



Ravenfield, Rotherham, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**RAVENFIELD,
ROTHERHAM, SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

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PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	RB2010/1186	NGR	SE 38872 22451		

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I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

**RAVENFIELD,
ROTHERHAM, SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was been commissioned by NMC Nomenca to undertake an archaeological watching brief to mitigate against the potential loss of archaeological remains during the insertion of a pumped underground storage tank (hereafter 'the Site') SK 448763, 393563

The Site is located in an agricultural field 1.6km to the south of Ravenfield, South Yorkshire, immediately to the south of an electrical substation. It is bounded to the west by Moor Lane South and is 12.5m to the south of Common Farm Close.

The watching brief was undertaken between the 2nd and 4th of February 2011 and comprised of the monitoring of the removal of topsoil. No features of archaeological interest were encountered within the monitored area and no artefacts were recovered.

The results of the watching brief confirm the low level of archaeological activity that was identified in an earlier scoping report prepared by Wessex Archaeology. No further work is recommended in respect of this phase of the development.

The project archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 74901 and will be deposited in due course with the repository museum.

**RAVENFIELD,
ROTHERHAM, SOUTH YORKSHIRE****Archaeological Watching Brief****Acknowledgements**

This project was commissioned by NMC Normenca. Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Jim McNeil of South Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (SYAS) for his help and guidance during the project.

This report was researched and compiled by Chris Harrison, who also undertook the fieldwork. The illustrations were prepared by Chris Breeden. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrea Burgess.

**RAVENFIELD,
ROTHERHAM, SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by NMC Normenca to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the insertion of a pumped underground storage tank in Ravenfield, Rotherham, South Yorkshire ('the Site'). The monitoring was required as a condition of planning consent (Planning Application Reference: RB2010/1186) and was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation prepared by Wessex Archaeology (2011) and submitted to the South Yorkshire Archaeological Service.

1.1.2 The watching brief was undertaken between the 2nd and 4th of February 2011 and involved monitoring the removal of topsoil within the footprint of the underground storage tank.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

1.2.1 The Site was located in an agricultural field 1.6km to the south of Ravenfield, South Yorkshire, immediately to the south of an electrical substation. It is bounded to the west by Moor Lane South and is 12.5m to the south of Common Farm Close (**Figure 1**).

1.2.2 The natural geology is Ravenfield Rock, a fine to medium grained yellowish brown sandstone and grey mudstone, this forms part of the Pennine Upper Coal Measures Formation. .

1.2.3 At the time of fieldwork the Site was in use as an arable field.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Chronology

2.1.1 The following background is summarised from the Wessex Archaeology Scoping Report (2010).

2.1.2 The archaeological periods mentioned in the text are broadly defined by the following date ranges:

- Modern 1900-present
- Nineteenth century 1800-1900
- Post-medieval 1500-1799
- Medieval AD 1066-1499
- Saxon AD 410-1066
- Post-Roman AD410-650
- Romano-British AD 43-410
- Iron Age 700 BC- AD 43
- Bronze Age 2400-700 BC

- Neolithic 4000-2400 BC
- Mesolithic 8500-4000 BC
- Palaeolithic 500000-10000 BP

- 2.1.3 There is little evidence for Prehistoric activity from the area around the Site, however an arrowhead dating from the middle Bronze Age has been found in a field 2km to the north of the Site. Cropmarks in this field indicate the presence of a possible Iron Age or Romano-British enclosure. A second possible enclosure immediately to the south is visible on aerial photographs as a sub-rectangular structure with an entrance to the south-east. A third set of cropmarks are visible in a field immediately west of Moor Lane South and are described as a trackway defined by two parallel ditches running north-south for 200m, possibly Iron Age or Romano-British in date.
- 2.1.4 Approximately 1.5km to the south of the Site a 3rd century Roman coin was recovered from an allotment garden at Flash Lane. Cropmarks also indicate a probable Romano-British enclosure complex 1km to the south-east - comprising a polygonal enclosure with an entrance to the east, and a second possible enclosure with an incomplete ditch circuit.
- 2.1.5 The Site is located 1.3km north of Bramley - a settlement of probable Medieval origin. In 1991 The South Yorkshire Archaeology Service carried out an excavation at Hellaby Hall, Bramley which revealed a Medieval longhouse as well as ridge and furrow. A second settlement, Ravenfield is located 1.6km to the north of the Site, and probably dates from the 9th century.
- 2.1.6 The 1854 historic OS map shows that the Site was previously occupied by narrow strip fields that probably originated in the Medieval period. During the 20th century these field boundaries were gradually removed as agricultural methods became more intensive.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and Scope

- 3.1.1 The principal aim of the watching brief was to identify and record any archaeological remains that were disturbed or destroyed during construction groundworks.
- 3.1.2 The specific aims of the project were:
- To accurately record the location and stratigraphy of excavated areas;
 - To record all archaeological remains disturbed by the groundworks;
 - To determine the extent, condition, character, importance and date of any archaeological deposits encountered;
 - To provide information that will enable the archaeological remains to be placed with their local, regional and national contexts;
 - To recover artefacts disturbed by the site works;
 - To produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the site works.

