

**Stanley Works, Rutland Road,
Sheffield**

**Report on an
Archaeological Evaluation**



View of Trench One

ARS Ltd Report No. 2007/77
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Executive Summary

Archaeological Research Services Ltd were commissioned to undertake an archaeological evaluation on the site of the former Stanley Works on Rutland Road, Sheffield on behalf of Concept Investments Ltd. The evaluation required the excavation of two trenches which aimed to determine the extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological features and deposits within the area of proposed development, and to record any features or deposits at an appropriate level.

Both of the trenches revealed the presence of 19th century terraced buildings. Trench One contained street level archaeology as well as confirming the presence of intact cellars. Trench Two contained the remains of brick walls relating to outbuildings connected to the terraced houses. No earlier archaeological remains or deposits were encountered.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This document reports the findings of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by Jessika Shakarian of Archaeological Research Services Ltd (ARS Ltd) on behalf of Concept Investments Ltd. The work focused on the site of the former Stanley Works which is undergoing redevelopment into housing.

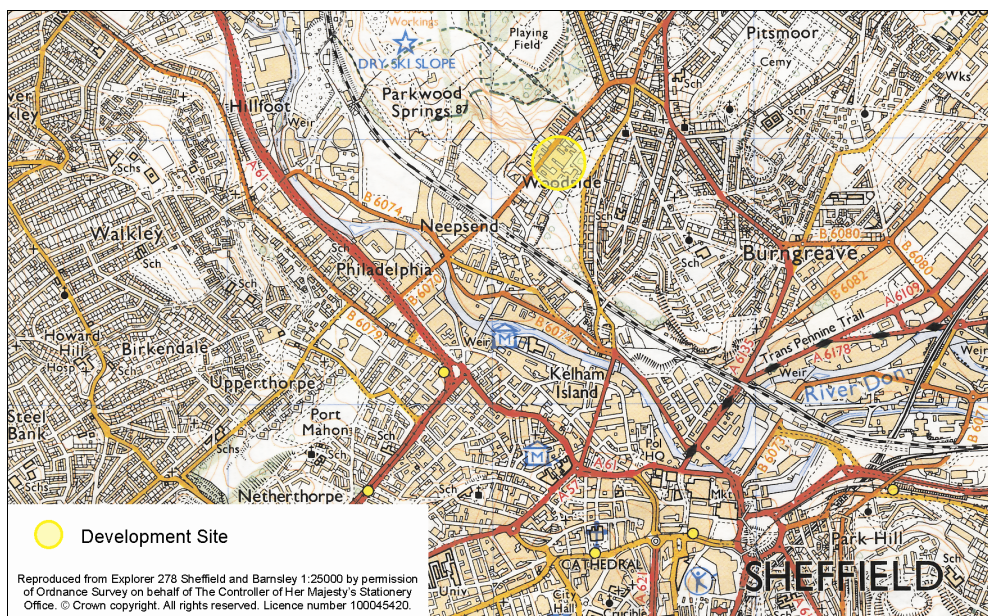


Fig. 1 Location map showing the position of the development site.

2. Location and Geology

- 2.1 The proposed development site is located at SK 352 889 between Rutland Road and Woodside Lane to the north west of Sheffield city centre (Fig. 1).
- 2.2 The solid geology of the site is Lower Carboniferous Coal Measures (Westphalian A) mudstone.

3. Background

- 3.1 The area to be evaluated lies in the northern part of the site, identified as Area A in the Desk-Based Assessment prepared by ARCUS (2007). The DBA identified a number of 18th and early 19th century terraced houses, shown on the 1795 and 1808 Fairbank plans (ARCUS 2007, 46). These terraces existed until their demolition in 1960. Redevelopment of some of the buildings in the north west of Area A by 1808 may have destroyed earlier archaeological remains. However, the remainder of Area A appeared to have remained relatively undisturbed making the archaeological potential for surviving subsurface 18th century deposits quite high (ARCUS 2007, 59). It was possible that some of these buildings may have had significantly earlier origins and the evaluation aimed to investigate this as well as any later structures uncovered.

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date of any archaeological features and deposits within the area of proposed development, and to record any features or deposits at an appropriate level.
- 4.2 It was also stated in the brief set by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) that this stage of archaeological evaluation aimed to inform any further archaeological work arising as a consequence of the development.

