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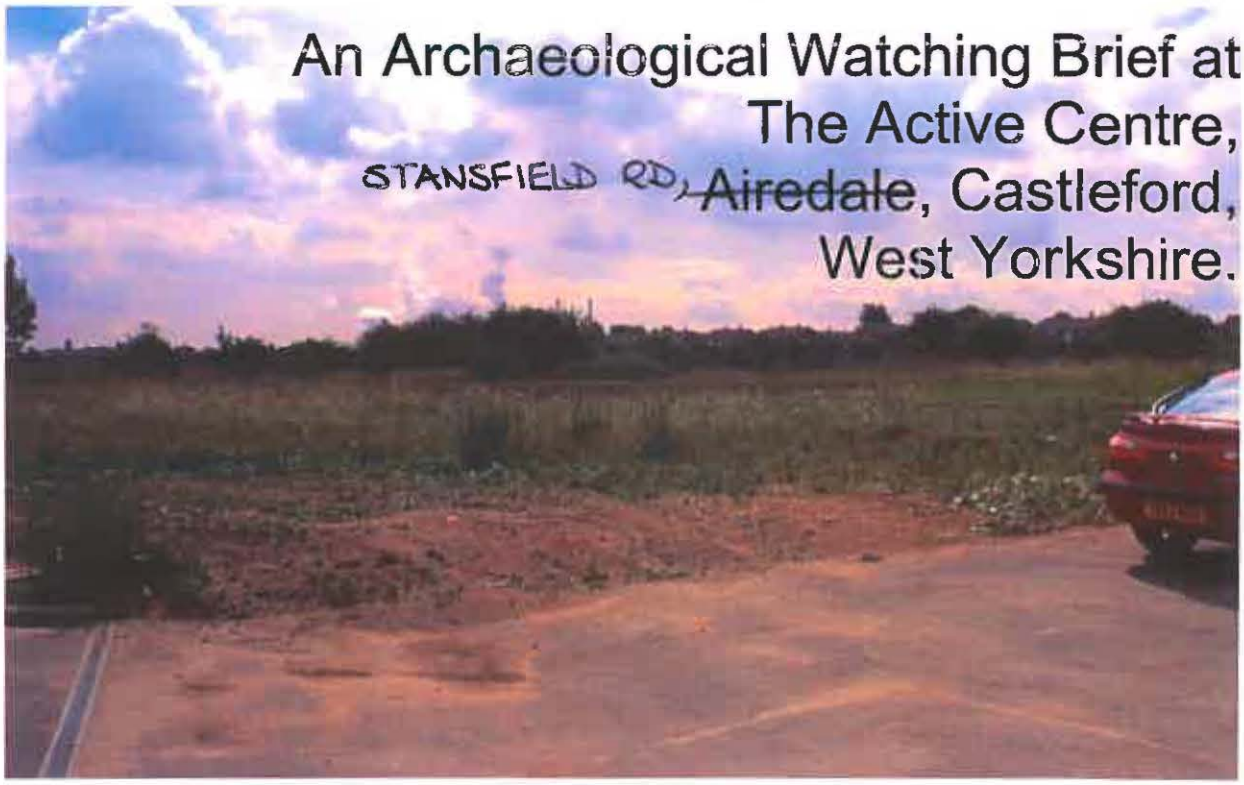
PRN 8131

Project Report 829.2

An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Active Centre, STANSFIELD RD, ~~Airedale~~, Castleford, West Yorkshire.



February 2006

By Sean Bell

Prepared For:

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Non-technical Summary

ARCUS was commissioned by Chrysalis Youth Project to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of a new building within the Project's property known as The Active Centre, located in Airedale, Castleford, West Yorkshire (NGR SE 446 262). The requirement for an archaeological watching brief was issued by WYAS Advisory Service, in line with government policy outlined in PPG16 (Department of Environment 1990) and was carried out in accordance with the 'Specification for Archaeological Monitor and Recording Exercise' issued by WYAS Advisory Service, with guidelines issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999) and with current industry best practice.

During the watching brief a large linear feature was identified. In plan this was seen to turn through one right-angle. During later phases of the work the feature was interpreted as turning through another right-angle to form an open-ended sub-rectangular shape. Over the course of the watching brief two sections were excavated through this feature, one by hand, and one by machine. This indicated that the feature consisted of two U-shaped cuts with the later cut partially truncating the earlier. A small assemblage of faunal remains was recovered from both sections. A number of Romano-British pottery sherds were recovered from the area of machine-excavation. This assemblage would appear to date from the early fourth century AD. It is unclear if this material was contemporary with the use of the feature or represents redeposited residual material.

Checked by:	Passed for submission to client:
Date: 22/2/2006	Date: 22/2/2006
Sean Bell *Project Archaeologist*	James Symonds *Executive Director*

1 INTRODUCTION

Planning permission (02/99/48483/C) has been granted by Wakefield Metropolitan District Council for the erection of a garage and repair workshops at The Active Centre, Castleford which forms part of the Chrysalis Youth Project. A planning condition was placed upon the consent requiring a programme of archaeological fieldwork be undertaken. The requirement for an archaeological watching brief was issued by WYAS Advisory Service, and was in line with government policy outlined in PPG16 (Department of Environment 1990). ARCUS was commissioned by Chrysalis Youth Project to undertake the archaeological watching brief. This document summarizes the result of the archaeological fieldwork.

1.1 Site Location and Land Use

The site, centred on NGR SE 446 262 (**Illustration 1**), is located to the east side of Stansfield Road in Airedale, Castleford. The area to the north of the site falls rapidly away to the River Calder valley, though the site itself is fairly flat with a gradual downward slope towards the east.

The new buildings are to be erected towards the southeast corner of the site, in an area of scrub vegetation (**Plate 1**). The remainder of the site is occupied by buildings and, kart track owned by Chrysalis Youth Project.

