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**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

**CASTLE MARKET,  
SHEFFIELD**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

**March 2017**

*your earth our world*




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**SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL**

**Castle Market, Sheffield**

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report**

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Plate 4: Fully excavated trial pit 101, facing south.

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Figure 1: Site Location

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## SUMMARY

Wardell Armstrong (WA) was commissioned by Sheffield City Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Castle Market, Sheffield, S3 8LE (National Grid Reference: SK 3585 8771). The work was commissioned to clarify key aspects of culvert construction and existing ground conditions to inform further works.

The watching brief comprised of the monitoring of excavations for two trial pits (TP101 and TP102) excavated to a maximum depth of 2.5m to test the strength of the River Sheaf culvert wall, close to the site of Sheffield Castle.

In the monitoring of excavations of the test pits the lowest deposit in the trial pit 101 had the possibility of being archaeologically significant, possibly being associated with the diversion of the River Sheaf in 1881.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Wardell Armstrong (WA) thanks Sheffield City Council for commissioning the project, and for all their assistance throughout the work.

The watching brief was undertaken by Jaime M. Levell, who also wrote the report. Finds assessment was by Sue Thompson. The project was managed by Martin Railton, who also edited the report.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Project Circumstances and Planning Background**

- 1.1.1 On 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 Wardell Armstrong (WA) undertook an archaeological watching brief at Castle Market, Sheffield, S3 8LE (Centred on National Grid Reference NGR: SK 3585 8771, Figure 1). The work was commissioned by Sheffield City Council who intended to clarify key aspects of culvert construction and existing ground conditions to inform further works.
- 1.1.2 The work was located to the northeast of the site of Sheffield Castle, which is now largely covered by Castle Market. Detailed desk-based research has previously been undertaken of Castle Market by ARCUS (ARCUS 1998 and 2009) and ARS (2009) as well as an archaeological evaluation by Ed Dennison Archaeological Services (2013). In addition to this an archaeological evaluation was completed to the east of the castle building by ARCUS in 1998/9, this included two trenches either side of the River Sheaf Culvert (ARCUS 1999 and 2000). Whilst it has not been possible to fully access these results the report of the second stage of evaluation contains information about the moated area to the west of Castle Market.
- 1.1.3 The trial pits were located to the northeast of the castle market, within the projected area of the castle moat (ARCUS 2009). As a result, a watching brief was required to monitor the excavation work to record any finds.

## **2 METHODOLOGY**

### **2.1 Standards and guidance**

2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken following the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a), and in accordance with the WA Excavation Manual (2017).

2.1.2 A watching brief is defined as a programme of monitoring and investigation carried out during a non-archaeological activity within a specified area of land or development where construction operations may disturb or destroy archaeological remains' (CIfA 2014a).

2.1.3 The fieldwork programme was followed by an assessment of the data as set out in the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a), and the *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b).

### **2.2 Documentary Research**

2.2.2 An archaeological desk-based assessment was prepared by ARCUS in 1998 (ARCUS 1998), which sets out the archaeological and historical background of the site and provided an assessment of the significance of all known and potential heritage assets. Readers are directed to this report for further details.

### **2.3 The Watching Brief**

2.3.1 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of all intrusive works associated with investigating and clarifying the structure of the River Sheaf Culvert. This comprised of the excavation of two trial pits adjacent to the west edge of the culvert. Trial pit 101 measured 5m by 7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.5m. Trial pit 102 was located 6.8m south of trial pit 101 and measured 5m by 8m to a maximum depth of 2.5m (Figure 2).

2.3.2 The general aims of these investigations were:

- allow the monitoring archaeologist to signal that an archaeological find has been made before it is destroyed;
- to provide the opportunity for appropriate resource allocation if the archaeological find cannot be dealt with under the watching brief remit;
- to determine the presence or absence of buried archaeological remains;



- to determine the character, date, extent and distribution of any archaeological deposits and their potential significance;
- investigate and record all deposits and features of archaeological interest;
- to determine the likely impact on archaeological deposits from any proposed development;
- to disseminate the results of the fieldwork through an appropriate level of reporting

2.3.3 Deposits considered not to be archaeologically significant were removed by a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket. All intrusive groundworks were monitored under close supervision by a suitably trained archaeologist. In trial pit 101 there was a possibility that the lowest deposit (106) could have archaeological potential.

