



**Archaeological
Research
Services Ltd**

**The land adjacent to Wesleyan House,
Broad Lane, Sykehouse, Doncaster.
Results of an Archaeological Watching Brief.**



ARS Ltd Report 2007/ 55
Planning Application No. 07/01619/FUL
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Executive Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Archaeological Research Services Ltd on behalf of Mark Smith. The project consisted of excavating the foundations of a new build house on the land adjacent to Wesleyan House, Broad Lane, Sykehouse, Doncaster (SE 6301 1700).

No archaeological remains or deposits were revealed during the work despite the close proximity of the development to historical earthworks identified during excavations at Topham Farm, Sykehouse.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned by Mark Smith to undertake an archaeological watching brief whilst the foundations for a new house are excavated on land next to Wesleyan House, Sykehouse, Doncaster. The development site is located SE 6301 1700 and covers an area of approximately 0.5ha.

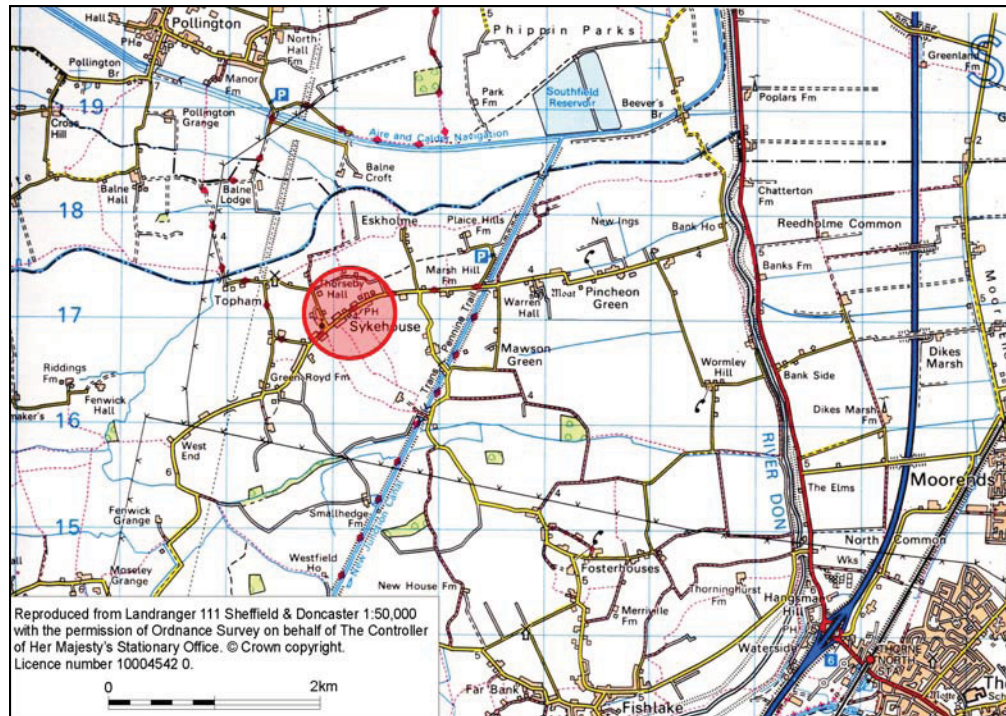


Fig. 1 Location map of Sykehouse, Doncaster.

2. Location and Geology

- 2.1 Sykehouse is located 14 miles north of Doncaster close to the villages of Fishlake and Fosterhouses.
- 2.2 The site is situated on the drift deposits which overlie a bedrock of Triassic Mercia Mudstones. The surface drift geology deposits include glacial till, clays, sand and gravel. (www.countryside.gov.uk – Landscape Policy and Character, 39. Humberhead Levels).

3. Background

- 3.1 An excavation at Topham Farm, Sykehouse (approximately 1km west of the development site) in 2002 undertaken by West Yorkshire Archaeology Service revealed part of a Late Iron Age – Romano-British enclosed settlement. At least nine circular structures were identified, seven of which were conventional Iron Age - Romano-British types with ring gullies and entrances (Roberts, 2003).
- 3.2 The South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments record suggests that the area could represent the remains of a shrunken medieval village (SYAS Brief, Appendix 1).