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological evaluation took the form of two trial trenches, each 10m x 2m, with 10 square metres of contingency trenching to be allowed for in case features had to be followed in order to gain an understanding of them. The trenches were opened by machine using a toothless ditching bucket down to the first significant archaeological horizon in level spits of a maximum depth of 0.2m, at which point the trenches were examined and cleaned by hand. All machine excavation was carried out under careful supervision of a representative of Archaeological Research Services Ltd.
- 5.2 All archaeological remains and deposits were excavated by hand in a controlled and stratigraphic manner. Features were excavated by hand to achieve the project objectives.
- 5.5 The features were recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. Each context was recorded on pro-forma records which included the following: character and contextual relationships; detailed description (dimensions and shape; soil components, colour, texture and consistency); associated finds; interpretation and phasing as well as cross-references to the drawn, photographic and finds registers. Sections were drawn through all significant cut features and levelled to ordnance datum. Trench sides were also drawn in section. All levels taken were tied into the National Grid.
- 5.6 All artefactual evidence was recorded, bagged by type and context and retained.
- 5.7 A photographic record was maintained including photographs of all significant features and overall photographs of each area or trench. All images were taken in black and white print, colour slide and digital format, and will contain a graduated photographic scale.

6. Assessment Results

6.1 Trench 1

- 6.1.1 Area A was contaminated with modern rubbish and oil drums containing chemicals, diesel *etc.* which meant that the location of the trenches was restricted to the central strip of Area A. Trench One was located closer to the access road than Trench Two. The majority of the deposits in this trench consisted of rough construction rubble (*e.g.* 101 and 102) representing the remains of the buildings that were demolished in 1960. The natural substratum across the site was a homogenous yellow-brown (10YR 7/6) till deposit encountered at different depths (Appendix 2).
- 6.1.2 Trench 1 was found to contain the internal remains of a red brick house as well as a pavement and road on the outside of the building (Figs 3 & 12). The steps to a cellar were also uncovered and partly excavated.



Fig. 3 Trench 1: View of Trench 1, looking north west (Scale: 2m)

- 6.1.3 A layer of tarmac (105) was located 2m from the north of the trench and 0.8 m below the modern ground level which had been truncated to the north. To the south the tarmac abutted a line of sandstone sets (106) which in turn abutted a row of sandstone flags (107). This group of features has been interpreted as a road with an adjoining pavement (Fig. 4). This road directly abuts a brick wall (109) believed to be the external wall of a terraced house. The doorway of the house, believed to be located at the west side of the trench has since been filled with a large moulded sandstone block (108).



Fig. 4 Trench 1: Tarmac (105), and flags (107), looking south east. (Scale: 0.5m)

- 6.1.4 The brick wall (109) has been interpreted as an external wall as it faces out on to the road (Fig. 5). The wall was two courses wide and survived to three courses high. The bricks measured 0.24m x 0.13m x 0.07m. The bricks were rendered using a lime mortar and were whitewashed on the south (interior) face. On the side of the presumed doorway the edge of the wall had been plastered to create a rounded edge giving credibility to the idea that this was an entrance.



Fig. 5 Trench 1: Wall (109), looking north west. (Scale: 0.25m)

- 6.1.5 The interior floor level of the house consisted of sandstone flags, some of which had been badly damaged. Remains of degraded linoleum were present on the surface of many of them. There were two floor levels (110 and 111) which although adjacent were not related, probably being divided at some point by a

small internal wall, now lost. The flagstones were laid on top of a redeposited natural clay (112) that sloped down a distance of approximately 0.4m away from the flags to the top of a curved wall that was found to be the entrance to a cellar.

- 6.1.6 The entrance to the cellar was located on the east side of the southern part of the trench (Figs. 6 and 7). The cellar wall consisted of whitewashed bricks two courses wide and consisted of a curved wall (115) that abutted a straight wall (122) that extended into the east baulk. The cellar steps (116) were located in the corner where the two walls abut. The cellar was in filled with building rubble (117) which was removed to reveal two of the triangular shaped steps. The steps measured 0.8m x 0.3m x 0.22m and were constructed using a sandstone slab on top of two courses of bricks. A modern plastic hand bag was located on the top step of the cellar entrance.



Fig. 6 Trench 1: Cellar steps (116), looking north west. (Scale: 0.5m)



Fig. 7 Trench 1: Cellar wall (115), looking south west. (Scale: 0.25m)

6.1.7 Directly south of the cellar entrance was a brick wall that originally ran across the width of the trench but was disturbed by the machine during the initial excavation (Fig. 8). The wall (118) consisted of a single course of whitewashed bricks and has been interpreted as an internal wall or the back wall of the house. Another degraded area of flagging (120) was present, albeit heavily disturbed, on the other side of this wall. This could potentially be the interior of the same dwelling or an external area of flagging.