2.3.4 All finds encountered were returned to the Carlisle office where they were identified, quantified and dated to period. A *terminus post quem* was then produced for each stratified context under the supervision of the WA Finds Officer, and the dates were used to help determine the broad date phases for the site.

2.3.5 On completion of this project, the finds were cleaned and packaged according to standard guidelines (ClfA 2014b). Please note, the following categories of material will be discarded after a period of six months following the submission of this report, unless there is a specific request to retain them (and subject to the collection policy of the relevant depository):

- unstratified material;
- modern pottery;
- material that has been assessed as having no obvious grounds for retention.

2.3.6 One soil sample was obtained from deposit (106) and was returned to the Carlisle office.

2.3.7 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology supports the Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an on-line index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature, created as a result of developer-funded archaeological work. As a result, details of the results of this project will be made available by WA as a part of this national project. The OASIS reference for the project is: wardella2-278290.

### 3 BACKGROUND

#### 3.1 Location and Geological Context

3.1.1 The site is located within Castle Market, Sheffield, S3 8LE (National Grid Reference SK 3585 8771), which is situated in Sheffield City Centre, on the confluence between the River Sheaf to the east (now culverted) and River Don to the north (Figure 1). To the north is Castlegate Road leading to Blonk Bridge and Lady Bridge to cross the River Don. Ground level of the site was c. 48.88 m aOD (above Ordnance Datum)

3.1.2 The underlying solid geology within the area of investigation is mapped as Pennine Lower Coal Measures deposited during the Langsettian sub stage (313 million years ago). This is overlain by superficial deposits of Alluvium; clay, silt and sand (BGS 2017).

3.1.3 No natural substrate was identified in these investigations.

#### 3.2 Historical and Archaeological Background

3.2.1 A desk-based assessment was produced previously to assess the known historical and archaeological background of the site as well as the surrounding landscape (ARCUS 1998). The intention of this document is not to repeat that information here and what follows is a brief overview, for further details please refer to the original document.

3.2.2 The desk-based assessment concluded that there was a reasonable likelihood that archaeological remains of post-medieval date may be present within the proposed development site with some chance of medieval remains.

3.2.3 During building work on the Castle Market in 1927-30 Leslie Armstrong undertook an archaeological watching brief, these excavations uncovered part of the gateway as well as some of the moat to the south east (Armstrong 1930). Further works continued on the south and east moat including some work against the River Sheaf culvert (ARCUS 1999 and 2000). From these trial trenches ARCUS have projected the course of the moat to run alongside the River Sheaf, returning to the north, close to the placement of the trial pits.

3.2.4 **Prehistoric:** There is currently no evidence for prehistoric remains within the development area.

3.2.5 **Romano-British:** During the excavations by Armstrong in 1930 it is stated that roman ceramics were uncovered (Armstrong 1930) however as these materials are lost and this claim has been disputed (ARCUS 2009).

- 3.2.6 **Early Medieval:** Excavations within the castle in between 1927-29 by Armstrong claimed to have uncovered evidence for a substantial timber building which pre-dated the Norman castle (Armstrong 1930). It has been suggested that the castle at Sheffield could be a possible site for the hall of Waltheof, earl of Northumbria (Faull and Stinson 1986).
- 3.2.7 According to Armstrong (1930) a small amount of ceramic uncovered from a ditch was of Saxon date however as the material has not been retained this cannot be confirmed. Butcher (1970) subsequently found late 11<sup>th</sup> century ceramic at Castle Market which is referred to as 'Saxo-Norman', again this casts doubt on Armstrong's evidence. During the excavations of the moat Armstrong identified the earliest stage contained timber stakes, the date of these has never been confirmed, and stakes were observed in the 1644 siege (ARCUS 2009).
- 3.2.8 **Medieval:** Armstrong identified a burnt destruction layer prior to the construction of the first Sheffield Castle c.1100 (Armstrong 1930). Detailed information about the different possible forms the first castle could have taken is discussed by ARCUS (2009). Excavations by ARCUS in 1998/9 established though ceramic evidence that moat was open in the 12<sup>th</sup> century associated with the first castle on the site (ibid). It is unclear whether this castle contained stone structures but it was destroyed in 1266 and replaced with a licenced stone built castle (ARS 2009). This castle was maintained and updated throughout the medieval period.
- 3.2.9 **Post-Medieval:** The fortified castle was utilised by Elizabeth I to imprison Mary, Queen of Scots from 1570-1784 and after Mary, was removed to Tutbury the castle continued to be used as a prison (ARCUS 2009). The next major works on the castle were conducted between 1633-7. The castle was involved in the English Civil War and was laid siege to in 1644, suffering major artillery damage. By 1648 the castle had been demolished and the materials sold. The rubble was used to fill the moat and level the ground for the extensive redevelopment of the site with roads taking the place of the defensive ditches (ibid). In addition to this the ground level was dramatically raised and by 1764 no traces of the castle were visible (ARCUS 2000).
- 3.2.10 Map regressions indicate that a number of slaughter houses fronted the River Don and were located to the north of the River Don in 1851 (EDAS 2014). During the construction of the culvert and Castle Markets the remains of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century workshops were diligently removed (ARCUS 2000). During the construction of the culvert the River Sheaf was diverted (EDAS 2014) with the west bank back filled.

