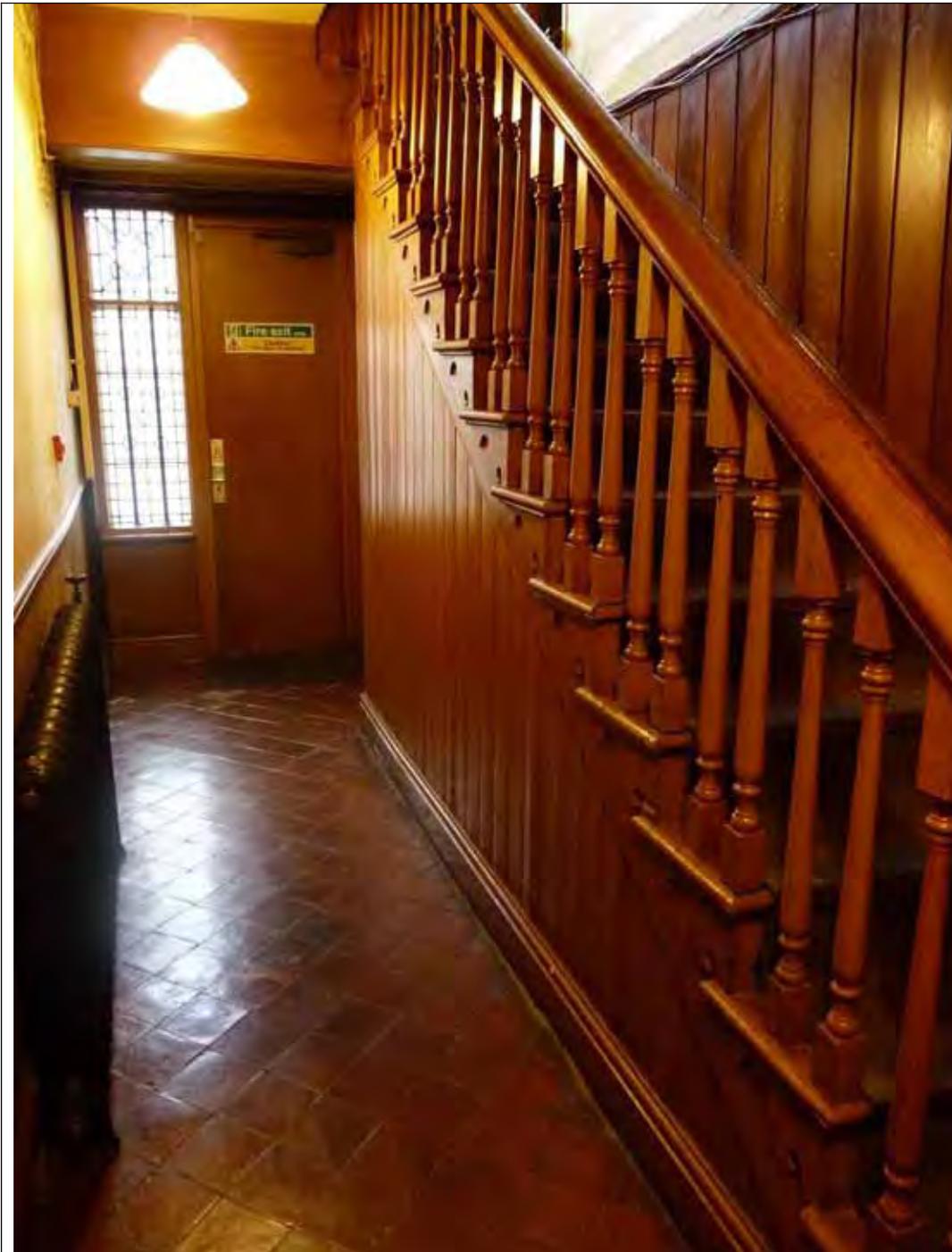
Significance / Values

- Service stair renewed by Nevill.
- Possesses evidential, historic, aesthetic and social value
- Medium significance

Risks and Policies

- DDA
- Impact of modern services on the character of the area

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N Wing Stairs G25
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Staircase from S

References:

1883 Burton plan and undated 1880s 're-arrangement' plans (Stockport Council)
1936 UDC floor plans
Resume of alterations at Bramall Hall, and, Stockport Library
Burton MSS, Chetham's Library
Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, N Wing Staff room G26
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Summary

listing grade	I
date	C15 wing, early C18 and late C19 remodelling
phases	Multi-phase.
use	Housekeeper's room, now staff room

History and Description

- Within the E end of the C15 N wing
- Construction: C15 timber-framed outer walls part re-built in brick C18 and later
- Room plan-form relates to subdivision of N wing into cellular spaces with S corridor at unknown date. Lit by N windows facing yard.
- Form and appearance: small rectangular room fitted in early C18 with raised panelling, moulded plaster cornice, polished limestone chimney piece on N wall with panelled overmantel with ionic pilasters
- Use: shown as housekeepers' room or butler's pantry on 1883 Burton plan

Later Adaptation

- Date: The N wing was adapted in the Late C19 for Nevill.
- Form & appearance: Room continued as a butler's pantry with fitted cupboards and safe added against S wall. Cast-iron and tiled grate in fireplace is late C19. Late C19 windows
- In the mid to late C20, the room was adapted for staff room with minimal change; sink is C20 but in same location as sink on 1883 plan

Significance / Values

- One of the few rooms with C18 architectural features
- Possesses evidential, historic, aesthetic and social value
- Medium to High significance interior within High significance wing

Risks and Policies

- Impact of modern services on the character of the room
- Attractive room not fully utilised for its historic interest
- Damaged fireplace grate

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N Wing Staff room G26
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Fireplace on N wall from the S

References:

1883 Burton plan and undated 1880s 're-arrangement' plans (Stockport Council)
1936 UDC floor plans
Burton MSS, Chetham's Library
Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, N Wing Still room G27
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Summary

listing grade	I
date	C15 wing, C18 and late C19 remodelling
phases	Multi-phase.
use	Servants' hall now 'still room'

History and Description

- Within the C15 N wing
- Construction: C15 timber-framed outer walls re-built in brick C18 and C19
- Room plan-form relates to subdivision of N wing into cellular spaces off a S corridor, at unknown date. Lit by square bay window facing yard.
- Form and appearance: small rectangular room, heated by fireplace on W wall
- Use: shown as servants' hall on 1883 Burton plan. Earlier plan c.1860 shows fireplace on N wall and room occupying full width of wing, suggesting corridor layout altered in C19.

Later Adaptation

- Date: The N wing was adapted in the Late C19 for Nevill.
- Form & appearance: Late C19 bay window and probably also W and S walls. Plain plastered walls and ceiling with simple plaster cornice.
- Room adapted as a sitting room in early C20 (shown as such on 1936 plan).
- In the mid to late C20, the room was adapted for visitor route as a still room, but with few physical changes. Fireplace boxed-in and not seen. Late C20 floor boards. 'Still room' feature in window is reversible

Significance / Values

- Plain, altered service room in C15 wing
- Possesses evidential, historic, aesthetic and social value
- Medium significance room within High significance wing

Risks and Policies

- Use and interpretation confusing
- Impact of modern services and fittings on the character of the room
- Re-open fireplace ?

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N Wing Still room G27
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Still room from the S

References:

c.1860 plan (Stockport Council)
1883 Burton plan and undated 1880s 're-arrangement' plans (Stockport Council)
1936 UDC floor plans
Burton MSS, Chetham's Library
Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, N Wing Video room G28
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Summary

listing grade	I
date	C15 wing, early C18 and late C19 remodelling
phases	Multi-phase.
use	Laundry now visitor route

History and Description

- Within the W end of the C15 N wing
- Construction: C15 timber-framed outer walls re-built in brick C18 and later
- Room plan-form relates to subdivision of N wing into cellular spaces at unknown date. Lit by S window with door into N yard. Perhaps unheated, originally.
- Form and appearance: small rectangular room with deep chamfered N-S beam and main post on N wall (primary phase features).
- Use: original use unknown; shown as apple store on undated pre Nevill plan (c.1860) and as laundry on 1883 Burton plan

Later Adaptation

- Date: The N wing was adapted in the Late C19 for Nevill.
- Form & appearance: Room used as a laundry in late C19 with fireplace on W wall and door into yard on N side.
- By the early C20, the room was in use for storage (1936 plan), door connected this room to G29, and external N door blocked.
- Late C20, the room was adapted for visitor use. Fire escape inserted in enclosed compartment in NE corner, to serve first floor lettable space

Significance / Values

- Much altered but retains historic structural timber
- Possesses evidential, historic, aesthetic and social value
- Low/medium significance of interior, within high significance wing

Risks and Policies

- Impact of modern services and fire escape on the form and character of the room
- Interpretation and use

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N Wing Video room G28
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**References:**

c.1860 floor plan (Stockport Council)
1883 Burton plan and undated 1880s 're-arrangement' plans (Stockport Council)
1936 UDC floor plans
Burton MSS, Chetham's Library
Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Hall, N Wing Store G29
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Summary

listing grade	I
date	C15 wing, early C18 and late C19 remodelling
phases	Multi-phase.
use	Store

History and Description

- At the W end of the C15 N wing
- Construction: C15 timber-framed outer walls part re-built in brick C18 and later
- Room plan-form relates to subdivision of N wing into cellular spaces at unknown date. Lit by N windows facing yard.
- Form and appearance: small rectangular room with doorway in W gable end, windows to N and S
- Use: shown as boot room/larder on c.1860 plan and as dairy on 1883 Burton plan

Later Adaptation

- Date: The N wing was adapted in the Late C19 for Nevill.
- Form & appearance: Room used as a dairy in the late C19 with no inside connection to rest of N wing. Heated by fireplace on E wall. Late C19 windows.
- In the mid to late C20, the room's use changed to storage. Late C20 changes include inserted wall linings and light-weight partition dividing room into a S store and a N lobby (fire escape).

