

HIGH STREET, BRAMHAM

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document presents the result of archaeological monitoring (a watching brief) undertaken during the renewal of c. 340m of water mains along Town Hill and High Street, Bramham (centred on SE 42622 42937, Fig. 1). The report has been produced by Northern Archaeological Associates Ltd (NAA) for Morrison Utility Services Ltd (MUS) on behalf of Yorkshire Water Services Ltd.

2.0 LOCATION, TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

Location

2.1 Bramham is located c. 5km south of Wetherby and 5km west of Tadcaster, immediately to the east of the A1(M) trunk road. The area of development was sited towards the south of the village, within the roadway of a residential street.

Geology and soils

2.2 The underlying geology comprises dolostone, dolomitic siltstone and sandstone of the Cadeby Formation - sedimentary bedrock formed between 272.3 and 252.2 million years ago during the Permian period (BGS 2020).

Topography and land-use

2.3 Town Hill/High Street is a roughly east to west orientated residential street towards the south of Bramham village. It rises from 35m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) in the west (Town Hill) to 56m aOD in the east (High Street).

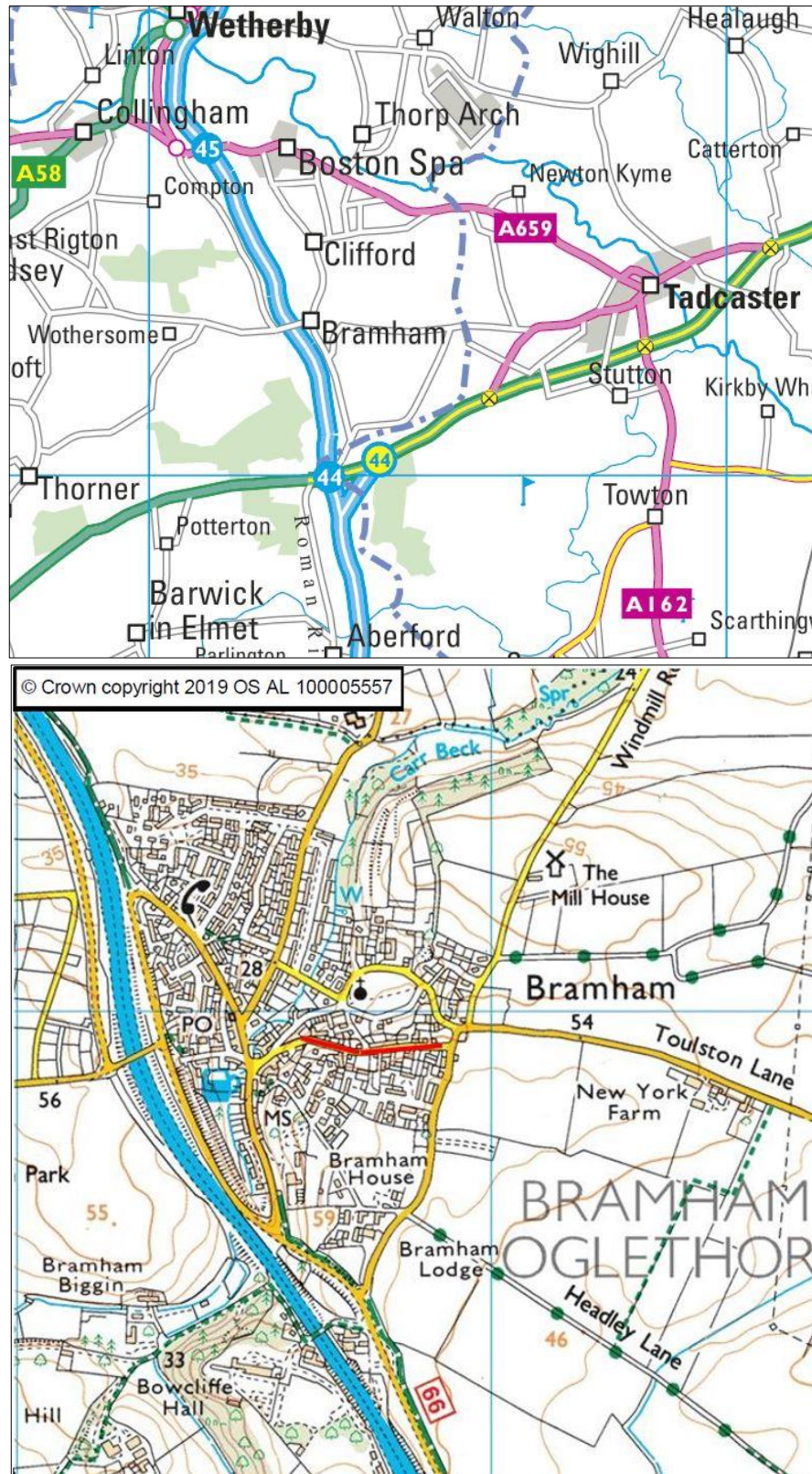


Figure 1. Work location (shown in red)

3.0 SUMMARY ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Bramham village has a complex history of development. Its location is a likely crossroads between Roman Dere Street and a number of postulated Roman routes running west from Tadcaster (West Yorkshire HER PRN 9323).