1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background

The proposed development lies within an area where a number of Romano-British finds have been recovered. These comprise two copper alloy brooches of Roman design; six unidentified copper alloy coins; a number of Romano-British pottery sherds, including greyware, samian, creamware; and a dark stone intaglio.

The finds were recovered during the initial development of the site in the summer of 2000. The majority of these finds were recovered from contractors' trenches which appeared to cut through a ditch running approximately northwest to southeast in the area now occupied by an electricity sub-station (N. Kennedy, *pers. comm.*) (**Illustration 2**).

2 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of the Archaeological Fieldwork

The aims of the watching brief were;

- to record any archaeological deposits or structures exposed by the site works,
- to collect any artefacts disturbed by the site works,
- to produce a report summarizing the recording and interpretation undertaken and setting that into local and historical context.

2.2 Methodology

All archaeological fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the 'Specification for Archaeological Monitor and Recording Exercise' issued by WYAS Advisory Service, with guidelines issued by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA, 1999) and with current industry best practice.

2.3 Fieldwork Programme

The fieldwork was undertaken on eight days between Monday 5th July and 8th December 2004. The project was managed James Symonds, ARCUS Executive Director. The fieldwork was undertaken by Sean Bell, ARCUS Project Archaeologist, assisted by Michael Lane, ARCUS Archaeological Assistant.

3 RESULTS

The vegetation layer and dumped modern material [100], with an overall thickness of 0.15m, was removed across the whole of the proposal area using a JCB fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, exposing a mixture of topsoil and modern overburden. The exposed surface was the subject of a metal detector survey undertaken by Mr Neil Kennedy, Project Manager of the Active Centre, under archaeological supervision. No artefacts dated to earlier than 1950 were recovered.

3.1 Area of Proposed Building

The footprint of the proposed structure was then marked out and bulk excavation undertaken by the JCB within this footprint (**Illustration 2**). The depth of this excavation varied due to the sloping nature of the ground surface. At the west end, a further 1.23m depth of material was removed. The base of the bulk excavation was maintained at a set horizontal level with the result that at the east end of the area no additional excavation was required.

In the east-facing section of the bulk excavation area, the following sequence of deposits (from highest to lowest) was identified;

- mottled grey clay deposit [101], 0.44m thick; stained by overlying coal/clinker material; overlying
- orange-yellow sand deposit [102], 0.09m thick; overlying
- mid-orange brown sandy clay loam [103], 0.34m thick; overlying
- coarse-grained yellow sand [104] visible throughout the stripped area, excavated to a thickness of 0.36m, interpreted as an undisturbed natural layer formed from degradation of the underlying bedrock

A cut, linear feature [105] was seen both in plan and in the east facing section. In the exposed section, [105] was seen to be filled with a mid-brown deposit [106], which was indistinguishable from deposit [103] (**Plate 2**). The edges of [105] seen in both plan and section showed a mixed lens of [104] and [106], particularly along the north edge.

In plan, feature [105] had a width of 3.02m, and was orientated northwest-southeast with an exposed length of 12m. Further bulk excavation revealed a possible turn through 90-degrees as a similar linear feature was visible orientated northeast-southwest across the width of the machine-excavated area (**Plate 3**), with an exposed length of 16m (**Illustration 2**).

A section was hand-excavated across the northwest-southeast arm of the feature (**Plate 4**). The section exposed showed that feature [105] was composed of two separate cuts, [107] and [110] (**Illustration 3**). Cut [107] was interpreted as being the earliest cut through [104], having a U-shaped profile and a width probably exceeding 2.1m. The primary fill of [107] was a mid-brown sandy-loam [108], 0.15m thick, probably representing erosion or slumping of the sides of cut [107]. Overlying [108] was a mid-brown sandy loam [109] containing degraded, sub-angular fragments of

limestone, and may be the same as [106].

Cut [110] was interpreted as a later cut through [104] which partially truncated the north edge of [107]. Cut [110] was 1.65m wide, and had a generally U-shaped profile which was slightly steeper on the south side. The primary fill of [110] was a mid-brown sandy-loam [111], 0.05m thick which was also interpreted being the result of erosion or slumping of the sides of the cut. Overlying [111] was a mid-brown sandy-loam [112] containing degraded, sub-angular fragments of limestone, and appeared to be very similar to fill [109], and also probably equates with fill [106].

Overlying fills [109] and [112] was a dark brown clayey-silt [113] which contained animal bone fragments and frequent mollusca shell fragments. Deposit [113] did not appear to be related to either cut [107] or [110], and was not identified in the east facing section of the bulk excavation.

3.2 Proposed Car Parking Area

Following the construction of the new building, an area to the northwest was stripped, prior to the laying of hardcore and tarmac to provide a car parking area. This also necessitated the widening of the north end of the current access road. An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the removal of the topsoil deposits.

In the area of the new car park, the vegetation layer and topsoil [100] was had a thickness of 0.32m and was removed using a toothed bucket. In addition, the underlying mid-orange brown sandy clay loam [103] was removed to a total thickness of 0.11m. Deposits [101] and [102] were not identified in this area. The area exposed consisted of a surface of [103] with occasional [104] inclusions (**Plate 7**). No features were observed within the exposed areas of [103].

Preparation for the widening of the access road required slightly deeper machine-excavation due to the sloping ground. Again, the topsoil was completely removed using a toothed bucket, as was the underlying deposit [103]. The yellow-coloured natural [104] was exposed throughout this area. A linear feature orientated southwest-northeast was identified cut in to the exposed [104] (**Plate 8**). This was exposed for an approximate length of 12m, with both ends appearing to continue beneath the current tarmac surface. This was interpreted as being a continuation of feature [105] already identified. Part of the fill of the ditch was removed by the contractors to establish the associated ground conditions. The ARCUS archaeologist on site was afforded the opportunity to clean and examine the exposed section.