Significance / Values

- No historic features visible
- Possesses evidential, historic, aesthetic and social value
- Low significance space in high significance N wing

Risks and Policies

- Impact of modern services and partition on the character of the room
- No interpretation of historic use/function

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N Wing Store G29
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G29 from the E

References:

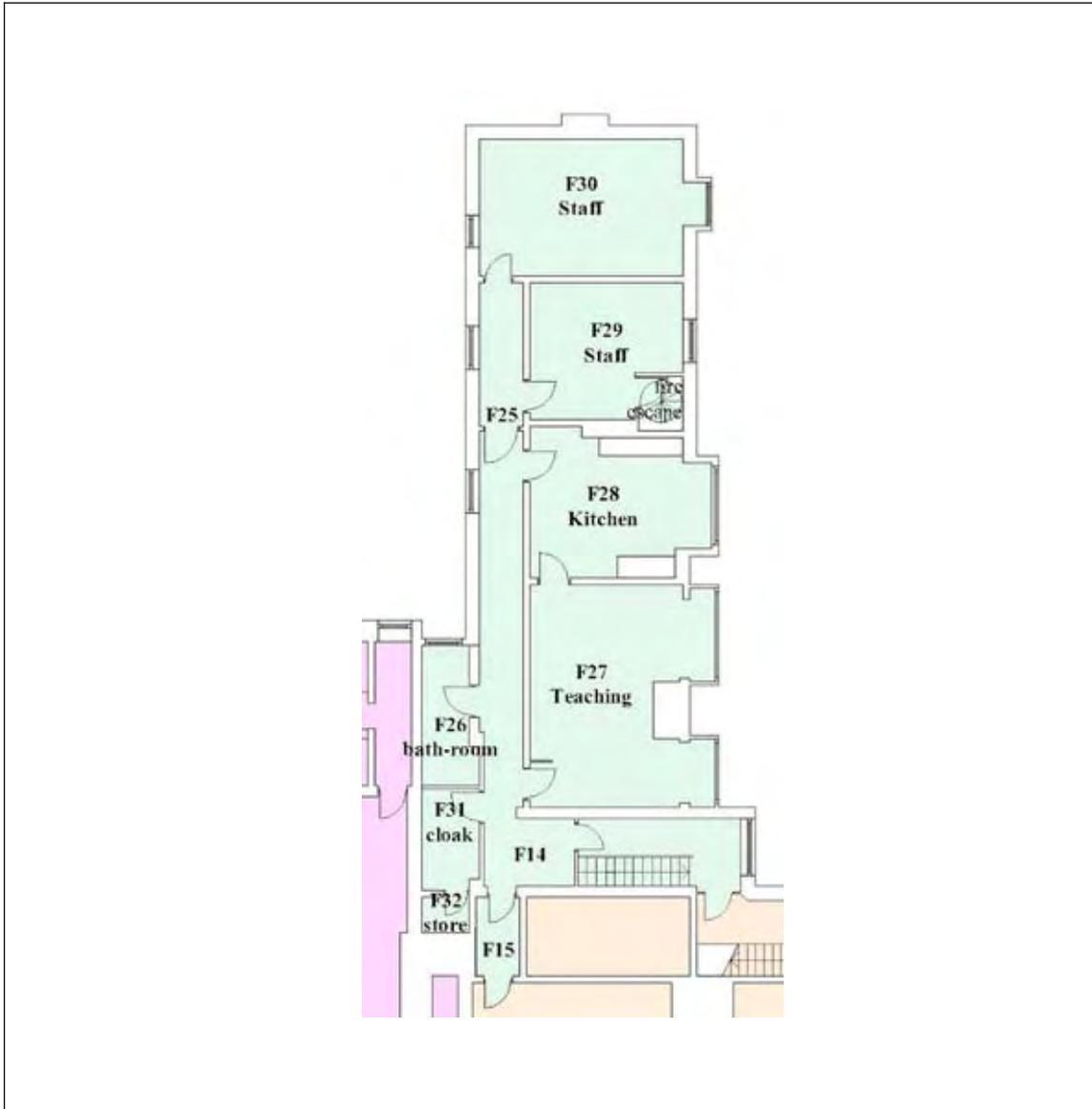
c.1860 plan, 1883 Burton plan and undated 1880s 're-arrangement' plans (Stockport Council)
1936 UDC floor plans
Burton MSS, Chetham's Library
Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

ZONE PLAN showing room references

NORTH WING

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North Wing Landing and staircase F14
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15 wing with LC19 staircase
phases	Multi-phase area
use	Circulation

History and Description

Original Form

- Staircase at E end of C15 wing, inserted when larger spaces subdivided to provide corridor access to cellular rooms, possibly pre C18.
- Stair case in this location on c.1860 plan.
- Some evidence for C15 timber-frame visible in this area.

Later Adaptation

- The wing was adapted as service or servant accommodation in post-medieval period
- Late C19, staircase rebuilt for Nevill. Pine stairs with turned balusters and moulded handrail. Leaded landing window also Late C19. Walls lined with match boarding. Panelled doors to ladies and NE wing.

Significance / Values

- The main structure of C15 date is of high significance
- The late C19 staircase and joinery are medium significance.

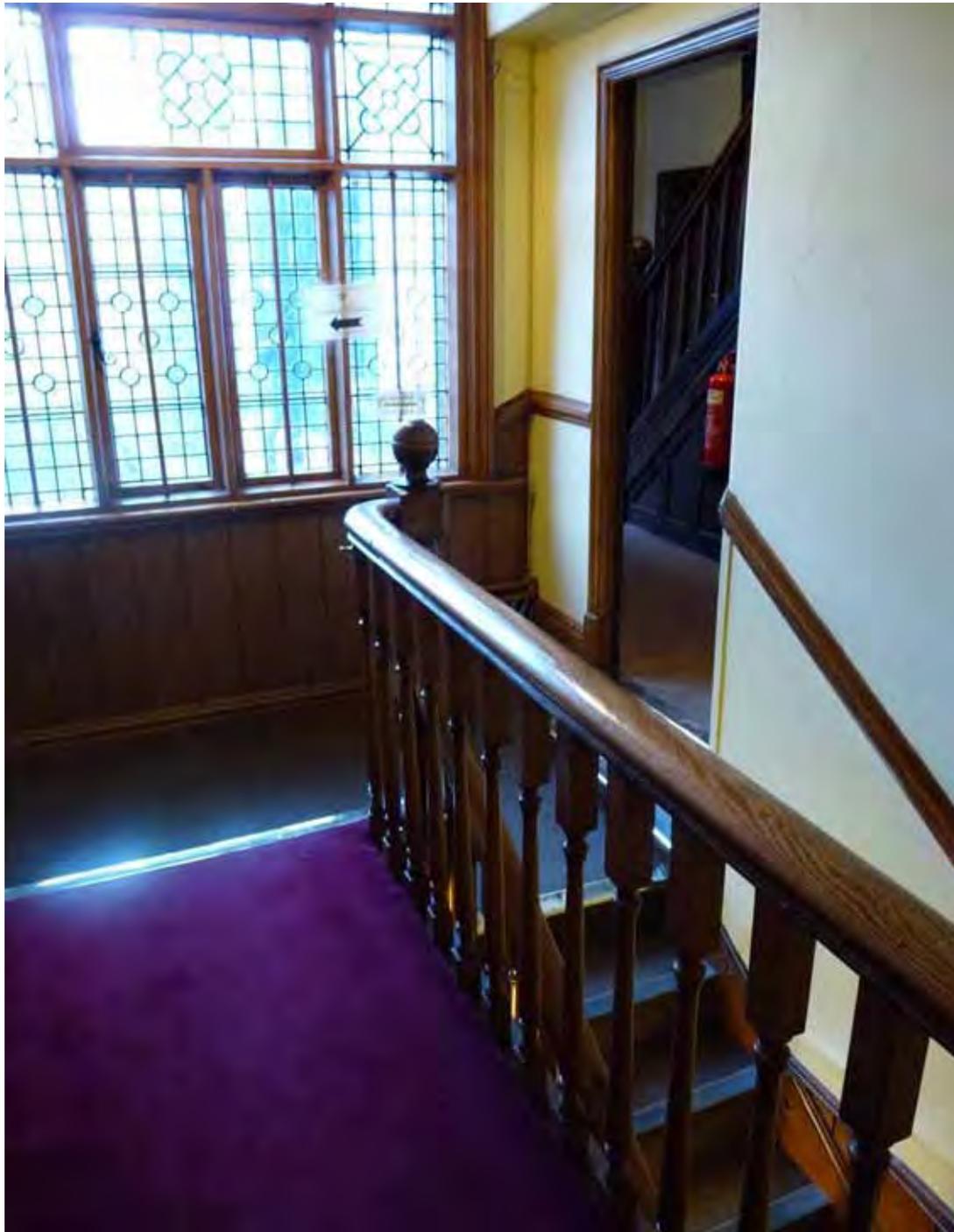
Risks and Policies

- Lack of information and analysis of the north wing
- Lack of information concerning the extent of C15 remains
- Lack of information concerning date of insertion of the stair.

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No**

**N wing
First floor landing and stairs
F14**



First floor landing and stairs from the S

References

Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North Wing Corridor F15
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	Probably C15
phases	Probably C18 or later alteration
use	Circulation

History and Description

Original Form

- Part of a circa C15 wing, corridor created as part of subdivision of upper floor to give corridor access to cellular rooms.

Later Adaptation

- The open roof was ceiled in and space subdivided by at least the mid-late C19
- The area was converted or adapted as service or servant accommodation probably at the same time.
- The main posts of the arch-braced roof trusses appear to survive, encased, along the south side of the corridor.
- Matching features appear to have been inserted on the north side of the corridor to give symmetrical appearance, but the date and origin of these features is not known.
- The corridor was subdivided towards the west end to create a fire break and escape route in the late C20

Significance / Values

- The wing's structure of C15 date is of high significance
- The current layout and finishes are of medium/low significance.

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information and analysis of the north wing
- Lack of information concerning the extent of C15 remains
- Lack of information concerning date of creation of the corridor.

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone:
Item:
Ref No**

**N wing
First floor corridor
F15**



Corridor from E

References

Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Space between the North wing and the north cross-wing
	Item	Lavatory
	Ref No	F26

Summary

listing grade	1
date	Unknown, late C19 and late C20
phases	Multi-phase
use	Lavatory

History and Description

Original Form

- The North wing is structurally independent of the central hall and cross wing range and a gap between the structures was probably originally open
- The gap was in-filled at unknown date, possibly in the C16 or C17; function of this small space at that date unknown.

Later Adaptation

- The room adapted as a lavatory serving rooms in the North wing in late C19, shown as WC on 1880s 're-arrangement' plan and on 1936 plan
- The lavatory was refitted probably in the late C20 to serve conference/meeting rooms in the North wing.

Significance / Values

- The structure is of high significance
- C20 fixtures and fittings of low significance, C19 fittings (glazing, joinery) are of medium significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information on the date and circumstances of creating in-fill rooms in this 'gap' area

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N wing WC F26
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**References**

Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North Wing First-floor Board Room F27
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15, C18, 1880s, mid and late C20
phases	Multi-phase
use	Conference/meeting facility

History and Description

Original Form

- Part of a formerly 2-bay room originally open to the roof, probably dating from the early or mid C15.

Later Adaptation

- Unknown date: ceiled in at tie-beam level and subdivided. The room occupies 1 ½ bays of the earlier North wing structure.
- By 1860s-70s converted to service or servant accommodation
- 1880s converted to a bedroom as part of a guest suite with an interconnecting oak panelled door to the Davenport room (G28) to the west
- Form and appearance: fireplace, doors, panelling and north window appear to be of 1880s origin
- Described as sitting room on plan of 1936, as part of a caretaker's flat.
- Ceiling and wall paper finishes are late C20.
- Use: lettable meeting room
- Surviving elements. The 1880s features are significant

Significance / Values

- The room is part of a late medieval range of high significance
- Adaptation of 1880s date is of historic and some aesthetic value. It is the most lavishly decorated of the 1880s refitting of the suite - medium significance.
- Late C20 finishes of low significance.

