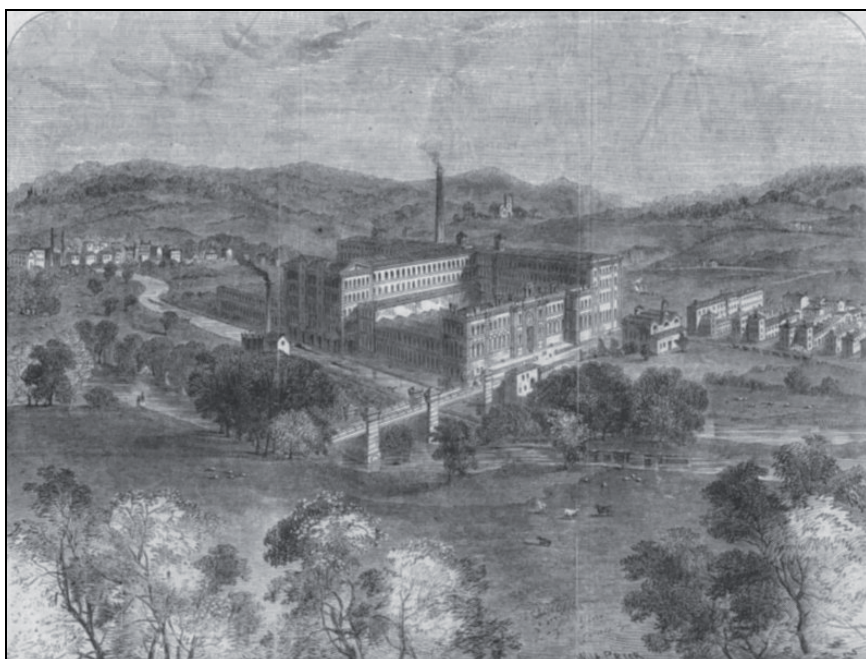


**ROBERTS PARK, SALTIRE, SHIPLEY
WEST YORKSHIRE:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**



**CS Archaeology
August 2009**

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National Grid Reference (NGR): SE 13813 38375

CSA Report Number: 041

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Project Timing: Fieldwork July 2009
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Frontispiece: view of Saltaire Mills, near Shipley, Yorkshire c. 1859

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 An archaeological watching brief was undertaken at Roberts Park, Saltaire West Yorkshire. This work was required to meet a condition of planning consent (App. No. 08/00049/FUL) and consisted of monitoring the ground works, below 0.15m, and associated with the creation of the 'horseshoe path' and was undertaken along the north edge of the proposed path where there was a potential for revealing Lockwood and Mawson's axial potential path. No conclusive remains were revealed during the excavation of Trench 1, largely due to the restricted depth (0.3m).

2. INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Roberts Park lies on the left bank of the River Aire, northwest of Salt's Mill, Shipley, within a world heritage site. The area of the watching brief is centred on National Grid Reference SE 13813 38375 across the southern slopes of the Aire valley.
- 2.2 This watching brief was undertaken on the 29th July 2009 in response to a condition placed on planning consent (App. No. 08/00049/FUL) by the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service (WYAAS), to construct a new path within the World Heritage Site.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Roberts Park is a registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest situated within the Saltaire World Heritage Site. Saltaire was laid out by Lockwood and Mawson between 1851 and 1871, and the park was one of the last parks of the model town to be completed. It was designed by William Gay, and contains structures also by Lockwood and Mawson.
- 3.2 The park was originally known as the People's Park, or Saltaire Park but became known as Roberts Park after 1920 when James Roberts, chairman of Shipley Urban District Council and manager of Salts Mill, presented the Park to the City of Bradford.
- 3.3 The principal building of the park is a semicircular tea room designed by Lockwood and Mawson which is built into a terrace; the roof of this structure acts as viewing platform. The plan of the park was designed around a wide east to west path, which runs from one end of the park to the other with a shelter at either end. Midway along this path, and directly north of the semicircular viewing platform was a bandstand, now demolished. According to a late 19th century plan by Lockwood and Mawson, an axial path was built leading north from the bandstand to the north shelter but no trace of this survives today, nor is it known if this path was ever constructed (WYAAS 2009).

