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North Cottage, 4 Union Street, Harthill, Rotherham, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



Ref: 100520.01
July 2013



**North Cottage, 4 Union Street, Harthill,
Rotherham, South Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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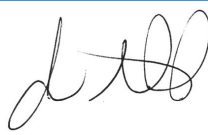
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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Figure 1: Site location and plan

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Front cover: Excavation in progress

Plate 1: Plot fully excavated



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CS Surveying and Architectural Design Ltd to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks on Plot 2 at the rear of 4 Union Street, Harthill, Rotherham (NGR 449252, 381148).

No archaeological features were encountered during monitoring of Plot 2 and no finds were retained for analysis.

The absence of any unstratified pre-modern finds from the works indicates that this part of the Site has not been previously occupied. The soil sequence (ploughsoil derived from the underlying natural covered by a thin layer of topsoil) suggests that the land has previously been used for cultivation before being grassed over to form a lawn.

The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **100520**. The archive will be deposited with Clifton Park Museum under an appropriate accession number.



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Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by CS Surveying and Architectural Design Ltd and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to them in this regard.

The watching brief was carried out by Ashley Tuck. The report was compiled by Ashley Tuck and the illustrations produced by Chris Swales. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Richard O'Neill.



North Cottage, 4 Union Street, Harthill, South Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CS Surveying and Architectural Design Ltd to undertake a scheme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks associated with the development of Plot 2 at the rear of North Cottage, 4 Union Street, Harthill, Rotherham, (NGR 449252, 381148), hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2013) approved by the Client and the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is located on the west side of Hard Lane, immediately south of North Farm in Harthill. It is currently occupied by gardens to the rear of North Cottage, 4 Union Street.
- 1.2.2 There were to be two plots at the site: Plot 1 was to be adjacent to the historic street frontage and would have required an archaeological evaluation trench. No development is occurring on Plot 1, so this report covers only the archaeological monitoring (watching brief) on Plot 2.

1.3 Geology

- 1.3.1 The Site is located at 108m aOD and the geology comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 General

- 2.1.1 There has been very little previous archaeological work within and around Harthill. The Site itself lies within the historic core of Harthill, and is likely to have lain within the medieval village. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086.

2.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British

- 2.2.1 Crop marks identified in a field on the southeast edge of Harthill represent a possible Iron Age or Roman enclosure.
- 2.2.2 A Roman road is believed to exist along the boundary of the parishes of Harthill and Thorpe Salvin; it was known as *Rykenield Street* up to the 18th century. Its course is now a modern road, although traces of a cobbled surface have been found in excavations at two



locations. Roman finds have been made in the Harthill area and it is possible that a road existed in this direction, an extension of the alignment passing close to the Romano British settlement at Edlington.

2.2.3 A Roman coin was found in a field to the southwest of Harthill.

2.3 Medieval to post-medieval

2.3.1 The 13th century All Hallows Church (restored during the 19th century) lies approximately 200m south of the Site. The remains of a possible medieval market cross have also been identified nearby.

2.3.2 Medieval burgrave plots are still well represented throughout the village, with numerous timber-framed buildings dating from the 14th to 18th centuries, as well as vernacular buildings from the 18th and 19th centuries. To the west of the historic village core, these thin narrow plots extend into the agricultural boundary divisions, retaining most of the boundaries shown in 1851. A number are contiguous with property boundaries along Union Street suggesting they may be an integral part of the original medieval village plan.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The general aims of the project were:

- to identify any archaeological remains within the Site;
- to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;
- 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 within their local, regional and national contexts;
- to integrate the results into the wider cultural and environmental context and with specific research aims;
- to recover artefacts disturbed by the site works, and
- to produce an accurate and comprehensive record and report of any archaeological deposits disturbed by the site works.

3.2 Fieldwork

3.2.1 The watching brief was carried out in accordance the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2013) and with industry best practice as outlined in guidelines issued by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008; 2010).

3.2.2 Topsoil was removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothed bucket, working under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Overburden was removed down to the upper archaeological horizon or the level of the natural geology, whichever was reached



first. Any potential archaeological deposits were investigated and the stratigraphic sequence was recorded in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's standard guidelines.

3.3 Finds and samples

3.3.1 The WSI included strategies for the recovery and treatment of finds and environmental samples but no finds were encountered and no samples were taken during fieldwork.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The excavation of the footprint of Plot 2 was monitored until natural deposits were encountered. The location and footprint of Plot 2 is shown on **Figure 1**.