Risks and Policies

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N wing Board room F27
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**References**

Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North Wing Meeting Room (also known as Davenport Room) F28
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15, C18, 1880s, mid and late C20
phases	Multi-phase
use	Conference/meeting facility

History and Description

Original Form

- Part of a formerly 2-bay room of high status originally open to the roof, probably dating from the early or mid C15

Later Adaptation

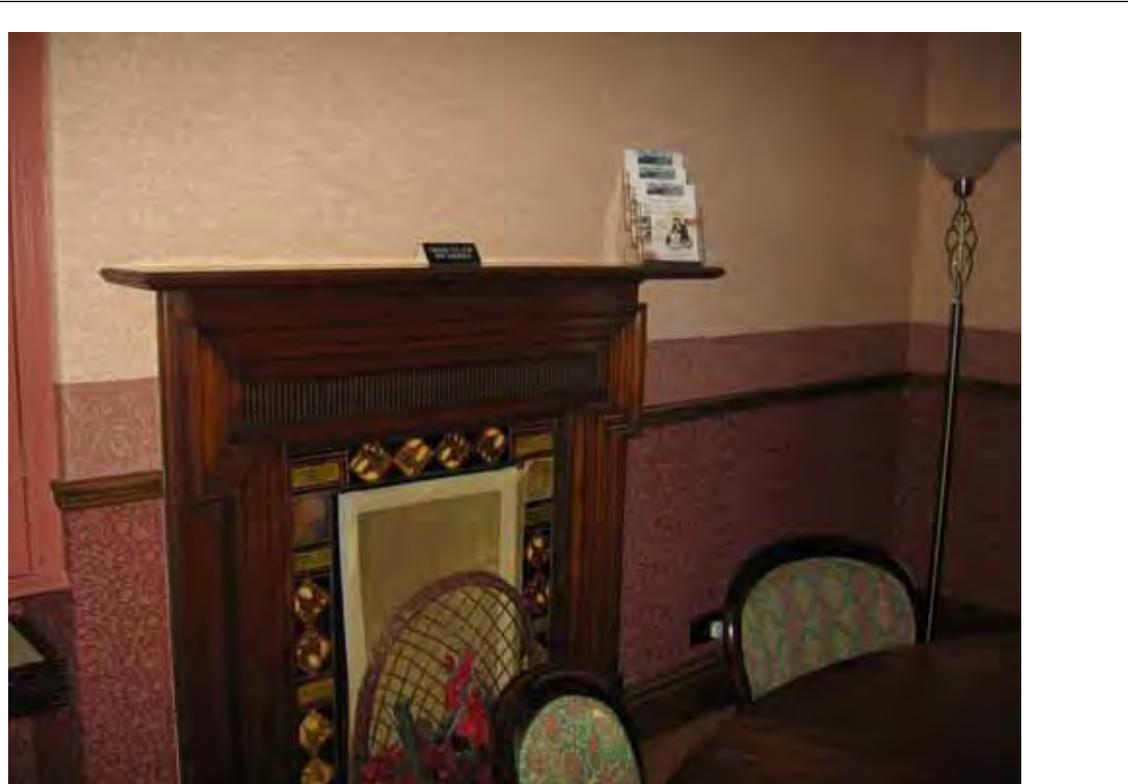
- Unknown date: ceiled in at tie-beam level and subdivision of a 2-bay room to form two rooms.
- By 1860s-70s converted to service or servant accommodation
- 1880s converted to a bedroom or dressing room as part of a guest suite
- Form and appearance fireplace, door and north window appear to be of 1880s origin
- Ceiling and wall finishes appear to be late C20. Chimney rebuilt in the 1880s.
- Use: lettable meeting room
- Surviving elements. The 1880s features are significant

Significance / Values

- The room is part of a medieval range of high significance
- Adaptation of 1880s date is of medium significance historic and aesthetic value
- Late C20 finishes are low significance

Risks and Policies

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N wing Meeting Room F28
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**References**

Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North Wing Kitchen F29
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15, remodelling late C20
phases	Multi-phase
use	Kitchen

History and Description

Original Form

- Part of a formerly high-status 2-bay room originally open to the roof, probably dating from the early or mid C15.
- Part of the original arch-bracing to the tie-beam is visible below the ceiling (boxed-in)

Later Adaptation

- Ceiled in and subdivided at unknown date, probably by the C18.
- Adapted as part of a guest suite in the 1880s
- Described as bedroom in 1936
- The space was subdivided again and converted to a kitchen Late C20
- Use: kitchen serving adjacent meeting/conference facilities.

Significance / Values

- The room is part of the highly significant C15 former first floor space, with timber-framing retained behind modern linings
- The late C20 fixtures, fittings and finishes are without interest and are of low significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information, analysis of the basic structure

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N Wing Kitchen F29
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F29 from the S, with boxed in brace to tie-beam visible



References

Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North Wing Nevill conference Room. F30
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15, C18, 1880s, mid and late C20
phases	Multi-phase
use	Conference/meeting facility

History and Description

Original Form

- The Western bay of a formerly high-status 2-bay room, open to the roof in the C15.

Later Adaptation

- Unknown date: ceiled in at tie-beam level and subdivision of a 2-bay room open to the roof to form two rooms.
- By 1860s-70s converted to service or servant accommodation; 6-panelled door probably early C19.
- 1880s converted to a bedroom as part of a guest suite for Nevill
- Form and appearance: fireplace, cupboard and north window appear to be of 1880s origin
- Described as bedroom on 1880s plan and on 1936 plan
- Ceiling and wall finishes appear to be late C20. Chimney rebuilt in the 1880s.
- Use: lettable meeting room
- Surviving elements. The 1880s features are significant

Significance / Values

- The room is within part of a late medieval range of high significance
- Adaptation of 1880s date (joinery, plasterwork) is of medium historic and aesthetic value
- Late C20 finishes and fittings are low significance.

Risks and Policies

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N wing Nevill conference room F30
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**References**

Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North Wing Fire escape Between F28 and F29
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15, remodelling late C20
phases	Part of a late C20 remodelling
use	Fire escape

History and Description

Original Form

- Part of a high status two-bay C15 room originally open to the roof
- Ceiled in and subdivided probably C18.
- Converted to service accommodation probably by the mid-late C19 or before
- Adapted as part of a guest suite in the 1880s
-

Later Adaptation

- The space was subdivided again and converted to a fire escape late C20 to serve lettable conference suite
- Use: Fire escape serving adjacent meeting/conference facilities.

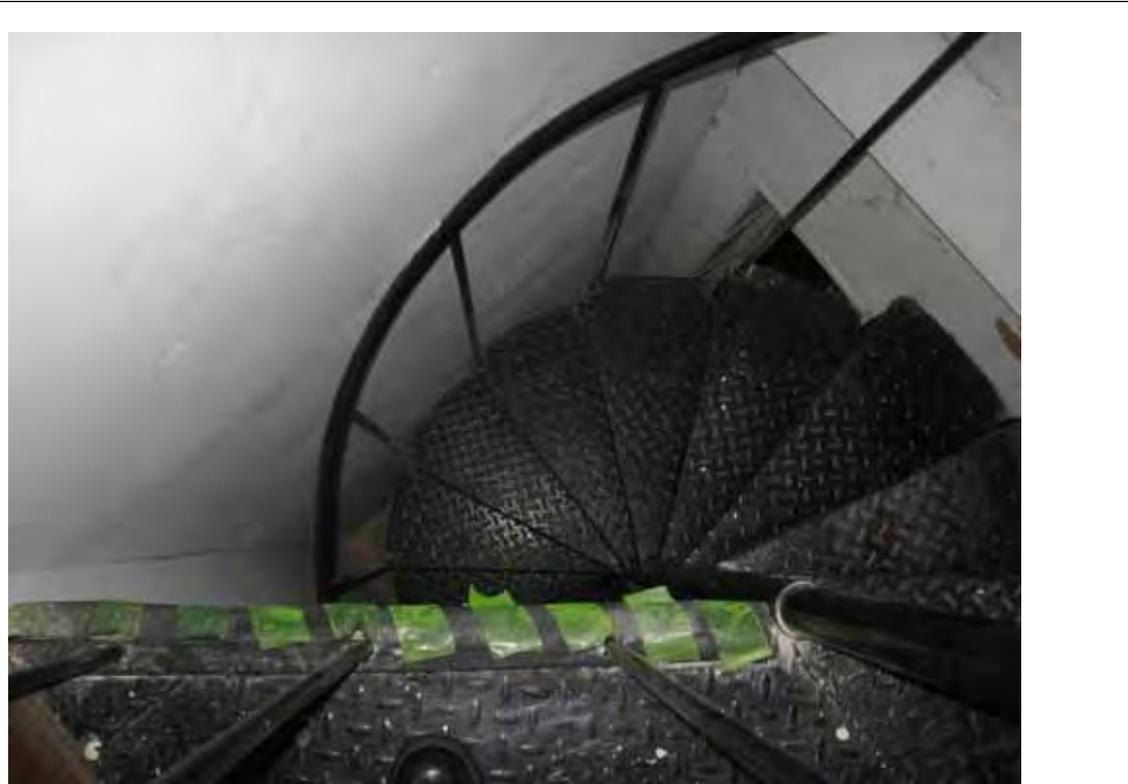
Significance / Values

- The space is within the highly significant C14 or C15 wing
- The current fixtures, fittings and finishes are without interest and are of no significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information and analysis of the basic structure

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N Wing Fire escape No ref no.
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**References**

Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	Gap between the North wing and Hall range
	Item	Lobby
	Ref No	F31

Summary

listing grade	1
date	Unknown, late C19 and late C20
phases	Multi-phase
use	circulation

History and Description

Original Form

- The North wing is structurally independent of the central hall and cross wing range and a gap between the structures was probably originally open
- The gap was in-filled at unknown date, possibly in the C16 or C17; function of this small space at that date unknown – possibly circulation.
- Part of timber-framed former outer S wall of N wing visible on N wall of lobby.

Later Adaptation

- The space serves as the first floor link between the Hall range and N wing.
- Remodelled in late C19, when large open landing formed, shown on 1880s 're-arrangement' plan and on 1936 plan
- The lobby was subdivided to create fire protected routes in late C19. C19 panelled door with re-used carved panels now fills doorway between this lobby and the Hall range staircase. Other inserted partitions of no interest.

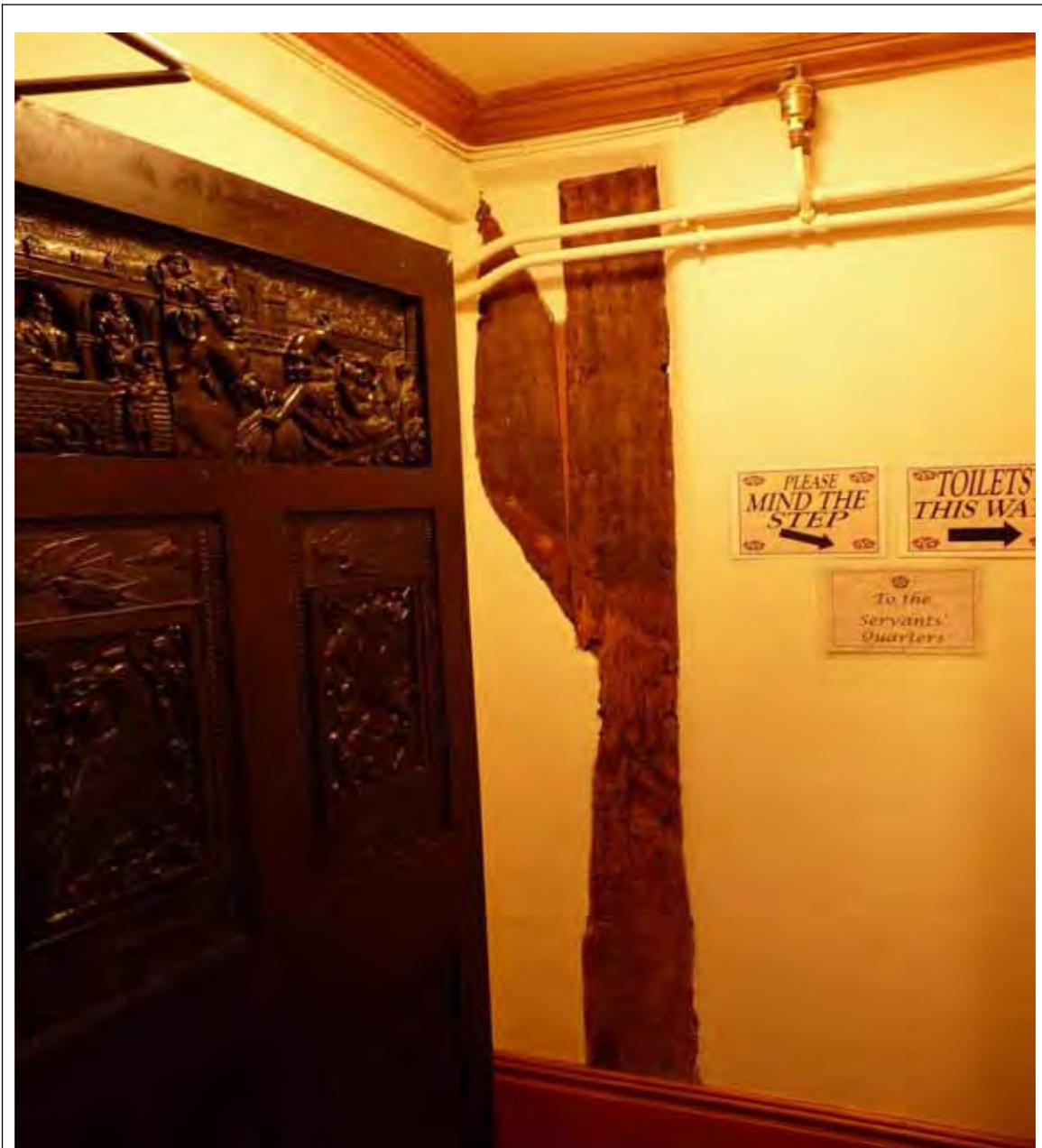
Significance / Values

- The space is of high significance archaeologically
- C20 inserted partitions of low significance, C19 fittings (re-set door) are of medium significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information on the date and circumstances of creating in-fill spaces in this 'gap' area