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The aim of the watching brief is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits which are disturbed or exposed as a result of ground works in the area of interest.
- 4.2 Specifically, the watching brief will be carried out in the area where the north path was supposed to be in an attempt to uncover evidence that it was ever constructed (Plate 1). This will allow us to determine how the completed park differed, if at all, from the architect's and designer's original plans.
- 4.3 This work will mitigate the destruction of buried archaeological remains through 'preservation by record'.

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 This has been carried out in accordance with the Project Brief (Appendix 1) issued by the WYAAS (1/2009).
- 5.2 In addition to this brief all exposed surfaces, including the spoil heap were surveyed for metal and examined for pottery and worked stone.
- 5.3 Trench 1 was recorded (Figure 3: Plates 2-4) and written records of the contexts were made on *pro-forma* recording cards summarised in Appendix 2. A photographic record was made of all deposits with a digital camera (8 mega-pixel resolution) some of these were used to illustrate this report. All photographs (Appendix 2) have been included in the site archive on a CD within an archival envelope.
- 5.4 Datum levels were provided via spot heights from the OS digital site plans, and were transferred via dumpy level.
- 5.5 Rebecca Mann of the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service was kept fully informed of the progress of the work.

6. RESULTS

- 6.1 Trench 1 was excavated in a broad east-west alignment (**Figure 2: Plates 3-4**). It measured 22.5m x 1.5m and averaged a depth of 0.3m. Soil differences were observed and recorded beneath the topsoil (**Figure 3**). The relatively shallow excavation depths prevented any conclusive interpretation of the soils.
- 6.2 The top of a linear feature [004], 4.3m wide and was aligned broadly north-south. It was first revealed as the topsoil [100] was being removed, by the presence of large boulders as the topsoil was being removed (**Plate 2**). The width and nature of the fill [102] was interpreted as possibly a levelling deposit associated with the 19th century landscaping of the park or more probably a relict stream course.
- 6.3 Other pathways in the park have been excavated during the course of the Park's restoration and the foundations have consisted of mixed 'dumped' material with random rounded boulders. These confirmed path foundations are sufficiently different to the fill [102] encountered in Trench 1.
- 6.4 No artefacts were recovered during the course of the watching brief. A metal detecting survey was carried out across the trench surfaces and resulting spoil. No metal artefacts were found either.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 A linear feature [004] was revealed during the course of the excavation. This feature does correlate in terms of direction to the supposed course of Lockwood and Mawson's axial path. However the width and nature of the deposit suggests it probably formed naturally as a relict stream course. Further work is required to establish the exact nature and extent of this feature.
- 7.2 No conclusive evidence for Lockwood and Mawson's axial path was encountered at the level of excavations reached.

8. REFERENCES

8.1 *Bibliography*

WYAAS 2009, *Specification for An Archaeological Watching Brief at Roberts Park, Saltaire*, unpublished curators report.

Lockwood & Mawson, Plan Showing the Town and Works of Saltaire, n.d. late C19th.

