



**OUTWOOD ACADEMY, ADWICK-LE-STREET, SOUTH
YORKSHIRE**

Archaeological Evaluation and Mitigation Works

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Report for Archaeological Mitigation

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wates Construction to undertake archaeological evaluation and subsequent mitigation works on playing fields adjacent to North Ridge Community School and Outwood Academy, Adwick le Street, Doncaster, South Yorkshire (NGR 453450 408150). The evaluation works were requested by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS), advisors to the local planning authority (Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council), to inform proposals for the development. The archaeological mitigation was required as a condition of planning approval for the development of the Site (Planning Application 11/01962/3FULM). The evaluation and mitigation works followed on from a previous geophysical survey and a watching brief on the site, undertaken by Wessex Archaeology in 2011.

Initial pre-construction evaluation trenching (15 trenches) was followed by mitigation works comprising two areas of strip, map and record and three areas of watching brief. The mitigation works focussed on areas of proposed buildings, car parks, pitches and landscaping.

The results of the evaluation and mitigation works correlated well with the geophysical survey results and demonstrated that well preserved archaeological remains of an Iron Age/ Romano British ditched field system were present on the Site. The field system appeared to survive particularly well in the north and east areas of the Site (Trenches 10-15) but also extended to the west (Trench 3; SMR1) and south (WB1). Archaeological features were typically recorded at depths of c.0.3-0.4m from the present ground surface and were mostly filled with characteristically sandy silt fills. The field system is almost certainly a continuation of that observed in previous excavation works (Kozieradzka and O'Neill 2008) to the northeast of the site. Dateable finds from the field system were scarce but included sherds of prehistoric and Romano-British pottery. A small quantity of animal bone and a single fragment of worked flint were also recovered from the field system. Environmental evidence indicates a generally open grassland environment in the vicinity of the ditches.

Later activity on the Site dates to the post-medieval and modern periods, most of which related to the use of the land as allotments between the 1920s and the 1960s (Trenches 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, SMR1 and SMR2 and WB1). Identified features included boundaries, building foundations, bedding trenches, post-holes and animal burials. Of note was the finding of a St Christopher car badge in the topsoil, reported by a member of the public as being lost by his father on his former allotment on the site in 1957. If confirmed, this item will be returned.

No further analysis was recommended on material recovered from the Site. The results of the archaeological investigations are of local significance as they provide limited information for the Iron Age/ Romano-British period. It is therefore recommended that a note summarising the results of the work is prepared for inclusion in a future edition of *Archaeology in South Yorkshire*.

The project archive is held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield and will be deposited in due course with Doncaster Museum.

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The fieldwork was directed by Jessica Tibber and Ashley Tuck with the assistance of Charlotte Burton, Matthew Weightman, Dane Wright, Ralph Collard and Andrew Reid. This report was compiled by Ashley Tuck and Lucy Dawson. Illustrations were by Chris Breeden and Chris Swales. Finds were assessed by Lorraine Mephram and Chris Harrison (animal bone). Environmental samples were processed by Steve Winterton and assessed by Dr Chris J. Stevens. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill.

OUTWOOD ACADEMY, ADWICK-LE-STREET

Report for Archaeological Mitigation

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Wates Construction, hereafter 'the Client', to undertake archaeological evaluation and subsequent archaeological mitigation works on playing fields adjacent to Outwood Academy and the neighbouring North Ridge Community School, hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**). The archaeological evaluation and mitigation fieldwork followed on from previous geophysical survey and watching brief on the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2011a).

1.1.2 The pre-condition evaluation work was requested by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS), advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), to further inform proposals for the development of the Site. The archaeological mitigation and watching brief was required as a condition of planning approval for the development of the Site (Planning Application 11/01962/3FULM).

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

1.2.1 The location of the Site is approximately 6.4 km north-west of Doncaster, South Yorkshire. The Site occupies a slight incline, on a north-facing slope. The survey area is a playing field attached to North Ridge Community School and Outwood Academy (**Figure 1**, NGR 453450 408150). To the southeast, the Site is bounded by houses fronting Windmill Balk Lane, and to the northwest, by houses fronting Tenter Balk Lane. To the southwest, the old Great North Road (the A638) is separated from the playing fields by metal fencing.

1.2.2 The underlying geology is that of Upper Carboniferous Middle Coal Measures and Upper Magnesian Limestone.

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

1.3.1 Previous desk-based study (ARCUS 2006), archaeological evaluation and mitigation excavation (Kozieradzka and O'Neill 2008) were carried out in advance of the construction of the North Ridge Community School building, which lies on the northeast side of the current Site. The main excavation area revealed a linear cemetery of 37 burials and 3 empty grave cuts of probable Anglo-Saxon date, the only example of its kind in South Yorkshire. The cemetery, orientated northwest to southeast, comprised two roughly parallel lines of graves, over a distance of 50m. A radiocarbon date of AD660-780 from one of the skeletons is in keeping with grave goods found with two other skeletons, objects which date either from the 7th century AD, or have a wide date range AD450-700 that encompasses the 7th century AD. In addition, in a further excavation area to the northwest of the cemetery, two ditches were identified, on a northeast to southwest alignment, thought to relate to field boundaries of probable Iron Age/ Roman date. A small

number of artefacts from the investigations provide ephemeral evidence for prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval activity on, or in the vicinity of, the Site.