3.2 Anglo Saxon remains are known from the vicinity of All Saint's Church (PRN 883, 2317). Bramham churchyard is distinctly oval in shape and may be the site of an early West Yorkshire church. The medieval village developed between the church and the junction of the Great North Road and local routes in a similar position to the postulated Roman settlement.

3.3 Hillside cottage, located to the north-east of Town Hill, is Grade II Listed and thought to have originated as a timber framed building in the early 17th century (PRN 8624). Its position off the modern street may suggest that the modern road system post-dates its construction.

4.0 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

4.1 The aim of the archaeological monitoring was to identify the presence and location of archaeological remains within the area of development, and sample, excavate and record any such remains in order to achieve their 'preservation by record'.

4.2 The objectives of the monitoring were:

- to establish the presence, nature, extent, preservation and significance of any archaeological remains within the area of development;
- to provide a detailed record of any such archaeological remains;
- to recover and assess any associated structural, artefactual and environmental evidence;
- to undertake a programme of investigation that meets with national and regional standards (Historic England 2015; ClfA 2014a; 2014b; 2014c; 2014d); and
- to prepare an illustrated report on the results of the archaeological investigations to be deposited with the West Yorkshire HER and the Historic England archive.

5.0 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The initial site works comprised the excavation of five test pits, each measuring 1m by 0.5m, along the route of the pipeline in order to establish ground conditions and to

locate other buried services. This entailed stripping of tarmac and concrete surfaces at the location of each test pit, which was carried out using a road saw and a mechanical excavator fitted with a breaker. After breaking the surface, the removal of loose stone and rubble was undertaken using the same excavator fitted with a toothless bucket. Each test pit was thereafter excavated down to the required depth by hand.

5.2 All five test pits confirmed the presence of a live electric cable in close proximity to the water main in need of replacement, ruling out mechanical excavation as a safe means of soil removal. The excavation of the pipe trench was therefore done by vacuum excavation, after the initial mechanical removal of tarmac along the pipeline route.

5.3 Due to the ground conditions and method of excavation, the results were recorded using digital photography only.

6.0 RESULTS

6.1 The test pit phase of works demonstrated that the road surface of Town Hill/High Street had been laid on a thin layer of hardcore directly overlying the outcropping sandstone geology. The outdated 1930s water main had been installed in a vertical-sided trench, up to 1m deep, cut through the bedrock and backfilled with the resulting stone rubble (Plate 1). No deposits, archaeological or otherwise, were observed. Monitoring of the pipe trench excavation as it progressed from west to east confirmed this condition along the full length of the trench.



Plate 1: the 1930s rock-cut pipe trench under excavation.

7.0 ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

7.1 The digital archive from the archaeological monitoring will be stored internally.

REFERENCES

- British Geological Survey (BGS) (2020) *Geology of Britain viewer*. [Online] Available at: <https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> (accessed on 31/03/20)
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) (2014a) *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) (2014b) *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) (2014c) *Code of Conduct*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA) (2014d) *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Reading: Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.
- Historic England (2015a) *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' guide*. Swindon: Historic England.

APPENDIX
SPECIFICATION FOR WATCHING BRIEF
WYAAS

SPECIFICATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT TOWN HILL BRAMHAM

SE 42622 42937

This specification was prepared at the request of Mr Oliver Cooper of Northern Archaeological Associates (Marwood House, Harmire Enterprise Park Barnard Castle, County Durham L12 8BN Tel.: 01833 690800) and on behalf of Leeds City Council. It details the requirements for an archaeological watching brief at the above site in relation to excavations and works to the water supply in Bramham village.