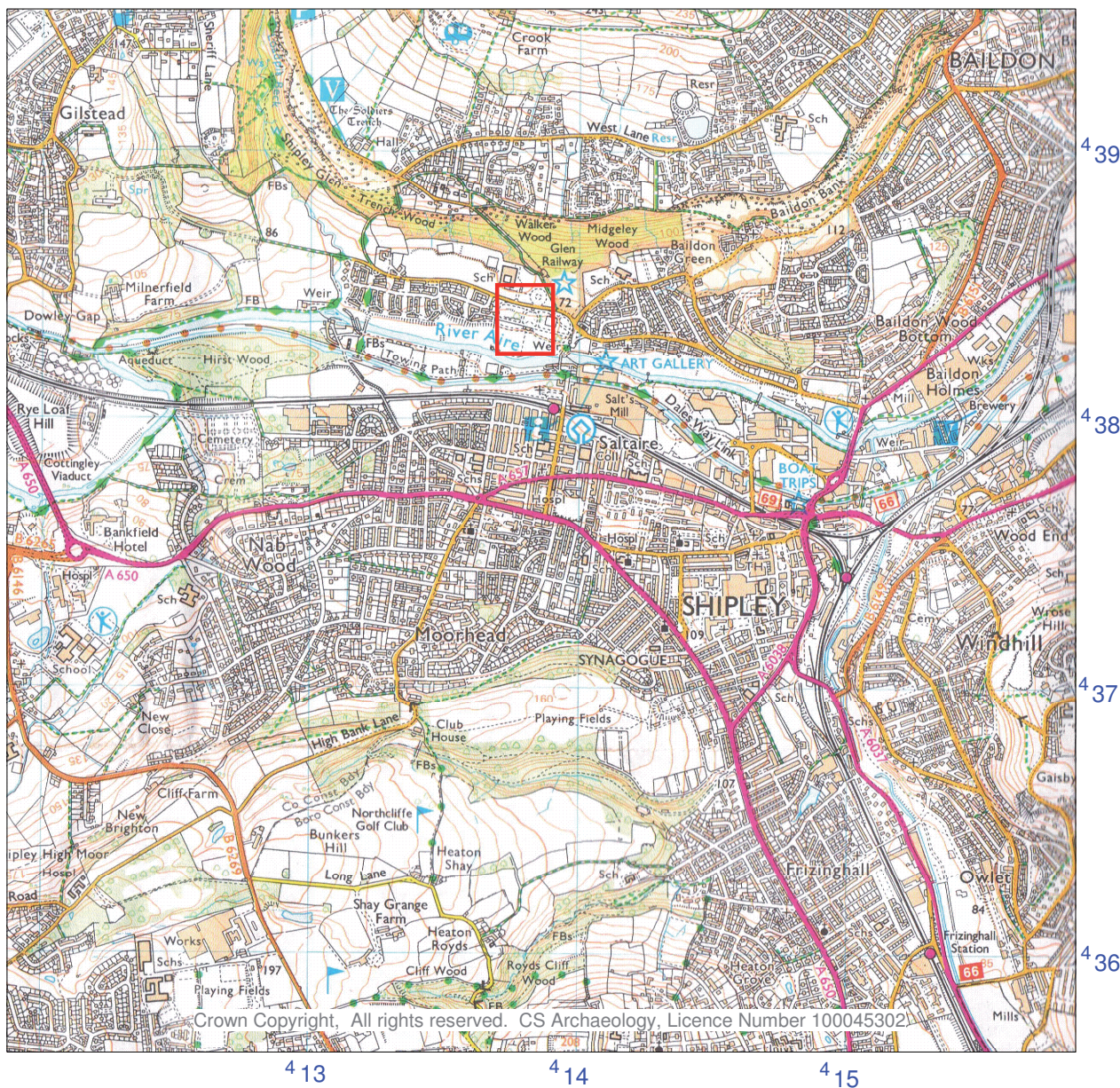
9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Many thanks to Mick Priestley for commissioning this report, Gerard Coen (Casey Group Ltd) and Erika Diaz-Peterson (Hilary Taylor Landscape Associates Ltd) for their help and support during the site visit and field work. Special thanks to Rebecca Mann (WYAAS) for writing and researching the Brief.