- 1.3.2 Within 1km of the Site, artefact findspots and previous investigations attest to an area rich in archaeological activity, particularly for the Iron Age and Romano-British periods (Stenton 2006). Iron Age and Romano-British settlement sites at Redhouse Farm and a Roman cemetery have been identified at Lutterworth Road to the north, and 'Roman Ridge', the 1st century Roman road between Doncaster and Castleford (Scheduled Ancient Monument no. 1179) lies to the west. The earliest Viking burial discovered thus far in Yorkshire was also recovered to the north.
- 1.3.3 Medieval activity appears to have been focused to the north east of the Site, around the medieval church of St Lawrence, which is thought to have a Norman foundation. Adwick was recorded in the 1086 Domesday survey as 'Adeuuic'. The possible site of an adjacent shrunken medieval village may have been the site of the medieval settlement, while a moated site may have been located in the vicinity of the present-day Mill Bridge. The site of the 17th century Adwick Hall also lies to the east of Outwood Academy.
- 1.3.4 Map evidence for the site shows that prior to 1930 and the construction of the school, the area under investigation was agricultural fields and then allotments (**Figure 2**). The allotments were replaced with playing fields by the mid 1970s.
- 1.3.5 As part of the current development, Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to carry out geophysical survey of the Site (**Figure 3**) and a watching brief during geotechnical test pitting (Wessex Archaeology 2011a). This work indicated that the Site contained probable evidence of an Iron Age/ Romano-British ditched field system, almost certainly part of the same field system to that previously identified to the northeast (Kozieradzka and O'Neill 2008).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1 Aims

2.1.1 The aim of the fieldwork was:

- To record, as far as is reasonably possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains observed.

2.2 Objectives

2.2.1 The objectives of the fieldwork were:

- To determine the phasing and degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.
- To determine the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual, stratigraphic or other evidence.

- To determine the condition, state of preservation and wider archaeological or historic significance of the remains.
- To collate the results of the excavation and recording, including all necessary analyses, in a single report.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Summary

3.1.1 Written Schemes of Investigation (WSI) detailing the methodology for the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2011b) and subsequent mitigation work (Wessex Archaeology 2011c) were submitted to, and approved by, Andy Lines (SYAS), prior to each phase of work commencing.

3.2 Evaluation

3.2.1 The evaluation comprised c. 690m² of trenching made up of eleven trial trenches measuring 20m x 2m, one trench measuring 20m x 4m, two trenches measuring 30m x 2m and one trench measuring 40m x 2m. Three extensions to the evaluation trenches were also requested by Andy Lines (SYAS) during fieldwork, in Trenches 1, 2 and 14, to try and assess the extent and nature of identified features. Evaluation trench 10 was re-located and extended to the south-west to avoid existing services.

3.3 Mitigation

3.3.1 The mitigation works covered c. 1,933m² and comprised two areas of Strip, Map and Record (SMR1 and SMR2) in two proposed building locations and three zones of Watching Brief (WB1, WB2 and WB3) in areas of new access routes, car parks, drainage trenches and pitches.

3.3.2 The rationale for the location of the archaeological mitigation zones was as follows:

- SMR1 = 900m² - area of new building likely to contain continuation of Iron Age/ Romano-British field system;
- SMR2 = 1033m² - area of new building likely to contain continuation of Iron Age/ Romano-British field system;
- WB1 = 3454m² - area of new access road, car parking and drainage likely to contain continuation of Iron Age/ Romano-British field system;
- WB2 = 790m² - area of new access road, car parking and drainage;
- WB3 = 9128m² - area of proposed new pitches likely to contain continuation of Iron Age/ Romano-British field system.

3.3.3 In the event, no archaeological work was carried out on WB2 as this area was built up during construction and no excavation took place of a sufficient depth to impact upon any buried archaeology. WB3 was similarly abandoned with excavation not reaching the base of the topsoil.

3.4 Fieldwork dates

- 3.4.1 Evaluation fieldwork was carried out on 1st June 2011 and between 22nd August and 8th September 2011. The mitigation (SMR1 and SMR2) and watching brief (WB1 and WB2) fieldwork took place between the 31st October 2011 and the 25th November 2011. Further watching brief fieldwork (WB3) took place between 30th July 2012 and 6th August 2012.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Summary

- 4.1.1 Detailed context descriptions for all recorded contexts are provided in **Appendix 1**.
- 4.1.2 The results of the targeted trenches generally correlated well with the geophysical survey (Wessex Archaeology 2011b). Archaeological deposits and features were found to be well preserved particularly to the north and east of the site (Trenches 10-15). No archaeological deposits or features were found in Trenches 1, 4, 6 and 9. The mitigation areas revealed continuations of Iron Age/ Romano British ditches, along with modern features associated with the use of the land as allotment gardens in the 20th century.
- 4.1.3 All the recorded archaeological features cut the natural geology and were sealed by topsoil between 0.1-0.32m deep and subsoil c.0.1-0.2m thick. Features were generally recorded at depths of c.0.3-0.5m from the present ground surface. Features of Iron Age/ Romano British date were mostly filled with characteristically orange sandy silt fills, whereas the modern features were generally filled with mid brown clayey silts or ashy deposits.

4.2 Iron Age/Romano-British

- 4.2.1 The earliest activity identified on the Site related to an Iron Age/ Romano-British field system, corresponding with that identified by geophysical survey (**Figure 3**). The ditches of the field system were roughly aligned east to west and north to south.
- 4.2.2 The central section of this field system was formed by a single ditch running east to west through Trenches 10 (**10003**), 11 (**11006**) and 12 (**12004**) (**Figures 6-8**). The profile and filling of the ditch was not consistent across the trenches. The ditch was not identified to the west in Trench 4, however, a probable continuation of the ditch was seen in the far northwest corner of mitigation area SMR1 **31033** (**Figure 12**), and also through Trench 3 **3003** (**Figure 4**).
- 4.2.3 A curving section of ditch **10010**, seen at the southeast end of Trench 10 (**Figure 6**) and later in WB1 **21103** (**Figure 14**), formed a southern continuation of the field system.
- 4.2.4 The northern section of the field system was formed by a north to south aligned ditch running through Trenches 12 (**12012**), 13 (**13005**), and 15 (**15003**) (**Figures 8, 9 and 11**), with an additional parallel ditch (**15005**) present in Trench 15 (**Figure 11**). A further ditch (**15007**) aligned northeast

to southwest (**Figure 11**), lay to the southeast of ditch **15005** in Trench 15; no dating evidence was recovered to date this feature but the geophysical survey suggests it does not form part of the same field system (**Figure 3**). An east to west aligned ditch **14007** in Trench 14 (**Figure 10**) formed a further section of the field system, parallel with the ditch seen in Trenches 10, 11 and 12, c. 90m to the south.