Fig. 8 Trench 1: Remains of wall (118), and flagged floor level (120), looking south east. (Scale: 0.25)

Trench Two

6.2.1 Trench Two was positioned on a north south alignment in the northern part of the site (Fig. 2). The majority of deposits in this trench were, again, rough rubble (*e.g.* 201 and 202) together with redeposited material with brick inclusions (203). Within this made-up ground were a number of red brick walls and levelled areas

indicating structures probably related to drainage or outbuildings to the previous terraces, demolished during the 1960's.

- 6.2.2 At the north end of Trench Two a series of red brick walls (219 and 218) were excavated to reveal a square feature with a sandstone slab base (Fig.9). The bricks were machine made with a dark grey cemented mortar. Three ceramic drains appeared to converge at this point which appear to have been later insertions. It is possible that the structure represents an outbuilding for the terraced houses that stood on this site until the 1960s.



Fig. 9 Trench 2: Walls (218) and (219), looking north west. (Scale: 0.5m)

- 6.2.3 An area of sandstone rubble (208) along with a sandstone wall (212) and a brick wall (207) was located three metres from the north end of the trench (Fig.10). The feature has been interpreted as an infilled structure, possibly a cellar. The sandstone rubble was capped had been capped with a layer of tarmac possibly as a path between two houses.



Fig. 10 Trench Two: Sandstone rubble (212), looking south east. (Scale: 0.5m)

6.2.4 On the south east side of the trench 1.5m south of the sandstone rubble was a red brick wall that had previously collapsed and now lay at an angle into the side of the trench (Fig. 11). The wall was a single course wide and survived in places up to four courses in height. The wall (205) was keyed in to the returning wall (204) that continued in to the baulk of the trench. The structure had been built against the clay deposit (203) with no discernable construction cut. This structure may be related to the brick wall (207) but as the two features are discontinuous this can not be confirmed. The structure may represent the corner of a building or cellar.



Fig. 11 Trench Two: Walls (204) and (205), looking east. (Scale: 2m)

6. Discussion

A map regression exercise (ARCUS 2007) illustrates that terraced houses were present on this site since the early 19th Century until their demolition in 1960. The evaluation found no evidence of any buildings that pre-dated the 19th Century survived on the site. All the remains and artefacts that were discovered can be related to the 19th century.

7. Conclusions

From the evaluation exercise, it appears that the only archaeological features surviving on site are the remains of the 19th century terraced housing. The remains of this housing only remain at ground level and below.

8. Publicity, Confidentiality and Copyright

- 8.1 Any publicity will be handled by the client.
- 8.2 Archaeological Research Services Ltd 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 ARS Ltd would like to thank all those who contributed to the outcome of this project. In particular, Jim McNeil of South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.

11. References

B.G.S. 1993.*Sheffield, England and Wales*. Sheet 100 Solid and Drift Edition.

Environmental Scoping Study, Stanley Works, Rutland Road, Sheffield, ECUS, 2007.

APPENDIX ONE

Context Registers for Trenches 1 and 2

Context No.	Trench	Description
100	1	Tarmac found across the site.
101	1	Hardcore (Type 1 building rubble).
102	1	Demolition rubble below (101) comprised mainly of bricks.
103	1	Alluvial clay found approx. 0.8m below the modern ground level (10YR 7/6).
104	1	Silty clay deposit (7.5YR 5/2) found below (105) cut into (103).
105	1	Layer of tarmac found below (102) which abuts sandstone sets (106) running across the width of the trench. Represents the remains of an old road.
106	1	Rectangular sandstone sets/curbstones set in a single course. Stones measure 600mm in length, depth not established. Probably represent curbstones of an old road relating to the flag stones (107) and the tarmac (105).
107	1	Sandstone flags that abut the curbstones and the brick wall (109). Probably represents a pavement area relating to the old road.
108	1	Champhered sandstone block with four regularly spaced holes for bars. The block is probably an old window ledge which has been placed in an old doorway space during demolition. The block is not in its original position.
109	1	External brick wall of a house that faced onto the paved area (107). The wall survives to two courses high and is two courses wide. The bricks are rendered with a thick lime mortar and have been whitewashed on the south (interior) face. The wall terminated 0.92m from the east side of the trench suggesting that there was a doorway where the sandstone block (108) is currently positioned.
110	1	Area of sandstone flagged floor inside the building. Remains of a degraded linoleum on the surface of the flag stones.
111	1	Area of sandstone flagged floor to the east of (110). There was probably a small dividing wall at some point between these two floor levels.
112	1	Redeposited natural clay found below flagged floor levels (110) and (111). Contained broken brick, glass and pottery.
113	1	Small line of two bricks found at the south end of the flagged floor level (110) – redeposited clay banked up against them. The line probably continues into the west side of the trench. May represent a small internal wall.
114	1	Line of slightly curved bricks set into the redeposited clay (112). May represent a disturbed internal wall.
115	1	Entrance to cellar on south east side of the trench consisted of a curved brick wall two courses wide and excavated to a depth of four courses. The bricks were whitewashed on the interior and laid on bed in a stretcher pattern. The cellar entrance was infilled with rubble.
116	1	The cellar was accessed by a series of triangular steps which descended from the north corner of the cellar wall (115). Two steps were exposed during excavation. Remains of a degraded linoleum was found on the surface of the steps as well as a modern handbag. The steps were constructed from a sandstone flag that sat on top of two courses of bricks.
117	1	Building rubble found infilling the cellar entrance.
118	1	Brick wall to the south of the trench which originally ran the width of the trench but was disturbed by the digger. Wall comprised of a single courses of bricks. May represent a dividing wall or the end wall of the house.
119	1	Rectangular shaped sandstone block set in to redeposited clay (112). The block is positioned in line with the brick wall (118). The block has a square indent possibly for a post.
120	1	Disturbed flagstone floor layer on the south side of the brick wall (018). May represent floor level of another adjoining house.
121	1	Disturbed area at south end of trench – is probably the deposit below the flag stones (120).