FIGURES



0 10km



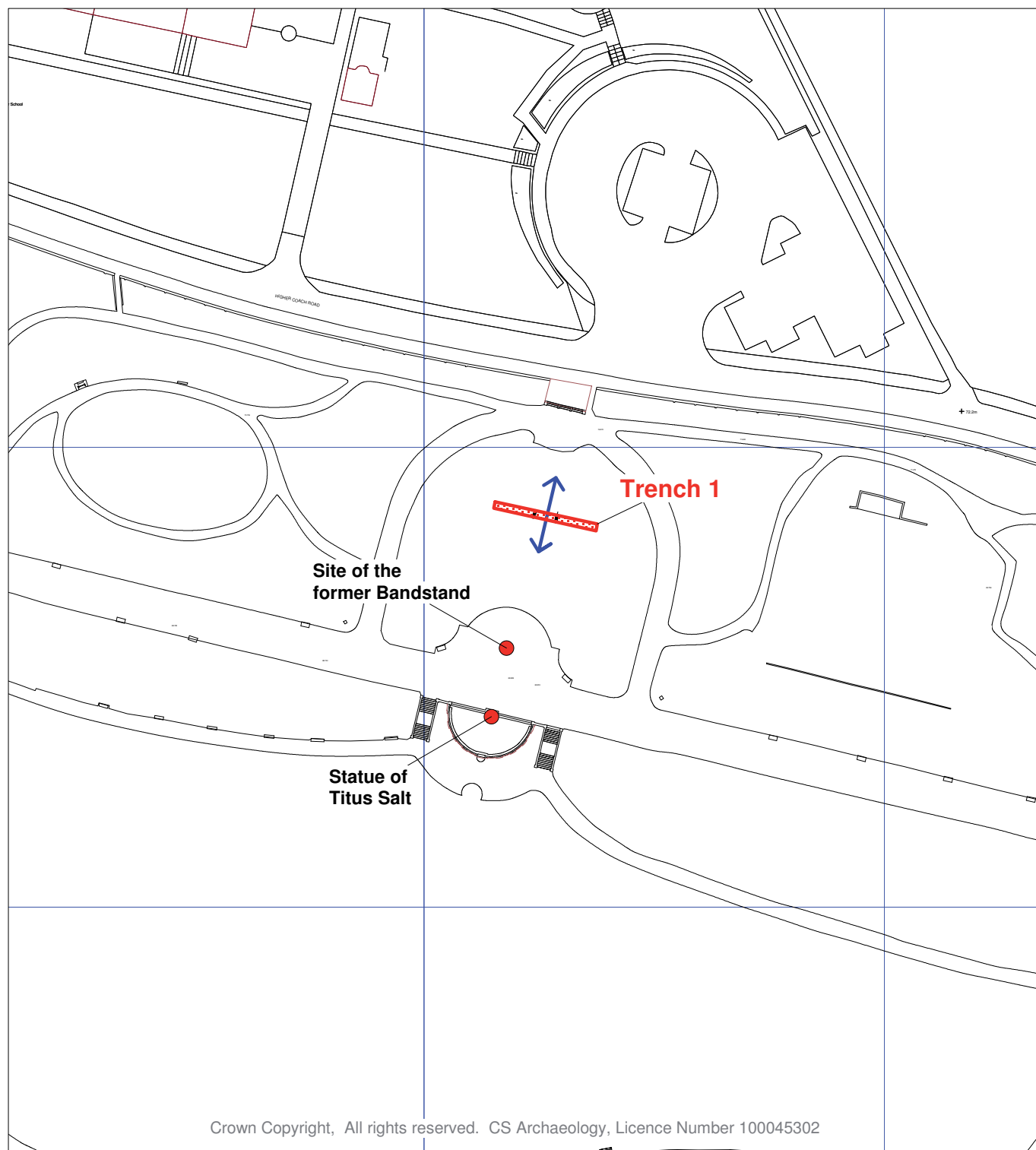
for inset see Figure 2

scale: 1:25000

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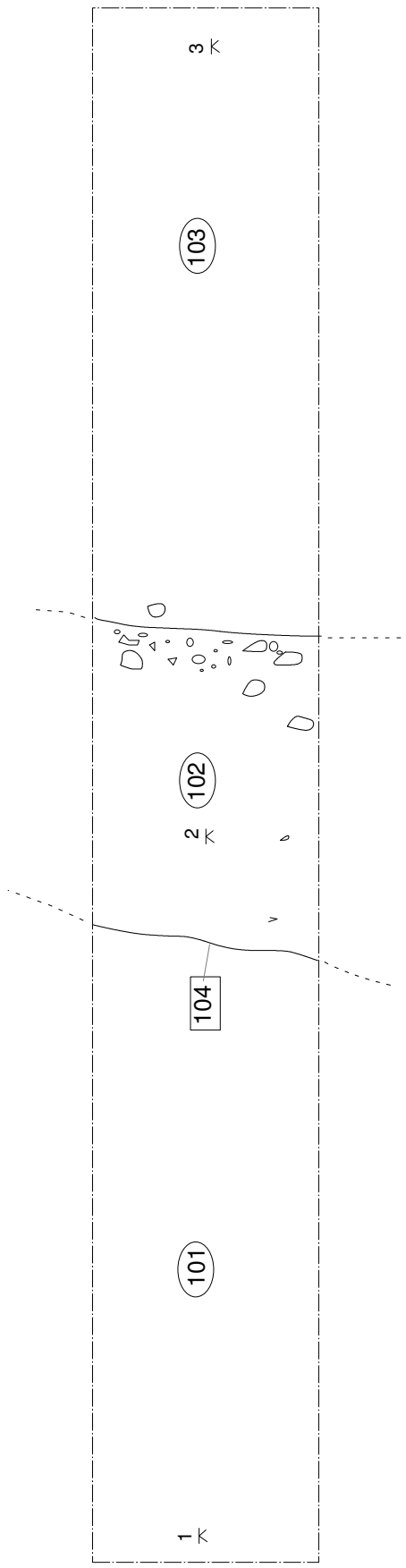
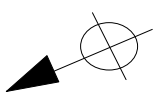
Figure 1: Location
Map