4.2.5 Dateable artefactual material was scarce, however pottery fragments of prehistoric and Romano-British date were retrieved from the east to west ditch in Trenches 10 (**10003**) and 11 (**11006**). Worked flint was also recovered from ditch **11006** in Trench 11. Abraded fragments of animal bone were recovered from ditch **15003** in Trench 15.

4.3 Post-Medieval/Modern

4.3.1 A large number of post-medieval/ modern features were encountered, particularly in the mitigation areas. These were characterised by mid-brown clayey silt fills or occasionally ashy fills in contrast to the earlier features which had orange sandy silt fills. These features predominantly relate to 20th century allotments.

4.3.2 Post-medieval/ modern features were identified during the evaluation as follows:

- Trench 2 had a small linear gully **2006** aligned north to south located mid-way along the trench and cut through the subsoil.
- Trench 3 had a small limestone filled pit **3005** cut through the subsoil (**Figure 4**).
- Trench 5 had a modern concrete-lined pit **5003** cut into the subsoil.
- Trench 8 included a small shallow sub-rectangular pit **8003** which contained pottery.
- Trench 10 included a post-hole **10022** which contained sherds of early post-medieval pottery.
- Trench 11 exposed a modern plastic water pipe aligned northeast to southwest (**Figure 7**).
- Trench 14 contained two sub-rectangular post-holes **14009** and **14011**, cut through an earlier phase ditch (**Figure 10**), and a shallow linear ditch **14005** aligned northwest to southeast and cut through the subsoil. The post-holes contained pottery, CBM and window glass fragments. The linear contained a sherd of pottery.

4.3.3 Post-medieval/ modern features were identified during the mitigation as follows:

- SMR1 (**Figure 12**) included two small linears aligned north to south **31018** and **31016**, interpreted as boundaries between allotments. In the southwest of the area there was a brick foundation for a greenhouse or a similar structure. Various groups of post-holes (such as **31048**), often square in plan, were encountered, likely to be the foundations for sheds or a fence line. There were a number of other

modern features including a buried bucket and an arc-shaped stain **31040** interpreted as the former location of an animal feeder.

- SMR2 (**Figure 13**) contained two post-holes, **32003** and **32008**, with CBM in the fill.
- WB1 (**Figure 14**) contained foundation trenches, post-holes and pits.

4.3.4 Post-medieval/ modern animal burials were encountered across the site as follows:

- Trench 8 contained a hen burial **8001**.
- Trench 11 contained a dog burial **11005** in a small pit **11004** (**Figure 7**). The fill of the pit also contained window glass and pottery.
- Trench 14 contained a burial of a domestic fowl **14004**.
- SMR1 contained a juvenile pig burial **31026**, aged at approximately 18 months old, with no signs of disease or butchery. The fill also contained window glass. SMR1 also contained a small dog burial **31045** wearing a modern collar.
- SMR2 contained a burial of two hens, **32007**. The fill of the burial also contained window glass. SMR2 also contained a very young or still born piglet burial **32010**.
- WB1 contained a dog burial **21006**. The fill of the dog burial also contained window glass and ferrous pins. WB1 also contained a possible cat **21011**. The fill of the cat burial contained CBM fragments.

4.3.5 A large spread of post-medieval material was identified in Trenches 4, 8 and 13 as well as in SMR1 and WB1. The deposit, c. 0.28m thick, contained numerous artefacts including pottery, glass, metal, bone and ceramic building material (CBM), almost certainly derived from levelling of the allotments in the 1970s.

4.4 Undated Features

4.4.1 One undated linear (**15007**) in Trench 5 corresponded with one of two parallel linear features identified by geophysical survey in this area (**Figure 3**).

4.4.2 Five undated post-holes were uncovered, comprising one at the western end of Trench 2 (**2008**), three in Trench 7 (**7001**, **7004**, **7011**, **Figure 5**) and one in WB1 (**21007**). The central post-hole in Trench 7 contained a fragment of copper alloy.

4.4.3 A number of irregular features, which may be archaeological or geological in origin, were identified in Trench 10. These included three possible post-holes, five possible pits and two possible gullies. All of these are most likely to be geological solution hollows. Solution hollows were also noted in WB1 and SMR2.

5 FINDS

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small quantity of finds was recovered during fieldwork. Most are of post-medieval date, and specifically dating to the 19th or 20th centuries, but there are also a few items of prehistoric and Romano-British date.
- 5.1.2 All finds have been quantified by material type within each context, and the results are presented in **Appendix 2**.

5.2 Pottery

- 5.2.1 The small pottery assemblage (93 sherds) includes material of probable prehistoric, Romano-British and post-medieval date, although the emphasis is on the modern period (19th/ 20th centuries).

Prehistoric

- 5.2.2 Four sherds from context **11008** (three joining) are in a coarse shelly fabric. The sherds are undiagnostic, and shelly fabrics have a currency from the prehistoric through to the medieval period, but these sherds, which are relatively soft-fired, are most likely to be of prehistoric date, perhaps Late Bronze Age, but more likely Iron Age in date.

Romano-British

- 5.2.3 Two joining sherds from context **10005**, in a coarse oxidised (pale orange) fabric are from a flanged bowl imitating samian form 38.

