

COUNTRY HOUSES OF GREATER MANCHESTER

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THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF GREATER MANCHESTER
VOLUME 2

COUNTRY HOUSES
OF
GREATER MANCHESTER

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**GREATER
MANCHESTER
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
UNIT**

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CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT

The country house is part of the diverse and rich heritage of Greater Manchester. This volume follows the development of the country house from the Middle Ages to the present day, using a combination of archaeological excavation, documentary research and survey to present a coherent study of a building type which reflects the social and economic development of the community in a singularly direct way. By their survival they demonstrate the entrepreneurial skills of the owner and the abilities of those artisans who built and maintained them. The form and function of the country house change over the centuries, and the fabric of individual buildings mirrors these changes and encapsulates much of the history of the time.

Many of our country houses are in good hands, well maintained and with a secure future. Many others described in this volume are already lost, and even the land upon which they stood has been so disturbed as to allow no further site investigation. Their loss, in many cases, was inevitable but I hope that this publication will create an awareness that others, too valuable to be allowed to disappear, are at risk.

The protection and refurbishment of old buildings is costly, but I am confident that present conservation policies, allied with improving public and private attitudes towards preservation, have created a strong body of opinion in favour of the constructive re-use of the best of those which survive.

A. J. Spencer

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