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Figure 2: Trench
Location Map



Levels AOD
1. 69.18m
2. 69.15m
3. 69.21m

Scale 1:100

PLATES



Plate 1: pre-excavation view of Trench 1, looking north



Plate 2: view of the stone concentration [102] in the middle of Trench 1, looking north



Plate 3: post-excitation view of Trench 1, looking east



Plate 4: general post-excitation view of Trench 1, looking west

APPENDIX 1: PROJECT BRIEF

WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY SERVICE: SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ROBERTS PARK, SALTAIRE

Planning ref: 08/00049/FUL

**Specification prepared on behalf of Bradford Metropolitan District Council at
the request of Mick Priestley of BMDC Parks and Landscape Service**

1. Summary

1.1 A limited amount of archaeological work consisting of a watching brief is proposed to identify and record any archaeological remains, specifically the remains of a north to south axial path, which are revealed and/or disturbed during groundworks at this site. This specification has been written by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS), the holders of the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record..

NOTE: The requirements detailed in paragraphs 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 11.1 are to be carried out by the archaeological contractor **prior** to the commencement of fieldwork.

2. Site Location & Description (Figure 1)

Grid Reference: SE 1382 3837

2.1 Roberts Park is situated to the north of Saltaire model town. It consists of a c.6 hectare area of land bounded to the east by Victoria Road, to the north by Higher Coach Road, to the south by the River Aire and to the west by a fence. The park is located on sloping ground, which slopes southwards to the banks of the River Aire.

2.2 The site lies in the district of Bradford and in the historic township of Baildon (the mill and model town are located in the historic township of Shipley on the opposite side of the river).

3. Background

3.1 Planning approval for the restoration of Roberts Park has been granted by Bradford Metropolitan District Council.

3.2 The Planning Authority were advised by WYAAS that there is reason to believe that important archaeological remains may be affected by the proposed development and that an archaeological watching brief is required. The archaeological work is a condition to the planning consent. A specification for building recording will be issued separately.

3.3 This specification has been prepared by WYAAS, at the request of Mick Priestley of BMDC Parks and Landscape Service, to detail what is required for the watching brief and to enable an archaeological contractor to provide a quotation.

4. Archaeological Interest

4.1 Roberts Park is a registered Park and Garden of Special Historic Interest situated within the Saltaire World Heritage Site. Saltaire was laid out by Lockwood and Mawson between 1851 and 1871, and the park was one of the last parks of the model town to be completed. It was designed by William Gay, and contains structures also by Lockwood and Mawson.

4.2 The park was originally known as the People's Park, or Saltaire Park but became known as Roberts Park after 1920 when James Roberts, chairman of Shipley Urban District Council and manager of Salts Mill, presented the Park to the City of Bradford.

4.3 The principal building of the park is a semicircular tea room designed by Lockwood and Mawson which is built into a terrace; the roof of this structure acts as viewing platform. The plan of the park was designed around a wide east to west path, which runs from one end of the park to the other with a shelter at either end. Midway along this path, and directly north of the semicircular viewing platform was a bandstand, now demolished. According to a late 19th century plan by Lockwood and Mawson, an axial path was built leading north from the bandstand to the north shelter but no trace of this survives today, nor is it known if this path was ever constructed. The watching brief will be carried out in this area only in order to try to identify evidence of this path.

5. Aim of the Watching Brief

5.1 The aim of the watching brief is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits which are disturbed or exposed as a result of groundworks in the area of interest.

5.2 Specifically, the watching brief will be carried out in the area where the north path was supposed to be in an attempt to uncover evidence that it was ever constructed. This will allow us to determine how the completed park differed, if at all, from the architect's and designer's original plans.