Post-medieval

- 5.2.4 The remaining 87 sherds are post-medieval, and the majority of these comprise factory produced wares potentially dating from the late 18th century onwards – refined whitewares (including transfer-printed wares), bone china, and stonewares (some with feldspathic or ‘Bristol’ glazes). The refined whitewares and bone china are used for tea wares and other serving wares, while the stonewares provided kitchen wares (storage jars and bowls). The largest groups of these wares came from contexts **4001** and **13002**. There are also a few unglazed flowerpots in coarse redwares.
- 5.2.5 Three small sherds of black-glazed Cistercian wares (context **10021**) are earlier in date (15th/16th century), and some wares could also belong to an earlier post-medieval period, for example a few sherds of glazed coarse earthenwares, and some Nottingham/Derby stonewares.

5.3 Glass

- 5.3.1 Most of the glass consists of vessel glass, and this includes several complete or near complete bottles of late 19th or early 20th century date (contexts **4001** and **13002**). Seven of these are sauce bottles, of which four square examples carry the embossed mark of ‘Fletchers / Sauce / Shipley’ (presumably pre-dating the establishment of the Fletcher’s Sauce Company’s factory in Barlby, near Selby, in 1920). There are also parts of a maximum of four Codd bottles (one almost complete) with the mark of Kendall Brothers Ltd of Adwick-Le-Street.

5.3.2 Five pieces of opaque white glass probably derive from a lampshade (context **4001**), and there are small fragments from at least two more decorative vessels in clear glass, as well as one piece of window glass.

5.3.3 One piece of glass is of pre-modern date – this is a small fragment in green glass, abraded and with surface oxidation, from a bottle of later 17th or 18th century date (context **11009**).

5.4 Metalwork

5.4.1 Metal objects comprise one undatable iron nail (context **12000**); one small fragment of copper alloy strip, of unknown date and function (context **7005**); and a modern copper alloy pendant with a religious motif and illegible lettering (context **2000**). It is possible that this was a badge mentioned by a member of the public as being lost by his father on his former allotment on the Site in 1957.

5.5 Worked Bone

5.5.1 One small piece of worked bone from context **4001** comes from a post-medieval scale tang cutlery handle; this is part of one rectangular plate, with a lentoid section, and well executed incised decorative cross-hatching; one iron rivet is still *in situ*, and the plate has broken across a second rivet hole.

5.6 Other Finds

5.6.1 Other finds comprised two fragments of clay tobacco pipe stem (one stamped 'No. 3'), three worked flint flakes; four very small and undiagnostic fragments of ceramic building material (CBM); and a small piece of synthetic material, possibly an early plastic such as celluloid or phenolic ('bakelite').

5.7 Animal Bone

5.7.1 The number of fragments from each context is summarised by number and weight in **Appendix 2**.

Evaluation

5.7.2 Most of the bone is in very good condition, although this applies mainly to the complete or almost complete skeletons. Other redeposited bones show higher levels of abrasion, and seven small fragments from context **15004** are too abraded for the identification of species.

5.7.3 Context **11005** contained what appears to be the complete skeleton of a dog, while most of a domestic fowl-sized bird (hen) was found in **8001**. Other bird bones, again probably domestic fowl, occurred in context **14004**, while fragments of cattle (phalange and vertebra) and sheep/goat (tooth, metapodial) were found in contexts **13002** and **8001** respectively.

Strip, Map and Record and Watching Brief Areas

5.7.4 The animal bone assemblage represents material recovered from deposits believed to be to 19th or 20th century in date.

5.7.5 The majority of the animal bone retrieved came from several near complete skeletons. The species represented were 2 dogs, 2 juvenile-sub adult pigs, 2 hens and a possible cat.

5.7.6 Context **31030** contained the hind of a fully grown small dog. A full skeleton save a few phalanges of a small fully grown dog was uncovered from context **31045**. Context **31026** contained the near complete skeletal remains of an 18-24 month old pig. Although no obvious bone deformation was noticed during assessment, the lack of butchery marks on the skeletal remains suggests that the animal could have died of disease or starvation and been buried whole. Context **32007** contained the heavily damaged remains of 2 hens. The absence of butchery marks on the hens suggests that they may have been buried whole after they died. Context **32010** contained a pig of less than 6 months in age. Young pig deaths are common as pigs give birth to multiple offspring at an under developed stage of growth in order that a few of the litter survive. There was also a possible cat from **21011**.

5.7.7 The assemblage is predominantly from modern contexts and typical of burials commonplace in modern allotments. The assemblage was not butchered and no pathological identifiers were noticed on any bone during the assessment.

5.8 Potential and Further Recommendations

5.8.1 No further work on the finds is warranted; all have been recorded to an appropriate archive level.

5.8.2 Given the date range of the majority of the assemblage, and its provenance, total retention for long-term curation is not necessary, and the modern pottery and glass could be targeted for discard prior to archive deposition.

5.8.3 Given the small size of the animal bone assemblage, and that the majority of the material is derived from modern contexts, no further work is recommended. However, the complete skeletons will be retained as part of the Wessex reference collection.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 Ten environmental samples, from features associated with the prehistoric/Romano-British field system, were processed for the recovery and assessment of charred plant remains and charcoal (**Appendix 3**).

6.2 Charred plant remains

6.2.1 The bulk samples were processed by standard flotation methods; the flot retained on a 0.5 mm mesh, residues fractionated into 5.6 mm, 2mm and 1mm fractions and dried. The coarse fractions (>5.6 mm) were sorted, weighed and discarded. Flots were scanned under a x10 – x40 stereo-binocular microscope and the preservation and nature of the charred plant and wood charcoal remains recorded in **Appendix 3**. Preliminary identifications of dominant or important taxa are noted below, following the nomenclature of Stace (1997) for wild plants, and traditional nomenclature, as provided by Zohary and Hopf (2000, Tables 3, page 28 and 5, page 65), for cereals.