The feature consisted of two cuts, [114] and [116] which had been indistinguishable in plan. The cut lying furthest east, [114], was interpreted as the earliest. This was 1.03m in depth, probably exceeded 3.5m in width had a stronger V-shaped profile than either [107] or [110]. Cut [114] was filled with a mid-brown sandy clay loam [115] with a slight orange hue, the edges of which were marked by a distinct mixing of [115] and the underlying undisturbed deposit [104] (**Plate 9**).

Cut [116] was interpreted as a later cut through [104] which partially truncated the west edge of [114]. Cut [116] was 3.18m wide and 1.26m deep with a steep sided U-shape profile. (**Plate 10**). The primary fill was a fine-grained mid-orange brown sandy clay loam [117] which was a mix of the overlying fill deposit and the yellow natural [104] interpreted being the result of erosion or slumping of the sides of the cut. During hand-cleaning of the exposed section, mollusca shells and animal bone were recovered from [117]. The mollusca fragments were present only in the base of [116], and the animal bone was located as a group approximately 0.2m above the base of [116] against its west edge. Overlying [117] was a mid-brown sandy-loam [118], similar to fill [115] but without the orange hue. The upper fill of cut [116] was a dark

brown sandy silt [119], 2.38m wide and a maximum thickness of 0..63m. This deposit was clearly visible in plan throughout the whole exposed length. Fragments of bone and pottery were recovered from this context when the feature was initially exposed by machine-stripping.

The southwest end of [114] and [116] were truncated by a modern service trench running parallel along the east side of the current access road.

4 FINDS

4.1 Faunal Remains

by S. Bell

A total of 81 fragments of mammalian bone were recovered from feature [105]. Of these 47 were indeterminate small fragments, with a further five fragments from indeterminate medium-sized individuals (sheep/goat/pig) and two from indeterminate large-sized (horse/cow) (**Section 10.2**). A fragment of mandible from a small mammal was also recovered. This was interpreted as being intrusive.

The remaining 26 fragments were identified as horse and cow. With the exception of a cow molar fragment, these were all identified as long bone fragments. Only one fragment showed signs of butchery. A right cow tibia had been chopped across the shaft towards the distal.

Due to its small size, detailed analysis of the assemblage was not possible.

The mollusca assemblage was examined and quantified on site. Deposit [113] contained fragments of approximately 40 individuals, and approximately 15 individuals were recovered from deposit [117]. The shells were heavily degraded and had lost any pigmentation. These were identified as land snail shells, probably species such as *Trichia striolata* or *Oxychilus alliarius* on the basis of their size and flattened nature.

4.2 Ceramics

by R. S. Leary

14 sherds of Romano-British pottery, weighing a total of 452g were recovered from feature [105] (**Section 10.3**). These came from at least 11 different vessels. An archive catalogue was compiled for all the pottery according to the standard laid down by the Study Group for Romano-British Pottery (Darling 2004) with the addition of sherd weights, minimum vessel count and rim % values. The fabric, form, decoration and condition of the sherds were recorded in a database with date ranges for the pottery types. Reference was made to the fabric series used previously by Rush (2000) to promote compatibility (**Section 10.4**).

The fabric of the pottery was first examined by eye and sorted into fabric groups on the basis of colour, hardness, feel, fracture, inclusions and manufacturing technique. Samples of the sherds were further examined under an x30 binocular microscope to verify these divisions. The size of the sample was as large as was felt necessary for each fabric group. National fabric collection codes are given wherever possible (Tomber and Dore 1998) (**Section 11**).

BBT1	black ware. Moderate, ill-sorted, medium-coarse, sub-rounded quartz. Sparse, ill-sorted coarse rounded black inclusions. Micaceous. Cf. Rush 2000 fabric 73. One sherd.
DW	Dales ware (Loughlin, 1977). Tomber and Dore (1998) DAL SH. Three sherds.
GRB1	medium grey wares with common-abundant coarse sand c0.3-0.5mm. most of the sherds present were towards the fine end of the range of this fabric. Six sherds.
SYGRB/BB1	South Yorkshire grey ware/BB1, probably Rossington Bridge BB1 in grey colour. Tomber and Dore (1998) ROS BB1. One sherd.
GRC6	grey with light grey core. Very hard with rough feel and irregular fracture. Abundant, well-sorted, sub-angular medium/coarse quartz. Rather like fine Derbyshire ware in feel and hardness. A minor fabric at the South Yorkshire kilns and also Little London. One sherd.
R03	Grey ware with orange-brown core and margins and grey surfaces, with some fairly fine sand *c*0.1-0.3mm. A minor fabric at the South Yorkshire kilns. One sherd.
TS	Samian. One sherd.

The samian base is most likely to be from a samian form bowl Dr 31 of the second half of the 2nd century. The SYGRB/BB1 sherd is from a BB1 type jar of the 2nd century. The grooved-rim dish is a type more common in this fabric in the 3rd and 4th centuries and the cordoned bodysherds is from a large jar which although of long-lived type (Buckland *et al.*, 2001: type F) was more common in the later kilns.

Rush noted that the late 3rd century was characterised by BB1 and South Yorkshire wares at Castleford with Dales ware not arriving in quantity until the 4th century (2000, 158). At Rossington Bridge Pumping Station Buckland notes Dales ware associated with a coin of Septimius Severus and in 3rd century levels which were given a *terminus post quem* in the first half of the 3rd century (2001, 80 and 11) and at York stratified groups of early third century date include small quantities of Dales ware (Monaghan, 1997). On the basis of Rush's sequence this context should be dated to the early 4th century. However as Dales ware was present in the region in the 3rd century an earlier date cannot be entirely ruled out. Most of the pottery is of 2nd century or early 3rd century type. The BB1 present is from Rossington Bridge whereas in the 3rd century, BB1 production has ceased at Rossington Bridge and supplies came from Dorset. This absence of Dorset BB1 would favour the later dating. Considering the make-up of the group, therefore, a date in the early 4th century is more likely. The absence of Crambeck, east Yorkshire grey and calcite-gritted wares indicates a date before the mid-4th century is likely.