5.3 This work will mitigate the destruction of buried archaeological remains through 'preservation by record'.

6. General Instructions

6.1 Health and Safety

6.1.1 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 West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur to outside contractors engaged to undertake this watching brief while attempting to conform to this specification. Any Health and Safety issues which may hinder

compliance with this specification should be discussed with WYAAS at the earliest possible opportunity (see section 12.2).

6.2 Confirmation of Adherence to Specification

6.2.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor must confirm adherence to this specification in writing to WYAAS, 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 WYAAS to any variations is required prior to work commencing. Unauthorised variations are made at the sole risk of the contractor (see para. 12.2 below). Modifications presented in the form of a re-written specification/project design **will not** be considered by WYAAS.

6.3 Confirmation of Timetable and Contractors' Qualifications

6.3.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor **must** provide WYAAS **in writing** with:

- a projected timetable for the site work
- details of the staff structure and numbers
- names and CVs of key project members (the project manager, site supervisor, any proposed specialists, sub-contractors *etc.*)

6.3.2 All project staff provided by the archaeological contractor must be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles, in accordance with PPG 16 para. 21. The timetable should be adequate to allow the work to be undertaken to the appropriate professional standard, subject to the ultimate judgement of WYAAS.

6.4 Notification and Monitoring

6.4.1 The watching brief will be monitored as necessary and practicable by WYAAS in its role as curator of the county's archaeology. WYAAS should be provided with **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.

6.4.2 The museums officer named in paragraph 11.1 should be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as WYAAS.

7. Fieldwork Methodology

7.1 An archaeologist should be present on site **during any excavation below a depth of 0.15m** in the area marked on figure 1. The archaeologist should view the area as it is being dug and any trench sections 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 if appropriate, and recorded.

7.2 Features/deposits of archaeological concern should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report. Section drawings (at a minimum scale

of 1:20) **must** include heights O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) **must** include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features.

7.3 The actual areas of ground disturbance (even if no archaeological remains are present) should be recorded on a suitable base map/development plan and the stratigraphic sequence and the depth of the excavations will be briefly recorded. If archaeological remains are identified, their location is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on an up-to-date 1:1250 O.S. map base.

7.4 Excavated soil should be searched as practicable for finds. All finds, except unstratified 20th century material, should be collected and retained for processing.

7.5 All securely stratified contexts should be sampled for environmental analysis and scientific dating. Additional 'spot' samples should be taken if suitable material is encountered during the watching brief.

7.6 The intention of the archaeological watching brief is not to unduly delay the work of other contractors on site, however, a degree of flexibility is also expected of the developer in order that the archaeologist can fulfil the terms of this specification (see 8.1 below). The archaeologist shall not excavate any area beyond those scheduled for destruction by the development.

7.7 If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, the watching brief reveals below-ground conditions which indicate that potentially archaeological levels are absent, the archaeologist should contact WYAAS to discuss reducing or curtailing the requirements. The work may only be curtailed with the prior agreement of WYAAS and written confirmation will be provided by WYAAS.

8. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

8.1 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 WYAAS with the relevant information to enable the matter to be resolved with the developer.

8.2 Any human remains that are discovered must initially be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. WYAAS will be notified at the earliest opportunity. If removal is necessary the remains must be excavated archaeologically in accordance with the *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* published by English Heritage (2005), a valid Ministry of Justice licence and any local environmental health regulations.

8.3 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.

9. Post-excavation Analysis and Reporting

9.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. Finds of 20th century date should be quantified and summarily described, but can then be discarded if appropriate. All finds of 19th century or earlier date should be retained and archived.

9.2 A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and fully labelled photographs/slides. Standards for archive compilation and transfer should conform to those outlined in *Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum, 2007). Labelling should be in HB pencil 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 10 below). In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be deposited in the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.

9.3 A fully illustrated report should be produced, which should include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of the results, placing them in a local and regional, and if appropriate, national context. It is not envisaged that the report is likely to be published, but it should be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers.

9.4 Location plans should be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the areas covered by the watching brief (a scale of 1:50,000 is not regarded as appropriate unless accompanied by a more detailed plan or plans). Plans should be at an appropriate scale showing: areas excavated and the identified (and, where possible, predicted) archaeological features/deposits. Trench and feature plans **must** include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features. Section drawings **must** include O.D heights and be cross-referenced to an appropriate plan.

