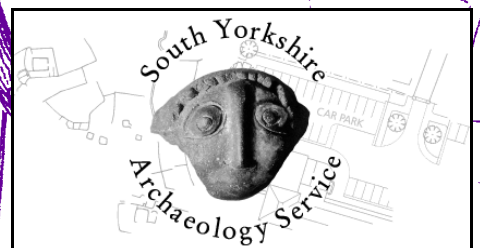
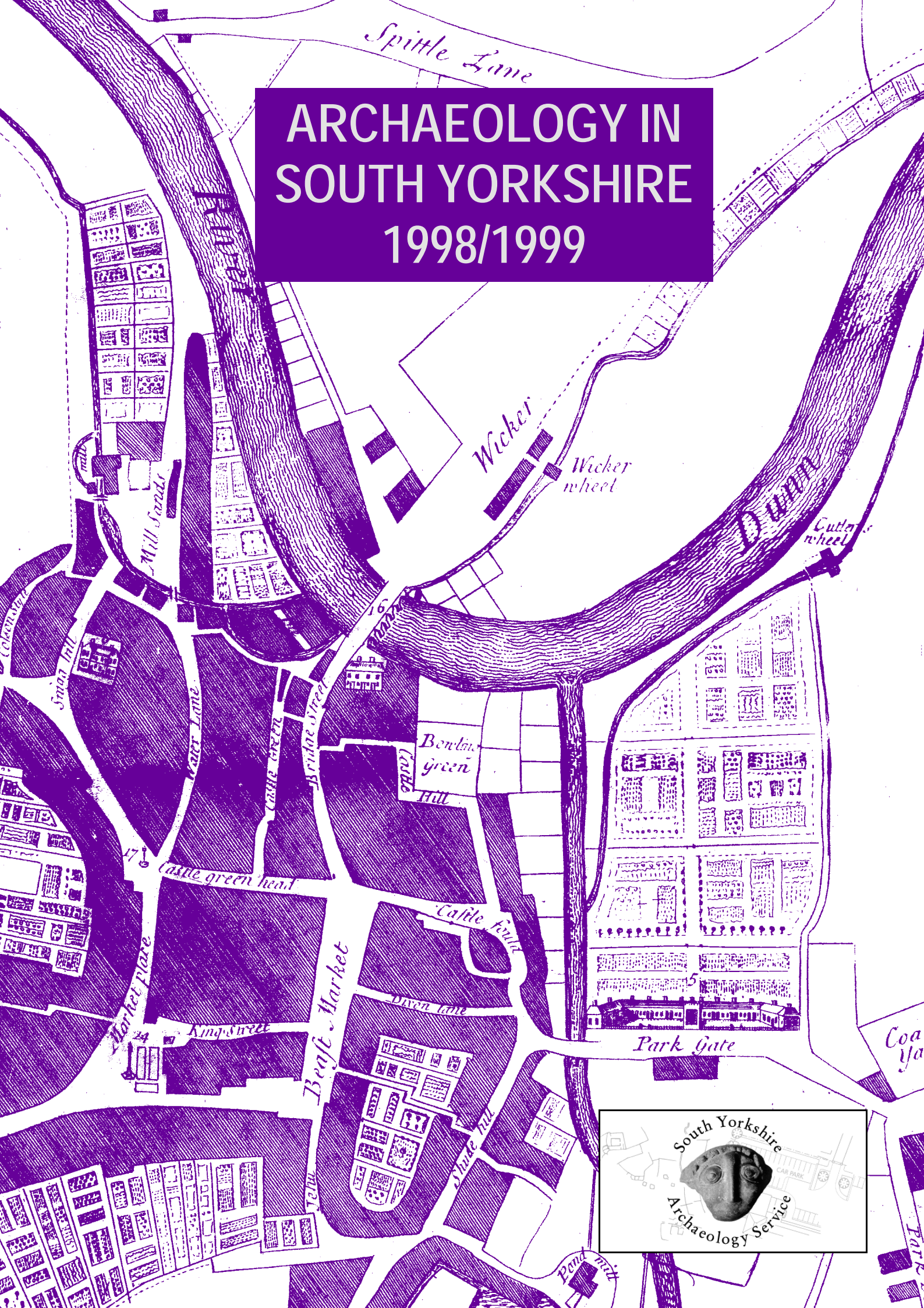


# ARCHAEOLOGY IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE 1998/1999





# **ARCHAEOLOGY IN SOUTH YORKSHIRE 1998/1999**

*A review of archaeology in South Yorkshire*

Edited by

**DINAH SAICH**

**South Yorkshire Archaeology Service**

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## FOREWORD

In 1998-9, Doncaster Council chaired the Joint Committee for the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. Being a member of that Committee then gave me the opportunity to find out about the work of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service and to hear of new archaeological discoveries made, at first hand. I am pleased to be able to introduce this review of the work undertaken during that period, which will ensure that a much wider audience now has the opportunity to find out about these discoveries.

I am also pleased to have the opportunity to thank Sarah Whiteley for all her hard work over the number of years that she worked for the Archaeology Service. Her enthusiasm and commitment to the archaeology of South Yorkshire was always evident; there is no doubt that we benefited immensely from her skill and knowledge.

The year covered by this review was one of consolidation for the Archaeology Service, following the move from Arts and Museums to Planning, Transport and Highways at Sheffield City Council, the Service's host authority. I hope that the future brings stability for the Service and more opportunities to develop their important role in protecting and promoting the archaeology of South Yorkshire.

**Councillor Margaret Robinson  
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council**

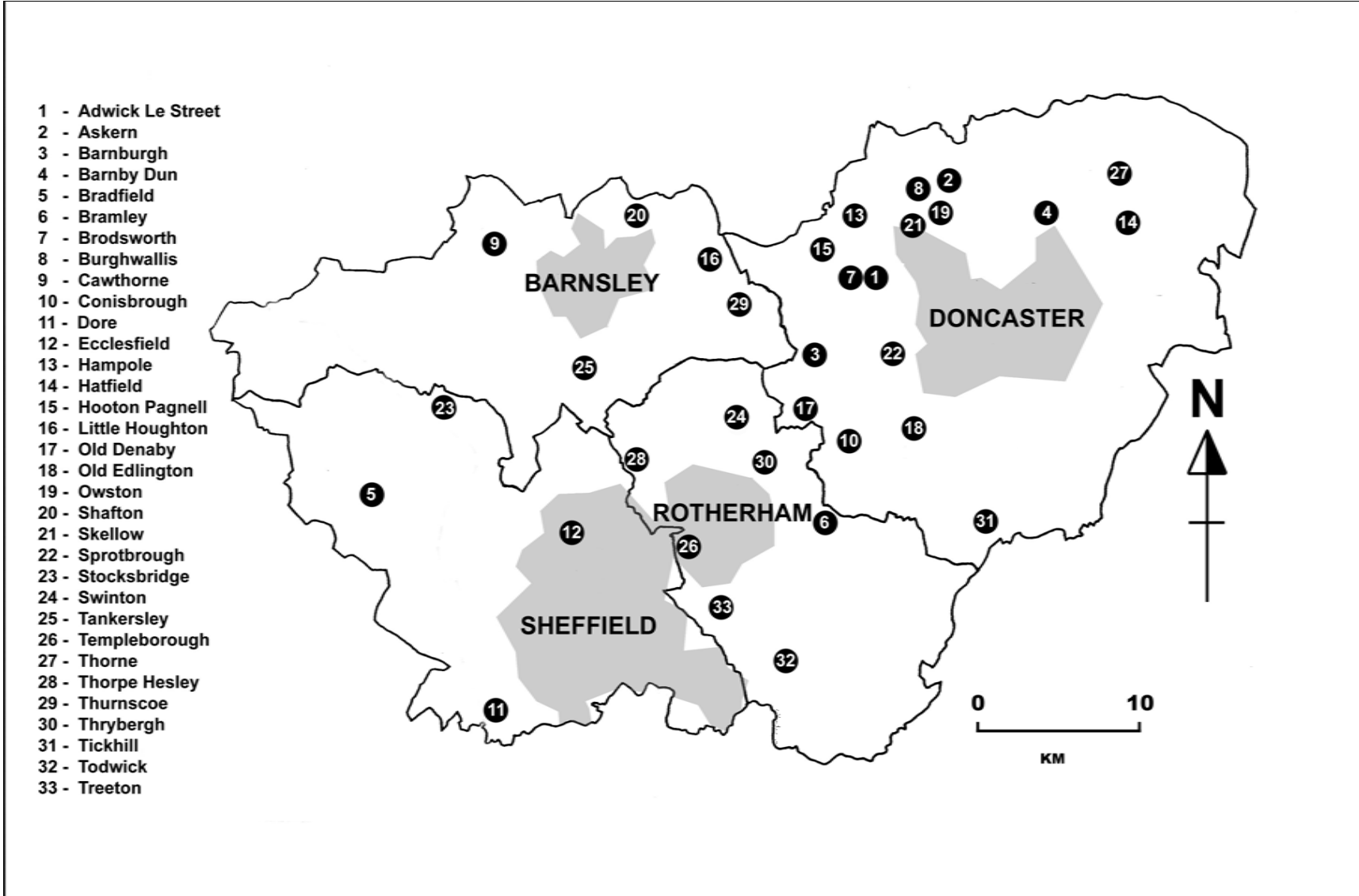


Figure 1 Map showing the areas referred to in the text

## INTRODUCTION

This Annual Review covers work done in the financial year 1998–1999, but also contains the results of some earlier pieces of work that have not previously been reported. There has been quite a long gap since the publication of our previous review, *Archaeology in South Yorkshire 1996–1998*. This is in part explained by the fact that, at the end of the financial year covered by this volume Sarah Whiteley, who had managed the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service for a number of years, decided she needed a new challenge and left for a job with the Peak District National Park Archaeology Service.