3.2 Watching Brief

3.2.1 The watching brief was undertaken by a suitably qualified member of Wessex Archaeology staff between the 2nd and 4th February 2011. Excavation of the ploughsoil was undertaken by a 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket and monitored by an archaeologist. All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, supported by a photographic record.

3.3 Best Practice

3.3.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with current industry best practice and Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008) and English Heritage (1991) guidelines.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the site archive. Observed contexts are tabulated as **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Stratigraphic Sequence

4.2.1 The footprint of the underground tank measuring 64 x 30m was stripped of 0.23-0.35m deep topsoil (**Figure 2**). This revealed weathered natural sandstone deposits (a mid yellowish-brown sand with frequent sandstones fragments of varying sizes). A summary of recorded contexts recorded is presented in **Appendix 1**.

4.3 Archaeological Features

4.3.1 No archaeological features were encountered within the monitored area.

4.4 Finds

4.4.1 Occasional sherds of 19th-20th century pottery and bottle glass were observed within the topsoil and discarded on site. No artefacts predating the 19th century were encountered and no stratified finds were identified.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1.1 No archaeological remains were identified during the watching brief, confirming the low archaeological potential identified by the scoping report.

5.1.2 However, the Site does lie within an area with relatively high archaeological potential and the negative results from this watching brief are likely to reflect the small scale of the development rather than an absence of archaeological activity in this part of Ravensfield. It is also possible that modern agricultural techniques have removed archaeological remains in this specific area.

6 ARCHIVE

6.1 Location and Deposition

6.1.1 The project archive has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, English Heritage 1991) and *Archaeological archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum 2007). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **74901**. The full list of the contents of this archive is detailed in **Appendix 2** of this report. It is proposed that the archive will be deposited in due course with the repository museum.

6.2 Copyright

6.2.1 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.

7 REFERENCES

Brown, D. H. 2007 *Archaeological archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*

English Heritage 1991 *Management of Archaeological Projects*, (2nd ed.) London; English Heritage.

Institute for Archaeologists 2008 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

Wessex Archaeology 2010 *Silvermoor Drive, Ravenfield, Scoping Report*. Unpublished Client Report 74900.01