4.1.2 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the site archive. A description of the recorded contexts is included in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 General Site stratigraphy

4.2.1 Three layers were seen on site. The underlying natural deposit was compact pink sandy loam (**102, Plate 1**). Above this was 0.35m of former ploughsoil derived from the natural, consisting of loose dirty pink silt sand (**101**). This was covered with a very thin layer of topsoil (0.07m maximum thickness) which may have derived from imported turves. The topsoil consisted of rich brown dark humic silt loam (**100**).

4.2.2 No archaeological features or deposits were identified. Some obviously 20th century pottery sherds, glass and plastic etc were seen in the topsoil and discarded.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Conclusions

5.1.1 No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified within the footprint of the property to be built on Plot 2.

5.1.2 The absence of unstratified finds from any pre-modern period indicates that this part of the Site has not been previously occupied. The soil sequence (ploughsoil derived from the underlying natural and a thin layer of topsoil) suggests that the land has previously been used for cultivation before being grassed over to form a lawn.

6 STORAGE AND CURATION

6.1 Archive

6.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with national guidelines (Brown 2007; UKIC 2001).

6.1.2 All work has been carried out under the Wessex Archaeology site code **100520**. The archive is currently stored in the Wessex Archaeology Sheffield office. The archive will be



deposited with Clifton Park Museum under an accession number to be determined. An OASIS form will be completed at the time of deposition.

6.2 Copyright

- 6.2.1 Wessex Archaeology retains full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements can be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.
- 6.2.2 Wessex Archaeology will assign copyright to the Client upon written request but retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as defined in the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (Chapter IV, s.79).



7 REFERENCES

7.1 Bibliography

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

Institute for Archaeologists (IfA), 2008. *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

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Wessex Archaeology, 2013. *North Cottage, 4 Union Street, Harthill, Rotherham, South Yorkshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief.* Unpublished report ref. T17347.01.