As her successor, I have found the previous volumes of the Annual Review invaluable. They have not only helped establish what new discoveries there have been in South Yorkshire, but have also shown how the role of the Archaeology Service has changed and developed over the years. I hope that this latest volume will similarly prove to be of interest to all who are concerned with protecting and preserving the archaeology of South Yorkshire.

This latest Annual Review follows a slightly different format from those of recent years. Research orientated work is presented first, followed by reports on the smaller-scale projects that take place as a result of individual development proposals. Such individual projects can themselves, of course, have research potential – the study of a ‘bell pit’ at Thorpe Hesley is an example of this. Often it is the collective results of such projects that help to improve our understanding of a particular site or landscape – projects such as those at High Street, Shafton and Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe, for example, have increased our knowledge about the Iron Age/Romano-British landscape

found in many areas of South Yorkshire (and discussed in one of the research papers).

As well as adding to the understanding of our local archaeology, these reports also help document the changing development pressures affecting South Yorkshire. Several projects reported on in this volume relate to the reclamation of former colliery sites, indicative of the currently changing face of much of South Yorkshire’s landscape, brought about by pit closures.

Similarly, the number of building recording projects on former agricultural buildings (usually being converted to a residential use) reflects the continuing change in the character of the South Yorkshire countryside brought about by modern farming practices.

Those interested in finding out more details on these projects or other aspects of the archaeology of South Yorkshire should contact the Archaeology Service. We maintain the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) for South Yorkshire, the primary source of information about local archaeology; reports on the projects in this volume are held with the SMR and are accessible to researchers.

This volume attempts to reflect the wide variety of archaeological work being undertaken in South Yorkshire, whether it is academic, development led, or carried out by local societies. The Archaeology Service is interested in and concerned for the future of all the archaeology of South Yorkshire. Knowing others to be similarly interested, we not only produce the Annual Review, but also host an annual day school on the results of recent work – in conjunction with the Department for Lifelong

Learning at the University of Sheffield. South Yorkshire Archaeology Day was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> November 1998. The following speakers were kind enough to offer papers: Paul Belford on building recording at Cornish Place; Harold Taylor on the nail forges at Hoylandswaine; Phil Abramson on investigating a brickwork field system at The Lings; Jim McNeil and Roy Sykes on the work of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service; Ian Wall on archaeology & education; Julian Richards on archaeology and the internet; Ron Fitzgerald on recording mining remains at Thorpe Hesley and Lloyd Powell on investigations at Old Denaby.

The Archaeology Service works closely with numerous organisations and individuals. We discuss relevant issues about our work with other heritage specialists at the South Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory & Liaison Panel. In 1998–9, the Liaison Panel was chaired by Derek Bayliss of the South Yorkshire Industrial History Society; the Department of Archaeology at Sheffield University was represented by Mike Parker Pearson; Doncaster Museum was represented by Gillian Crawley and Peter Robinson; Rotherham Museum was represented by Don Scott and Guy Kilminster; John Hislop, Conservation Officer, represented Barnsley MBC. There was no representative from Sheffield Museum this year, as the Museum did not have an archaeological curator in post.

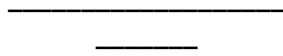
The Archaeology Service reports to a Joint Committee, made up of representatives from our four constituent local authorities. In 1998–9, the Committee was chaired by Councillor C W Harrison of Doncaster MBC. Doncaster MBC was also represented by Councillor M Robinson; Barnsley MBC was represented by Councillors R Norbury and P M Hadfield; Rotherham MBC was represented by Councillors K Wyatt and R Littleboy; Sheffield CC was represented by Councillors V Nicholson and M Pye. Derek Bayliss, Chair of the Liaison Panel, was an Observer.

John Turner, from Sheffield City Council's Committee Secretariat, acted as Secretary to both the Panel and the Joint Committee.

Finally, it has obviously taken me some time to work out how to follow on from where Sarah left off, despite the best efforts of Jim McNeil and Roy Sykes, my colleagues in the Archaeology Service; I must thank them for their patience. In addition, this Annual Review would have been even slower to appear if it hadn't been for the sterling efforts of Judy France, who undertook work experience with the Archaeology Service as part of her degree in Archaeology from the University of Sheffield. I also want to note the efforts of Chris Cumberpatch, editor of previous editions of the Annual Review, who clearly always put much more time and effort into producing them than we deserved.

**Dinah Saich**  
**South Yorkshire Archaeology Service**

# RESEARCH PROJECTS



## BUILDINGS OF THE SHEFFIELD METAL TRADES

This thematic project, undertaken by the former RCHME, now part of English Heritage, entailed the rapid survey of about one hundred buildings associated with the metal trades in and around Sheffield, which were primarily involved in the manufacture of cutlery, edge tools, silver plate, Britannia metal and electroplate, and related trades such as stove grate manufacture, haft and scale cutters' works. These buildings had been identified as the surviving metal trades buildings of greatest significance following discussions with the University of Sheffield (in particular the Department of Continuing Education and Victoria Beauchamp). The fieldwork was undertaken during the winter of 1998 and spring of 1999. Individual reports were then written on each site and subsequently a synthesis of the findings was produced, *One Great Workshop*.

Workers in Sheffield specialised in one particular aspect of these trades, from the production of raw steel through to the manufacture of finished goods, and the often very distinctive buildings housing these processes can be found both singly and as part of a group within an integrated works. The majority of sites recorded were 19<sup>th</sup> century in date, and they included urban and rural sites of varying sizes, some powered, some unpowered.

Sheffield's cutlery and other metal trades became one of the nation's great dynamos, gaining world renown and a reputation for quality. The recent decline of the industry means that many buildings, which combine to give Sheffield a unique industrial character, are no longer used for their original purposes. It is hoped this survey will contribute to the understanding of these buildings' contribution to the character of Sheffield, enabling informed decisions to be made as to their role in the future.

Report by Nicola Wray



Figure 2 Beehive Works, Milton Street, Sheffield (NMR: AA98/13962). Beehive Works, originally known as Milton Works, is a large complex, arranged around two courtyards, which manufactured cutlery, silver plate and files. All the main buildings on the site were built between the 1860s and 1890. It has a front range, containing offices, showrooms and a warehouse, with workshop ranges round the courtyards, containing forges, grinding hulls and cutlers' workshops (© English Heritage)

## COMPLETE LIST OF SITES SURVEYED BY ENGLISH HERITAGE

Birley Hay, Eckington, Derbyshire	NBR No.98305
Scythe Works, Ridgeway Moor, Eckington, Derbyshire	NBR No.98278
Phoenix Works, White Lane, Ridgeway, Derbyshire	NBR No.98267
Sykehouse, Dungworth Green, Bradfield	NBR No.97092
Frank Wheel, Rivelin Valley, Bradfield	NBR No.98231
Roscoe Wheel, Rivelin Valley, Bradfield	NBR No.98270
Burcroft Works, Burcroft Hill, Conisbrough	NBR No.98217
132 Cross Hill, Ecclesfield	NBR No.98223
Crown File Works, 11 High Street, Ecclesfield	NBR No.98226
28 Stephen Lane 'Tip Shops', Grenoside, Ecclesfield	NBR No.98291
1 Stepping Lane, Grenoside, Ecclesfield	NBR No.98205
Topside House, Grenoside, Ecclesfield	NBR No.98292
9 Woodside Lane, Grenoside, Ecclesfield	NBR No.98301
Brunswick Works, Forge Lane, Oughtibridge	NBR No.98216
Oughtibridge Forge, Forge Lane, Oughtibridge	NBR No.95982
Abbeydale Works, Abbeydale Road South, Sheffield	NBR No.96671
Pear Tree Works, 80 Annesley Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98265
Butchers Wheel, Arundel Street, Sheffield	NBR No.94655
Lion Works, 92-92a Arundel Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98303
Challenge Works, 94 Arundel Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98220
Venture Works, 103-105 Arundel Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98296
113 Arundel Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98206
Sellers Wheel, 151 Arundel Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98281
Bailey Lane Works, Bailey Lane, Sheffield	NBR No.98208
41 Blonk Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98211
Howard Works, Broad Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98241
Surrey Works, Broadfield Road, Heeley, Sheffield	NBR No.98288
120A Broomspring Lane, Sheffield	NBR No.98214
Leah's Yard, 20-22 Cambridge Street, Sheffield	NBR No.95122
Kendal Works, 23 Carver Street, Sheffield	NBR No. 98247
Grimesthorpe Steam Grinding Wheel, Chambers Lane, Grimesthorpe, Sheffield	NBR No.98236
Wardonia Works, Clough Road/Countess Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98297
Cross Walk Works, Club Garden Walk, Sheffield	NBR No.98225
Huntsman Works, Coleridge Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98242
Cornish Works, Cornish Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98222
Soho Works, Cross Smithfield Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98224
Sanderson's Darnall Works, Darnall Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98246
Kenilworth Works, Denby Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98248
Don Cutlery Works, Doncaster Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98227
Doncaster's Cementation Furnace, Doncaster St., Sheffield	NBR No.98228
Baltic Works, Effingham Road, Sheffield	NBR No.65126
Clydesdale Works, 96 Effingham Road, Sheffield	NBR No.65038
Waverley Works, Effingham Road, Sheffield	NBR No.65045
Pearl Works, 17-19 Eyre Lane, Sheffield	NBR No.98266