The pottery sherds were average in terms of size and abrasion. The group comprised one bowl, two dishes, seven medium necked jars and one large jar. This group follows the normal pattern for a 4th century site and compares with other groups from Castleford (Rush, 2000: tables 21-22).

The source of the grey ware is not certain. The large jar and the R03 sherd are likely to be from the South Yorkshire kilns and the remaining grey ware would not be out of place amongst material from this kiln group. This agrees with the pattern Rush observed at Castleford in the later Roman period when Dales ware predominated with grey wares from South Yorkshire, Crambeck and East Yorkshire.

5 DISCUSSION

The deposits identified were interpreted as constituents of a single feature on the basis of their similarities in profile and fill deposits. Feature [105] consisted of a U-shaped cut [107/114] which had become completely filled prior to being re-cut slightly to the west of its centre-line, cut [110/116].

The hand-excavated section contained no cultural material with only faunal remains being recovered. These were located close to the top of the section. In contrast the faunal remains in the machine-excavated section were concentrated in the primary fill of [116] within a deposit, [117] interpreted as the result of erosion and slumping within the cut. This would suggest that the bones were discarded when [116] existed as an open feature, and remained so for some time afterwards.

The pottery was interpreted as having a late 4th century date. This was recovered exclusively from deposit [119], the uppermost fill of cut [116]. This could indicate that the ditch was allowed to infill prior to this date. However, given that this is an area in which finds of Roman date have been recovered and interpreted as residual material within later deposits, it is probable that the pottery assemblage represents material which has been disturbed and included within the fill of a later feature, particularly due to its relatively shallow depth within the feature as a whole.

6 ARCHIVE

The archive will be deposited at Wakefield Museum, Wood Street, Wakefield. Copies of the report will also be deposited with the Sites and Monuments Record maintained by West Yorkshire Archaeological Services and with the client, Chrysalis Youth Project.

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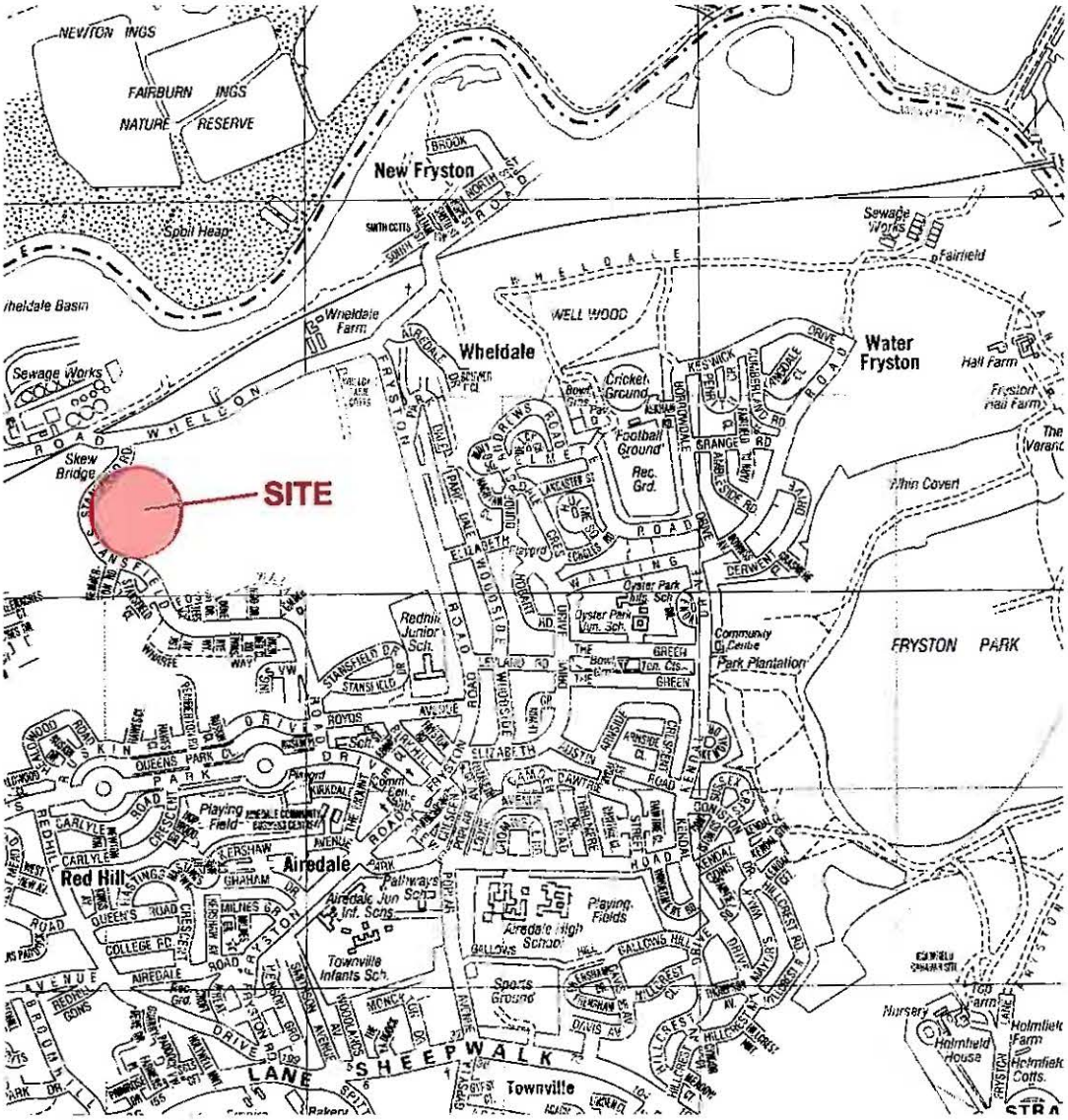
8 ILLUSTRATIONS