7.2 Online sources

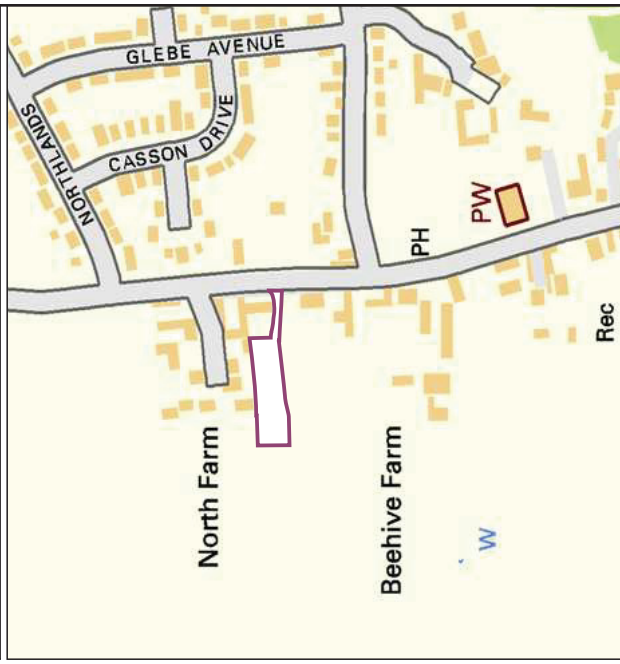
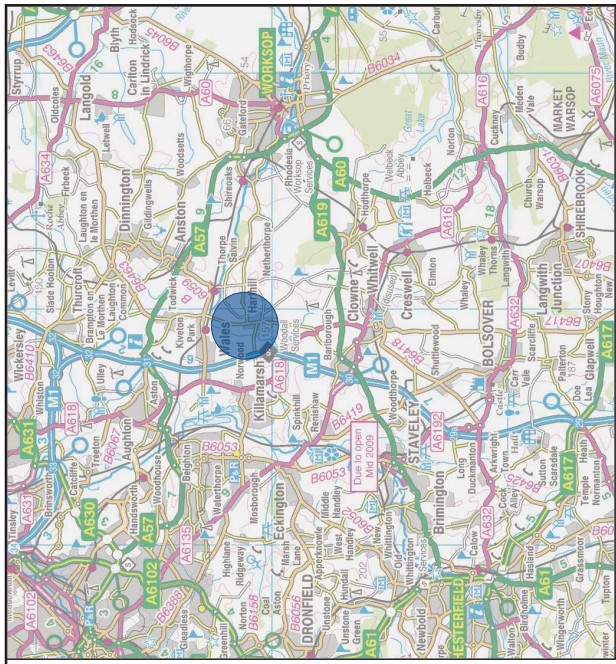
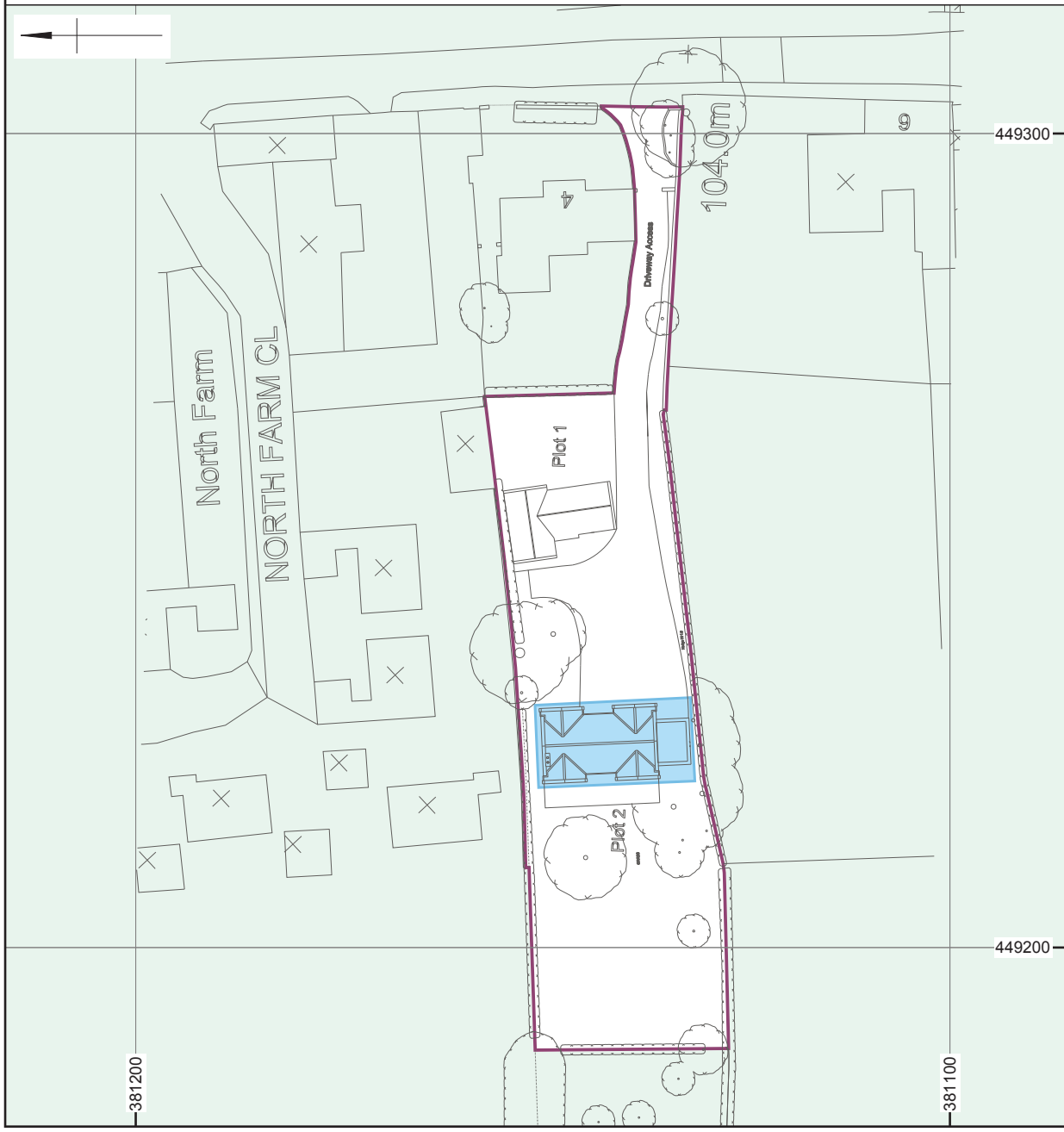
British Geological Society, Geology of Britain viewer. Accessed on 12th April 2013 at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>




APPENDIX 1

Context descriptions

		Max depth: 0.7m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
100	Topsoil: Rich dark brown humix silt loam. Possibly imported turf.	0 – 0.07m
101	Subsoil: Loose dirty salmon pink silt sand. Former ploughsoil.	0.07-0.4m typically. 0.7m deep in the extreme.
102	Natural: Compact salmon pink sand loam.	0.4-0.55+m




	Date: 04/06/2013		Revision Number: 0
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Site location and plan Figure 1

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Plate 1: Plot fully excavated

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The logo for Wessex Archaeology features a stylized blue square icon with a white 'W' shape inside, followed by the word 'wessex' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font, and 'archaeology' in a larger, bold, blue, sans-serif font below it.

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