12 Fairbairn Road, Stannington, Sheffield	NBR No.98230
Britannia Works, Furnival Road, Sheffield	NBR No.65029
38 Garden Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98250
48 Garden Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98251
52-56 Garden Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98233
Bower Spring Furnace, Gibraltar Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98212
Brooklyn Works, Green Lane, Sheffield	NBR No.94714
Green Lane Works, Green Lane, Sheffield	NBR No.98235
Wharnccliffe Works, Green Lane, Sheffield	NBR No.98299
Shepherd Wheel, Hangingwater Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98283
Montrose Works, Harwood Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98260
La Plata Works, Holme Lane, Malinbridge, Sheffield	NBR No.98253
Clifton Works, John Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98221
Harland Works, John Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98237
Stag Works, John Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98285
Russell Works, Kelham Island, Sheffield	NBR No.98272
John Watts, Lambert Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98245
Britannia Works, Love Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98213
Love Street Steel Works, Love Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98255
Wisewood Forge, Loxley Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98300
Low Matlock Wheel, Loxley Valley, Sheffield	NBR No.98256
Olive Wheel, Loxley Valley, Sheffield	NBR No.98263
Rowell Wheel, Loxley Valley, Sheffield	NBR No.98271
Hollybush Farm, Luke Lane, Wadsley, Sheffield	NBR No.98238
Severquick Works, Main Street, Hackenthorpe, Sheffield	NBR No.98282
Kingston Works, Malinda Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98249
Titanic Works, Malinda Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98257
Sheaf Works, Maltravers Street, Sheffield	NBR No.65044
Mary Street Steel Works, Mary Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98258
104 Mary Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98259
Beehive Works, Milton Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98210
Eye Witness Works, Milton Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98229
Lion Works, Mowbray Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98254
Rock House, Nethergate, Stannington, Sheffield	NBR No.98269
Franklin House, Nook End Lane, Stannington, Sheffield	NBR No.98232
31 Oaks Lane, Shiregreen, Sheffield	NBR No.98262
Bath Works, Penistone Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98209
Globe Works, Penistone Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98234
Owlerton Bridge Forge, Penistone Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98264
The Howard Hotel, Pond Street, Sheffield	NBR No.94612
Pluto Works, Princess Street, Sheffield	NBR No.65075
Portland Works, Randall Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98268
Second Coppice, Rivelin Valley, Sheffield	NBR No.98279
Third Coppice, Rivelin Valley, Sheffield	NBR No.98290
Upper Coppice, Rivelin Valley, Sheffield	NBR No.98294
Holme Head Wheel, Rivelin Valley Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98239

Upper Cut Wheel, Rivelin Valley Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98295
Select Cutlery Works, 188-190 Rockingham Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98280
Croda Paints, Rutland Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98276
Insignia Works, Rutland Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98244
Keith Simpson Upholstery, Rutland Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98274
Platts and Nisbett Ltd, Wood Fold, Rutland Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98273
Stanley Works, Rutland Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98277
Unnamed Building, Rutland Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98275
Oak Works, St Mary's Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98243
Union Forge, Savile Street, Sheffield	NBR No.65009
16-20 Sidney Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98202
Central Cutlery Forge/Albert Works, Sidney Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98219
Kutrite Works, Snow Lane, Sheffield	NBR No.98252
Cambridge Works, 216-218 Solly Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98284
James Vickers Works, 643 Stannington Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98286
Mousehole Forge, Stannington Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98261
Crucible Steel Furnace, Stoke Street, Sheffield	NBR No.65127
Storrs Bridge Wheel, Storrs Bridge Lane, Sheffield	NBR No.98287
Columbia Place, 46 Suffolk Road, Sheffield	NBR No.98203
Sylvester Works, Sylvester Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98289
Ceylon Works, Thomas Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98304
Alpha Works, Townend Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98215
Aberdeen Works, Trafalgar Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98204
Trafalgar Works, Trafalgar Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98293
Anglo Works, 23 Trippett Lane, Sheffield	NBR No.95123
Well Meadow Steel Works, 54 Well Meadow St., Sheffield	NBR No.98298
Central Works, West Street, Sheffield	NBR No.98218
Bingley Cottage, Woodbank Road, Sheffield	NBR No.99102
Wortley Top Forge, Wortley	NBR No. 98302



Figure 3 Interior of file cutters' workshop, Crown File Works, 11 High Street, Ecclesfield (NMR: AA98/14082). Crown File Works is a complex of sandstone buildings built around a smallholding, dating from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is a good surviving example of a combined agricultural and industrial complex comprising a farmhouse, stable, file cutters' workshop, packing shop, hardening shop, tanging shop and forge, and cartshed (© English Heritage)

## CRESWELL CRAGS HERITAGE AREA

**C**reswell Crags is one of Britain's most important archaeological and geological sites and has been put forward as a potential World Heritage Site because of its significance as one of the most northerly places on earth to have been visited by humans during the last Ice Age. The surrounding Magnesian Limestone area is of outstanding national importance for its environmental and cultural heritage, including a remarkable concentration of Ice Age archaeological and palaeontological sites, rare Magnesian Limestone grasslands and semi-natural woodlands and historic monuments and buildings. The Creswell Crags Heritage Area lies at the heart of the former rural coalfield of South Yorkshire, north-east Derbyshire and north



Figure 4 Dead Man's Cave, Anston Stones (© SYAS)

Nottinghamshire. The area is faced with major social, economic and environmental problems as a result of the recent very rapid decline of the traditional industrial base. One of the biggest problems is that of poor image, which acts as a break on infrastructure improvement and inward investment.

Creswell Heritage Trust (Ian Walker & Nigel Mills) have produced the Creswell Crags Conservation Plan, with funding from English Heritage and the Heritage Lottery Fund. The purpose of the Conservation Plan is to identify why Creswell Crags and the surrounding Heritage Area is significant and to show how that significance can be protected, enhanced and retained in future use and development.

The Conservation Plan addresses Creswell Crags and other Ice Age archaeological sites within the Creswell Crags Heritage Area, which runs from Wadsworth, near Doncaster, at its northernmost point to Pinxton, near Sutton in Ashfield, in the south. The Heritage Area covers several South Yorkshire rock shelters, including Lob Wells Shelter, Thorpe Common Shelter, Dead Man's Cave at Anston Stones and the nearby Red Hill Cave. Upper Palaeolithic artifacts and faunal remains have been recovered from Dead Man's Cave, which is now scheduled; Mesolithic artifacts and faunal remains have been recovered from Thorpe Common Shelter; Neolithic flints (and one Upper Palaeolithic point) have been recovered from Lob Wells Shelter, which is also now scheduled. The Plan does not include specific recommendations for sites other than Creswell Crags. However, it does recommend that a more comprehensive review of Ice Age sites within the Heritage Area, is needed. Such a review would consider archaeological, ecological and access issues with a view to developing integrated management plans for the key limestone vales and gorges.

**Report by Nigel Mills**



Figure 5 Lady's Bridge on the River Don (© SYAS)

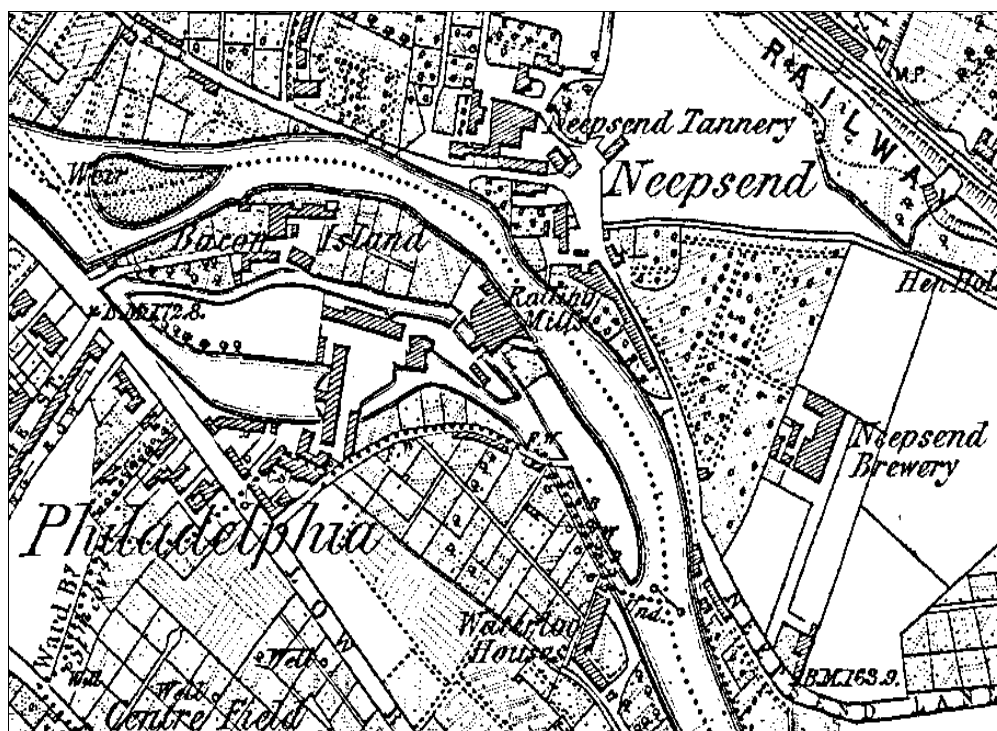


Figure 6 Neepsend and Philadelphia on the River Don, as shown on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map

## UPPER DON RIVERSIDE WALK, SHEFFIELD

In July 1998, an assessment of areas of archaeological/historical interest along the River Don, between Lady's Bridge and Hillfoot Bridge, was prepared for Sheffield City Council, on behalf of the Upper Don Partnership; the Partnership was seeking funding for the implementation of a riverside walk/cycleway along the Upper Don. The assessment will identify features along the provisional route that are suitable for interpretation, as well as defining areas where care will be needed in construction, to ensure features are protected from damage.

### The prehistoric and Roman periods

Only one object of pre-medieval date is known from the study area. This is a copper alloy socketed axe head dating to the later Bronze Age. It was found in 1921 by a workman, Mr. Frank Jowle, in a deposit of clay and river gravel close to Hillfoot bridge and is now in Sheffield City Museum.

The axehead may have been deposited in the river deliberately, a practice which appears to have been characteristic of later Bronze Age society. It seems likely that wealth and power were demonstrated and enacted through the deliberate discard of objects that possessed a symbolic value beyond their functional utility. The presence of the axehead and its relatively unabraded, unworn condition would suggest that its place of deposition was close to the place in which it was found. Related finds can be expected.