- 6.2.2 The flots were relatively small, although with generally low numbers of modern uncharred roots and uncharred seeds that are indicative of stratigraphic movement and the possibility of contamination by later intrusive elements.
- 6.2.3 The samples yielded very little charred evidence and cereal remains were only preserved in three samples. These comprised single glume bases of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) from ditches 12004 and 10010, and single grains of barley (*Hordeum vulgare*) and free-threshing wheat (*Triticum aestivum/turgidum* type) from ditch 15005.
- 6.2.4 Several of the samples contained rootlets, stems and culm nodes of grasses (Poaceae), as well as rhizomes and stems of monocots in general (grasses, along with sedges, and rushes). These were present within Ditch slots 10003, 10010, 11006, 12004, and 14007. These same samples had occasional seeds of wild species, including vetch/wild pea (*Vicia Lathyrus* sp.) and knotgrass (*Polygonum aviculare*) from 10010, and spikerush (*Eleocharis* sp.) from ditch 12004.
- 6.2.5 The only other remains worthy of note were a few fragments of hazelnut (*Corylus avellana*) shell from ditches 10010 and 11006.
- 6.2.6 Remains of monocot stems and rhizomes are commonly recorded from sites in northern England and can be associated with the burning of turfs from heath grassland (Hall 2003; Hall and Huntley 2007).
- 6.2.7 Remains of cereals are often reflective of domestic activity and settlement, and hence the longevity and/or density of occupation. As such the low levels of cereal remains might be seen as indicating either short-lived occupation, that domestic activities were carried out away from the field system, or that the area did not house substantial settlement, or at least not by cereal farmers to any great extent.
- 6.2.8 It might be noted that other Roman sites in the region have also produced relatively low numbers of cereal remains, such as Billingley Drive 99, Thunscoc (Giorgi 2004; Hall and Huntley 2007, 88), although an oven from this site did produce quite substantial deposits of hulled wheat, mainly of spelt wheat (*Triticum spelta*) on the basis of chaff, as seen at this site, but also with some emmer (*Triticum dicoccum*). As at this site there was some evidence for the burning of heathland vegetation, presumably turves. Likewise the Roman ditch fills at Shafton, around 10 miles to the north, produced relatively few cereal remains, although a greater number than seen on this site, which included emmer, spelt and barley (Young 2001).

6.3 Wood charcoal

- 6.3.1 Wood charcoal was noted from the flots of the bulk samples and is recorded in **Appendix 3**. Consistent with the absence of charred plant remains, there was little to no charcoal within any of the samples.

6.4 Land snails

- 6.4.1 During the processing of bulk soil samples for the recovery of charred remains, snails were noted, and recorded (**Appendix 3**), in the flots. Nomenclature and habitat information is according to Kerney (1999).

6.4.2 Generally few shells were seen within the samples from the ditches those present included shells of the intermediate species *Cepaea* sp. from ditch 10003 and a shell of the open country species *Vallonia* sp. from 10011. Several shells including single shells of the shade-loving species *Oxychilus/Aegopinella* sp. and *Carychium* sp., the intermediate species *Cepaea* sp. and the open country species *Pupilla muscorum* were recovered from ditch slot 11006. These assemblages may be indicative of a generally open grassland environment in the vicinity of the ditches.

6.5 Potential

6.5.1 Charred plant remains can inform on the nature of the site, the range of crop species grown, as well as upon the processing and storage of crops, and crop husbandry in general. However, given the low numbers of charred plant remains present, such potential is extremely limited.

6.5.2 While wood charcoal can inform on the range of species selected for fuel, as well as upon woodland management and composition, the samples have no further potential given the low number of remains present.

6.5.3 Molluscan remains can inform on the nature of the local landscape, however, given the low numbers present such potential is limited.

6.6 Proposals

6.6.1 No further analysis is recommended.

7 DISCUSSION

7.1 Results

7.1.1 The results of the evaluation and mitigation works corresponded well with the geophysical survey results and demonstrated that well preserved archaeological remains of an Iron Age/ Romano British ditched field system are present on the site. The field system appears to survive particularly well in the north and east areas of the site (Trenches 10-15) but also extends to the west (Trench 3; SMR1) and south (WB1). Archaeological features were typically recorded at depths of c.0.3-0.4m from the present ground surface and mostly filled with characteristically sandy silt fills. The field system is almost certainly a continuation of that observed in previous excavation works (Kozieradzka and O'Neill 2008) to the northeast of the site. Dateable finds from the field system were scarce but included sherds of prehistoric and Romano-British pottery. A small quantity of animal bone and a single fragment of worked flint were also recovered from the field system. Environmental evidence was indicative of a generally open grassland environment in the vicinity of the ditches.

7.1.2 Later activity on the site dates to the post-medieval and modern periods, most of which relates to the use of the land as allotments between the 1920s and the 1960s (Trenches 2, 4, 5, 8, 11, 13, 14, SMR1 and SMR2 and WB1). Identified features included boundaries, building foundations, bedding trenches, post-holes and animal burials. Of note was the finding of a probable St Christopher car badge in the topsoil, reported by a member of

the public as being lost by his father on his former allotment on the site in 1957. If confirmed, this item will be returned.

- 7.1.3 Sterile features, most likely solution hollows of geological origin, were identified during the evaluation and mitigation works.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 Summary

- 8.1.1 No further analysis was recommended on material recovered from the Site. The results of the archaeological investigations are of local significance as they provide limited additional information for the Iron Age/ Romano-British period. It is therefore recommended that a note summarising the results of the work is prepared for inclusion in a future edition of *Archaeology in South Yorkshire*.

9 ARCHIVE AND COPYRIGHT

9.1 Archive

- 9.1.1 The project archive (**Appendix 4**) has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Archaeological archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (Brown 2007). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 77622. The archive will be deposited with Doncaster Museum in due course. An OASIS form will be submitted at the time of deposition.