1. Summary

- 1.1 This specification covers the requirements for an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with works to the water supply in the vicinity of Town Hill, Bramham,. Northern Archaeological Associates have been appointed by Morrison Utilities to carry out the watching brief.
- 1.2 This specification has been prepared by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS), the holders of the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.
- 1.3 **Please note the WYAAS require a hard copy of the final report to be submitted to the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record to enable the results of fieldwork to be made publically accessible.**

2. Archaeological Interest

- 2.1. Bramham village has a complex history of development. It is likely that there was a crossing of the main Roman road to the north with a number of postulated Roman routes from Tadcaster in the east and onwards to the to the west. This would be located to the west of the village close to the modern A1 (West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record PRN 9323).
- 2.2. Anglo Saxon remains are known from the vicinity of All Saints' Church (PRN 883 & 2317). Bramham churchyard is distinctly oval in shape and may be the site of an early West Yorkshire church . However the medieval village also developed around the junction of the Great North Road and local routes in a similar position to the postulated Roman settlement.
- 2.3. "Hillside", located to the north-east of Town Hill is Listed grade II and thought to have originated as a timber framed house in the early 17th century (NHLfE 1,200,589 and PRN 8624). Its position off the modern street may suggest the modern road system postdates its construction.
- 2.4. For an understanding of relevant archaeological research priorities in West Yorkshire please see the Roman and medieval rural settlement industrial archaeology research agenda available as PDF documents to download from the WYAAS website:

<http://www.wyjs.org./archaeologyuk-advisory/>

3. Aims of the Project

- 3.1. 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 construction in the area of interest and deposit a report on this work with West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service, West Yorkshire Joint Services, Nepshaw Lane South, Morley, Leeds LS27 7JQ; email wyher@wyjs.org.uk).
- 3.2. This work is intended to mitigate the destruction of any buried archaeological remains that may be revealed / disturbed through 'preservation by record'.
- 3.3. The archaeologist shall not excavate any area beyond those to be disturbed/destroyed by the development.

4. General Instructions

4.1. Health and Safety

- 4.1.1. 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 will 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 11).

4.1 Confirmation of Adherence to Specification

- 4.1.1 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. Unauthorised variations are made at the sole risk of the contractor (see para. 11.2 below). Modifications presented in the form of a re-written specification/project design will not be considered by WYAAS.

4.2 Confirmation of Timetable and Contractors' Qualifications

- 4.2.1 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.*)

4.2.2 All project staff provided by the archaeological contractor must be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles. The timetable should be adequate to allow the work to be undertaken to the appropriate professional standard, subject to the ultimate judgement of WYAAS.

4.3 Notification

4.3.1 The Local Authority, the Historic England science adviser (Andy Hammon; email andy.hammon@HistoricEngland.org.uk; tel. 01904 601983) and WYAAS should receive at least one week's notice in writing of the intention to start fieldwork.

5 Fieldwork Methodology

5.1 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 7.1 below).

5.2 An archaeologist should be present on site during any excavation. 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.

5.3 Any features/deposits of archaeological interest 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.

5.4 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. (Also see para. 8.5 below).

5.5 Excavated soil should be searched as practicable for finds including the use of a metal detector to search for artefacts (see section 6 & 8.1). All finds, except unstratified 20th & 21st century material, should be collected and retained for processing. The make and model of the metal detector used should be stated in the contractor's report.

5.6 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.

5.7 If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, the watching brief reveals below-ground conditions which indicate that potentially archaeological deposits 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 of this agreement will be provided by WYAAS.

5.8 Except where otherwise authorised, black and white photography using orthodox monochrome chemical development should be used. Film should be no faster than ISO400. Slower films should be used where possible as their smaller grain size yields higher definition images. Technical Pan (ISO 25), Pan-F (ISO50), FP4 (ISO125) and HP5 (ISO400) are recommended. The use of dye-based films such as Ilford XP2 and Kodak T40CN is unacceptable due to poor archiving qualities. Black and white photography should be supplemented by colour photography; this should be in transparency format (i.e. slides or digital photography as an acceptable alternative, see paragraph 5.9 below).

5.9 Digital photography may be employed as an alternative to the use of colour transparencies. Good quality digital photography may be supplied, using cameras with a minimum resolution of 10 megapixels. RAW format may be used for image capture before archiving in tiff format. Digital photography should follow the guidance given by Historic England in Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice, July 2015. Note that conventional black and white print photography is still required and constitutes the permanent record. Digital images will only be acceptable as an alternative to colour slide photography if each image is supplied as both a JPEG and a TIFF versions. The latter as an uncompressed 8-bits per channel TIFF version 6 file of not less than 25Mbs (See section 2.3 of the Historic England guidance). The contractor must include metadata embedded in the TIFF file. The metadata must include the following: the commonly used name for the site being photographed, the relevant centred OS grid coordinates for the site to at least six figures, the relevant township name (Bramham cum Oglethorpe) the date of photograph, the subject of the photograph, the direction of shot and the name of the organisation taking the photograph. Any digital images are to be supplied to WYAAS on gold "archive quality" CDs by the archaeological contractor accompanying the hard copy of the report.