9.5 All artefacts and environmental material will be analysed by a qualified and experienced specialist. Artefact analysis is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue. Finds critical for dating and interpretation should be illustrated.

9.6 Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, details of the current and intended location of the archive and, as an appendix, a copy of this specification.

10. Report Submission and Deposition with the HER

10.1 The archaeological contractor will supply a copy of the report to the client and another copy **directly** to the WYAAS within a period of **one month** following completion of fieldwork, unless a revised date has been agreed in writing with WYAAS. Completion of this project and a recommendation from WYAAS to discharge the planning condition are dependant on receipt by WYAAS of a satisfactory report which has been prepared in accordance with this specification. Any comments made by WYAAS in response to the submission of an unsatisfactory report will be taken into account and will result in the reissue of a suitably edited report to all parties, within a timescale which has been agreed with WYAAS.

10.2 The report will be supplied on the understanding that it will be added to the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record. and will become publicly accessible once deposited with the WYAAS unless confidentiality is explicitly requested, in which case it will become publicly accessible six months after deposition.

10.3 Copyright - Please note that by depositing this report, the contractor gives permission for the material presented within the document to be used by the WYAAS, in perpetuity, although The Contractor retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as specified in the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* (chapter IV, section 79). The permission will allow the WYAAS to reproduce material, including for non-commercial use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

10.4 The attached summary sheet should be completed and submitted to the WYAAS for inclusion in the summary of archaeological work in West Yorkshire published on WYAAS' website.

11. Archive Deposition

11.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant District museum archaeological curator in writing (copied to WYAAS) to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. In this case the contact is Bradford Museums, Manor House Museum, Castle Yard, Ilkley LS29 9DT; phone 01943 600066; District Archaeologist: Gavin Edwards.

11.2 It is the policy of Bradford Museums 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.

11.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with Bradford Museums.

11.4 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet Bradford Museums' requirements with regard to the preparation of excavation archives for deposition.

12. General Considerations

12.1 Authorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

12.1.1 If, on first visiting the site or at any time during the course of the recording exercise, it appears in the archaeologist's professional judgement that:

- i) a part or the whole of the site is not amenable to recording as detailed above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results,

then it is expected that the archaeologist will contact WYAAS as a matter of urgency in order that the matter can be resolved in liaison with the developer and the Local Planning Authority.

12.2 Unauthorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

12.2.1 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained WYAAS's consent in writing to any variation of the specification prior to the commencement of on-site work or (where applicable) prior to the finalisation of the tender. Unauthorised variations may result in WYAAS being unable to recommend determination of the planning application to the Local Planning Authority based on the archaeological information available and are therefore made solely at the risk of the contractor.

12.3 Technical Queries

12.3.1 Similarly, any technical queries arising from the specification detailed above, should be addressed to WYAAS without delay.

12.4 Valid Period of Specification

12.4.1 This specification is valid for a period of one year from date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