### The Medieval and early post-Medieval periods (AD410 –c. 1560)

Relatively little is known in detail of the medieval occupation of Sheffield due to the extensive

development of the city during the industrial and post-industrial periods. A limited amount of information is available regarding the area around Lady's Bridge, a focal point of medieval occupation. In part this is because the confluence of the rivers Sheaf and Don, the site now occupied by the Castle and Sheaf Markets, was the location of the medieval castle with which Lady's Bridge was associated (Hey 1991, Latham and Atkinson 1994). The survival of documents relating to the early post-medieval period have allowed historians to study the development of the town in somewhat greater detail (Hey 1972, 1991). One writer has summarised the situation in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century as follows

Sheffield was still ... essentially a market town, but with a rapidly expanding population. Despite being an unincorporated town, the channels of power belonged to an oligarchy and wealth was probably concentrated in a few hands. Although the edge tool trades were developing and the Earl's colliery was not an insignificant undertaking, Sheffield retained the characteristics of a market town and service centre with the characteristic occupations

(Postles 1983, 66)

### *Sheffield Castle*

Shortly after the Norman Conquest, William de Lovetot constructed a timber castle on an outcrop of sandstone overlooking the confluence of the Rivers Sheaf and the Don, the site of the modern markets. This structure survived until the middle of the 13<sup>th</sup> century when it was attacked, captured and burnt along with the rest of the town by Simon de Montfort. Following the defeat of de Montfort and his followers, the Castle was rebuilt in stone and this, together with later additions, survived until the 1649 when it was demolished, sharing the fate of the castles at Pontefract and Tickhill.

Although the site of the Castle lay outside the study area, its presence would have had a

significant effect on the uses of the land immediately around it and the proximity of the town mill and of Lady's Bridge are certainly not co-incidental. The location of other features which are often found in associated with medieval castles (such as fish ponds, water meadows, dry grazing land, orchards, gardens etc.) remain unknown, but, given the abundant evidence from similar castles it is not unreasonable to assume that a number of these features were present and the possibility that some of them lay within the study area must be seriously considered.

#### *Lady's Bridge*

The first recorded bridge on the site was constructed in the 12<sup>th</sup> century by William de Lovetot and this wooden structure was not replaced until 1486 when William Hill, a master mason, was employed by the townsmen to build a stone bridge with five arches, 14ft 6in wide (Hey 1991, 41). In 1689 it was designated as a county bridge and responsibility for its upkeep was taken over by the West Riding justices of the peace. It was subsequently widened on four occasions, and Hey has noted that some of the ribbed arches erected by Hill can still be seen from the Castlegate side. Fine (1992, 30) has published a photograph taken in 1909 which clearly shows the structural evidence for the rebuilding.

The name of the bridge derives from the fact that a chapel, dedicated to the Virgin Mary, stood at the south-eastern end. It is referred to in the will of the fourth earl of Shrewsbury in 1538 and was saved from demolition in 1547 (the date of the dissolution of the chantry chapels) by conversion, first into a warehouse and subsequently into an almshouse. It was finally demolished in 1760, when the bridge was first widened to take the increased volume of traffic. Today two fine late Victorian buildings (built in 1900) stand at the northern end of the bridge while the southern end is dominated by the site of the Exchange Brewery and a public house.

#### *The Town Corn Mill*

The earliest reference to a mill sited on the Upper Don comes in the 12<sup>th</sup> century when a mill was constructed by the de Lovetots to process grain from their lands around Sheffield. Further references to the mill are unknown until 1578 when supplies of grain and the sale of flour and malt are mentioned. Throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries there are repeated references to the repair of the mill and of the associated weir, which also served the Kelham wheel. The mill remained a corn mill throughout this time and in 1740 Thomas Ford took over the lease and constructed a cutlers wheel adjacent to it. From 1761 until 1876 the site was operated by the Vickers family who developed the site as a steelworks with the erection of a rolling mill and a steam engine around 1825. The corn mill was let to Samuel Price between the 1850s and 1870s but by the late 1870s the use of water power had been abandoned both for grinding and milling (Crossley 1989, 15). Regarding the survival of the site Crossley has summarised the situation thus

The mill and wheel sites are occupied by the brewery adjacent to Lady's Bridge. The development of the Millsands steelworks of Naylor Vickers encroached on the mill dam in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century ... Culverted channels from goits and overflows were traced before the recent northward extension of the brewery. Water flows from these into the river north of Lady's Bridge.

(Crossley 1989, 15–16)

The site of the mill, together with its goits and channels today lie under the concrete foundation which was formerly part of the Exchange Brewery. Recent excavations have failed to locate any trace of the mill, although a few sheds of medieval pottery were recovered from the area.

### *The medieval waterfront*

Excavations in a number of European towns have repeatedly demonstrated the significance of medieval waterfronts as zones of intense economic and domestic activity. While the Don was not navigable for boats of any significant size, its importance as a source of fish, water and local transport, as well as hydraulic power and for the disposal of refuse, should not be underestimated.

The present banks of the river have little relationship to those existing in medieval or early post-medieval times and it seems probable that the earlier strandline lies buried beneath later accretions and dumps of material, partly casual but probably mainly deliberate and intended to raise and consolidate the unstable and shifting natural banks. The evidence available relates principally to the post-medieval period, but this is almost certainly a result of the very limited excavation carried out along the waterfront as a whole.

### **The early modern and modern periods (c. 1560–1900)**

The archaeology of early post-medieval Sheffield is poorly known and is dominated by the evidence for industrial activity. There is good historical evidence to suppose that Sheffield remained essentially a market town well into the 16<sup>th</sup> century and that the administration of the town and the way of life of the inhabitants resembled that established in the later medieval period.

### *Water mills*

The importance of water power in the early development of Sheffield cannot be underestimated. According to David Hey, one of the foremost authorities on the social and economic history of the city

Water-power was the basis of the Industrial Revolution in the Sheffield district. Not until 1786 was a steam engine

used for grinding and it was well into the nineteenth century before steam became more important than the water-driven grinding wheels and 'tilts', as the iron forges were called. The expansion of the industry during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries can be seen from the fact that in 1624 there were 32 grinding wheels in the whole region ten miles around Sheffield; by 1770 there were 133.  
(Hey 1972, 14)

Of these wheels, twenty six were sited on the Don (Hey 1972, 14, footnote 8). In addition to the Town Mill, nine post-medieval mill sites (some with probable earlier antecedents) were located in the study area. The Don, which falls only 160 feet from Oughtibridge to Brightside, supported fewer wheels than its smaller but steeper tributaries. In spite of this the early hydraulic engineers were able to enhance the potential of the Don through the construction of weirs, a number of which survive within the study area and beyond. Describing the wheels, Hey has noted that

Grinding-wheels were the typical units on the rivers, but the Don and its tributaries also rang to the sound of the tilt hammer. Gatty's edition of [Joseph] Hunter's *Hallamshire* quotes a writer in 1750 who had observed how the number of water-powered forges had grown;

I am informed it is almost the only method made use of in Germany for reducing bar iron into smaller dimensions fit for manufactures, and is of late much used in England, insomuch so that, at and near Sheffield, there has been within these few years past no less than fifteen tilting mills erected for reducing iron and steel to a smaller dimension.

In 1769, on a visit to Sheffield, Arthur Young observed

the tilting mill, which is a blacksmith's immense hammer in constant motion on an anvil, worked by water wheels, and by the same power the bellows of a forge adjoining kept regularly blown. The force of this mechanism is prodigious; so great, that you cannot lay your hand on a gate at three perches distance, without feeling a strong trembling motion, which is communicated to the earth all around.  
(Hey 1991, 181–2)

Several types of wheels were in operation within the study area, including both grinding wheels and tilts and a comprehensive description of the following sites is given in Crossley's *Water Power on the Sheffield Rivers* (1989, 11–17)

1. The Wicker Tilts and Wheel.
2. Kelham Wheel and the Silk and Cotton mills.
3. The Nether and Upper Morton Wheels or Philadelphia Works.
4. The Sandbed Wheel.

#### *The Sheffield Union Workhouse*

In 1828 the building on the site of the cotton mill on Kelham Island was converted into the Sheffield Union workhouse. An account, originally written in 1862 states that

The workhouse ... is situated in Kelham Street. The buildings, which were originally used for a cotton mill, and were altered for workhouse purposes, are situated in the heart of the town ...  
(Taylor 1862)

A study of the history of the workhouse was carried out in 1986 by students from the University of Sheffield, Department of Continuing Education and the results were published in 1997. The account (Caulton 1997) contains many interesting details of the conditions in the workhouse and of the attitudes which led to its creation, maintenance and ultimate closure. It also includes details of the original structure of

the buildings, the changes which were made to the fabric over time and the surviving traces of the building (as they were in 1986).

The building had been a cotton mill until 1815 when milling ceased and the building was left to stand empty. In 1828 it was decided that the old workhouse in West Bar should be closed and the inmates moved to the renovated and converted cotton mill, which was purchased for the sum of £7500. On 18<sup>th</sup> June 1829, 317 paupers were moved to the former mill.

The building remained in use until 1881 when a new building was opened in Fir Vale. The workhouse was witness to a number of significant events in Sheffield's history. In 1831 and 1832 the upper floors were temporarily converted to house victims of the cholera epidemic which eventually claimed 403 lives. In 1864 at the time of the collapse of the Dale Dyke Dam, the workhouse housed 1200 inmates. Remarkably, given the force of the flood and the extensive damage in the Upper Don Valley, all the inmates survived the event (Harrison 1864, Amey 1974, Caulton 1997, 175–6). Following the flood, part of the building was used as a temporary mortuary.

Throughout its life, the workhouse attracted criticism, in part because of conditions inside and in part because of local opposition to the provisions of the New Poor Law of 1834. In spite of this, and of the continuing practice of giving 'outdoor relief' to many of the city's paupers, the building was extended in 1843 and by 1853 the workhouse included a hospital and an asylum.