4. Aims of the Project

4.1 The project was an archaeological watching brief and the aims of the project were as follows:

- To observe all groundwork for the presence of archaeology.
- To alert all interested parties to the possible destruction of archaeological features.
- To fully record and excavate any archaeological features encountered.

5. Method Statement

5.1 All machine excavation on the site was observed by an archaeologist to ensure that no archaeological remains were disturbed. Any features or structures were to be fully cleaned and recorded in accordance with the standards stipulated by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) and the guidance provided in 'Archaeological Science at PPG16 Interventions' (English Heritage 2003).

5.2 Any features or structures were to be photographed, recorded and where possible, fully-excavated. All the contexts were recorded on pro-forma sheets, and a context register.

5.3 Photographs were taken using a 35mm SLR camera with black and white print film, and colour transparency, as well as with a digital camera (5 megapixel resolution).

5.4 All work was carried out wearing appropriate safety equipment. A system of hand signals was agreed before work commenced to allow for easy communication and a safe environment for examining the potential archaeological remains while supervising machine excavation.



Fig. 2 Plan of Sykehouse, Doncaster showing the location of the development site.

6. Results of the Watching Brief

- 6.1 The watching brief consisted of observing the excavation of a large cellar for the new house that was being constructed (Figs. 3, 4 & 5). Below the topsoil (001) a uniform deposit of alluvial clay was identified (002). The alluvial clay (002) was excavated by a machine to a depth of 2m, which was the total depth of the excavation. The total depth of the alluvial clay was not established as it extended beyond the limit of the excavation.
- 6.2 The north west face of the trench contained a disused modern ceramic field drain that was located 1.3m below the ground surface. The drain was 0.3m in width and had been surrounded by a dark brown sandy clay (002) (Fig. 4).
- 6.3 No archaeological deposits or features were identified during the excavation.



Fig. 3 View of the trench looking east. (Scale: 2m)



Fig. 4 View of the trench looking north west. (Scale: 2m).



Fig. 5 View of the total area of the trench looking east.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1 Despite the close proximity of the site to the historical earthworks, no archaeological features, structures, deposits or finds were exposed during the watching brief on the land adjacent to Wesleyan House, Broad Lane, Sykehouse, Doncaster.

8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

- 8.1 Any Publicity will be handled by the client.
- 8.2 Archaeological Research Services will retain the copyright of all documentary and photographic material under the Copyright, Designs and Patent Act, 1988.

9. Statement of Indemnity

- 9.1 All statements and opinions contained within this report arising from the works undertaken are offered in good faith and compiled according to professional standards. No responsibility can be accepted by the author/s of the report for any errors of fact or opinion resulting from data supplied by any third party, or for loss or other consequence arising from decisions or actions made upon the basis of facts or opinions expressed in any such report(s), howsoever such facts and opinions may have been derived.

10. Acknowledgements

- 10.1 Archaeological Research Services Ltd would like to thank all those who have provided help and information relating to the project especially the client Mark Smith.

11. References

IFA. 2001. *Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Watching Briefs*, Revised edition.

Roberts, I. 2003. *Excavations at Topham Farm, Sykehouse South Yorkshire. A Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement in the Humberhead Levels*. West Yorkshire Archaeology Service.

APPENDIX 1 – SYAS Brief

PLANNING RECOMMENDATION REPORT

Planning application number: 07/01619/FUL (formerly 07/00874/FUL)
Proposed development: Erection of detached dwelling on approx 0.06ha of land
Location: land adjacent to Wesleyan House, Broad Lane, Sykehouse, Doncaster
NGR: SE 6301 1700
Current land use: Open ground

Reasons for archaeological comments

This application has potential archaeological implications. The SYAS Historic Environment Characterisation places the application within the historic core of Sykehouse. The early origins of this settlement are currently uncertain. The South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments record suggests the settlement may represent a shrunken medieval village. Groundworks associated with the development may, therefore, impact on archaeological deposits. A scheme of archaeological work, comprising a watching brief on any groundworks, is required to mitigate against any potential impact.

For further information on these recommendations, please contact SYAS.

