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**Roman Ridge Roman Road
Doncaster, West Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. Y186/15

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd on Roman Ridge Roman Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire from January to March 2015. Groundworks comprised the stripping of an area for a new cycle path and the removal of lighting and bollards were monitored. The groundworks were very low impact and no archaeological features or finds were recorded.

1. INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of an archaeological evaluation undertaken by CFA Archaeology Ltd (CFA) on behalf of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council from January to March 2015. The CFA code and number for the project is RORR/2222. The development comprised the upgrading and installation of a new cycle path along Roman Ridge Roman Road, the renewing of lighting and a horse gate. All work was undertaken in accordance a WSI prepared by CFA Archaeology (November 2014) and to relevant MCIFA standards and guidance.

1.2 Site Location and Description

Roman Ridge Roman Road runs from Sunnyfields in the south to the Redhouse Junction at the A638 to the north-west of Adwick Le-Street. The section of the road that monitored during groundworks (Fig. 1) stretched from the northern end of the road, from the Red House junction, (SE 52485 09065) to the junction with Long Land's Lane to the south (SE 53895 06085).

The site was bounded to the north by the A638 road, the west by an industrial complex, and to the east and south by residential housing. At the time of the fieldwork, the ground cover was a mixture of dirt cycle track and areas of modern concrete/tarmac pathway.

The underlying geology belongs to the Brotherton Formation, Limestone-Dolomitic, no superficial deposits are recorded in this area (BGS 2015). The soils are described as 'freely draining lime-rich loamy soils' (UKSO 2015).

1.3 Previous Archaeological work and Historical Background

Sections of Roman Ridge Roman Road are designated as a scheduled monument (1003672). A number of previous pieces of work have been carried out along the route of the Roman Ridge Roman Road in the past. Desk-based assessments have been undertaken on the area of the former site of Brodsworth Colliery which lies adjacent to the Roman Road, with the assessments indicating the survival of extensive late Iron Age and early Roman field systems in this area (Dennison 1999 and Thompson-Lawrence 2008).

Comprehensive topographical surveys were undertaken along the route of the Roman Road in 2007 (Thompson-Lawrence 2008), and 2009 (Pollington 2009). The later survey recorded all the surviving features along the route of the road and identified areas along the road where sections of the bank had been damaged by later activity.

Excavations have been carried out in the past in the area of Roman Ridge, with the majority taking place towards the northern end of the road, and in particular around the area to the south of Red House Farm which has been developed for commercial and industrial use.

In 1995 an excavation located the remains of the Roman road and showed the road to be formed of compacted layers of crushed limestone and limestone rubble (Francis 1995), while in 1996 an evaluation on land to the west of the road identified boundary ditches dated to the late Iron Age (Young 1996).

More recently a late Iron-Age enclosure was identified on the eastern side of the road and to the south of Red House Farm during the course of a series of excavations that identified late Iron-Age and Romano-British enclosures with associated field systems (NAA 2001, Upton-Smith 2002 and 2006).

1.4 Aims

In accordance with the WSI; the objective of the watching brief was to:

- determine the form and function of any archaeological features encountered;
- determine the spatial arrangement of any archaeological features encountered;
- as far as practicable, recover dating evidence from the archaeological features, and;
- establish the sequence of any archaeological remains present on the site

2. WORKING METHODS

2.1 Watching Brief

All machine excavation during the groundworks monitored was undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. Groundworks undertaken by hand by the contractor were also monitored by the archaeologist during the completion of the works. Three monitoring visits were made; on the 27 January, 6 February and 10 March.

Any identified archaeological remains were recorded by means of photographs, drawings and written records conforming to CIfA standards (2014) and CFA's quality manuals. All identified features were planned and drawn in section at an appropriate scale.

A summary of the results of archaeological works has been submitted for inclusion in OASIS, the OASIS reference is cfaarcha1-207460.

2.2 Standards and Guidance

CFA Archaeology is a registered organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). All work was conducted in accordance with relevant CIfA Standards and Guidance documents (CIfA 2014), the WSI, and CFA's standard methodology.

2.3 Archiving

The project archive, comprising all CFA record sheets, plans and reports, will be deposited at Doncaster Museum and will conform to current national guidelines (Brown 2011) and the museum's requirements.

2.4 Monitoring

The project was monitored on behalf of Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS).

3. RESULTS

Three areas of groundworks were monitored during the course of the archaeological watching brief: the upgrade of the existing cycle path and the installation of wheelchair access ramps; the relocation of a lamp post on Roman Ridge, and; the removal of bollards and the installation of a horse gate at the southern end of the cycle path (Fig. 1).

The upgrade to the cycle path and the installation of wheelchair access ramps took place largely at the northern end of the existing cycle path and ran from the end of Elmwood Avenue up to the junction of the road with the A638 to the north. The cycle path was stripped to a depth of 0.1m and flattened to provide a surface for the modern tarmac to be applied.

The stripped material consisted of the build up of foliage and modern materials that had accumulated over time, along with a mixture of brown topsoil and gravel, which appeared to be modern in date (Fig. 2).