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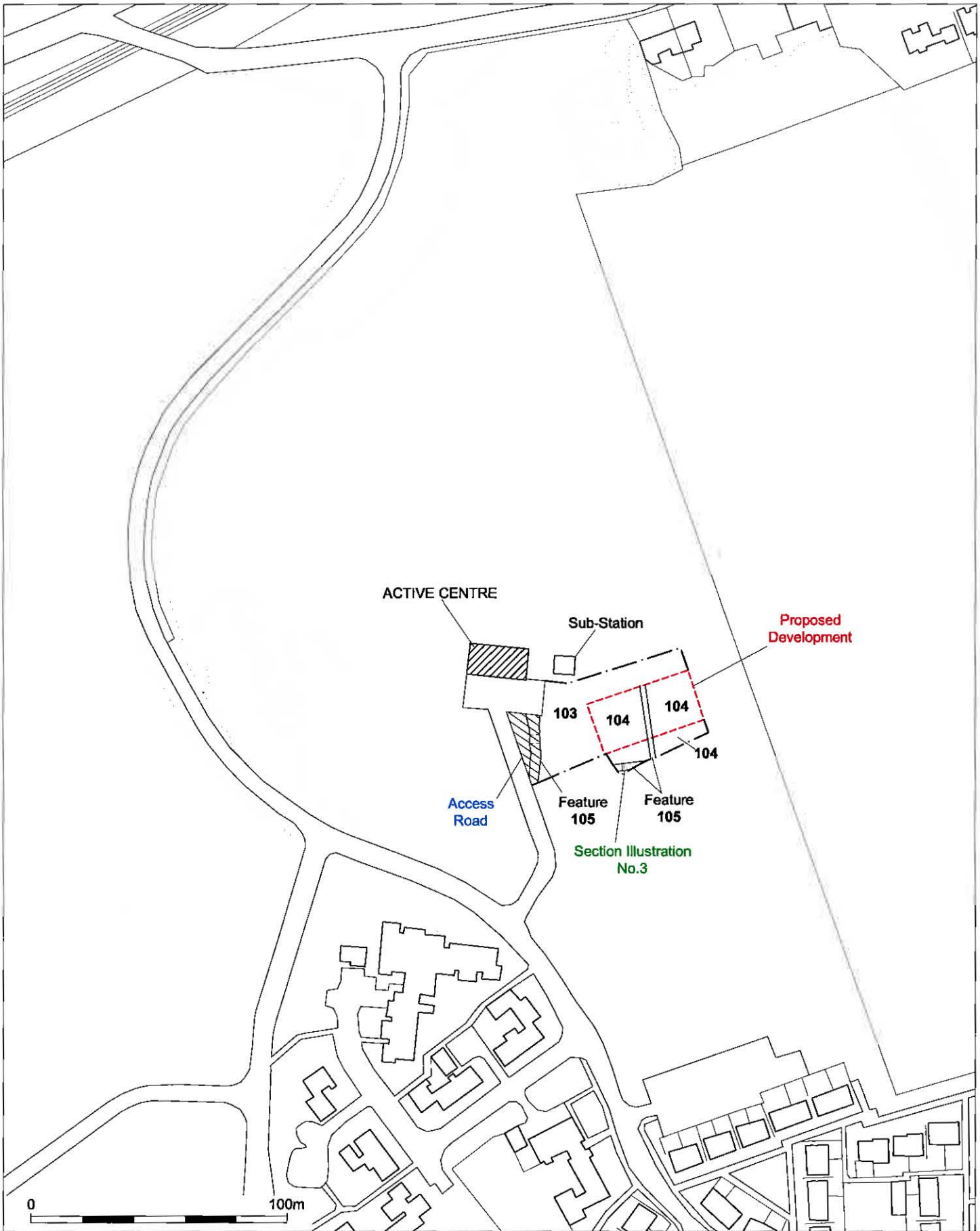
Project: **Active Centre, Airedale, Castleford**	
Title: **Site Location Map**	
Scale: 1:19000	Date: November 2005
NGR: SE 446 262	Drawn: K.Speight
Project No.: **829**	Illustration No.: **1**