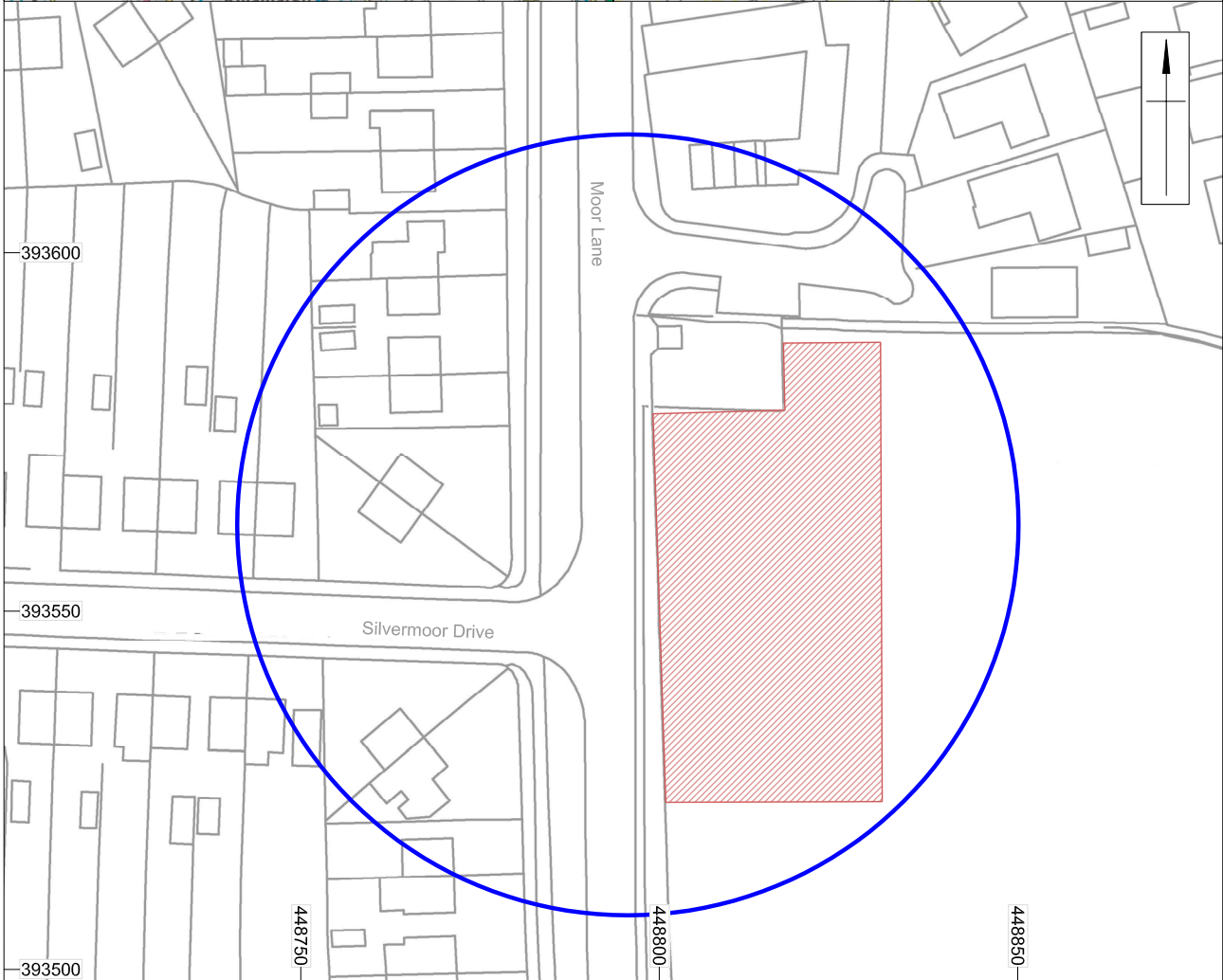
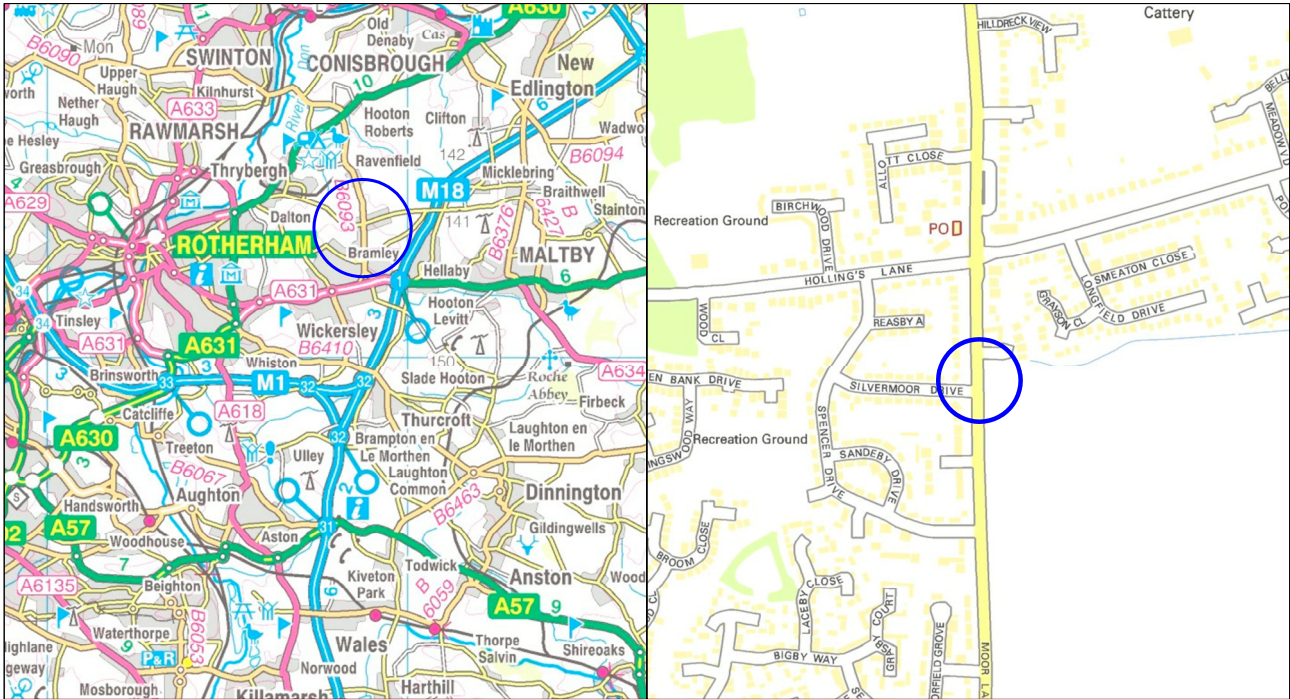
Wessex Archaeology 2011 *Ravenfield, Silvermoor Drive Flood Alliveation Scheme, Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished Client Report 74901.02



APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTION


Thickness	Context	Description	Interpretation
0.23m to 0.35m	101	Dark grey silt	Topsoil
	102	Mid yellowish-brown silty sand with frequent various sized sandstones.	Natural

APPENDIX 2: ARCHIVE INDEX

Paper archive			
Folder no.	Folder type	Item(s)	No.
1	A4 ring binder	Risk Assessment	1
		Day Register	0
		Day Book (copied)	3
		Test Pit/Trial Trench Record	1
		Photographic Record	1
		Colour slides	0
		Contact sheets	0
		Bound copy of final report	1



 Site location
 Area of strip



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Site location and strip area

Figure 1



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