The wheelchair access ramps were installed at either end of Elmwood Avenue and were largely constructed of imported stone. No archaeological features were noted during the groundworks.

The relocation of the lamp post on, adjacent to the playground was monitored. The hole was inspected upon removal of the existing post, with only modern material noted to survive. The new post hole, approx 1.2m to the north of the original, was dug to a depth of 0.3m through topsoil; the underlying material appeared to contain modern plastic debris (Fig. 3). No archaeological features or finds were.

Three bollards were removed at the eastern end of the cycle path to make way for the installation of a horse gate, which involved the excavation of six new postholes.

The depths of the new post holes were all 0.5m through the topsoil and the tarmac of the cycle path (figs 4 and 5). No archaeological features or finds were recovered; the old cycle path and fencing had already truncated the ground to this depth at the locations monitored.

4. CONCLUSION

The shallow depth of the groundworks coupled with the previous disturbance meant that archaeological deposits were not found to be present during the watching brief. As the cycle path route runs along sections of the scheduled Roman Ridge Roman Road, the watching brief has ensured that remains of potential national importance have not been disturbed by the groundworks.

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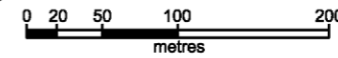
Appendix 1: Photographic Register

| Number | Contexts/description | Facing | Conditions |
|--------|---|------------|------------|
| 1 | Plan shot of ground after removal of existing lamp post | - | Overcast |
| 2 | Shot of existing lamp post and route of cable | North-east | Overcast |
| 3 | Shot of existing lamp post and route of cable | North-east | Overcast |
| 4 | Shot of existing lamp post and line of Roman Ridge | West | Overcast |
| 5 | General shot along current path on Roman Ridge | West | Overcast |
| 6 | General shot along current path on Roman Ridge | West | Overcast |
| 7 | Shot of stripped cycle path to north of road | East | Overcast |
| 8 | Shot of stripped cycle path to north of road | East | Overcast |
| 9 | Shot of stripped cycle path looking towards A638 | West | Overcast |
| 10 | Shot of stripped cycle path looking towards A638 | West | Overcast |
| 11 | Shot of stripped cycle path to south of Elmwood Drive | East | Sunny |
| 12 | Shot of stripped cycle path to south of Elmwood Drive | East | Sunny |
| 13 | Shot of stripped cycle path to adjacent to playing fields | West | Sunny |
| 14 | Shot of existing bollards at eastern end of watching brief area | South | Sunny |
| 15 | Plan shot of hole dug for location of new post | - | Overcast |
| 16 | Shot of holes for new posts | North | Overcast |
| 17 | Shot of posthole after removal of existing post | - | Overcast |
| 18 | Shot of posthole after removal of existing post, close up | - | Overcast |
| 19 | General shot of works in progress on post replacement | East | Sunny |
| 20 | Shot of posthole after removal of existing post | - | Sunny |
| 21 | Shot of posthole after removal of existing post, close up | - | Sunny |
| 22 | Shot of posthole after removal of existing post | - | Sunny |
| 23 | Shot of posthole after removal of existing post, close up | - | Sunny |
| 24 | Shot of posthole after removal of existing post | - | Sunny |
| 25 | Shot of posthole after removal of existing post, close up | - | Sunny |
| 26 | Shot of new fence posts in place | West | Sunny |
| 27 | Shot of new fence posts in place | South-west | Sunny |
| 28 | Shot of new fence posts in place, looking down Roman Ridge | West | Sunny |
| 29 | Plan shot of hole dug for location of new post | - | Sunny |
| 30 | Plan shot of hole dug for location of new post, close up | - | Sunny |
| 31 | Shot of new fence posts in place | North-west | Sunny |

FIGURES 1 – 5



SE5209, SE5208, SE5207
 OS centre:
 452560, 408670



- Key
- Cycle Path and Ramps
 - Lamp Post Relocation
 - Horse Gate Installation



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Fig. No: 1 Report: Y186/15

Title
 Site Location and Watching
 Brief Areas

Project
 Roman Ridge Roman Road,
 Doncaster

Client
 Doncaster Metropolitan
 Borough Council

Scale at A3
 1:5,000

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------|
| Drawn by: | Checked by: | Date: |
| KH | ML | |

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Fig. 2 - Shot of stripped cycle path looking towards A638



Fig. 3 - Shot of existing lamp post and area of relocation



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| Title: | Fig. 2 - 3 | Report: Y186/15 | Drawn: PM | CKD: ML | Date: 27/03/15 |
| Client: Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council | | | | | |
| Project: Roman Ridge Roman Road, Doncaster | | | | | |



Fig. 4 - Shot of new posthole for horse gate at eastern end of Roman Ridge



Fig. 5 - Shot of new posthole for horse gate at eastern end of Roman Ridge



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| Title: | Fig. 4 - 5 | Report: Y186/15 | Drawn: PM | CKD: ML | Date: 27/03/15 |
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| Project: | Roman Ridge Roman Road, Doncaster | | | | |