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	'Gap' between N wing and Hall wing
	Item	Lobby
	Ref No	F31



Lobby with exposed timber-frame of N wing S wall from the S

References

Undated circa 1880s plan
1936 UDC plan

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

ZONE PLAN showing room references

NORTH WING

SECOND FLOOR PLAN



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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Attics, North wing Maids' Dormitory S7
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15, late C19
phases	Multi-phase
use	Possibly originally open to the floor below, now servants' rooms on visitor route

History and Description

- This room occupies part of the eastern bay of the C15 north wing.
- Original form unknown; it was probably open to the floor below until the post-medieval period

Later Adaptation

- Creation of attic room by insertion of ceiling and attic floor at unknown date.
- Present configuration includes an approach created by cutting through an original northern purlin of the North wing.
- Created or adapted as servant accommodation probably in the 1880s
- Unheated room with cased-in or modified purlins and ridge-piece and matchboard walls and ceiling. The finishes, partitions and the door are probably of late C19 date.
- Described as Attic No. 1 in 1936

Significance / Values

- The envelope if of high significance
- The finishes and fixtures of medium significance

Risks and Policies

- Lack of information about original structure
- At risk from insertion and maintenance of services.

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N wing attic Maid's room S7
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S7 from the S, the low-pitched roof is late C19



S7 from the E, the medieval roof void S14 is beyond the partition

References

1936 UDC plan

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	North Wing Roof space S14
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Summary

listing grade	1
date	C15 and C18
phases	Multi-phase
use	None

History and Description

Original Form

- Four bays of a possibly five-bay high status wing of probably C15 date
- Two 2-bay rooms divided by a close-studded truss
- Each room has at the centre an arch-braced truss with moulded, cambered tie-beam and upper cusped strut members arranged in an X-shape
- Rooms originally open to the floor below, i.e. the first floor of the North wing.
- Details of the westernmost and easternmost roof truss obscured at time of survey
- Structure appears to continue and include S7 but the structural elements of this area are not accessible

Later Adaptation

- Roof space ceiled in at tie-beam level at an unknown date, possibly C18, and chimneys inserted.
- The west gable end encased during the 1880s work and chimneys rebuilt above roof.
- East end bay altered with insertion of servants' accommodation, probably 1880s
- Evidence of strengthening and structural repairs, probably mid and late C20 date
- Various interventions to insert and maintain services, late C20

Significance / Values

- C15 roof structure is of high significance

Risks and Policies

- At risk from insertion and maintenance of services, application of fireproofing and insulation, etc.
- Lack of conservation and interpretation of medieval fabric
- Complete structure not accessible

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	N wing Roof space S14
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One of two cusped open trusses, from the W



Cusped open truss with cambered moulded tie-beam, and inserted stack, from E

References

Burton Mss; Dean 1999.

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group East range, exteriors
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Summary

listing grade	Within curtilage of Bramall Hall
date	Probably late 18 th century
phases	First phase of stable range, repaired by Nevill late C19 and adapted in C20 for non-stable use
use	Stables, now informal children's lunch area, and stores

History and Description

Original Form

- Probably late C18 in present form but stone plinth to NW corner may suggest earlier timber-frame building. Shown on 1841 tithe map
- Construction: hand-made red brick, fair-faced and laid in English garden wall bond with diaper-work lozenges to first floor. Stone slate roof with timber cupola
- Form & appearance: 2-storey, 6-bay north-south range encloses east side of existing stable courtyard. Formerly symmetrical east elevation faces the hall with blocked stables doors and windows and circular pitching holes. Ventilations slits to south gable and west elevation.
- Use: stables, with hay lofts over.
- Surviving elements: north gable end and east elevation least altered with original pattern of openings legible, restored cupola.

Later Adaptation

- Date: Plans dated 1942 record alterations for war-time use as local HQ of National Fire Service (NFS), but may have also been altered late C19 for Nevill and late C20 for Stockport Council
- Form and appearance: 1940s alterations included insertion of pair of double garage doors to south gable end, insertion of door, windows and external stairs to west elevation (stairs since removed), blocking of stable doorways and windows on east elevation, insertion of new doorways to east, north and west elevations. Construction: no major external alterations to fabric other than openings
- Current use: Dining area for school parties, informal store to upper floor, kitchen store facing courtyard
- Surviving elements: inserted openings.

Significance / Values

- The building's east elevation clearly expresses the original stable use and contributes positively to the setting of Bramall Hall.
- Possesses evidential, historical, some aesthetic and potentially, social value.
- Medium or local significance

Risks and Policies

- East elevations retains stable character, but blocked stable doors and windows give this elevation a 'blind', unused appearance.
- Lack of interpretation of former use or appearance
- West elevation degraded by poor quality mid C20 alterations, visible from courtyard.

References

1897 and 1907 OS maps

1942 plans showing proposed alterations for NFS (Bramall Hall Collection)

E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p.87

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group West range exteriors
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East elevation of east stable range



West elevation

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group East range, interiors
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Summary

listing grade	Within curtilage of Bramall Hall
date	Probably late 18 th century
phases	First phase of stable range, repaired by Nevill late C19 and adapted in C20 for non-stable use
use	Stables, now informal children's lunch area, and stores

History and Description

Original Form

- Probably late C18 in present form, but stone plinth to NW corner may suggest earlier timber-frame building. Shown on 1841 tithe map
- Construction: 6-bay roof has tie-beam trusses incorporating re-used timbers, possibly from the hall; two tiers of purlins. Boarded floor to most of loft, supported on chamfered beams to north end, with C20 joists and some steels to south.
- Form & appearance: 2-storey, 6-bay north-south range.
- Use: stables, with hay lofts over.
- Surviving elements: chamfered floor beams to north end, parts of roof structure.

Later Adaptation

- Date: Building fabric alterations and plans dated 1942 record alterations for war-time use as HQ of National Fire Service (NFS), but also repaired or altered in 1880s by Nevill and in later C20 by LPA
- Form and appearance: 1940s alterations included insertion of a 2-storey 'control room' to west side facing courtyard, with 14 inch thick brick walls and reinforced concrete first floor. Inserted steel stanchions and beams to south end replaced previous floor structure. Two later C20 timber stairs lead to loft from north and south parts of interior. Painted internal walls. Ground floor is now concrete.
- Use: Dining area for school parties, informal store to upper floor, kitchen store facing courtyard.
- Surviving elements: none are significant from this phase

Significance / Values

- Most of interior except for roof, retains little historic value
- Possesses historical, some aesthetic and potentially, social value.
- Medium or local significance

Risks and Policies

- The building's roof structure may incorporate medieval timbers re-used from the hall and further investigation is recommended
- Interior retains little historic character at ground floor and presents low quality, badly lit environment for current school users.
- 1940s inserted brick rooms intrude into spatial quality of the interior.

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group West range interiors
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Interior of east stable range from the south; 1940s brick rooms beyond stairs



re-used roof timbers in roof, north end from the south-west

References

1897 and 1907 OS maps

1942 plans showing proposed alterations for NRS (Bramall Hall Collection)

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group North range, exteriors
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Summary

listing grade	Within curtilage of Bramall Hall
date	c.1800
phases	Part of historic stable group, adapted in C20
use	Multi-purpose outbuilding, now café, dining room, kitchen, WCs

History and Description

Original Form

- Probably c.1800. Shown on 1841 tithe map.
- Construction: hand-made red brick, fair-faced and laid in decorative Flemish bond to south elevation, English garden wall bond to north. Stone slate roof.
- Form & appearance: 2-storey, 6-bay east-west range encloses north side of existing stable courtyard. Original appearance obscured by C20 additions, but double-height cart doorway evident on south elevation
- Use: multi-purpose but probably a barn to east, with outbuilding and loft over to west end.
- Surviving elements: roof form, south elevation retains areas of original brickwork and one lozenge vent, domestic windows and one door

Later Adaptation

- Date: Building fabric interventions and plans dated 1942 record alterations for war-time use as HQ of National Fire Service (NFS), but also altered earlier in C20 to create garages in barn area and in late C20 for public café.
- Form and appearance: 1940s alterations included insertion of kitchen, a lean-to addition to N for boiler and WCs,
- Construction: S elevation brickwork altered 1940s for kitchen door and windows with concrete lintels.
- Use: kitchen and WCs (since 1940s), dining room and café (since post-war years)
- Surviving elements: inserted openings and lean-to additions

Significance / Values

- Part of the historic outbuildings to the hall, enclosing the courtyard but substantially altered in the C20.
- Possesses evidential, historical, and potentially, social value.
- Medium or local significance

Risks and Policies

- South elevation retains some historic fabric and features but also obscured by later interventions. North elevation facing the gardens lacks historic character due to additions.
- Lack of interpretation of former use or appearance.

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone
Item
Ref No**

Stable courtyard group
North range exteriors



South elevation of north stable range



North elevation with C20 additions, from NW

References

1841 tithe map, 1872, 1897 and 1907 OS maps
1942 plans showing proposed alterations for NFS (Bramall Hall Collection)
E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group North range, exteriors
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Summary

listing grade	Within curtilage of Bramall Hall
date	c.1800
phases	Part of historic stable group, adapted in C20
use	Multi-purpose outbuilding, now café, dining room, kitchen, WCs

History and Description

Original Form

- Probably c.1800. Shown on 1841 tithe map.
- Construction: hand-made red brick, fair-faced and laid in decorative Flemish bond to south elevation, English garden wall bond to north. Stone slate roof.
- Form & appearance: 2-storey, 6-bay east-west range encloses north side of existing stable courtyard. Original appearance obscured by C20 additions, but double-height cart doorway evident on south elevation
- Use: multi-purpose but probably a barn to east, with outbuilding and loft over to west end.
- Surviving elements: roof form, south elevation retains areas of original brickwork and one lozenge vent, domestic windows and one door

Later Adaptation

- Date: Building fabric interventions and plans dated 1942 record alterations for war-time use as HQ of National Fire Service (NFS), but also altered earlier in C20 to create garages in barn area and in late C20 for public café.
- Form and appearance: 1940s alterations included insertion of kitchen, a lean-to addition to N for boiler and WCs,
- Construction: S elevation brickwork altered 1940s for kitchen door and windows with concrete lintels.
- Use: kitchen and WCs (since 1940s), dining room and café (since post-war years)
- Surviving elements: inserted openings and lean-to additions

Significance / Values

- Part of the historic outbuildings to the hall, enclosing the courtyard but substantially altered in the C20.
- Possesses evidential, historical, and potentially, social value.
- Medium or local significance

Risks and Policies

- South elevation retains some historic fabric and features but also obscured by later interventions. North elevation facing the gardens lacks historic character due to additions.
- Lack of interpretation of former use or appearance.