See also Planning Policy Guidance 16 1990 'Archaeology and Planning' (DOE 1990).

A brief for any archaeological investigations will be written and the resulting work monitored by SYAS.

Archive deposition

Deposition of any field archive resulting from this work must be discussed and agreed with Doncaster Museum (01302 734290) prior to the commencement of the project.

Date: August 07



BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING (Watching Brief)
at land adjacent to Wesleyan House, Broad Lane, Sykehouse

1 BACKGROUND

1.1 The accompanying planning report outlines the known or suspected archaeological implications of development on the development site.

1.2 There is reason to believe that archaeological remains may be disturbed in the course of the proposed development, though little is known of their nature or state of preservation.

1.3 Archaeological monitoring (often referred to as a 'Watching Brief') is required to ensure that remains that are affected can be recorded and/or retrieved.

1.4 All archaeological work will be monitored by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS).

2 FIELDWORK METHODOLOGY

2.1 The work shall be carried out by appropriately qualified and experienced staff. Details of staff numbers, their relative experience and their responsibilities in carrying out the work should be submitted to SYAS in advance of work starting. Staff c.v.'s should be included, unless already supplied to SYAS in previous project specifications.

2.2 Reasonable prior notice (at least 14 days) of the commencement of the development is to be given to the archaeological contractor. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork must be given by the archaeological contractor to SYAS, to arrange monitoring visits.

2.3 Access to the site must be afforded to the developer's nominated archaeological contractor at all reasonable times.

2.4 All groundworks associated with the construction of foundations, service trenches, etc., must be undertaken under archaeological supervision, to allow for the identification and recording of any archaeological material that might be uncovered.

2.5 Where structures, features or finds of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the archaeological contractor must be given the opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate, hand excavate, sample and record these features and finds.

2.6 Any human remains which are revealed must initially be left *in situ* and, if removal is necessary, this must comply with the relevant Ministry of Justice (formerly Home Office), Diocesan and other regulations, as appropriate.

2.7 All finds that are 'treasure' (in terms of the Treasure Act 1997) will be reported to the Coroner and appropriate procedures then followed.

2.8 Heavy plant or excavators must not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded and the archaeological contractor on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

2.9 Where archaeological remains are observed by contractors or plant operators, they must immediately notify the archaeological contractor.

2.10 If it becomes clear during the monitoring that little of archaeological interest is likely to survive on the site, the contractor should discuss their work with the monitor. A joint decision will be made on reducing the work to an intermittent watching brief or ceasing observation of groundworks.

3 ARCHIVE

3.1 Upon completion of fieldwork, any samples taken will be processed and all finds will be cleaned, identified, assessed, spot-dated and properly stored.

3.2 A field archive will be compiled, comprising all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs.

3.3 The field archive should be deposited with the appropriate museum or other archive (specified in the accompanying planning report). The archaeological contractor must contact the archive at the beginning of the project to arrange this and then to discuss conservation issues identified during the project.

4 REPORT & PUBLICITY

4.1 A report will be produced to include the following:

- background information
- a summary of the works carried out
- a description and interpretation the findings
- an assessment of the importance of the archaeology found

4.2 All excavated areas must be accurately mapped with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads, and all archaeological features should be illustrated

with appropriately scaled plans and sections. The report should be appropriately illustrated, including all of the following (unless agreed otherwise):

- a detailed location map
- a site plan showing all identified features of archaeological interest
- if possible, phase plans should be produced
- detailed plans and sections of features
- a selection of scanned photographs of work in progress
- select artefact illustrations

4.3 A printed and bound copy of the report must be supplied to SYAS for incorporation into the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record. A digital copy of the report must also be supplied.

4.4 Acceptable digital formats are:

- text (Word and ASCII);
- images (.JPG at no less than 300 dpi resolution).

4.5 A summary report of an appropriate length, accompanied by illustrations, must be prepared and submitted in digital format, for publication in the appropriate volume of *Archaeology in South Yorkshire*.

4.6 Provision must be made for publicising the results of the work locally, e.g. by presenting a paper at South Yorkshire Archaeology Day and talking to local societies.

4.7 The archaeological contractor must complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

South Yorkshire Archaeology Service
Prepared: August 2007