In 1855 the Board of Guardians decided to build a new workhouse in Darnall at a cost of £30,000. Local hostility was intense and after considerable discussion it was decided to expand the existing workhouse at a cost of £5,900 (Caulton 1997, 173). In 1862 a Select Committee on Poor Relief made a detailed investigation of the state of the workhouse and the condition of the inmates. A number of

practices were highlighted, including the failure to appoint a Church of England minister (owing to the strength of nonconformist feeling in Sheffield) and incidents involving the use and abuse of alcohol, the presence of prostitutes in the hospital and the asylum and the overcrowding which led to beds being shared.

In 1877 the consumption of alcohol was again highlighted and figures produced to prove that in the previous year 35,424 pints of beer, 5000 pints of wine and 400 pints of spirits had been consumed by the inmates. Following a strike by the inmates over the quality of the food a local journalist disguised himself as a tramp and spent a night in the 'casual ward'. Although the account may have been subject to some exaggeration, conditions were undoubtedly poor. In 1880 two inmates committed suicide, the second during the inquest on the first.

In 1881 a new workhouse was opened at Fir Vale and the Kelham Island building was offered for sale on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1882. It was eventually purchased by Ibbotson Brothers and Co. for £15,000 in 1889. The company already owned the Globe Works on Penistone Road and renamed the workhouse the Globe Steel Works.

In 1986, when the local history group investigated the site

several former workhouse buildings survived on site, and the former entrance on Cotton Street could be clearly identified by changes in the brick pattern. The only complete buildings which survive today are those fronting Alma Street, which are a relic not only of the workhouse era, but are believed to date back to the first cotton mill built in 1805 ... Other former workhouse buildings existed in part in 1986. Part of the hospital shown on the 1853 Ordnance Survey map was being used as an open store, whilst part of the hospital and asylum wall had been incorporated into more recent buildings.

(Caulton 1997, 179)

#### *The Dale Dyke Dam disaster*

On the night of the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> March 1864, a combination of bad weather and flawed construction caused the collapse of the Dale Dyke dam in the upper reaches of the Loxley Valley and sent a huge volume of water down the Loxley Valley and into the Upper Don Valley. The extensive damage and significant loss of life (240 people were drowned) led to a mass of insurance claims, some of which have contributed to the descriptions presented above. Eyewitness accounts, gathered together and published by the journalist Samuel Harrison in the immediate aftermath (1864) give some idea of the scale of the destruction and also provide a unique 'snapshot' of the area. Describing the area downstream from the Neepsend gasworks Harrison wrote

Hardly a house or mill, shop, church or stable within 200 yards of either side of the River Don evaded damage. Neepsend Lane, Mowbray Street, Harvest Lane, Nursery Street, Bacon Island, Kelham Island, Cotton Mill Walk, Long Croft and The Wicker were but a few of the places badly affected.

(Harrison 1864)

The damage to individual buildings was described by Harrison and has more recently been re-told by Amey (1972). In addition to the extensive damage to the Neepsend gasworks, to the Philadelphia steelworks, to Kelham Island and to the large Naylor and Vickers plant, dozens of houses, shops, workshops and smaller buildings were swept away. Insurance and other provisions enabled the owners of wrecked businesses to rebuild their premises, but it must be presumed that a number of medieval and post-medieval structures were either destroyed by the flood or were so badly damaged that they required demolition. The extent to which rebuilding took place on the same sites and the degree of reuse of surviving buildings cannot be judged from documentary sources alone and only archaeological invest-

igation would indicate whether earlier foundations survive beneath the existing buildings.

### The character of the riverside area

The earliest map of the area, drawn by Gosling in 1736, shows the area to have been predominantly rural in character with large areas of allotment gardens shown around the Town Mill, with the north bank occupied by Spittle Garden. Two mills are shown, the Town Mill and Kelham Wheel, both sited on the long goit leaving the river upstream from the Kelham Wheel and rejoining the river at Lady's Bridge. Two bridges are shown spanning the river, the lower on the approximate site of the current Corporation Street Bridge.

By 1771, when William Fairbank produced his *Correct Plan of the Town of Sheffield in the County of York* the town had grown. Although not shown in detail, it seems that occupation on the north bank of the river had expanded, with the road from Barnsley and Wakefield running along the north bank. It seems that by 1771 this area was being drawn into the commercial core of the town, although upstream the landscape was still largely rural.

John Leather's plan of Sheffield (1823), shows a major expansion of the city as a whole and in the study area in particular. A number of the same features can be seen on Tayler's map of 1832, together with additional details. The workhouse is shown, as is the Iron Bridge. According to Samuel Harrison, this had been erected in 1795 and was swept away in the 1864 flood. The Globe works, fronting onto Penistone Road is marked, as are buildings around Cornish Place. A description of the site, written by Joseph Woolhouse in 1832 and published in 1924 described the site as follows

Proceeding on, near Cornish Street, was a very large and neat Bowling Green belonging to Cleekham Public House.

Afterwards a large Steam grinding wheel was built and the green destroyed; then the wheel was destroyed, and Mr Dixon's white metal manufactory built on the ruins. (Woolhouse 1924, 321)

The first Ordnance Survey maps were published in 1850–51 and the sequence of OS maps allows the development of the area and the expansion of the town to be traced in some detail. Upstream from Kelham Island, industrial developments were concentrated on the south bank, possibly in part because of the lack of bridges linking the north bank with the more densely settled south bank. Cornish Place, Globe Works and the Don Brewery mark the end of the area of densest industrialisation and the start of a more open area, including agricultural land and a cottages (including the Waterloo Cottages). On the north bank, two industrial sites are shown, the Neepsend Tannery (with tanning pits spreading downstream from Neepsend itself) and the Neepsend Brewery.

By the time of the 1893 survey, new bridges at Corporation Street (Borough Bridge), Ball Street, Rutland Road (Neepsend Bridge) and Hillfoot (Wood Street) had been added. The Corporation Street bridge was still new enough in 1864 for Harrison to describe it as 'a new and strongly built structure' which was able to withstand the force of the flood.

Other developments are also documented on the OS maps. The site of the workhouse was occupied by the Globe Steel works and considerable infilling of vacant plots took place. Developments in Neepsend include the gasworks and two breweries, the Cannon and Burton Road plants and the Toledo steelworks between the Sandbed weir and the Gas works. The sluices, the mill dam and the goit are still shown on the south side of Bacon Island, which was occupied by the Philadelphia Works and the Rutland Works. The majority of these buildings were damaged during the 1864 flood, Harrison's account mentioning particularly the damage to

the Neepsend Gasworks and the Philadelphia Works, where 'thousands of pounds worth of destruction was wrought'. Rebuilding was swift however and the area continued to develop during the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Trade directories, produced throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, provide a useful guide to the character of urban areas. The volume of information is immense as the directories were produced annually – the following is a brief example. In 1900, numbers 1 to 19 Mowbray Street were occupied by the following people and businesses

1	J and J Dyson: manufactures of fine bricks
3	Henry Fox: shellfish merchant
5	Mrs Hannah Marsland: clog maker
7	George Slatter: meal and flour manufacturer
9–11	J J Smelt: model lodging house
13, 15, 17	Sheffield Bedding Company
19	J Lowe: agent

When the range of businesses is compared to the activities carried out in the area today, it is clear that, while the range of occupations has narrowed and while derelict buildings are more common, the area has maintained its character, being semi-industrial with a mixture of larger businesses and small. A further example of character is provided by the schedule of activities that accompanied a 1782 plan of the Wicker Tilts and Wheel. The uses of the land range from gardens and garden houses (probably market gardens similar to those shown on Gosling's 1736 map) to domestic dwellings (including tenements), workshops, dog kennels, a coffee house and workshops.

### The archaeological potential of the area

Archaeological investigations have been carried out within the study area, principally connected with the redevelopment of the site of the former Exchange Brewery; the early stages of this work were described in *Archaeology in South*

*Yorkshire 1996–1998*. The results of the excavations have implications for the archaeology of the whole riverside zone

- Although industrial activities have been intense in the Upper Don Valley, they have not always obliterated evidence of earlier activity.
- While individual sites must be evaluated on a site-by-site basis, the assumption of survival must be made in advance and programmes of development planned accordingly, with allowance made for appropriate archaeological investigations.
- The revetment of the waterfront and its gradual encroachment into the riverbed carries the implication that pre-industrial waterfronts may be 'encased' in later waterfront revetments, sealing and protecting evidence of earlier human activity and riverbed and edge deposits with considerable paleoenvironmental importance.

There can be no doubt that the archaeology of the city of Sheffield, both buried features and standing buildings, has as much to contribute to our understanding of the history of the industrial revolution as have more famous sites such as Ironbridge Gorge. The landscape of the stretch of the Don between Lady's Bridge and Hillfoot Bridge is the result of human activities stretching over many centuries. The elements of the past present in the study area, as outlined in this report, are diverse. The history of technological innovation represented by the harnessing of water power and its later eclipse by steam is well represented by the surviving (and buried) traces of the grinding wheels, tilts, weirs and goits. At the same time, the site of the workhouse and the detailed records relating to commercial and domestic activities carried out in this area provide a perspective on the social dimensions of the industrial revolution, often omitted from conventional accounts of industrialisation. With Kelham Island Museum lying in the centre of the

study area, the creation of a footpath and cycleway through this area offers an opportunity to combine both intensive (museum) and extensive (landscape) approaches to encouraging a perception of the archaeological and historical heritage of the city.

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## SCABBA WOOD, SPROTBROUGH: A PREHISTORIC BURIAL PLACE AND AN UNDATED ENCLOSURE

In 1992, the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service was asked to investigate the discovery of human remains in a small wood near Sprotbrough; the remains had been disturbed by badgers digging beneath a rock overhang at the top of a valley sloping down into the Don gorge. The subsequent excavation, of the deposits beneath the overhang, recovered remains from two skeletons (Chadwick 1992). Osteological analysis and radiocarbon dating of these bones revealed that they belonged to a young adult male of 20–30 years and a 12–15 year old, who lived in the later part of the fourth millennium BC, during the Earlier Neolithic. In 1996, the Doncaster branch of the Yorkshire Archaeological Society began excavating an unusual and undated stone-walled enclosure only a few hundred metres from the rock shelter. In 1997, Sheffield University was invited to help

with the work on the enclosure, returning for a second season in April 1998, to work on both sites (Buckland *et al.* 1998).