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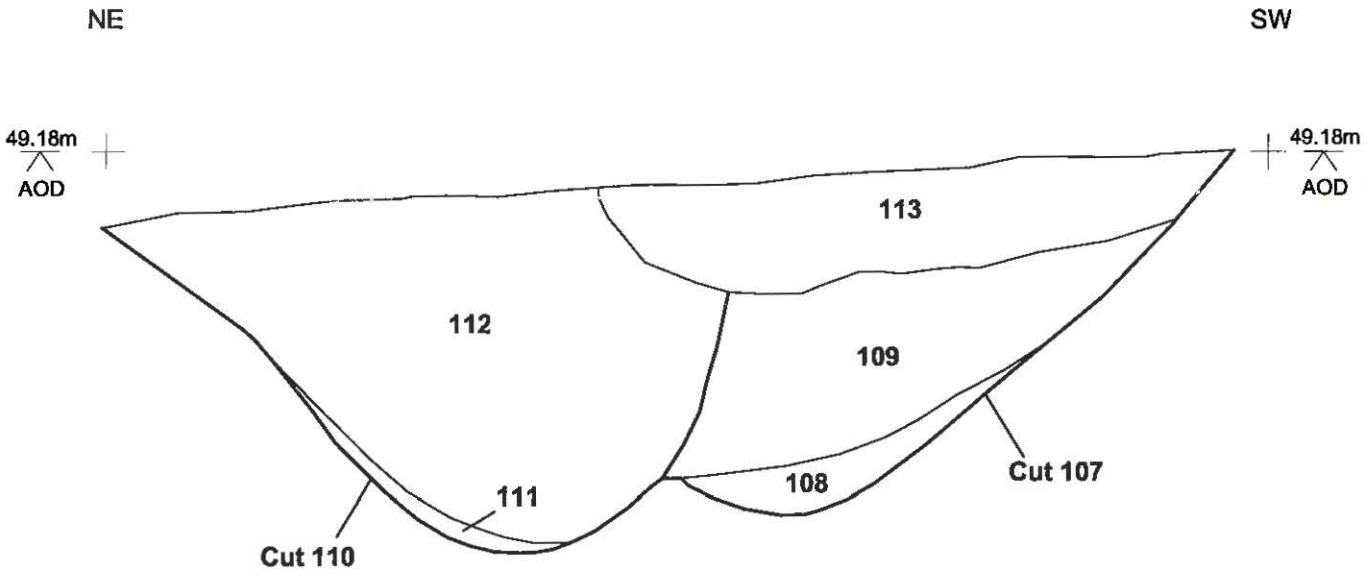
Project: **Active Centre, Airedale, Castleford**		NGR: SE 446 262	Date: February 2006
Title: **Site Plan: showing location of Linear Feature 105**		Scale: 1:2000	Drawn: K.Speight
		Project No.: **829**	Illustration. No.: **2**



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ARCUS Research School of Archaeology Westcourt, 2 Mappin St Sheffield S1 4DT	Project: **Active Centre, Airedale, Castleford**	NGR: SE 446 262	Date: September 2005
N	Title: **Northwest facing section: feature 105 - showing cuts 107 & 110**	Scale: 1:20	Drawn: K.Speight
		Project No.: **829**	Illustration. No.: **3**

9 PLATES

Plate 1: General view of the site, looking southeast from the car park, prior to the commencement of groundworks

Plate 2: East facing section of the bulk excavated area showing the cut of feature [105]

Plate 3: Plan view, looking southwest, of the northeast-southwest arm of feature [105]

Plate 4: Working shot, looking southeast, showing feature [105] and its right-angled turn at the south edge of the bulk excavated area

Plate 5: West facing section of feature [105] showing cut [107]

Plate 6: West facing section of feature [105] showing cut [110]

Plate 7: General view looking east from the original car park showing groundworks to northwest of new building.

Plate 8: General view of feature [105] looking southwest showing cuts [114] and [116].

Plate 9: Southwest facing section of feature [105] showing cut [114] and fill [115].

Plate 10: Southwest facing section of feature [105] showing fills [117], [118] and [119] within cut [116].

10 TABLES

10.1 List of Contexts

Context Number	Type	Description
100	Deposit	Modern dumping and vegetation layer
101	Deposit	Mottled grey clay underlying [100]
102	Deposit	Orange-yellow sand deposit underlying [101]
103	Deposit	Mid-orange brown sandy clay loam underlying [102]
104	Deposit	Coarse-grained yellow sand natural
105	Feature	Linear feature running northwest-southeast, then turning northeast-southwest
106	Fill	Mid-brown sandy clay loam fill of [105]
107	Cut	Earlier U-shaped cut within NW-SE 'arm' of [105]
108	Fill	Primary fill of [107]
109	Fill	Mid-brown sandy clay loam fill of [107]
110	Cut	U-shaped cut partially truncating [107]
111	Fill	Primary fill of [110]
112	Fill	Mid-brown sandy clay loam fill of [110]
113	Deposit	Dark brown clayey silt within [105]
114	Cut	Earlier V-shaped cut within NE-SW 'arm' of [105]
115	Fill	Mid-brown sandy clay loam with a slight orange hue filling [114]
116	Cut	V-shaped cut partially truncating [114]
117	Fill	Fine-grained mid-orange brown sandy clay loam. Primary fill of [116]
118	Fill	Mid-brown sandy loam filling [116]
119	Fill	Dark brown sandy silt. Upper fill of [116]

10.2 Animal Bone

Context	Species	Element	L/R	PF	DF	Completeness	Notes
113	Medium-sized	indet.	x	x	x		47 small fragments
113	Medium-sized	Pelvis	x	x	x	<10%	
113	Medium-sized	Pelvis	x	x	x	<10%	
113	Medium-sized	Pelvis	x	x	x	<10%	
113	Medium-sized	rib	x	x	x	<50%	
113	Medium-sized	rib	x	x	x	<50%	
113	Small-sized	Mandible	Right	x	x	50%	Two molars present
113	Bos	M3 molar	Left	F	F	80%	
113	Bos	Humerus	Left	x	U		Unfused epiphysis
117	Equus	Humerus	Left	F	F	98%	
117	Equus	Humerus	Right	x	x	75%	
117	Bos	Metacarpal	Right	F	F	100%	
117	Bos	Tibia	Right	U	x	80%	In three fragments. Distal shaft chopped
117	Equus	Tibia	Left	x	F	80%	In three fragments
117	Large-sized	lb	x	x	x	<10%	Shaft fragment
117	Large	lb	x	x	x	<10%	Shaft fragment