Context No.	Trench	Description
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200	2	Tarmac found across the site.
201	2	Hardcore (Type 1 building rubble).
202	2	Demolition rubble below (101) comprised mainly of bricks.
203	2	Alluvial clay found approx. 0.8m below the modern ground level (10YR 7/6).
204	2	Brick wall single course wide excavated to three courses deep. Bricks were whitewashed on the north west face. The walls abuts and is keyed in to (205) with the same black mortar. There is no visible construction cut for the wall built up against (203). Wall represents part of a structure, possibly an outbuilding relating to the terraced houses.
205	2	Brick wall single course wide excavated to four courses deep – alternating stretchers on bed. Keyed in to (204) to the south. Part of a structure, possibly an outbuilding.
206	2	Rubble infill of (204) and (205).
207	2	Brick wall running across the trench. Single course visible possible north south return in the south west section of the trench. Wall abuts (208) – sandstone rubble/structure to the north west.
208	2	Area of sandstone flags that appears to be a rubble infill also contains brick, dust and mortar. Either a rubble infill or a disturbed sandstone capping area between walls.
209	2	Very compact aggregate deposit over (210). Capping deposit over (208).
210	2	Rubble/slag deposit over (208). Possibly a levelling layer. (10YR 4/1).
211	2	Redeposited clay over and abutting (208). (10YR 6/6).
212	2	Sandstone wall abuts clay (211) and overburden (214). Sandstone blocks are more likely to be flagstones set of their side. The wall is possibly part of a structure including (207).
213	2	Layer of tarmac over (209) possibly a road or a pathway or a cap for (208).
214	2	Compact redeposited clay in north west of trench under (202).
215	2	Brick wall single course wide alternating stretcher on bed excavated for six courses in depth. Wall abuts (218) and tagged on (not keyed in to) (218). Wall possibly associated with drainage as two ceramic pipes appear to be related to the structure.
216	2	Construction cut for (215).
217	2	Fill of construction cut for (215). (10Yr 5/4).
218	2	Brick wall two courses wide excavated to nine course in depth alternating header, stretchers on bed. Part of a rectangular feature that surrounded three drainage pipes

APPENDIX TWO

Illustrations of Trench 1 and 2
Table showing levels for illustrations

Table showing levels in Trenches 1 and 2

T.B.M – 84.48

B.S – 2.73

Level No.	Levels in metres OD	Level No.	Levels in metres OD
1	84.22	28	85.44
2	84.26	29	85.32
3	84.32	30	85.23
4	84.35	31	85.30
5	84.29	32	85.46
6	84.45	33	85.28
7	84.37	34	85.25
8	84.20	35	85.13
9	84.06	36	85.40
10	84.11	37	85.59
11	84.02	38	85.43
12	83.95	39	85.76
13	83.82	40	85.37
14	83.88	41	85.47
15	83.74	42	85.38
16	83.64	43	86.0
17	83.41	44	85.12
18	83.78	45	85.23
19	83.70	46	85.04
20	83.88	47	74.90
21	84.02	48	85.22
22	84.09	49	85.07
23	84.08	50	86.07
24	84.04	51	85.58
25	84.02	52	86.07
26	84.10	53	85.31
27	84.40		

APPENDIX THREE

Index for archive

Index for archive

A digital archive including all digital photographs and the report.

A paper archive including the report, context sheets, drawing register, photograph register, finds register and levels register.

Primary documents including drawings of plans and sections.

Ate factual archive.