### The area around the rock shelter and enclosure

The north bank of the Don, around Sprotbrough and Cadeby, is rich in Neolithic and other prehistoric remains (Dept. of Archaeology & Prehistory 1998). There is a suspected henge monument on Cadeby Top and as many as three long barrows recorded on Hangmanstone Hill and Barnburgh. Another, known as King Hengist Rein, lies on the level ground just a few hundred metres from the Scabba Wood rock shelter. Finds of Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age flintwork, a Neolithic stone axe and prehistoric pottery have been made along the edge of the magnesian limestone plateau and in the Don valley. Rock shelters and caves in the limestone of South Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire have become increasingly recognised as places for the burial of Neolithic human remains. The project aimed to explore the overhang and the enclosure in more detail, to see whether, and how, they might fit into this wider Neolithic landscape.



Figure 7 Excavations at Scabba Wood, Sprotbrough

A detailed survey of the earthworks in Scabba Wood shed some light on the relationship between the enclosure and the other earthworks in and around the valley. Many are remnant ridge and furrow strips from medieval farming, but some terracing on the steeper slopes of the valley (some just to the east of the enclosure) may represent field remains from prehistoric farming (Chadwick and Robbins 1998).

### The enclosure

The enclosure is sub-rectangular (26m x 27m) with some rounded corners. The enclosure bank, constructed of stones and earth, shows no obvious sign of an interruption that would indicate an entrance, although a depression at the north-east corner leads out into a slight holloway running past the site. Whether this holloway was contemporary with, or later than the construction and use of the enclosure is unknown. The interior of the enclosure is lower than much of the land immediately surrounding it, suggesting that the enclosure walls were constructed in an area previously excavated to form a terrace.

The western and eastern lengths of the enclosure's perimeter were shown to be formed by a large wall of upright stone slabs, retaining an earthen and stone core. Surface remains along the unexcavated northern side suggest that this was constructed in the same way. Along the southern side this construction method may also have been used, but here the perimeter had been truncated and overlain by a later earthen bank.

Excavation into this southern bank revealed an earlier phase of construction, shown by two parallel features of yellowish-grey sandy sediment with numerous stones, which are not arranged in any way. These may be robber trenches; the sand includes quartz, which may derive from the use of mortar during the construction of an earlier wall. This appears to indicate two separate phases: an earlier stone

construction (with inner and outer retaining 'walls') and a later earthen bank. There are similarities between this bank and that of the holloway running along the north side of the enclosure. These earthen banks may be related to each other and have little or nothing to do with the enclosure.

An internal ditch, inside the south wall of the enclosure, produced a small number of Roman finds from its upper fills. Pottery included a 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> century AD colour-coated beaker and the greater part of a mortarium in an oxidised fabric with iron slag trituration grits. An Aucissa-type brooch (AD 40–60) bearing a maker's mark (ATGVIOS) was also recovered from this ditch.

A long earthen mound extends southwards from the southwest corner of the enclosure. This mound was found to be largely stone free, but it does contain a number of bone fragments, struck flints and a few pieces of coarse dark pottery, which may be Iron Age in date. The pottery was found slightly higher in the mound's fill than a small assemblage of poorly struck flint flakes that includes a Later Neolithic transverse arrowhead (a *petit tranchet* derivative). This mound in turn overlies an earthen bank with stones set into the top.

### Interpretation

Only 10 pottery sherds and a few worked flints were recovered from the whole of the enclosure area. The Roman brooch and pottery were certainly deposited after the enclosure's construction and indicate that its origins are most probably prehistoric. The stratigraphic relationship between the earthen long mound and the enclosure is not certain but suggest that the mound was constructed against the enclosure wall. It is, therefore, possible that the deposition of the Later Neolithic transverse arrowhead postdates the enclosure's construction.

This unusual enclosure, with its lowered interior surface, its internal and external ditches, its slab

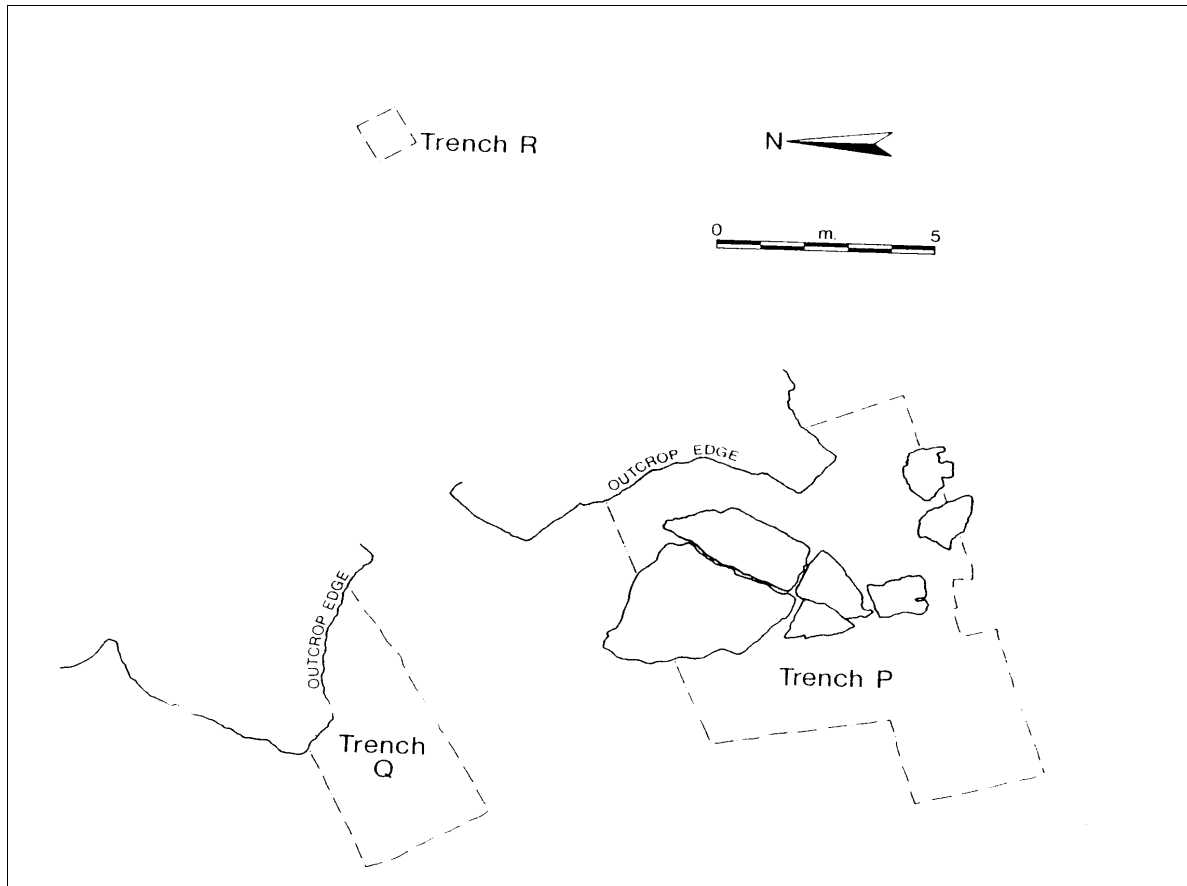


Figure 8 The trenches at the rock shelter

and earthen wall, and its uncertain entranceway, is difficult to parallel. Without a clear idea of its date of construction, little more can be said about it at this stage.

### The rock shelter

The 1992 excavation of the overhang had been very small; the 1998 excavation opened up a larger area against the rock face, as well as a second trench further to the north. This northern trench was not fully excavated, but finds included a fragment of human skull, four sherds of Roman pottery and a flint flake.

The main trench covered an area of 44sq m around the small overhang. In front of the overhang was a large boulder, creating a wide cleft between the rock face and its eastern edge.

In this cleft was a sequence of layers that contained mixed finds of many different periods.

### *Earlier Neolithic*

A variety of finds from the Earlier Neolithic period, contemporary with the burials, was recovered: five fragments of leaf-shaped arrowheads (two of them conjoining), a blade struck from the polished surface of a Group VI stone axe from Langdale in Cumbria, and a small assemblage of worked flints of small, narrow-blade technology. A piece of a saddle quern might also be dated to this period. Some of the seventeen fragments of human bones and teeth recovered might have belonged to the two Neolithic individuals previously excavated, but they may also derive from possibly two more individuals – an older adult and a 8–9 year old child.