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone
Item
Ref No**

Stable courtyard group
North range exteriors



South elevation of north stable range



North elevation with C20 additions, from NW

References

1841 tithe map, 1872, 1897 and 1907 OS maps
1942 plans showing proposed alterations for NFS (Bramall Hall Collection)
E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group North range, interiors
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Summary

listing grade	Within curtilage of Bramall Hall
date	c.1800
phases	Part of historic stable group, adapted in C20
use	Multi-purpose outbuilding, now café, dining room, kitchen, WCs

History and Description

Original Form

- Probably c.1800. Shown on 1841 tithe map.
- Construction: brick walls, timber floors and timber roof trusses.
- Form & appearance: 2-storey, 5-bay east-west range divided by brick cross walls
- Use: multi-purpose but probably a barn to east, with outbuilding and loft over to west end.
- Surviving elements: king post roof trusses, with two tiers of purlins, loft to west end lined with t & g boarding. Corner fireplace in dining room may reflect former use as outdoor servants mess room

Later Adaptation

- Date: Building fabric interventions and plans dated 1942 record alterations for war-time use as local HQ of National Fire Service (NFS), but also altered earlier in C20 to create garages in barn area.
- Form and appearance: 1940s alterations included insertion of kitchen and WCs, removal of internal stairs in present west dining room. Ceiling inserted over café area at unknown date in C20. Construction: inserted brick subdivisions in kitchen area.
- Use: kitchen and WCs (since 1940s), dining room and café (late C20)
- Surviving elements: ground floor internal alterations

Significance / Values

- Part of the historic outbuildings to the hall, enclosing the courtyard but substantially altered in the C20.
- Possesses evidential, historical, and potentially, social value.
- Medium or local significance

Risks and Policies

- South elevation retains some historic fabric and features but also obscured by later interventions. North elevation facing the gardens lacks historic character due to additions.
- Lack of interpretation of former use or appearance.

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group North range interiors
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Roof over west end of N range



Café interior with roof of S lean-to to right, from SW

References

1841 tithe map, 1872, 1897 and 1907 OS maps
 1942 plans showing proposed alterations for NFS (Bramall Hall Collection)
 E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group West range, exteriors
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Summary

listing grade	Within curtilage of Bramall Hall
date	c.1900
phase	Added to earlier stable buildings by Nevill
use	Stables, now grounds maintenance staff mess, offices and stores

History and Description

Original Form

- Built c.1900 by the Nevills (first shown on 1907 OS map),
- Construction: red brick, fair-faced and laid in Flemish bond to east elevation, English garden wall bond brick, over-painted to west. Stone slate roof.
- Form & appearance: 5-bay north-south range encloses west side of existing stable courtyard with main aspect to courtyard. Deep eaves over set-back wall provide shelter to N part of E elevation. Gable end to S partly built onto earlier courtyard wall
- Use: stables faced courtyard, with tack room to north, with loft over
- Surviving elements: east elevation little altered; retains gabled loft door, stable doors and windows (boarded),

Later Adaptation

- Date: mid C20. Plans dated 1942 record alterations for war-time use as local HQ of National Fire Service (NFS).
- Form and appearance: stable doorways blocked facing yard, insertion of new doorways and windows with concrete lintels to west elevation, two flat-roofed dormer windows inserted to west roof pitch. Access to tack room closed (door retained) from yard. Chimney on W elevation is mid C20 addition.
- Use: Adapted for NFS in 1940s. Now used as mess, offices and WCs for grounds maintenance staff. Former tack room now serves as store to dining area.
- Surviving elements: inserted openings and dormer windows on W elevation

Significance / Values

- The building's little altered east elevation expresses the original stable function and contributes positively to the courtyard setting.
- Possesses evidential, historical, some aesthetic and potentially, social value.
- Medium or local significance

Risks and Policies

- East elevations retains Edwardian stable character, but blocked stable windows give the courtyard elevation a 'blind', unused appearance
- West elevation degraded by poor quality mid C20 alterations, visible from walled garden.

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone
Item
Ref No**

Stable courtyard group
West range exteriors



East elevation of west stable range



West elevation from walled garden

References

1897 and 1907 OS maps

1942 plans showing proposed alterations for NRS (Bramall Hall Collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group West range, interiors
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Summary

listing grade	Within curtilage of Bramall Hall
date	c.1900
phase	Added to earlier stable buildings
use	Stables, now grounds maintenance, staff mess, offices and stores

History and Description

Original Form

- Built late C19 by the Nevills (first shown on 1907 OS map),
- Form: 5-bay north-south range of one and half storeys. Stables occupied 3-bay south end with narrow 2-bay tack room and stairs to north end.
- Use: stables and tack room with hay loft/grooms' accommodation to upper floor
- Surviving elements: first floor structure, collar roof trusses with iron bracing, tongue & groove-lining to hay loft and tack room.

Later Adaptation

- Date: 1940s alterations for National Fire Service (NFS) local HQ, and later C20 alterations for grounds maintenance staff.
- Form and appearance: alterations include removal of all internal stable features, realignment of circulation and stairs (formerly approached from east courtyard entrance)
- Construction: insertion of ground floor subdivisions for WCs, mess room and kitchen, concrete ground floor.
- Use: south end now used as mess-room, kitchen and WCs for grounds maintenance staff. Former tack room now serves as store to dining area. Loft used as offices and store
- Surviving elements: none are significant

Significance / Values

- The building's interior expresses only limited aspects of the original stable use but roof structure and upper floor is intact.
- Possesses evidential, historical and potential social value.
- Low or local significance

Risks and Policies

- No internal evidence of stables at ground floor due to impact of mid C20 changes, but tack room and loft retain historic linings and structure. Latter should be retained.

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone
Item
Ref No**

Stable courtyard group
West range, interiors



Attic interior of west stable range, from the North



Interior of former tack room, from the North

References: 1897 and 1907 OS maps, 1942 plans (Bramall Hall collection)

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group Gate piers to walled garden
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Summary

listing grade	Within curtilage of Bramall Hall
date	Probably mid C19, re-set here late C19
phase	Part of multi-phase courtyard/walled garden group
use	SE vehicular entrance to walled garden

History and Description

Original Form

- Date: gate piers probably date from the mid C19, but this entrance not established until late C19
- Construction: monolithic, finely grained sandstone gate piers
- Form and appearance: Each pier is square in plan with beaded arrises and recessed panels with simple gothic-style trefoil detail to each face. Missing finials or capping detail.
- Use: Defines SE entrance to walled garden

Later Adaptation

- Date: probably moved to this location in late C19 as part of Nevill's remodelling of the walled garden and stable courtyard, after the demolition of a shippon in 1883. Original location not known.
- Construction: Missing finials or capping
- Form and appearance: timber gates are modern additions

Significance / Values

- Evidential, historical, aesthetic value.
- Medium, or local significance

Risks and Policies

- Original location and appearance not known
- Reinstate suitable cappings

References

1872, 1897, 1907 OS maps,
E.Barbara Dean, *Bramall Hall*, 1999, p.69

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Stable courtyard group South wall and gate piers to courtyard
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S gate pier and garden wall from the east

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone Item Ref No	Park; east grounds East Lodge
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Summary

listing grade	Grade II
date	Late C19
phase	Part of Nevill's additions to the grounds
use	Gardener's accommodation, now tenanted

History and Description

Original Form

- Built in 1884 for Charles Nevill (first shown on 1897 OS map),
- Form: 2-storey, roughly cruciform-plan gabled lodge located on the south side of the drive off Bramhall Lane. Designed to complement the timber-framed form of Bramall Hall.
- Use: built as accommodation for the Head Gardener
- Surviving elements: painted brick to resemble timber-framing with timber-framing to upper floor, tiled roof with barge boards, brick stacks, leaded timber casements

Later Adaptation

- Plain late 20th century interior
- Its current address is 221 Bramhall Lane South

Significance / Values

- The building is an important late 19th century landscape feature, built shortly before the line of the East drive was altered in the 1880's
- Possesses evidential, historical, aesthetic and potential social value.
- Medium or local significance

Risks and Policies

- Currently in poor state of repair, in particular external applied "timber frame"

References

1872 and 1897 OS maps
Barbara Dean, Bramall Hall, 1990, p.70

**BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT
GAZETTEER**

**Zone
Item
Ref No**

Park; east grounds
East Lodge



East Lodge from the north

Part B
Gazetteer of Landscape Features

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone A Item Inner Core Ref No AG
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Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Some listed features</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>C14th to C20th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phases</td> <td>Multi phase</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Pleasure gardens and productive gardens</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key features</td> <td>Setting of Hall</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Some listed features	Date	C14th to C20th	Phases	Multi phase	Use	Pleasure gardens and productive gardens	Key features	Setting of Hall
Listing grade	Some listed features										
Date	C14th to C20th										
Phases	Multi phase										
Use	Pleasure gardens and productive gardens										
Key features	Setting of Hall										

History and Description

Bounded to the south by the main drive these gardens surround the Hall and main group of estate buildings. The natural landforms of a plateau to the west and steep valleys of the Carr Brook on the east and Lady Brook on the north are defining elements of this zone and of the location of the Hall itself.

As the central area within the estate there have been countless additions and alterations to this area over the centuries of occupation. The earliest feature, the Hall entrance courtyard AG10 includes the location of the former enclosed court yard and lost west wing. The former productive gardens AG1 to AG3 have 18th century or earlier origins but many phases of later change, as does the stable courtyard AG11.

The recreational and ornamental features ornamenting the approach to and immediate setting of the Hall date from the 18th to the 20th century.

Significance / Values

A number of features are listed...

Archaeological potential...

Davenport and Neville...

Setting of Grade I Hall and Grade II? Stables

Some features detract...

Risks and Policies

References

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References

Greenwood's County Map of 1819
1872 and 1898 OS

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	A
	Item	Picnic Area
	Ref No	AG2

Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade not listed</p> <p>Date Recent</p> <p>Phases Local authority ownership</p> <p>Use Picnicking</p> <p>Key features Some planting from earlier phases</p>

History and Description

This site was occupied by orchards in the 19th century and perhaps earlier.

This is a small picnic area with bar rail fence on 2 sides and a privet hedge, and walled garden on the east side. A wooden palisade fence defines the north side. The area is an open grass lawn, but fairly well screened by trees. Note the fringe of early c20th late c19th conifers on east side running into play area.

Significance / Values

Moderate local community value

Risks and Policies

Good potential for redevelopment as vegetable garden, events space etc. See policies.



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone A Item Play Area Ref No AG3
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Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Not listed</p> <p>Date Recent</p> <p>Phases Local authority ownership</p> <p>Use Young children's play</p> <p>Key features None</p>

History and Description

This site was occupied by orchards in the 19th century and perhaps earlier.

This is the site of the play area which is surfaced in a combination of tarmac and wet pour and surrounded by a paling fence and an ornamental shrub hedge consisting of berberis /holly / mahonia /cotoneaster. A small Bound gravel terrace (or sitting area) occupies the east side next to walled the garden. The area is looking tired and worn with certain items of equipment looking past their best.

Significance / Values

Moderate local value as a safe venue for young families.