Rebecca Mann

January 2009

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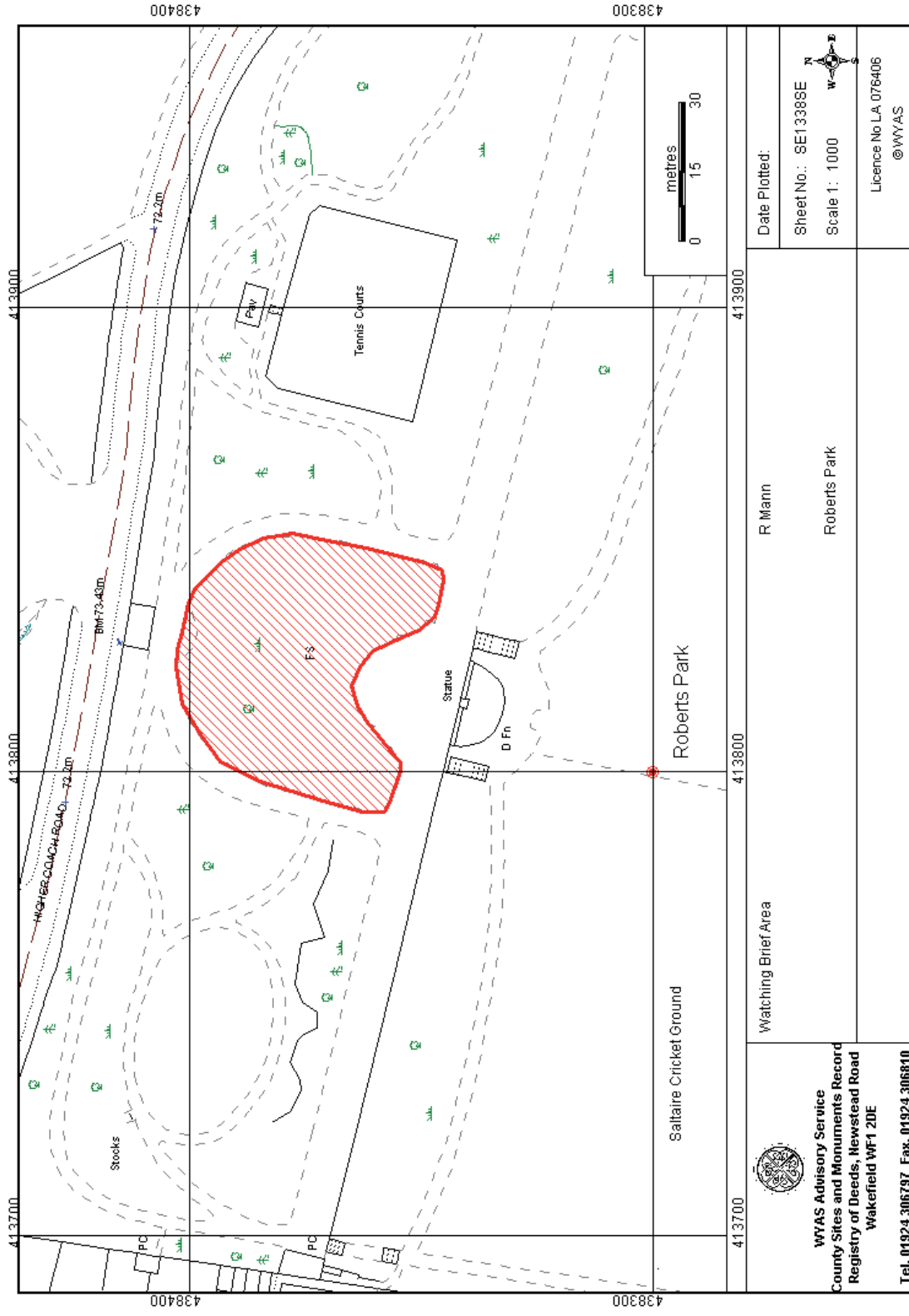


Figure 1

APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE INVENTORY

Context descriptions

Context No.	Description
100	'Topsoil' silty loam up to 0.3m deep continuous throughout the trench. 5% rounded and angular, stone up to 0.05m diam.
101	Brown mixed silty clay occurs 0.3m with 5% rounded stone up to 0.015m diam. Interpretation: either alluvial/glacial deposit or levelling deposit. Clean undisturbed context (No finds). Situated below the topsoil [100].
102	Light brown silty clay with 20-30% large rounded stone up to 0.1m diam. Larger stones up to 0.3m predominate along the eastern edge of the context resembling a stream sorted channel. Below [100], above [104].
103	Below [100], equals [101] (desc. see [101]).
104	Potential cut 4.3m wide broad north-south alignment. Below [102 & 100].

Photographic Register: digital images

No.	Trench	Description	From
1	1	General pre-excavation view	S
2	1	General pre-excavation view	SE
3	1	Excavation view of the large stone concentration [102]	S
4	1	Excavation view of the large stone concentration [102] within context	S
5-6	1	Excavation view, after removal of 0.15m of topsoil [100]	W
7-8	1	Excavation view, after removal of 0.15m of topsoil [100]	E
9	1	Working view of the excavator with toothless ditching bucket	SW
10-12	1	Detail of the south facing section, Trench 1	S
13-14	1	General view of trench 1	SW
15	1	Post excavation view	W
16-17	1	Post excavation view	E

Drawing Register

No.	Dwg.	Trench	Description
1	Plan	1	Trench Plan (1:20)