10.3 Summary of Pottery

1 Central Gaulish samian bowl base with pronounced basal kick. Dr 31. AD150-200

2 GRB1 curving everted-rim sherd of medium-necked jar.

3 SYGRB/BB1 jar bodysherd with burnished acute lattice.

4 GRB1 base and body of jar, burnished outside body.

5 GRB1 bodysherd of bowl or dish

6 BBT1 bodysherd.

7 GRC6 bodysherd of large jar with neck cordon

8 R03 bodysherd with groove

9 GRB1 grooved-rim dish

10 Two GRB1 basal sherds from jar.

10.4 Catalogue of Pottery

Ctxt	Sherd group	Fabric	Rush (2000) fabric	Comments on fabric	Count	Weight (g)	Abrasion	Part	Form	Vessel type	RimD	RimP	Min. Vessel count	Spot date	Comments	Dectec	Decmotif	Decpos	Dectec2	Decmotif2	Decpos2
119	1	TS		Central Gaulish	1	83	M	BAS	FRB DR31	B			1	150-200	Central Gaulish						
119	2	SYG RB/ BB1	67 or 79	Rossinton Bridge type	1	10	M	BDY	MB	J			1	2nd-3rd	Rossington BB1 OR BB1 COPY						
119	3	DW	85		3	66	A	BDY		J			1	E-M4th	Date based on dating in Rush 2000						
119	4	GRB 1		Rather fine	1	94	M	B+B	PLN	J			1			BNH		OSB			
119	5	GR C6	?67 or 73	Typical of S. Yorkshire and Little London kilns	1	26	U	BDY	O/N	NNJ			1		Probably large jar Buckland et al 2000 type F	BNH		OSB	CD	SGE	OSN
119	6	GRB 1		Fairly fine of S. Yorkshire	1	8	U	RIM	LA24	J	16	5	1	2nd-3rd	Probably copying BB1 jars	BNH		AOR			
119	7	GRB 1		Fairly fine of S. Yorkshire	1	12	M	BDY	B	B/D			1		Appears to have been slightly burnt inside body						
119	8	GRB 1		Fairly fine, darker slip not typical of S.Y kilns	1	13	M	R+B	B2	D	20	6	1		Traces of darker slip or self slip						
119	9	RO3		Recurring minor S.Y. fabric	1	6	M	BDY	CV	J			1			GRV	SGE	OSB			

Ctxt	Sherd group	Fabric	Rush (2000) fabric	Comments on fabric	Count	Weight (g)	Abrasion	Part	Form	Vessel type	RimD	RimP	Min. Vessel count	Spot date	Comments	Dectec	Decmotif	Decpos	Dectec2	Decmotif2	Decpos2
119	10	BBT 1	73	Black WT fabric, finer than BB1.	1	9	A	BDX		J			1								
0	1	GRB 1	?67	Typical of S.Y. kilns	2	12 5	A	BAS	L	J			1		Unstrat Contractor's test pit						

11 APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL FABRIC COLLECTION CODES

Colour:	narrative description only
Hardness:	after Peacock (1977)
	soft - can be scratched by finger nail
	hard - can be scratched with penknife blade
	very hard - cannot be scratched
Feel:	tactile qualities
	smooth - no irregularities
	rough - irreguiarities can be feit
	sandy - grains can be felt across the surface
	leathery - smoothed surface like polished leather
	soapy - smooth feel like soap
Fracture:	visual texture of fresh break, after Orton (1980).
	smooth - flat or slightly curved with no visible irregularities
	irregular - medium, fairly widely spaced irregularities
	finely irregular - small, fairly closely spaced irregularities
	laminar - stepped effect
	hackly - large and generally angular irregularities
Inclusions:	
Type:	after Peacock (1977)
Frequency:	indicated on a 4-point scale - abundant, moderate, sparse and rare where abundant is a break packed with an inclusion and rare is a break with only one or two of an inclusion.
Sorting:	after Orton (1980)
Shape:	angular - convex shape, sharp corners
	sub-angular - convex shape, rounded corners
	rounded - convex shape no corners
	platey - flat
Size:	subvisible - only just visible at x30 and too small to measure
	fine - 0.1-0.25mm
	medium - 0.25-0.5
	coarse - 0.5-1mm
	very coarse - over 1mm

12 APPENDIX 2 – WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY SERVICE SPECIFICATION

Specification for Archaeological Monitor and Recording Exercise ("Watching Brief"): Excavation of groundworks - for garage and computer workshops at The Active Centre, Stansfield Road, Castleford (circa SE 446 262)

Prepared on behalf of Wakefield MDC for the Chrysalis Youth Project at the request of Mr N. Kennedy to satisfy an archaeological condition attached to planning permission 02//99/48483/C

Introduction

1.1 Planning permission (02/99/48483/C) has been granted for the erection of a building for garage and computer repair workshops. It is a condition of the planning permission that a programme of archaeological work be undertaken. This specification for the necessary work has been prepared by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service's Advisory Service section, the curators of the West Yorkshire County Sites and Monuments Record.

2. Archaeological Background

2.1 The proposed development lies in an area where a number of Roman finds, both metalwork and pottery have been made, reported to the WYAS Advisory Service in June 2000, possibly from features encountered during the excavation of foundations on a recent development on the site. All foundations had been filled with concrete before they could be inspected by the WYAS Advisory Service and it is possible the finds came from soil re-deposited on the site. The site is some distance away from other known concentrated Roman activity.

2.2 The finds comprise two copper alloy brooches of Roman design, six unidentified copper alloy coins, a number of Roman sherds of pottery (greyware, samian, cream-ware and possibly black-burnished) as well as a ring with a dark stone intaglio (apparently a human figure) that may be Roman as well as a variety of relatively modern material and animal bone. There is therefore a potential for archaeological deposits dating to the Roman or later periods to be disturbed by the development.

2.3 The finds are currently (November 2003) held temporarily in the WY Sites and Monuments Record pending discussions between the finders (the Chrysalis Centre) and Wakefield Museum.

2. General Considerations

2.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the appointed archaeological contractor should confirm in writing to the WYAS Advisory Service adherence to this specification, or state (with reasons) any proposals to vary the specification. Should the contractor wish to vary the specification, then written confirmation of the agreement of the WYAS Advisory Service to any variations is required prior to work commencing. The archaeologist carrying out the watching brief should be appropriately qualified and experienced. Any technical queries arising from the specification detailed below should be addressed to the WYAS Advisory Service *without delay*.