Risks and Policies



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	A
	Item	Shrubbery
	Ref No	AG4

Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Listed as curtilage structure</p> <p>Date Late C19th</p> <p>Phases Nevill</p> <p>Use Ornamental</p> <p>Key features Typical late 19th century planting</p>

History and Description

This raised bank and planting dates to the realignment of the main drive by Charles Nevill. The 1872 OS and deeds plan of 1883 show the earlier alignment while the 1889 OS shows the current layout.

Subcompartment 4 consists of a mature evergreen, ornamental shrubbery characterized by Victorian evergreen shrubs such as yew, thuja, holly, rhododendron, box variegated, holly, maple, juniper planted on 2m high mound.

Significance / Values

Highly representative of late Victorian landscape design. Forms part of a larger design of high local evidential, historic, aesthetic and communal value.

Risks and Policies

Photo?

References

1872 OS
Deeds plan of 1883
1889 OS

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	A
	Item	Lawns and Flower Beds
	Ref No	AG5

Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Not listed</p> <p>Date Late C19th, mid C20th</p> <p>Phases Nevill, Local Authority ownership</p> <p>Use Ornamental, pedestrian route from lower car park</p> <p>Key features</p>

History and Description

The garden area created between the extended walled garden and the new alignment of the drive. Nevill planted the bank overlooking the drive with ornamental shrubs. The bed and beech hedge were introduced when the grounds became a public park after 1935.

A clipped beech hedge 3m high edges a herbaceous bed and mown lawn. Semi-mature cedars, beech and sycamore are located at the eastern end overshadowing a yew hedge planted in a semi-circle and shade tolerant shrubs such as camellia. A low timber trip rail prevents access to the planted area. Yew trees also cast dense shade in north east corner. Picnic benches occupy a shaded area beneath the trees at the eastern end. The area appears rather fragmented in appearance but is well maintained.

Significance / Values

Moderate local aesthetic value

Risks and Policies



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	A
	Item	Sunken Lawn
	Ref No	AG6

Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Not listed</p> <p>Date Late C19th</p> <p>Phases Nevill</p> <p>Use Occasional games such as croquet</p> <p>Key features</p>

History and Description

This formal lawn and surrounding planting dates to the realignment of the main drive by Charles Nevill. The 1872 OS and deeds plan of 1883 show the earlier alignment while the 1889 OS shows the current layout. Original use may have been as a bowling green.

A square sunken lawn surrounded by plants typical of a Victorian shrubbery with evergreen trees provides formal interest to the south of the Hall. The lawn is surrounded by a 1.8m tarmac path with stone edge, in good condition. Ten bench type seats secured on unsightly concrete pads provide standard seating. The northern boundary consists of herbaceous planting against the façade of the Hall. The eastern boundary consists of a yew hedge and low brick wall retaining a terrace. Stone steps provide access to a lower level on both sides at the corners. The southern boundary is now populated with modern shrubs, most of which are past their best and over mature.

Significance / Values

Moderate local evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value. Part of the park setting of the Hall which is of high regional value.

Risks and Policies



References

1872 OS
Deeds plan of 1883
1889 OS

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone A Item Rockery Ref No AG7
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Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>late C.19th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phases</td> <td>Nevill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Ornamental</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key features</td> <td>Rockwork</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not listed	Date	late C.19 th	Phases	Nevill	Use	Ornamental	Key features	Rockwork
Listing grade	Not listed										
Date	late C.19 th										
Phases	Nevill										
Use	Ornamental										
Key features	Rockwork										

History and Description

This rockwork feature dates to the realignment of the main drive by Charles Nevill. The 1872 OS and deeds plan of 1883 show the earlier alignment while the 1889 OS shows the current layout.

Large slabs of stone make up a rockery of C19th origins. A stone flagged pathway connects the upper lawn with the lower terrace. Large stone flags change to smaller stone half way down and the surface breaks up toward the bottom. It has been planted with straggly rhododendron and bamboo, cherry, laurel and yew. The rockery continues to wrap around the lower terrace and becomes overgrown with grass and ferns on lower stretches.

Significance / Values

Moderate local evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value. Part of the park setting of the Hall which is of high regional value.

Risks and Policies



References

1872 OS
Deeds plan of 1883
1889 OS

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	A, Inner Core
	Item	Terraces
	Ref No	AG8

Location**Summary**

Listing grade	Not listed
Date	1880's, late C20th
Phases	Nevill, Local Authority ownership
Use	Ornamental
Key features	Late Victorian layout

History and Description

- The east terraces in their present form were created by Charles Nevill following his purchase of the Hall and Grounds in 1882. Prior to this date, during the Davenport ownership, there was a single terrace as shown on early prints of the Hall.
- The early terrace was retained by a low stone wall with urns and busts decorating the top of the evenly spaced pillars. A steeply sloping grass bank led down to the original drive alignment which was also altered by Nevill.
- This original terrace was replaced with two terraces with low brick retaining walls and steps between the two; an arrangement that survives today. Nevill also built a rockery of large sandstone blocks at the southern end (see separate entry).
- Council minutes from Hazel Grove and Bramhall UDC record that the walls were in a poor state of repair during the 1930s and 1940s and eventually in 1971 the terrace walls were rebuilt at a cost of £5,436.
- A further restoration scheme in the 1980s have built up the walls and capped them with brick. Yew and Berberis hedges planted at the same time now largely obscure the walls

Significance / Values

Moderate local evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value. Part of the park setting of the Hall which is of high regional value. One of the major alterations to the grounds undertaken by Charles Nevill in the 1880s.

Risks and Policies

Yew hedges bitmac paths and engineering brick retaining walls detract from original design intention.



The terraces as built by Nevill



The terraces today

References

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone A Item Bank Ref No AG9
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Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>Natural, late C.19th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phases</td> <td>Multi phase</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Ornamental</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key features</td> <td>Steep wooded slope</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not listed	Date	Natural, late C.19 th	Phases	Multi phase	Use	Ornamental	Key features	Steep wooded slope
Listing grade	Not listed										
Date	Natural, late C.19 th										
Phases	Multi phase										
Use	Ornamental										
Key features	Steep wooded slope										

History and Description

A steep natural slope from the flat area occupied by the Hall down to the valley of the Lady Brook at its confluence with the Carr Brook. Illustrations from the late 18th century onwards show it as a wooded area flanking the Hall in views from the east and west.

A steep bank with a gradient of 1 in 3, slopes down to a stone edged, 1.8m wide tarmac path. A bar rail fence runs above a large stone retaining wall of approximately 1.0m in height. The bank vegetation includes hollies, rhododendrons, a large mature beech tree and sycamore trees, with ferns, ivy and bramble beneath. A large mature yew occupies the north-west corner.

Instability in the bank led to the underpinning of the large north chimney of the Hall's north east wing in the late 20th century.

Significance / Values

Moderate local evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value. Part of the park setting of the Hall which is of high regional value.

Risks and Policies

Photo

References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	A
	Item	Hall entrance area
	Ref No	AG10

Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Not listed</p> <p>Date C14th, C15th, C16th, C18th, C19th, C20th</p> <p>Phases Multi phase</p> <p>Use Access and deliveries</p> <p>Key features Setting of Hall</p>

History and Description

This area is bounded by a stone ha-ha which marks the boundary between the archery lawn and the Hall and includes a drive flanked by low stone walls to the south. It is fair to assume that this area has always formed the main entrance to the Hall, from its founding in the late 14th century. The courtyard formed by the three main wings of the Hall was until the 18th century fully enclosed on four sides and would have been entirely separate from the approach from the drive and visually concealed in views from the west.

The 10th William Davenport demolished the west wing of the Hall and opened up the courtyard. This allowed new views of the Hall from the west and views out of the principle rooms towards the west. This probably coincided with the building of the ha-ha which now bounds this space.

Illustrations from the 18th and 19th centuries show a variety of layouts, but they typically included lawns and hard surfaces, and in the 19th century geometric planting beds and low planting. A photograph of around 1870 showed circular beds around a sundial.

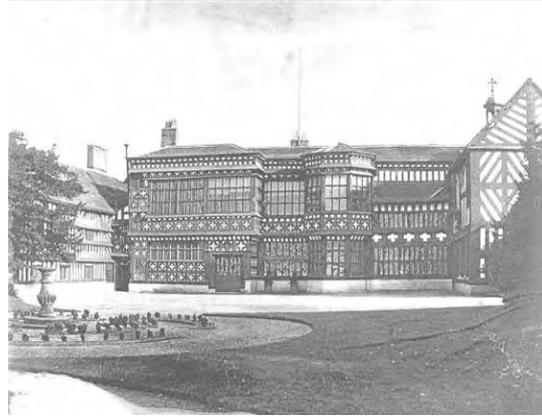
The realignment of the drive in the late 19th century resulted in the demolition of high walls and gates which once formed a controlled view into the courtyard area. This and the loss of mature tree and shrub planting adjacent to the stable block now creates a very open approach. This compartment also houses the listed stocks.

This area now consists of a tarmac apron directly in front of Hall leading to a formal lawn with a central axis tarmac path, stone edged, centred on the Hall doorway – path 2.8m wide. Four circular beds, approx 2.0m in diameter, are symmetrically arranged in the lawn and two bench seats centred on a 'central' stone podium/base for sculpture/vase (now gone).

The central lawn area is framed by groups of mature yew trees with extensive areas of bare earth under the yew trees and a scruffy lawn. The ha-ha comprised a curving dry stone wall, approximately 1.2m in height with stone coping in reasonable condition. Ferns, ivy etc grow from interstices in the wall. The ha-ha is breached by a stone rampart of modern construction leading to the 'archery lawn' and a desire line extends across the lawn to the play area beyond, which is unsightly.

Significance / Values

The existing appearance is of low historical and aesthetic value. It is however of high archaeological potential and forms part of the park setting of the Hall which is of high evidential, historic, aesthetic and communal regional value.

Risks and Policies

The main entrance front of the Hall today, in a photograph of around 1870 and an engraving of 1809.

References

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone A Item Stable Courtyard Ref No AG11
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Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Not listed</p> <p>Date Concurrent with origins of stable block, C18th, C19th</p> <p>Phases Multiphase</p> <p>Use Café seating</p> <p>Key features Setting for stables, cobbles</p>

History and Description
<p>The stable courtyard was originally larger in extent, serving buildings further to the south and west that were lost in the late 19th century when Nevill built the existing west block.</p> <p>This cobbled courtyard to the stable block and now used as the external sitting area to the café/restaurant with picnic tables. The surface is very uneven and sloping and is not in good condition. Various items of furniture such as concrete planters and bins are located within the courtyard. A high brick wall, brick pillars which were extended vertically in the 1900s and a solid wooden gate encloses the courtyard.</p>

Significance / Values
Moderate local evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value. Forms the setting to an attractive group of vernacular brick buildings.

Risks and Policies



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone A Item Ha-ha Ref No AG12
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Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Listed as curtilage structure</p> <p>Date Late C18th</p> <p>Phases 10th Wllm Davenport</p> <p>Use Ornamental</p> <p>Key features Wall and ditch</p>

History and Description

As part of the modernisation of the landscape undertaken by the 10th William Davenport the west (gatehouse) wing of the Hall was demolished to open up extensive views across parkland towards the Mersey valley. A ha-ha was created to enable these open views across level ground to be achieved without intervening walls or fences to exclude livestock from the immediate vicinity of the Hall.

The ha-ha comprises a curving dry stone wall, approximately 1.2m in height with stone coping in reasonable condition. Ferns, ivy etc grow from interstices in the wall. The ha-ha is breached by a stone ramp of modern construction leading to the 'archery lawn' and a desire line extends across the lawn to the play area beyond which is unsightly. The eastern end of the ha-ha has been rebuilt as vertical dry stone wall 0.9m high and associated with a recently planted beech avenue.