## **4 WATCHING BRIEF RESULTS**

### **4.1 Introduction**

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017. The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with investigations of the structure of the River Sheaf Culvert. This entailed the machine excavation of trial pits adjacent to the west edge of the culvert (Figure 2). Trial pit 101 measured 5m by 7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.5m. Trial pit 102 was located 6.8m south of trial pit 101 and measured 5m by 8m to a maximum depth of 2.5m. Context numbers are provided, where relevant, in brackets, relating also to a summary table provided in Appendix 1.

### **4.2 Results**

4.2.2 The excavation of trial pit 101 began with the removal of concrete (100) with a pecker and toothed bucket (Plate 1). The concrete was visible across both test pits to a depth of c.0.27cm. Below this a layer of very loose building detritus (103) (Plate 2) was visible which was removed by machine excavator.

4.2.3 The removal of context (103) revealed a concrete beam {102}, associated with the construction of the culvert, which sat on a loose demolition deposit with frequent fragmentary concrete inclusions (104), very similar to context (103).

4.2.4 This was removed by machine excavator to expose a post-medieval levelling deposit (105) (Plate 3). This deposit was a narrow band (0.12m) of dark grey yellow, gravelly sand containing post-medieval artefacts. This material sealed a more organic post-medieval deposit (106), which continued to the base of the trial pit (Plate 4). No cut was visible within the trench

4.2.3 Excavations in trial pit 102 were undertaken in the same manner as trial pit 101, with the removal of concrete (200) onto a demolition layer (202), which is equated with (103). An earlier demolition deposit was then identified (203) which equated to (104). The lowest deposit (204) was a mixed post-medieval back fill, similar to (105) (Plate 5). As this trial pit was unstable it was not possible to enter the test pits for closer investigation. No deposit was identified that was equivalent to (106).

4.2.4 No natural substrate was identified within these works.

### 4.3 Discussion

- 4.3.1 The upper levels within the trial pits (until c.47.59m aOD) had no archaeological significance, and were composed of modern demolition and construction associated with the Castle Market and River Sheaf culvert in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 4.3.2 It is possible that deposit (106) could be evidence of the post-medieval backfill when the River Sheaf was diverted during the culverting works (1881). Originally thought to be associated with the castle moat, the position of trial pit one corresponds to the original course of the River Sheaf (EDAS 2014).
- 4.3.3 Excavations completed by ARCUS in 1998-9 suggest the projected the course of the moat as running adjacent to the River Sheaf on its west side returning to the north into the River Don (ARCUS 2000 and 2009). The cut for the moat was identified at a depth of 48.56m aOD by ARCUS in 1999 so it is possible at the levels reached the in trial pit 101 and trial pit 102 the latest fills of the moat could have been visible.
- 4.3.4 At the depth of 2.5m it was unsafe to enter the trial pits. The section was machine cleared and no cut was visible. Finds were retained from the post-medieval deposits comprising post medieval glass bottles, ceramic and oyster shell from deposits (105) (106), (204). These are discussed in Section 5, below.
- 4.3.5 In order to understand the lowest deposits more fully, archaeological monitoring is recommended during any further work in this area.