6 Use of Metal Detectors on Site

6.1 Spoil heaps are to be scanned for both ferrous and non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination, operated by an experienced metal detector user (if necessary, operating under the supervision of the contracting archaeologist). Modern artefacts are to be noted but not retained (19th-century material and earlier should be retained.)

6.2 If a non-professional archaeologist is to be used to carry out the metal-detecting, a formal agreement of their position as a sub-contractor working under direction must be agreed in advance of their use on site. This formal agreement will apply whether they are paid or not. To avoid financial claims under the Treasure Act a suggested wording for this formal agreement with the metal detectorist is: "In the process of working on the archaeological investigation at [location of site]

between the dates of [insert dates], [name of person contributing to project] is working under direction or permission of [name of archaeological organisation] and hereby waives all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the Treasure Act 1996 (as amended)."

7 Human Remains

7.1.1 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 ClfA Technical Paper 14 "Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Remains (Mckinley and Roberts 1994). The treatment of human remains will be in accordance with *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* (Advisory Panel on the Archaeology of Burials in England 2017), a valid Ministry of Justice licence and any local environmental health regulations.

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 The terms of the Treasure Act, 1996 as amended and the Treasure (Designation) Order 2002, 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 & 21st 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. Finds retrieved by metal detecting should be identified as such in the report.

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, 2011). Photographic prints should be mounted in appropriate archivally-stable sleeves. Labelling should be on the back of the print in pencil giving film and frame number only and on applied printed labels on the front of the appropriate photographic sleeve which should include:

- film and frame number

- date recorded and photographer's name
- name and address of site
- national grid reference
- specific subject of photograph.

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 Any digital prints in the report must be made on paper and with inks which are certified against fading or other deterioration for a period of 75 years or more when used in combination. If digital printing is employed, the contractor must supply details of the paper/inks used in writing to the WYAAS, with supporting documentation indicating their archival stability/durability.

9.5 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.

9.6 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. Reporting on ceramic artefacts and pottery should follow the guidance given in 'A Standard for Pottery Studies in Archaeology' (2016) and endorsed by the Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group; the Study Group for Roman Pottery & the Medieval Pottery Research Group.

9.7 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

- 9.1 The archaeological contractor will supply a hard copy of the report to the client and another hard copy (plus a digital copy on a gold (archive quality) compact disk in ISO 19005-1 compliant PDF/A format) 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. A copy of the final report (in .pdf format) shall also be supplied to Historic England Science Advisor.
- 9.2 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.
- 9.3 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.
- 9.4 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 commercial use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.
- 9.5 The West Yorkshire HER supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact the West Yorkshire HER officer prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, the West Yorkshire HER may place the information on a web-site. Please ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the case officer at the West Yorkshire HER.
- 9.6 A note or longer article should also be supplied to the Council for British Archaeology's Yorkshire Forum publication (please contact the editor or CBA's website for more information: associate.editor@cba-yorkshire.org.uk).

10 Archive Deposition

- 10.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant District museum archaeological curator to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. In this

case the contact is Katherine Baxter, Leeds Museum Discovery Centre Carlisle Road, Hunslet, Leeds, LS10 1LB (Tel.: 0113 2305492; email: katherine.baxter@leeds.gov.uk). Deposition should be confirmed in writing by the archaeological contractor; this correspondence is to be copied to the WYAAS.

10.2 It is the policy of Leeds Museums to accept complete excavation archives, including primary site records and research archives and finds, from all excavations carried out in the District that it serves.

10.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with Leeds Museum.

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

11 General Considerations

11.1 Authorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

11.1.1 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:

- a part or the whole of the site is not amenable to recording as detailed above, and/or
- 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.

11.2 Unauthorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

11.2.1 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained WYAAS' 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.

11.3 Technical Queries

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

11.4 Valid Period of Specification

11.4.1 This specification is valid for one year to reflect changing best practice and techniques. It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to

ensure that they are working to the latest current WYAAS watching brief specification..

David Hunter

December 2019

**West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service
West Yorkshire Joint Services,
Nepshaw Lane South,
Morley,
Leeds
LS27 7JQ**

Telephone: 0113 535 0300

E-mail: David.Hunter@wyjs.org.uk