3. Fieldwork Methodology

3.1 An archaeologist should be present on site during the excavation of any area. **Any landscaping, site clearance, or excavation of the service area is to be undertaken with a suitable machine** (i.e. a JCB or 360° tracked excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket).The archaeologist should view the area as it is being dug and any trench sections of foundation or service trenches after excavation has been completed. Where archaeology is judged to be present, the excavated area should be rapidly cleaned and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds should then be quickly hand excavated, sampled and recorded, within the confines of the areas excavated as part of this development.

3.2 All excavated soil should be searched as practicable for finds. This should include the use of a metal detector. If a metal detectorist other than the qualified archaeologist is to be employed in this role, they should be working under the direct supervision of the project archaeologist and to have signed a suitable Treasure disclaimer. A suggested clause for such a disclaimer is:

"In the process of working on the archaeological investigation at [*location of site*] between the dates of [*insert* dates], [*name of person contributing to project*] has been working under the direction or permission of [*name of archaeological organisation or responsible individual archaeologist*] and hereby waives all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the Treasure Act 1996."
(See "*The Archaeologist*", Summmer 2002 no. 45)

3.3 The presence and nature of 19th and 20th century material should be noted (quantified and summarily described) but finds of this date need not be retained for processing. Finds judged to be 18th-century in date or earlier should be retained.

3.4 The actual areas of ground disturbance, and any features of possible archaeological concern noted within these areas, should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings (including height above O.D.) and written description sufficient to permit the preparation of a report on the site.

3.5 The intention of the archaeological watching brief is not to unduly delay the work of other contractors on site. This work should not, therefore prejudice the progress of the main or subsidiary contractor's work, except by prior agreement and on-site co-operation.

3.6 The archaeologist on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. In this case, where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose. This work may require the preparation of a Risk Assessment of the site, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations. **The WYAS and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents that may occur to outside contractors engaged to undertake this survey while attempting to conform to this specification.**

4. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

4.1 Should there be, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant more detailed recording than possible within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor is to urgently contact the WYAS Advisory Service with the relevant information to enable the matter to be resolved with the developer.

4.2 Any human remains that are discovered must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. If removal is necessary, this must comply with the relevant Home Office and any local environmental health regulations.

4.3 The terms of the Treasure Act, 1996 must be followed with regard to any finds, which might fall within its purview. Any such finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the "Code of Practice". Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

5. Monitoring

5.1 The recording exercise will be monitored as necessary and practicable by the WYAS Advisory Service in its role as 'curator' of the county's archaeology. The Advisory Service should receive **as much notice as possible in writing** (and certainly not less than one week) of the intention to start the watching brief. **A copy of the archaeological contractor's risk assessment of the site should accompany the notification.**

6. Post-Excavation/Post-Recording Work and Report Preparation

6.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, assessed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and fully labelled photographs. Labelling should be in indelible ink on the *back* of the print and should include film and frame number; date recorded and photographer's name; name and address of site; national grid reference. Photographic prints should be mounted in appropriate archivally stable sleeves. A quantified index to the field archive should form an appendix to the report. The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive (see Section 7.1 below). In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be deposited in the West Yorkshire SMR.

6.2 A report should be produced to provide background information, a summary of the works carried out, a description and separate interpretation of any features and finds identified. Details of the report's style and format are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but it should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive and as an appendix, a copy of this specification. The report illustrations should include, as a minimum, a location map at a reasonable scale plus any drawings and photographs.

6.3 If nothing of archaeological interest is identified during the course of the watching brief, then a summary report will be adequate, as long as sufficient details are supplied for SMR purposes. Illustrations would not be required, although it would be anticipated that black and white prints would form part of the archival record (the number and subject of such prints should be mentioned in the summary report). A summary record should include:

(1) Details of the commissioning body; (2) the nature of the development and resultant ground disturbance; (3) the approximate position of any ground disturbance viewed with relation to adjacent existing fixed points; (4)the date(s) of fieldwork; (5) name(s) of fieldworker(s); (6) written observations on the nature and depth of deposits observed (this may include annotated sketch sections); (7) the conditions under which they were observed (for example, details of weather conditions, ease of access and views, attitude of other organisations *etc.);* (8) a quantified index to the field archive including details of any photographs; (9) details of the archives present location and intended deposition and (10) a copy of this specification.

6.4 The report should be produced within three weeks of completion of the fieldwork, unless otherwise agreed with the WYAS Advisory Service. Copies of the report should be supplied to the client, to the relevant District Planning Department, and the West Yorkshire SMR. The report will become publicly accessible once deposited with the West Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record.

6.5 The attached summary sheet should be completed and submitted to the WYAS Advisory Service for inclusion in the summary of archaeological work in West Yorkshire published biannually by that office within *"Archaeology and Archives in West Yorkshire".*

7. Deposition of Archive

7.1 **Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant District museum archaeological curator in writing (copied to the WYAS Advisory Service)** to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. In this case the contact is Wakefield Metropolitan District Council Museum and Arts, Wakefield Museum, Wood Street, Wakefield WF1 2EW; telephone 01924 305351; Keeper of Archaeology: Pam Judkins.

7.2 It is the policy of Wakefield MDC Museums and Arts to accept complete excavation archives, including primary site records and research archives and finds, from all excavations carried out in the District, which it serves.

7.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with Wakefield MDC Museums and Arts.

7.4 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet Wakefield Museums' requirements with regard to the preparation of fieldwork archives for deposition.

7.5 The museums officer named in 7.1 above should be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as the West Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record.

West Yorkshire Archaeology Service – Advisory Service

IS/November 2003

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N.B. This specification is valid for a period of one year following date of issue. After this date, it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries or changes in policies or technique.