Significance / Values

Moderate local evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value. Part of the park setting of the Hall which is of high regional value. One of the most visible remaining alterations to the grounds undertaken by William Davenport in the late 18th century.

Risks and Policies



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	B
	Item	Carr Wood
	Ref No	BG1

Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>SBI</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>C17th or earlier</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phases</td> <td>Multi phase</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key features</td> <td>Age, ecological potential</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	SBI	Date	C17 th or earlier	Phases	Multi phase	Use		Key features	Age, ecological potential
Listing grade	SBI										
Date	C17 th or earlier										
Phases	Multi phase										
Use											
Key features	Age, ecological potential										

History and Description

Carr Wood, both the section now within the Park and the further woodland extending along the Carr Brook valley to the south, is clearly visible on the 1841 Tithe Map, 1872 OS and named on the Deed Plan of 1883.

This compartment defines not only the extent of the oldest woodland on the site but also the limits of the SBI (Site of Biological Interest). The woodland lies in a wet valley floor and is comprised of a mixture of tree species, most self sown, including alder, sycamore, ash, oak, willow and poplar. A stream flows through the compartment along a north south axis. The structure is poor, the canopy is continuous and the groundflora also appears limited at the time of survey. A stand of former parkland beech (tree nos.26 to 30) is situated on the western slopes and some more recent coniferous planting of Austrian pine has encroached onto a proportion of the eastern slopes.

Significance / Values

Moderate local evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value. Part of the park setting of the Hall which is of high regional value. Its ecological value within Greater Manchester is of high local and sub regional value.

Risks and Policies

Photo?

References

1841 Tithe Map
1872 OS
1883 Deed Plan

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	C
	Item	Wooded belts
	Ref No	CG

Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Not listed</p> <p>Date Some C18th, late C19th</p> <p>Phases Nevill with some Davenport planting</p> <p>Use Ornamental, recreation</p> <p>Key features Diverse woodland, setting for Hall and Park</p>

This zone (pale green on above map , Landscape Compartment Map) mirrors the perimeter planting carried out by C Nevill to embellish the grounds in the late 19th century. The character of the various compartments varies widely from evergreen shrub planting to enhance the drive to stands of conifers and then to a consistent mix of more ornamental broadleaves such as lime and sweet chestnut which still comprise much of the perimeter woodland belt.

Compartment C1 is a stand of mature Austrian pine in good condition.

Compartments C2, C6,C7, C8, C9 and C10 represent the ornamental broadleaved fringe. Trees include: lime, beech, sycamore, horse chestnut, sweet chestnut, Scot's pine, wych elm, and oak. Canopy cover is continuous with holly, yew and sometimes laurel acting as a well developed understorey with self sown beech occurring sporadically. Occasionally, as in C7 and C8 stands of pines form a strong contrast to the broadleaved neighbouring woodland. The groundflora appears limited at the time of survey with bramble occurring in patches infrequently. Most of the trees are estimated to be over 100 years old and are located in areas which match the 1898 map and the design intentions of Nevill.

Compartments which differ from this type of planting are C3 and C4 which line the drive and C6a which is an isolated clump in the midst of naturally regenerating woodland area.

Compartment C3 is characterized by a series of individual mature trees in mown grass which line the formal drive. Trees include plane, oak, sycamore and lime with bedding plants occurring in beds along the riverside. The grass sward is poor beneath the trees. On the opposite (south) side, ornamental evergreen shrubs including yew, box, laurel, spotted laurel, rhododendron, and thuja plicata provide a dense evergreen fringe. Further on, towards the Hall, the compartment opens up and becomes more open with individual mature trees such as oak and sycamore and occasional rhododendron. However these trees are supplemented by a significant degree of natural regeneration along the river bank including willow, alder, birch, sycamore and oak.

Compartment C4 which was originally a grassy bank with rhododendron is now much more wooded with self sown sycamore and birch and planted recent conifers such as pine and thuja.

Compartment C5 is a semi mature group of beech which are in good condition and are growing together as one clump.

Significance / Values

Moderate local evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value. Part of the park setting of the Hall which is of high regional value. Highly representative of late Victorian landscape design. One of the alterations to the grounds undertaken by Charles Nevill in the 1880s.

Provides a range of habitats for vertebrate and invertebrate animals.

Risks and Policies**References**

1898 OS

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	D
	Item	Parkland
	Ref No	DG Zone D

<p>Location</p> 	<p>Summary</p> <p>Listing grade Not listed Date C18th, C19th and C20th</p> <p>Phases Nevill and Local Authority ownership</p> <p>Use Ornamental, recreation</p> <p>Key features Setting for Hall and Park</p>
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Zone D (pale orange on above map, see Landscape Compartment Map). Historically, much of this compartment was open parkland with occasional parkland trees. The situation has changed radically in recent years and this zone is now characterized by three landscape types: open grassland, recent planted woodland (within the last 50 years) and naturally regenerated woodland often populated by extensive areas of Himalayan balsam.

Compartments D1,D4, D5,D6 and D7 now consist almost entirely of naturally regenerating sycamore with birch and alder. Occasionally holly is part of the understorey but this does not occur to the same extent as in Compartment C. The trees are even aged (c.40 to 50 years old) and the canopy is mostly continuous but there are broken areas as in D6 for example. Compartments D4 and D6 are very wet with many examples of wet flushes seeping out of relatively steep slopes.

Compartments D2 and D3 consist of managed grassland. The western half of D2 is more intensively managed than the eastern part which is a less frequently mown bank.

Compartments D2a and D2b are recently planted mixed broadleaved woodland with dense canopies. Trees include beech, sugar maple, hornbeam, alder, larch, willow, sycamore, birch, whitebeam, hornbeam, lime and yew.

Significance / Values

Moderate local evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value. Part of the park setting of the Hall which is of high regional value. Highly representative of late Victorian landscape design. The retention and framing of the view towards the east front of the Hall was one of the main alterations to the grounds undertaken by Charles Nevill in the 1880s.

Provides a range of habitats for vertebrate and invertebrate animals. Invasive species pose a threat to habitat value.

Risks and Policies



BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	D
	Item	Entrance Gates (East)
	Ref No	DG9

Location**Summary**

Listing grade	Listed as cutilage structure
Date	C18th or early C19 th
Phases	Davenport
Use	Pedestrian entrance
Key features	Stone piers

History and Description

This location adjacent to the Lady Brook and Bramall Bridge has been an access point for the Hall since at least 1850 when it appears on a plan prepared for the possible sale of building plots.

Stone gate piers of monolithic and deliberately “primitive” design with pyramidal stone tops. Smaller side piers for pedestrian access. Timber bar rail gates, all painted white. Main eastern entrance to Hall.

Significance / Values

Moderate local evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value. Part of the park setting of the Hall which is of high regional value.

Risks and Policies

None-gates and pillars appear to be in good condition at present.

**References**

1850 plan prepared for Lady Davenport

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	E
	Item	Lakes and River
	Ref No	EG

Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>Late C19th</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phases</td> <td>Nevill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Fishing, ornamental lakes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key features</td> <td>Unusual design</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not listed	Date	Late C19th	Phases	Nevill	Use	Fishing, ornamental lakes	Key features	Unusual design
Listing grade	Not listed										
Date	Late C19th										
Phases	Nevill										
Use	Fishing, ornamental lakes										
Key features	Unusual design										

History and Description

The series of lakes which occupy the shallow valley of the park are a particular feature of the park as this study has highlighted. They were created by Charles Nevill as an ambitious re-engineering of the Lady Brook to create ornamental lakes and ponds to serve his hobby of fishing.

The river runs through the centre of the park and is fed by a tributary from Carr Wood. There are a series of small stone weirs, all marked on the plan and on the gazetteer which occur along the entire length. As well as controlling water levels the weirs create smooth water offering reflections of the Hall beyond. All the ponds are interconnected and the water is taken from the river at the northern end and flows into the easternmost lake before flowing in a pipe under the river to connect with the central lake. A pipe then runs beneath the path to connect the central lake with its western neighbour. Overflows run into the river from each of the ponds.

At the western end a dramatic cascade constructed from rock slabs is still in evidence, although the bypass channel is now redundant and overgrown.

The banks of the ponds and the small islands within them were originally planted with pines, perhaps to emulate the Scandinavian or Scottish landscapes associated with his fishing holidays.

The large island on the east pond has a stand of pines planted by Nevill, all apparently in good condition. The islands are all treed and have populations of rhododendron which add low level interest. Sadly the bank of the ponds are now overgrown with a host of naturally regenerating willows, alder sycamore obscuring their form and the islands that populate them. The ponds have silted up badly and several of them have now only a relatively shallow depth of water.

The Lady Brook and Carr Brook are now spanned by three internal bridges, all of them functional but none of them especially appealing in design terms.

Significance / Values

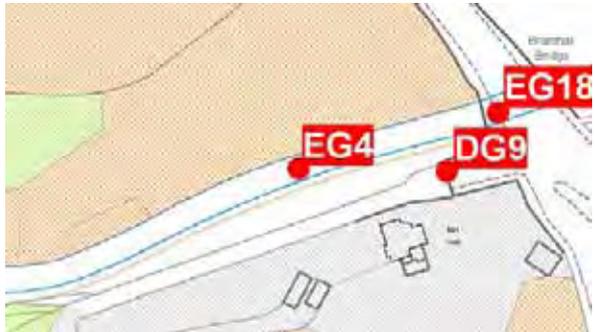
The designed water features are of high local, regional and possibly national evidential and historical value. As a group, they are currently of moderate aesthetic value and are of local communal value. They are part of the park setting of the Hall which is of high regional value. One of the major alterations to the grounds undertaken by Charles Nevill in the 1880s.

Risks and Policies

The key issue however, is erosion and in several places, the river is now undermining the stone lined river banks and is in danger of breaking through the thin bank which separates some of the lakes from the river. The river is also enclosed by trees for much of its length.

**References**

BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	E
	Item	Curving stone revetment to river bank
	Ref No	EG4

Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>Late 19th Century</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phase</td> <td>Nevill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Water Management</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key Features</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not listed	Date	Late 19 th Century	Phase	Nevill	Use	Water Management	Key Features	-
Listing grade	Not listed										
Date	Late 19 th Century										
Phase	Nevill										
Use	Water Management										
Key Features	-										

History and Description

Stone sett revetment to sides of river bank. Mostly intact on north bank for first stretch broken/disturbed in places by colonising trees. Variable condition and intactness along course of river.

Significance / Values

Part of Nevill's watercourse improvement

Risks and Policies

Erosion is causing significant sections to collapse.

**References**

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone E Item Water extraction point from Ref No river EG5
---	--

Location	Summary
 A map showing a watercourse with two red dots labeled EG6 and EG5. The watercourse is labeled 'Early Drain'.	<p>Listing grade Not listed Date 1880 Phase Late Victorian Neville Use Water Management Key Features -</p>

History and Description

Inlet pipe for upper pond – combination of brick and stone. Abstraction point and source of water for Neville's lakes.

Significance / Values

Part of Neville's watercourse improvement works.

Risks and Policies

Maintenance.

**References**

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone E Item Weir Ref No EG6
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Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>1880's Late Victorian</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phase</td> <td>Nevill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Water Management</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key Features</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not listed	Date	1880's Late Victorian	Phase	Nevill	Use	Water Management	Key Features	-
Listing grade	Not listed										
Date	1880's Late Victorian										
Phase	Nevill										
Use	Water Management										
Key Features	-										

History and Description

Weir constructed from stones forming 2 'steps' approximately 1m wide and 300 mm high .Stone retaining wall – good condition apart from south side, where wall has crumbled. Part of Neville's works to the water course.