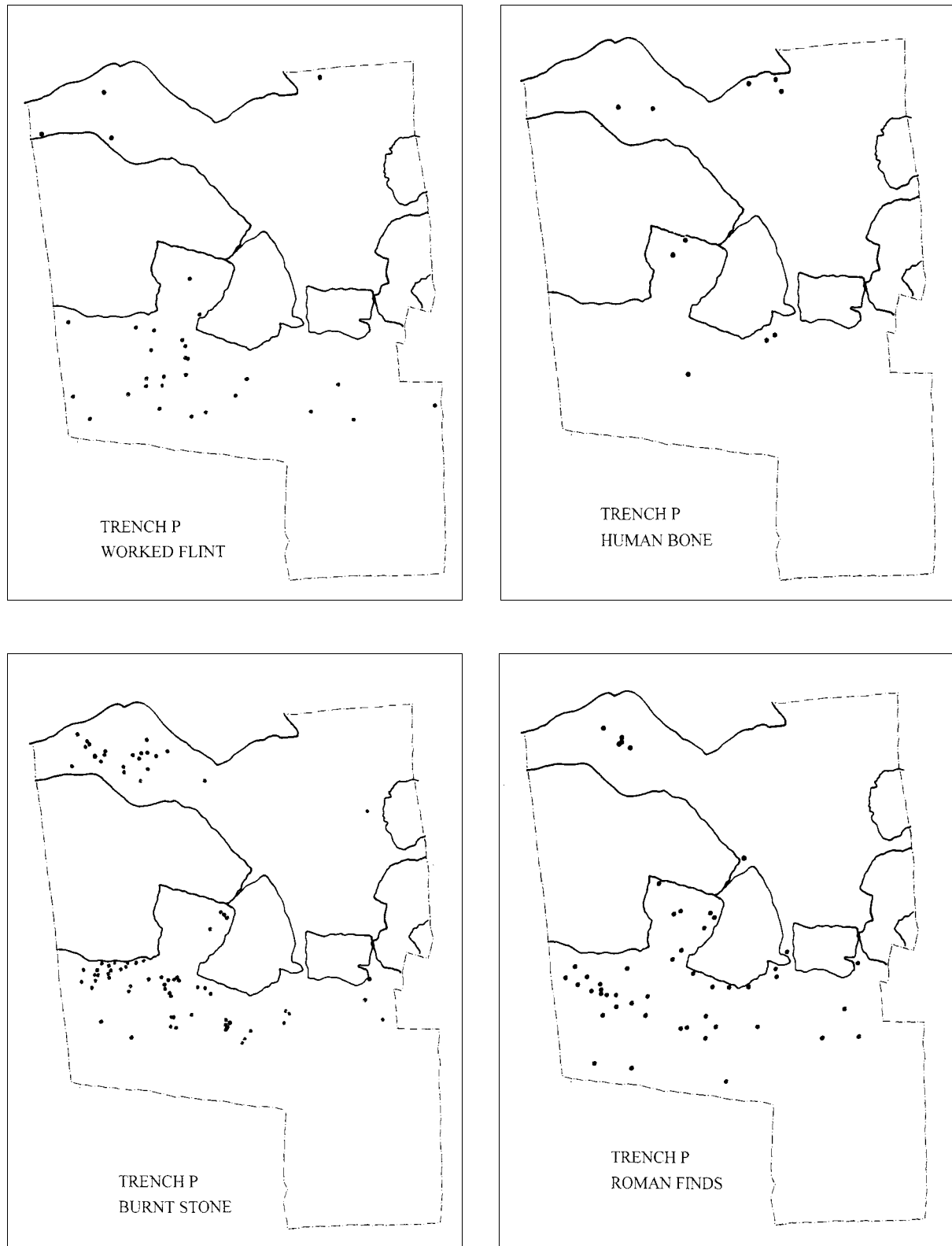


Figure 9 Distribution of finds from the Scabba Wood excavation

### *Early Bronze Age*

Traces of Early Bronze Age activity were also revealed, including sherds of grog- and bone-tempered pottery that were probably containers for the pieces of cremated bone found scattered around the area of the boulder. These are likely to be the disturbed remains of one or more cremation urns.

### *Iron Age*

There may well also have been activity here in the 1st millennium BC. Six sherds that are likely to be Iron Age in date were recovered. One is the flat rim of a pot and four others have unusual fingertip decoration.

### *Roman*

Roman material was more common. There were about fifty sherds of Roman pottery including single pieces of Cantley ware and Samian ware (AD 160–220). Five coins, dating between the late 3<sup>rd</sup> and mid 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, were also found.

### *Later activity*

A Viking pendant whetstone and a Post-Medieval silvered button were the only other traces of activity likely to predate the last two centuries.

There was a modest assemblage of animal bones, but most of these fragments were small and unidentifiable. Eighty-eight specimens were identifiable and comprise various species including horse, cow, pig, sheep/goat, fox, badger and domestic fowl. Bones of the latter three species are likely to have arrived here through natural rather than human processes.

### **Interpretation of the activities at the rock shelter**

The presence of Neolithic, Early Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Scandinavian material suggests that this outcrop was a special place for many different generations, probably on and off over a period of 4000 years. The nature

and distribution of the material indicates that people's activities here changed with time, with deposition of human remains, lithics and pottery in the Neolithic, placement of one or two cremation vessels in the Early Bronze Age, dropping of smashed pots in the Iron Age and again (with coins) in the Roman period, and the dropping of a pendant whetstone in the Anglo-Scandinavian period. A silvered button attests to visitation in the 18th century, whilst shotgun cartridges from the 1950s indicate more recent use.

Various ideas about why this material, principally the Neolithic and Roman finds, was deposited here were aired during excavation. One suggestion was that the rock outcrop lay beside a route way and thus accumulated chance finds of pottery, flints and coins – lost, broken or discarded in transit. Another was that the Roman material derived from settlement debris, collected together by the rocks as a manure heap to be spread on adjacent fields. A third possibility was that the human teeth and finger bones, along with the smashed pottery, were the leftovers from brawls and fights between the ancient people of Sprotbrough.

The favoured interpretation, at this stage, is that this spot was periodically invested with supernatural significance. Its use during the Middle Neolithic (c.3500–2500 BC) can be expected to have coincided with use of the nearby King Hengist Rein long barrow and the two or three at Barnburgh and Hangmanstone Hill, which would have been visible from here in a cleared landscape. The outcrop's shape, in the form of a horn-ended facade opening onto an open area, mimics that of many Neolithic chambered tombs. It is a surprising and striking natural feature, whose exposed rock faces and overhangs invite appreciation. If the unburnt human bones all date to the Neolithic, then this spot was used for the deposition of the remains of at least two individuals and possibly seven in total. In front of the large boulder, there was a particular spot where lithic artefacts and Neolithic

pottery was deposited, perhaps around a hearth. Most of these artefacts, such as the four arrowheads, were broken. This evidence could be interpreted as the deposition of casual waste from a camp fire, but their context, directly adjacent to a place of the dead, suggests that these remains derive from activities concerned with offerings to, communicating with, or placating those dead.

We do not know if this place was similarly significant in the Late Neolithic. The Early Bronze Age sherds and burnt bones hint at the deposition of one or even two cremation burials around *c.* 2000–1600 BC. We cannot say whether this indicates that the place's association with the ancient dead was remembered.

Because of the lack of pottery from Iron Age contexts in the region (Parker Pearson and Sydes 1997), there are difficulties in assigning certain of the recovered sherds to that period with any certainty. None the less, it seems that some pottery was deposited here in the Iron Age, perhaps in the last two centuries BC.

The date range of the Roman pottery and coins suggests that depositions were made over at least two centuries, between *c.* AD 150 and *c.* AD 350. The coins could conceivably derive from a small hoard. The abraded condition and small size of the sherds is striking when compared to the size and condition of the much more fragile Iron Age and Bronze Age pottery. The Roman pottery sherds appear to have been subjected to considerable trampling and erosion, akin to material left on floor and yard surfaces. The most likely explanation for its condition and distribution, around the front of the large boulder, is that the pottery was placed on the boulder's flat table-like surface as a series of offerings. Over the passage of centuries, the pottery was eventually destroyed, except for those sherds and other artefacts that fell down crevices or dropped off the side of the boulder and became covered, and protected, by soil.

The absence of post-Roman or medieval pottery at the rock shelter is notable, but the pendant whetstone indicates that the site was visited in the 10<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The pendant was virtually worn to a stub and thus would have been no great loss. Unaccompanied by any other material of that period, it may simply represent a chance loss. If a deliberate discard, it must be unrelated to any understanding of the place's previous spiritual significance. The same is probably the case for the 18<sup>th</sup> century button. significance.

### **Acknowledgements**

This work would not have been possible without the permission and support of Mr Gordon Morris, whose vital support included not only access to his wood but also expenditure on repairing the trackways that were churned up during a record-breaking wet April. We also thank other members of the Doncaster Archaeology Society, particularly Ian Stead, Doug Croft and Andrew Steers, who turned out despite the bad weather and Albert Cruse, who provided support and advice. Paul Buckland, David Dungworth and Charles Frederick supervised excavations on the enclosure. Mike Parker Pearson supervised excavation of the rock shelter. Colin Merrony supervised EDM and geophysical surveying on the excavations and throughout the wood. Andrew Chamberlain and Pia Nystrom analysed the human remains, whilst Andrew Chamberlain arranged the sieving equipment on the rock shelter site. Pat Collins analysed the animal remains whilst David Dungworth reported on the Roman metalwork. Ray Stables provided aerial photographic expertise and Janet Fletcher provided hot food in wet, cold and muddy conditions. The students were Victoria Ann Tomalin, Jack March, Liz Watts, Charlotte Dawson, Amy Dean, Allison Blanchard, Duncan Sayer, Lesley Richmond, James Gerrard, Paul Jeffries, Pat Driscoll, Pat Stuart, Neil Dransfield, Michele Forte, Rik Legge, Abby Guinness, Alastair Chitham, Shani Oates, Becky Morphy, Adam Daubney, James Buse, Harriet Foster, Richard Chatterton, Matthew Walsham, Chris

Baker, Gillian Worrall, Tamsin Helliwell, Alex MacDonald, Elaine Bestwick, Tony Swiss, Paul Williamson, Carey-Louisa Maguire, Marie Dickerson, Ian Mylrea, Jacky Roebuck, Jacky Worrall, Alan North and Philip Harrison.