9.2 Copyright

- 9.2.1 This report, and the archive generally, may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

	Context Type	Context Description	Depth below ground level (m)
Trench No. 1			
1000	Deposit	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil	0 – 0.27m
1001	Deposit	Mid-orange brown sandy silt subsoil	0.27 – 0.70m
1002	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.70m+
1003	Cut	Natural hollow	0.50m – 0.80m
Trench No. 2			
2000	Deposit	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil	0 – 0.25m
2001	Deposit	Reddish brown sandy silt subsoil	0.20m – 0.40m
2002	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.40m+
2003	Cut	Natural hollow	0.35m – 0.65m
2004	Deposit	Primary fill of 2003	0.45m – 0.65m
2005	Deposit	Secondary fill of 2003	0.35m – 0.45m
2006	Cut	Cut of post-med gully	0.20m – 0.48m
2007	Deposit	Fill of 2006	0.20m – 0.48m
2008	Cut	Post-hole cut	-
2009	Deposit	Fill of 2008	-
Trench No. 3			
3000	Deposit	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil	0 – 0.28m
3001	Deposit	Mid-orange brown sandy silt subsoil	0.28m – 0.54m
3002	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.54m+
3003	Cut	Cut of linear E-W ditch	0.50m – 0.95m
3004	Deposit	Fill of 3003	0.50m – 0.95m
3005	Cut	Cut of pit	0.52m
3006	Deposit	Fill of 3005	0.26m – 0.52m
Trench No. 4			
4000	Deposit	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil	0 – 0.28m
4001	Deposit	Very dark greyish brown sandy silt – post med- levelling layer	0.28m – 0.46m
4002	Deposit	Mid-orange brown sandy silt subsoil	0.46m – 1.04m
4003	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	1.04m+
Trench No. 5			
5000	Deposit	Mid-brown silty topsoil	0 – 0.25m
5001	Deposit	Mid-orange brown sandy silt subsoil	0.25m – 0.38m
5002	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.38m+
5003	Cut	Cut for concrete structure 5004	-
5004	Structure	Concrete base structure	-
5005	Deposit	Fill of 5003	-
Trench No. 6			
6000	Deposit	Mid-brown silty topsoil	0 – 0.25m
6001	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.25m+

Trench No. 7			
7001	Cut	Cut of post-hole	0.30m – 0.45m
7002	Deposit	Secondary fill of 7000	0.30m – 0.45m
7003	Deposit	Primary fill of 7000	0.30m – 0.45m
7004	Cut	Cut of post-hole	0.30m – 0.50m
7005	Deposit	Post pipe in 7004	0.30m – 0.50m
7006	Deposit	Secondary fill of 7004	0.30m – 0.50m
7007	Cut	Cut of post-hole	0.30m – 0.50m
7008	Deposit	Secondary fill of 7007	0.30m – 0.60m
7009	Deposit	Post pipe in 7007	0.30m – 0.60m
7010	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.30m+
7011	Deposit	Orange light brown sandy clay subsoil	0.20m – 0.30m
7012	Deposit	Dark greyish brown silty sand topsoil	0.10m – 0.20m
7013	Deposit	Turf layer	0 – 0.10m
Trench No. 8			
8000	Deposit	Dark greyish brown sandy silt	0 – 0.34m
8001	Deposit	Mid- orange brown sandy silt subsoil	0.34m – 0.54
8002	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.54m+
8003	Cut	Cut of shallow linear gully	-
8004	Deposit	Fill of 8003	-
Trench No. 9			
9000	Deposit	Dark brown clayey silt topsoil	0 – 0.32m
9001	Deposit	Mid-light reddish brown silt subsoil 1	0.23m – 0.48m
9002	Deposit	Dark reddish brown fine clayey silt subsoil 2	0.39m – 1.40m
9003	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.55m+
Trench No. 10			
10000	Deposit	Dark greyish brown sandy silt topsoil	0 – 0.21m
10001	Deposit	Mid-orange brown sandy silt subsoil	0.21m – 0.38m
10002	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.38m+
10003	Cut	Cut of large linear ditch	0.38m – 1.14m
10004	Fill	Tertiary fill of 10003	0.38m – 0.85m
10005	Fill	Secondary fill of 10003	0.85m – 1.07m
10006	Fill	Primary fill of 10003	1.07m – 1.14m
10007	Cut	Cut of linear enclosure ditch	-
10008	Deposit	Fill of 1007	-
10009	Deposit	Layer of natural sand	-
10010	Cut	Cut of possible boundary ditch	-
10011	Deposit	Fill of 10010	-
10012	Cut	Cut of ditch terminus	-
10013	Deposit	Fill of 10012	-
10014	Cut	Cut for pit	-
10015	Deposit	Fill of 10014	-
10016	Cut	Cut for pit	-
10017	Deposit	Fill of 10016	-
10018	Cut	Cut for pit	-