Significance / Values

Part of Nevill's watercourse improvement works

Risks and Policies

Maintenance. Repair to southern wall.



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone E Item Weir Ref No EG7
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Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Not listed. Date 1880's Phase Late Victorian, Nevill Use Water management Key Features</p>

History and Description

Apron of stone forming a low weir – in poor condition – approx 1.5m wide. Part of Neville's work to the water course.

Significance / Values

Part of Nevill's watercourse improvement works

Risks and Policies

Maintenance - some repair work is needed



References

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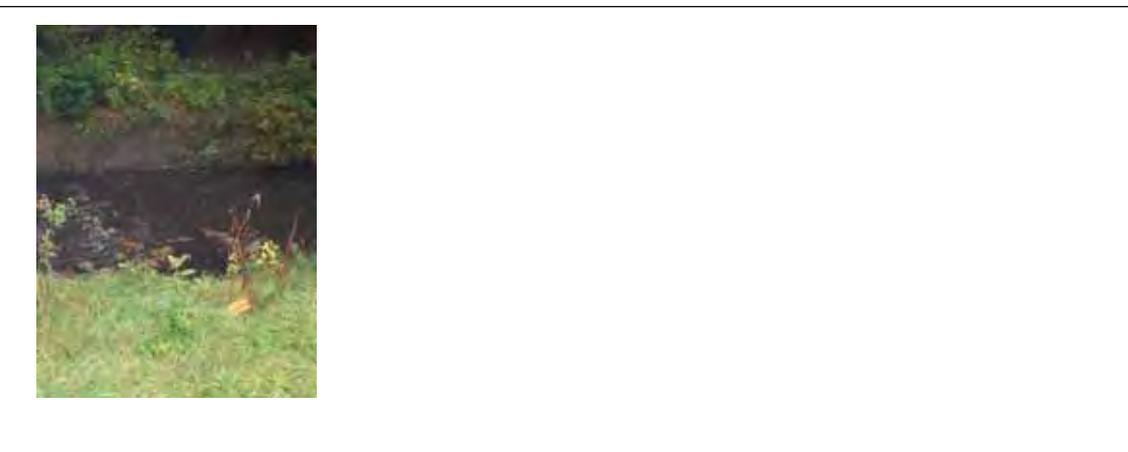
BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone E Item Weir Ref No EG8
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Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Not listed.</p> <p>Date 1880's</p> <p>Phase Late Victorian, Nevill</p> <p>Use Water management</p> <p>Key Features</p>

History and Description
Shallow stone weir: part of Neville's work to the watercourse.

Significance / Values
Part of Nevill's watercourse improvement works.

Risks and Policies
<i>Maintenance</i>



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone E Item Stone bridge Ref No EG9
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Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>1974</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phase</td> <td>Local Authority ownership</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Pedestrian bridge</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key Features</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not listed	Date	1974	Phase	Local Authority ownership	Use	Pedestrian bridge	Key Features	-
Listing grade	Not listed										
Date	1974										
Phase	Local Authority ownership										
Use	Pedestrian bridge										
Key Features	-										

History and Description

Stone bridge rebuilt 1974. Located over tributary stream from Carr Wood. Sett lined channel ends on the side of the bridge – concrete floor spans stream.

Significance / Values

None

Risks and Policies**References**

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone E Item Rotary Bridge Ref No EG10
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Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Not listed Date 1900 Phase Local Authority Ownership Use Pedestrian Bridge Key Features -</p>

History and Description

Millennium project –External ramp with heavy timber railing. Acts as crossing that is DDA compliant. Lifted above flooding level.

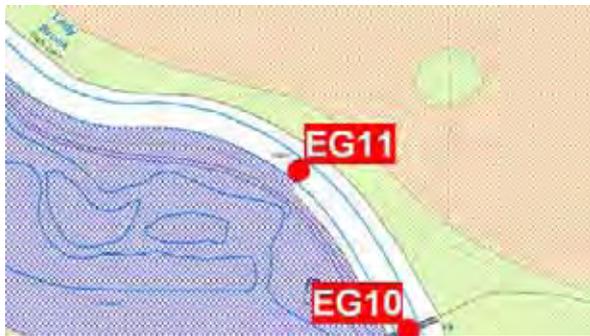
Significance / Values

None. Detract from design of watercourses.

Risks and Policies**References**

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone E Item Weir side Ref No EG11
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Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Not listed Date 1880s Phase Late Victorian, Nevill Use Water management Key Features</p>

History and Description

Weir side – note southern bank of river badly eroding and narrowing of path and embankment between river and middle pond – issue – this continues for whole stretch along side middle pond.

Significance / Values

Part of Neville's water course improvement works.

Risks and Policies

Erosion of river bank.



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone E Item Outlet Ref No EG12
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Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>1880s</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phase</td> <td>Late Victorian, Nevill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Water management</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key Features</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not listed	Date	1880s	Phase	Late Victorian, Nevill	Use	Water management	Key Features	
Listing grade	Not listed										
Date	1880s										
Phase	Late Victorian, Nevill										
Use	Water management										
Key Features											

History and Description

Stone overflow outlet to middle pond with stone apron.

Significance / Values

Part of Neville's watercourse improvement works.

Risks and Policies**References**

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	E
	Item	Footbridge
	Ref No	EG13

Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade: Not listed</p> <p>Date: 1970's</p> <p>Phase: Local Authority ownership</p> <p>Use: Pedestrian bridge</p> <p>Key Features:</p>

History and Description
Modern, metal railing footbridge. Steelwork span on stone Piers – The stone lined base to the river channel below the bridge is in poor condition.

Significance / Values
None.

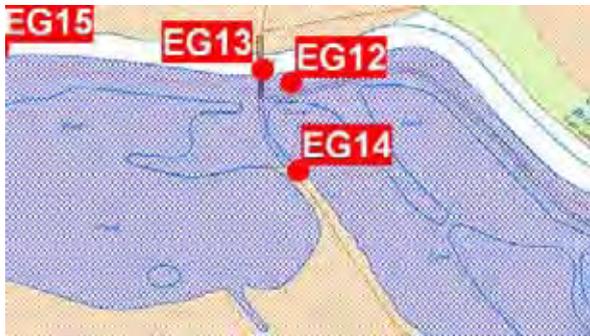
Risks and Policies



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone E Item Causeway Ref No EG14
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Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>Late 19th Century</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phase</td> <td>Nevill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Pedestrian route, ornamental</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key Features</td> <td>Unusual design</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not listed	Date	Late 19 th Century	Phase	Nevill	Use	Pedestrian route, ornamental	Key Features	Unusual design
Listing grade	Not listed										
Date	Late 19 th Century										
Phase	Nevill										
Use	Pedestrian route, ornamental										
Key Features	Unusual design										

History and Description

Causeway – stone edge both side and tarmac path. Stone edged causeway separating middle pool from lower pool. Connecting pipe between two ponds lies beneath. Good condition but bitmac surface municipal in appearance.

Significance / Values

A major part of Nevill's watercourse improvement works.

Risks and Policies



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone E Item Cascade Ref No EG15
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Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>Late 19th Century</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phase</td> <td>Nevill</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Ornamental</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key Features</td> <td>Rockwork, part of wider unusual design</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not listed	Date	Late 19 th Century	Phase	Nevill	Use	Ornamental	Key Features	Rockwork, part of wider unusual design
Listing grade	Not listed										
Date	Late 19 th Century										
Phase	Nevill										
Use	Ornamental										
Key Features	Rockwork, part of wider unusual design										

History and Description

Cascade large stone rockery on banks above cascade overhanging to create dramatic scene. Also with associated bypass channel(now dry and redundant)

Significance / Values

A major part of Nevill's watercourse improvement works

Risks and Policies

Under threat from tree growth and erosion

**References**

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone E Item Lower Pond outlet Ref No EG16
---	--

Location	Summary
	<p>Listing grade Not listed Date 1880s Phase Late Victorian, Nevill Use Water management Key Features</p>

History and Description Outlet to lower pool.

Significance / Values Part of Neville's water course improvement works.

Risks and Policies



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	E
	Item	Bramall Park Road Bridge
	Ref No	EG17

Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>Late 19th/20th Century</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phase</td> <td>Suburban development, Local Highway Authority</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Public Highway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key Features</td> <td>-</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not listed	Date	Late 19 th /20 th Century	Phase	Suburban development, Local Highway Authority	Use	Public Highway	Key Features	-
Listing grade	Not listed										
Date	Late 19 th /20 th Century										
Phase	Suburban development, Local Highway Authority										
Use	Public Highway										
Key Features	-										

History and Description
Bramall Park Road Bridge. Brick and stone piers. Upper with upper parapet section has been rebuilt in mid/late 20 th century. Concrete deck. A recent programme of repair and repointing has been completed 2009.

Significance / Values
Local evidential, historical and aesthetic value.

Risks and Policies



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	E
	Item	Stone bridge over Ladybrook river
	Ref No	EG18

Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>Early/mid 19th Century</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phase</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Public Highway</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key Features</td> <td>Attractive traditional stone bridge</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not listed	Date	Early/mid 19 th Century	Phase		Use	Public Highway	Key Features	Attractive traditional stone bridge
Listing grade	Not listed										
Date	Early/mid 19 th Century										
Phase											
Use	Public Highway										
Key Features	Attractive traditional stone bridge										

History and Description

Road bridge at eastern end of park solid sandstone bridge over river with parapet appears to be in good condition.

Significance / Values

Local evidential, historic and aesthetic value.

Risks and Policies

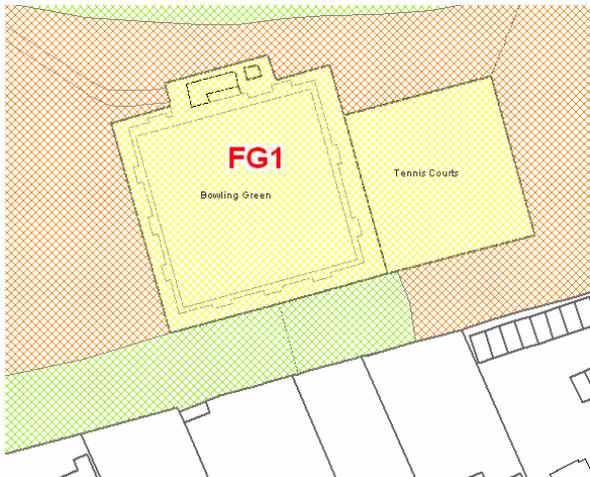
Part of SMBC is regular inspection programme ?



References

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BRAMALL HALL AND PARK, STOCKPORT GAZETTEER	Zone	F
	Item	Bowling Green
	Ref No	FG 1

Location	Summary										
	<table> <tr> <td>Listing grade</td> <td>Not Listed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date</td> <td>1960s</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phases</td> <td>Local Authority ownership</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Use</td> <td>Organised sports</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Key features</td> <td>None</td> </tr> </table>	Listing grade	Not Listed	Date	1960s	Phases	Local Authority ownership	Use	Organised sports	Key features	None
Listing grade	Not Listed										
Date	1960s										
Phases	Local Authority ownership										
Use	Organised sports										
Key features	None										

History and Description

This is the site of the bowling green and tennis court established in 1964 along with a changing pavilion. It is now surrounded by woodland. The small brick pavilion is now locked and inaccessible, A number of conifers have been planted around the perimeter and the site is accessed by a path with steps down to the main drive.

Significance / Values

Moderate local communal value

Risks and Policies



References

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