## 5 FINDS ASSESSMENT

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 A total of sixty eight artefacts, weighing 3323g, were recovered from deposits during the archaeological watching brief, carried out to monitor two trial pit excavations.

5.1.2 All finds were dealt with according to the recommendations made by Watkinson & Neal (1998) and to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (Cifa) Standard & Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (Cifa 2014b). All artefacts have been boxed according to material type and conforming to the deposition guidelines recommended by Brown (2011), EAC (2014) and Sheffield Museum and Art Gallery.

5.1.3 The material archive has been assessed for its local, regional and national potential and further work has been recommended on the potential for the material archive to contribute to the relevant research frameworks.

5.1.4 The finds assessment was compiled by Sue Thompson.

5.1.5 Quantification of bulk finds by context is visible in Table 1 below.

Site Code	Context	Quantity	Weight(g)	Material	Date	Comments
CMS-A	105	1	480	Glass	19th-20th	Complete pale green bottle CHEEVERS TALBOT WORKS MONTFORD ROAD SHEFFIELD
CMS-A	105	2	19	Pottery	19th-20th	1 x transfer print, 1 x creamware
CMS-A	105	2	125	Shell	?	Oystershell. Square hole cut into one shell
CMS-A	106	1	462	Glass	19th-20th	Complete green bottle WOLSTENHOLME AND WARD LIMITED SHEFFIELD
CMS-A	106	2	179	Pottery	18th-19th	Red earthenware, brown glazed
CMS-A	106	1	12	Shell	?	Oyster shell
CMS-A	204	1	21	Pottery	18th-19th	Red earthenware
CMS-A	204	1	233	Glass	20th cent	Complete clear bottle - milk?
CMS-A	204	1	13	Pottery	18th cent	Pearlware - shell edge plate rim
CMS-A	204	1	16	Shell	?	Oystershell. Iron nail corroded to inside
<b>Total</b>		<b>13</b>	<b>1560</b>			

*Table 1: Quantification of Bulk Finds by Context*

### 5.2 Ceramics

5.2.1 Five sherds of post-medieval pottery, weighing 211g, were recovered from three deposits (Table 1).

5.2.2 The sherds comprise a single sherd of a shell edged pearlware plate from (204),

transfer print and creamware bowl sherds from **(105)** and two sherds of brown-glazed red earthenware storage jars or pancheons from **(106)**. A further red earthenware sherd was recovered from **(204)** which has lost all traces of glaze.

5.2.3 The post medieval ceramic assemblage includes both hollow and flat domestic wares likely to date from the 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century (Poole 1995 and Hildyard 2005).

5.2.4 The post medieval sherds are in moderate to good condition and display little evidence of post-depositional damage.

5.2.5 No further analysis is warranted.

### 5.3 Glass

5.3.1 Three complete glass bottles weighing 1175g were recovered (Table 1). The bottles are in moderate to good condition and are 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century in date.

5.3.2 The pale green bottle from **(105)** is a mineral water bottle. Samuel Cheevers was registered as a mineral water manufacturer at 1 Montford Road in Kelly's directory of 1893, but was not mentioned in the Whites Directory of 1911 ([www.sheffieldhistory.co.uk](http://www.sheffieldhistory.co.uk)).

5.3.3 A green bottle from **(106)** is likely to be a beer bottle dating from the late 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The bottle is impressed with the name WOLSTENHOLME AND WARD LIMITED SHEFFIELD, while the bottle top is marked GEO WARD&SON SHEFFIELD. George Ward was registered as a beer retailer in 1848, with the brewery founded in 1878 ([www.breweryhistory.com](http://www.breweryhistory.com)).

5.3.4 A small clear bottle recovered from **(204)** is likely to be a milk bottle, dating to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. It is marked with the initials R.C.S.

5.3.5 No further analysis is warranted.

### 5.4 Shell

5.4.1 Four oyster shells weighing 153g were recovered from all three contexts. The shells are in good condition with little sign of post depositional damage, with the exception of one from **(204)** which has an iron object within, attached due to iron corrosion.

5.4.1 Of note is a large shell recovered from **(105)** which has a roughly square shaped hole cut into it measuring 10 x 14mm. Although objects like this are fairly common on archaeological sites, it is currently unclear what they were used for ([www.mola.org.uk](http://www.mola.org.uk)). There are no signs of wear.