10019	Deposit	Fill of 10019	-
10020	Cut	Cut for possible ditch terminus	-
10021	Deposit	Fill of 10020	-
10022	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
10023	Deposit	Fill of 10022	-
10024	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
10025	Deposit	Fill of 10024	-
10026	Cut	Cur for post-hole	-
10027	Deposit	Fill of 10026 and 10028	-
10028	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
10029	Cut	Cut for pit	-
10030	Deposit	Fill of 10029	-
10031	Cut	Cut for pit	-
10032	Deposit	Fill of 10031	-
Trench No. 11			
11000	Deposit	Dark brown silt – turf layer	0 – 0.10m
11001	Deposit	Dark greyish brown silt topsoil	0.10m – 0.35m
11002	Deposit	Mid-reddish brown sandy silt subsoil	0.15m – 0.50m
11003	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.30m+
11004	Cut	Cut of animal grave	0.30m – 0.40m
11005	Deposit	Fill of 11004	0.30m – 0.40m
11006	Cut	Cut of ditch	0.30m – 1.20m
11007	Deposit	Primary fill of 11006	0.30m – 0.75m
11008	Deposit	Secondary fill of 11006	0.75m – 0.95m
11009	Deposit	Tertiary fill of 11006	0.95m – 1.20m
11010	Deposit	Natural sand layer	0.90m – 1.0m
11011	Deposit	Natural sand layer	0.70m – 1m
11012	Deposit	Limestone bank for ditch 11006	0.35m – 0.65m
Trench No. 12			
12000	Deposit	Turf layer	0 – 0.10m
12001	Deposit	Dark brown silt topsoil	0.10m – 0.30m
12002	Deposit	Reddish brown silty sand subsoil	0.30m – 0.50m
12003	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.75+
12004	Cut	Cut for ditch	-
12005	Deposit	Primary fill of 12004	-
12006	Deposit	Secondary fill of 12004	-
12007	Deposit	Secondary fill of 12004	-
12008	Deposit	Fill of 12004	-
12009	Deposit	Secondary fill of 12012	-
12010	Deposit	Secondary fill of 12012	-
12011	Deposit	Secondary fill of 12012	-
12012	Cut	Cut for ditch	-
12013	Deposit	Primary fill of 12012	-
12014	Deposit	Secondary fill of 12012	-
Trench No. 13			
13001	Deposit	Mid-brown silt topsoil	0 – 0.17m
13002	Deposit	Mid-orange brown silt subsoil	0.17m – 0.56m
13003	Deposit	Limestone – natural	0.46m+
13004	Deposit	Black, blue, grey mix ash levelling layer	0.17m – 0.30m

13005	Cut	Cut for ditch	-
13006	Deposit	Fill of 13005	-
Trench No. 14			
14000	Deposit	Dark brown silty clay topsoil	0 – 0.20m
14001	Deposit	Reddish brown silty clay	0.20m – 0.35m
14002	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.35m+
14003	Cut	Cut for animal grave	0.20m – 0.28m
14004	Deposit	Fill of 14003	0.20m – 0.28m
14005	Cut	Cut for post-medieval ditch	-
14006	Deposit	Fill of 14005	-
14007	Cut	Cut for ditch	-
14008	Deposit	Primary fill of 14007	-
14009	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
14010	Deposit	Fill of 14009	-
14011	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
14012	Deposit	Fill of 14011	-
14013	Deposit	Secondary fill of 14007	-
14014	Deposit	Natural solution hollow	-
Trench No. 15			
15000	Deposit	Mid- brown silt topsoil	0 – 0.17m
15001	Deposit	Mid-orange/brown silt subsoil	0.17m – 0.25m
15002	Deposit	Limestone bedrock – natural	0.25m+
15003	Cut	Cut for ditch	-
15004	Deposit	Fill of 15003	-
15005	Cut	Cut for ditch	-
15006	Deposit	Fill of 15005	-
15007	Cut	Cut for ditch	-
15008	Deposit	Fill of 15007	-
Watching Brief Area 1 (WB1)			
21000	Deposit	Mid-brown clayed silt topsoil	0 – 0.20m
21001	Deposit	Orange brown clayey silt - natural	0.20m+
21002	Cut	Cut for modern linear	0.20m – 0.50m
21003	Deposit	Fill of 21002	0.20m – 0.50m
21004	Cut	Cut for small animal grave	0.20m – 0.40m
21005	Deposit	Fill of 21004	0.20m – 0.40m
21006	ABG	Dog burial in 21004	0.20m – 0.40m
21007	Cut	Cut for post-hole	0.20m – 0.30m
21008	Deposit	Fill of 21007	0.20m – 0.30m
21009	Cut	Cut for small animal grave	0.20m – 0.25m
21010	Deposit	Fill of 21009	0.20m – 0.25m
21011	ABG	Burial in 21009	0.20m – 0.25m
21100	Deposit	Mid-brown clayey silt topsoil	0 – 0.30m
21101	Deposit	Orange brown clayey silt – natural	0.30m – 0.50m
21102	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.50+
21103	Cut	Cut for curvilinear ditch	0.30m – 0.90m
21104	Deposit	Fill of 21103	0.30m – 0.90m
21105	Group	Group of N-S modern linears	0.30m – 0.40m
Watching Brief Area 2 (WB2)			
22000	Deposit	Mid-brown clayey silt topsoil	0-0.1m+

Watching Brief Area 3 (WB3)			
23001	Deposit	Light-mid brown silty loam topsoil	0-0.25m
23002	Deposit	Orange brown silty loam subsoil	0.25+
Strip Map and Record Area 1 (SMR1)			
31000	Deposit	Dark brown clayey silt topsoil	0 – 0.20m
31001	Deposit	Orange brown silty clay subsoil	0.20m – 0.60m
31002	Deposit	Orangey brown clayey silt - natural	0.60m+
31003	Deposit	Limestone bedrock - natural	0.30m+
31004	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31005	Deposit	Fill for 31004	-
31006	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31007	Deposit	Fill of 31006	-
31008	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31009	Deposit	Fill of 31008	-
31010	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31011	Deposit	Fill of 31010	-
31012	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31013	Deposit	Fill of 31012	-
31014	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31015	Deposit	Fill of 31014	-
31016	Cut	Cut for N-S linear	-
31017	Deposit	Fill of 31016	-
31018	Cut	Cut for N-S linear	-
31019	Deposit	Fill of 31018	-
31020	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31021	Deposit	Fill of 31020	-
31022	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31023	Deposit	Fill of 31022	-
31024	Cut	Cut for animal grave (pig)	-
31025	Deposit	Fill of 31024	-
31026	ABG	Pig burial in 31024	-
31027	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31028	Deposit	Fill of 31027	-
31029	Cut	Cut for small animal grave	-
31030	Deposit	Fill of 31029	-
31031	Cut	Cut for pit	-
31032	Deposit	Fill of 31031	-
31033	Cut	Cut for linear	-
31034	Deposit	Primary fill of 31033	-
31035	Deposit	Secondary fill of 31033	-
31036	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31037	Deposit	Fill of 31036	-
31038	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31039	Deposit	Fill of 31038	-
31040	Deposit	Arc shaped feature	-
31041	Cut	Cut of modern linear	-
31042	Deposit	Fill of 31041	-
31043	Cut	Cut of animal grave	-
31044	Deposit	Fill of 31043	-
31045	ABG	Dog burial in 31043	-

31046	Cut	Cut for linear	-
31047	Deposit	Fill of 31046	-
31048	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
31049	Deposit	Fill of 31048	-
Strip Map and Record Area 2 (SMR2)			
32000	Deposit	Dark brown mixed silt topsoil	0 – 0.30m
32001	Deposit	Orange-brown clayey silt -natural	0.30m – 0.50m
32002	Deposit	Limestone bedrock	0.50m+
32003	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
32004	Deposit	Fill of 32003	-
32005	Cut	Cut for animal burial	-
32006	Deposit	Fill of 32005	-
32007	ABG	Bird burial in 32005	-
32008	Cut	Cut for post-hole	-
32009	Deposit	Fill of 32008	-
32010	ABG	Animal burial	-

APPENDIX 2: FINDS BY CONTEXT

Context	Animal Bone	Glass	Pottery	Other Finds
2000				1 copper alloy pendant with religious motif, possibly St Christopher badge
4001		16/1565	30/514	1 clay pipe; 1 worked bone; 1 synthetic
7005				1 copper alloy
8000			6/32	
8001	61/106			
8004			1/6	
10000			7/262	
10005			2/60	
10021			3/1	
11005	281/334	3/4	1/1	
11008			4/20	1 worked flint
11009		1/2		
12000			3/26	1 iron
13002	3/76	6/348	29/1092	1 clay pipe
14000			2/92	1 worked flint
14004	9/4			
14006			1/14	
14012			1/1	4 CBM
15000			2/6	1 worked flint
15004	7/4			
21205				3 iron
31017	40/10			
31023				1 CBM
31026	420/3338			
31030	89/92			
31037		1/1		
31039	1/1			
31042		52/152		1 CBM, 1 clay pipe
31044				2 copper alloy
31045	204/542			
31047			1/2	
31049		1/4		
32004				1 CBM
32007	63/26			
32010	178/250			
T10 U/S		1/4		
TOTALS	1356/4779	81/2080	93/2133	

All finds by context (number / weight in grams)

APPENDIX 3: CHARRED PLANT REMAINS AND CHARCOAL

• Samples			• Flot									
Feature	Context	Sample	Vol. Ltrs	Flot (ml)	% roots	Charred Plant Remains				Charcoal >4/2mm	Other	Analysis
						Grain	Chaff	Other	Comments			
TRENCH 10												
Ditch 10003	10004	8	20	25	10	-	-	-	Amorous charcoal. Coal background. Charred stems	1ml/1ml	Moll-t (C)	-
Ditch 10010	10011	9	20	15	50	-	C	A	Vicia sp., spelt glume bases x1, Poaceae stem, ?Genista type stem, charred rootlet Corylus avellana x2, Polygonum aviculare x1	0/1ml	Moll-t (C)	-
TRENCH 11												
Ditch 11006	11007	10	20	50	5	-	-	A	Coal. 2x Corylus frgs. Rootlets, Charred monocot stems and rhizomes x 4-5	0/1ml	Moll-t (C)	-
TRENCH 12												
Ditch 12012	12013	11	20	30	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ditch 12004	12007	12	20	35	20	-	-	B	Coal, 1x Eleocharis sp. Poaceae stems, culms, monocot rhizomes	0/1ml	-	-
TRENCH 13												
Ditch 13005	13006	13	20	60	3	-	C	-	Coal, spelt glume bases.	0/1ml	-	-
TRENCH 14												
Ditch 14007	14008	14	20	20	30	-	-	-	Coal, charred stems. Rootlets.	1/1ml	-	-
TRENCH 15												
Ditch 15003	15004	6	20	15	10	-	-	-	Coal.	-	-	-
Ditch 15005	15006	7	20	45	10	C	-	-	Free-threshing wheat x1, barley x1, cereal x1	1/1ml	-	-
Ditch 15007	15008	15	20	30	15	-	-	-	Coal, modern plum stone?	-	-	-

• Key: A*** = exceptional, A** = 100+, A* = 30-99, A = >10, B = 9-5, C = <5; Moll-t = terrestrial molluscs,

APPENDIX 4: ARCHIVE INDEX

Paper archive			
Folder/box no.	Folder/box type	Item(s)	No.
1	A4 ring binder	Risk Assessment	1
		Written Scheme of Investigation	1
		Geophysical Repost	1
		Day Book Copies	6
		Trench Record and Context Sheets	135
		Photographic Record	9
		Graphic Registers	3
		Drawing Sheets	31
		Object Register	1
		Environmental Sample Register	1
		Environmental Sample Record	15
		Photographic Registers	12
		Black and White Negatives and Contacts Sheets	4
		Colour slide Films with CD	1
		Bound copy of final report	1
2	A4 ring binder	Day Register	2
		Written Scheme of Investigation	1
		Risk Assessment	1
		Trench Record and Context Sheets	81
		Graphics Register	2
		Drawings	10
		Photographic Registers	5
		Black and White Negatives and Contact Sheets	2
		Colour slide Films with CD	2
	Medium Box	Evaluation Finds	-
	Medium Box	SMR & WB Finds – Pig Skeleton	-
	Small Box	SMR & WB Finds	-