5.4.2 No further work is deemed necessary on this material.

## 5.5 **Conclusions**

5.5.1 The finds assemblage is largely post-medieval and 18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> century in date. The earliest material was the pottery which could date back to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Each context however, also contained 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> century glass.

## 5.6 **Statement of Potential**

5.6.1 The post medieval pottery is of little archaeological interest. While the glass bottles are of local interest, they are low archaeological importance. The oystershell is of low archaeological importance, with the exception of the one piece with the hole which could be of local interest.

5.6.2 The post medieval finds will not be retained with the archive.



## **6 CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Interpretation**

- 6.1.1 The archaeological watching brief monitored all excavations associated with the excavation of two trial pits. Previous archaeological work completed by ARCUS (2000) projected the castle moat as possibly running into the area of both trial pits. No natural geology was identified at the maximum depth of 2.5m.
- 6.1.2 The site was covered in a concrete and modern demolition layer, most likely dating from the construction of the castle market. Below this was a post-medieval back fill/levelling deposit identified in both trial pits (204) (105). Below (105) in trial pit 101 an organic deposit was identified (106) which is possibly a late backfilling event associated with the diverting of River Sheaf in 1881.
- 6.1.3 The data recovered is indicative of past activity on the site dating to the post -medieval to modern period. It is likely that the recorded data for post-medieval activity relates to the period in which the castle was dismantled and the land given to industry.

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3rd March 2017

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13th March 2017

## APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT TABLE

<i>Context Number</i>	<i>Context Type</i>	<i>Area</i>	<i>Description</i>
100	Deposit	Throughout site	Concrete
101	Deposit	Not seen	Natural substrata
102	Structure	Trial Pit 101	Concrete Beam
103	Deposit	Trial Pit 101	C 20 <sup>th</sup> Demolition
104	Deposit	Trial Pit 101	C 20 <sup>th</sup> Demolition
105	Deposit	Trial Pit 101	Post Med backfill/ levelling
106	Deposit	Trial Pit 101	Post Med organic fill
200	Deposit	Throughout site	Concrete
201	Deposit	Not Seen	Natural Substrata
202	Deposit	Trial Pit 102	C 20 <sup>th</sup> Demolition
203	Deposit	Trial Pit 102	C 20 <sup>th</sup> Demolition
204	Deposit	Trial Pit 102	Post Med backfill/ levelling

## APPENDIX 2: PLATES



*Plate 1: Removal of Concrete surface (100), facing north-east.*



*Plate 2: Showing 20<sup>th</sup> century demolition refuse (103), facing south-east.*





**Plate 3:** Sample section of trial pit 101, showing contexts 100, {102}, (103), (104), (105) and (106) 1x1m scale, facing north.



**Plate 4:** fully excavated trial pit 101, facing south.



*Plate 5: fully excavated trial pit 102, facing north.*

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### APPENDIX 3: FIGURES





Wardell Armstrong  
2017

PROJECT:

Castle Market, Sheffield

CLIENT:

Sheffield City Council

SCALE:

1:25,000 at A4

DRAWN BY:

MDR

CHECKED BY:

MDR

DATE:

March 2017

KEY:



site location



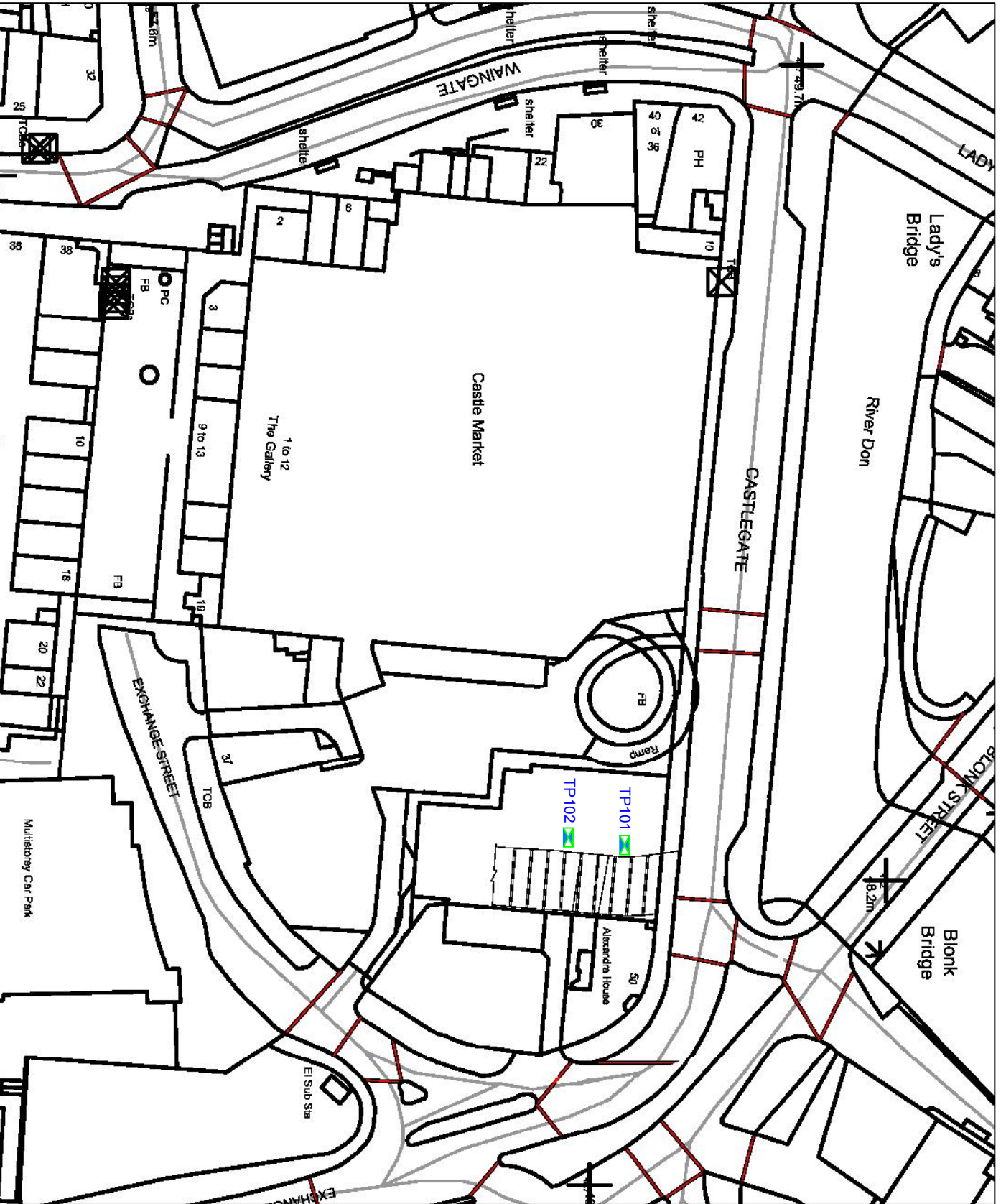
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REPORT NO:

SH11940/Figure 1

Figure 1: Site location.





Wardell Armstrong  
2017

PROJECT:

Castle Market, Sheffield

CLIENT:

Sheffield City Council

SCALE: 1:1,000 at A4

DRAWN BY: MDR

CHECKED BY: MDR

DATE: March 2017

KEY:



trial pit



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REPORT NO:

SH11940/Figure 2

Figure 2: Location of the monitored trial pits (TP101 and TP102).

STOKE-ON-TRENT  
Sir Henry Doulton House  
Forge Lane  
Etruria  
Stoke-on-Trent  
ST1 5BD  
Tel: +44 (0)178 227 6700

BIRMINGHAM  
Two Devon Way  
Longbridge Technology Park  
Longbridge  
Birmingham  
B31 2TS  
Tel: +44 (0)121 580 0909

CARDIFF  
22 Windsor Place  
Cardiff  
CF10 3BY  
Tel: +44 (0)292 072 9191

CROYDON  
Suite 8 Suffolk House  
College Road  
Croydon  
Surrey  
CR0 1PE  
Tel: +44 (0)208 680 7600

EDINBURGH  
Suite 3/1 Great Michael House  
14 Links Place  
Edinburgh  
EH6 7EZ  
Tel: +44 (0)131 555 3311

GREATER MANCHESTER  
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