**Report by Paul Buckland, Andrew Chamberlain, Pat Collins, David Dungworth, Charles Frederick, Colin Merrony, Pia Nystrom and Mike Parker Pearson**

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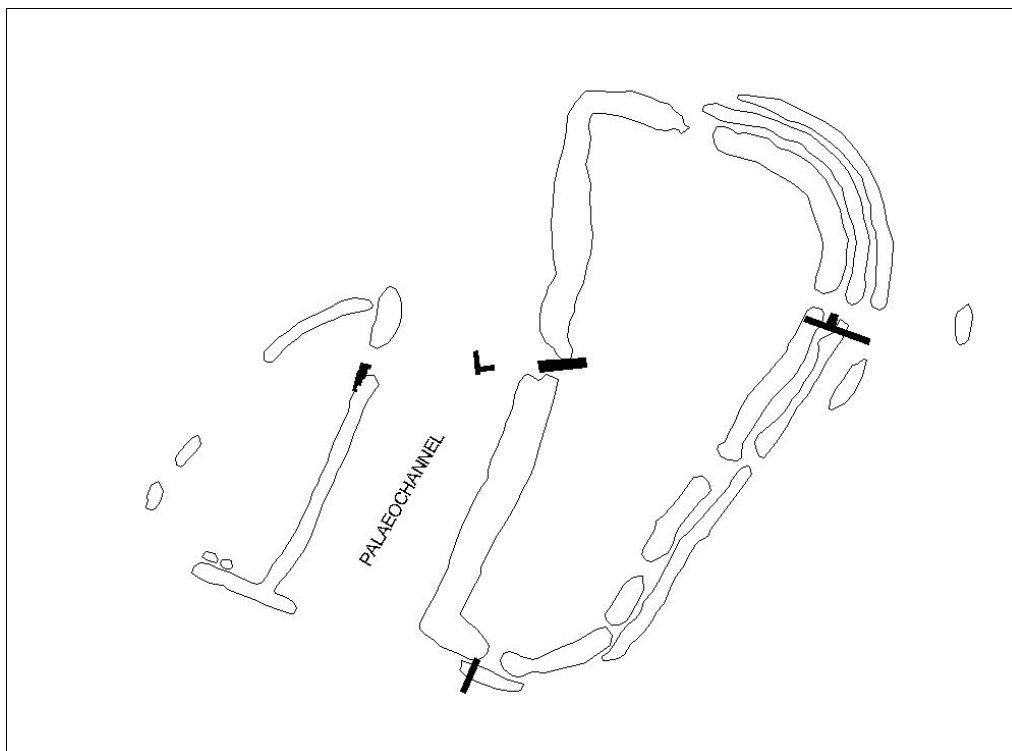


Figure 10 Outlines of the phase 2 enclosures (A and B) at Sutton Common in relation to the north-flowing palaeochannel (after Whiting 1936). The positions of the five trenches are also shown (© WEARC)

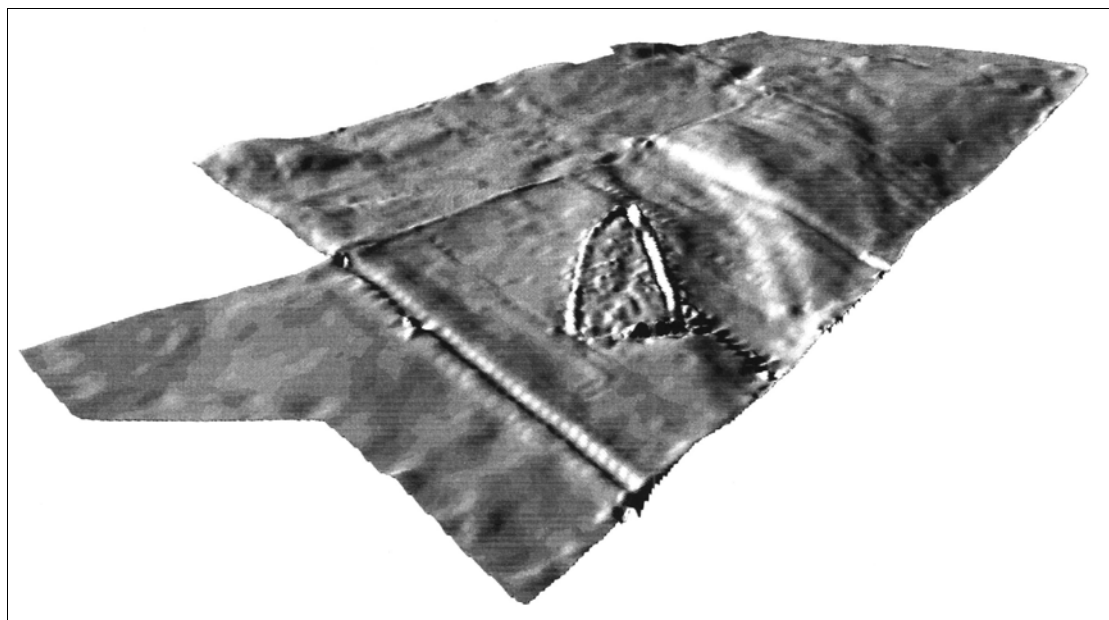


Figure 11 Exaggerated GIS model of Sutton Common looking northeast (© WEARC)

## SUTTON COMMON, near ASKERN

The site of Sutton Common has become renowned for two reasons. Firstly, its form is unusual, consisting of a pair of lowland enclosures, dating to the Iron Age, occupying opposing sides of a palaeo-channel within a wetland. Secondly, in the past the site has produced exceptionally well preservation organic material, as demonstrated by the work of Whiting (1936).

In the season of 1979/1980 the earthworks of the larger enclosure and the southern section of the smaller enclosure were destroyed by bulldozing, as the land was transferred to arable cultivation. This damage was accompanied by increased drainage of the area, for both agriculture and water abstraction, which threatened the wet-preserved organic remains on site.

Subsequent excavations in the late 1980s and early 1990s, by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, Doncaster Museum and Sheffield University, noted that organic materials, particularly within the ditches of the smaller of the two enclosures, were deteriorating – due mainly to the lowering of local water-tables (Parker Pearson and Sydes 1997).

In late summer 1997 the area of Sutton Common that included the two enclosures was purchased by the Carstairs Countryside Trust (CCT), with support from English Heritage and the National Heritage Fund, for the protection and future management of the archaeological, palaeo-ecological and natural landscape. Since then, survey, monitoring and evaluation work has undertaken by the Centre for Wetland Archaeology (CWA) at the University of Hull, initially funded by the CWA and CCT, later by English Heritage.

### The site

Archaeological work at the enclosures on Sutton Common has shown that there were two principal periods of activity during the early Iron Age, although the enclosures stand within a landscape that has produced evidence for activity since the Mesolithic through to the Roman period and beyond (Whiting 1936, Parker Pearson and Sydes 1997). The first Iron Age phase was characterised by a palisade of sharpened oak stakes encircling the highest 'island' of raised land on the Common, adjacent to the eastern side of the Hampole Beck (then a water-course, now a palaeo-channel). The second Iron Age phase was marked by the construction of an earthen enclosure over the approximate position of the earlier stake construction. This enclosure consisted of a range of single, double and triple banks. At this time, a second, smaller enclosure was constructed of single banks and ditches on the opposite side of the palaeo-channel (Fig 10).

### High resolution survey

Following the transfer of ownership of Sutton Common, the site was surveyed at high resolution by differential Global Positioning System (GPS) equipment to a three-dimensional accuracy of  $\pm 2$  cms (Van de Noort and Chapman 1997). The resulting data was processed within Geographical Information System (GIS) software to create a continuous digital landscape surface. Analysis of this surface, using the GIS software, highlighted the remaining earthworks on the site and placed them within their landscape context (Fig 11). They also revealed the outlines of features that could not be seen on the ground, including some of the ditches of the larger enclosure within an area that had been under arable cultivation for nearly two decades.

The visibility of these ditches on the modelled surface was attributed to subsidence of the land directly overlying them, due to the shrinkage of

their organic fills. Once organic material has lost its structure on drying, it cannot regain its original volume again. The shrinkage identified implied desiccation had taken place in the period since the field was last ploughed. It also, therefore, suggested that there was still an organic resource within the buried ditches that might contain useful archaeological and palaeo-environmental information (Chapman and Van de Noort forthcoming).

### Archaeological evaluation

The potential preservation of deposits highlighted by the survey had implications for the future management of the site. In particular, would it be possible to achieve *in situ* preservation (Van de Noort and Chapman 1999)? In order to assess the condition of the buried organics, five small trenches were excavated across different parts of the site (see Fig 10). Trench 1 was excavated across the entrance on the eastern side of the smaller enclosure (enclosure B). Trench 2 was excavated across the projected line of the postulated causeway (*cf.* Parker Pearson and Sydes 1997) over the palaeo-channel between the enclosures. Three further trenches were excavated across the positions of the eastern, western and southern entrances to the larger enclosure (enclosure A).

All but trench 5 revealed surviving archaeological wood and organic deposits, with variable evidence of preservation. Overall, it was noted that the preservation of organic material across the site was greater than had been expected, although it was clear that some areas held the potential to reveal more information than others. Other results were also gained from the evaluation trenches. A band of grey sand, up to approximately 20 cms thick, was identified in the section of trench 2. Similar grey sand was identified within the eastern end of trench 3, excavated across the eastern entrance to the larger enclosure. This grey sand was interpreted as the remains of a causeway extending

between the two enclosures, as postulated by Parker Pearson and Sydes (1997).

### Hydrological monitoring

The relationship between saturation and the preservation of organic material is well recognised (e.g. Coles and Coles 1996). For this reason it was considered important to monitor the level of the water-table on Sutton Common, in order to understand the relationship between it and the buried wet-preserved organics. Before excavation commenced, a network of fifty piezometers were installed across the site, forming a grid at intervals of 50m. This grid covered the two enclosures and the palaeo-channel, and extended eastwards to the edge of the SSSI of Shirley Wood. Piezometers are constructed from a plastic tube with a perforated tip containing a permeable membrane that allows the free flow of water without contamination by the surrounding soil. The levels of water at each of the sample points was monitored approximately every two weeks in advance of the archaeological evaluation and following it, in order to provide a hydrological context to the levels of preservation revealed through trenching (Fig 12).

### Results

The results from the combined hydrological monitoring and archaeological evaluation primarily highlight the need for such combined study within wetland environments. The presence of preserved wooden remains across the site demonstrates the potential that it still holds despite years of drainage and arable landuse. The variable condition of preservation, however, suggests that the sustainability of the buried organic archaeological and palaeo-environmental resource is limited in many areas. For example, in some areas the wood displays high levels of surface information relating to wood-working technologies, whereas in other areas the available information is much more limited. This variability is reflected by the results

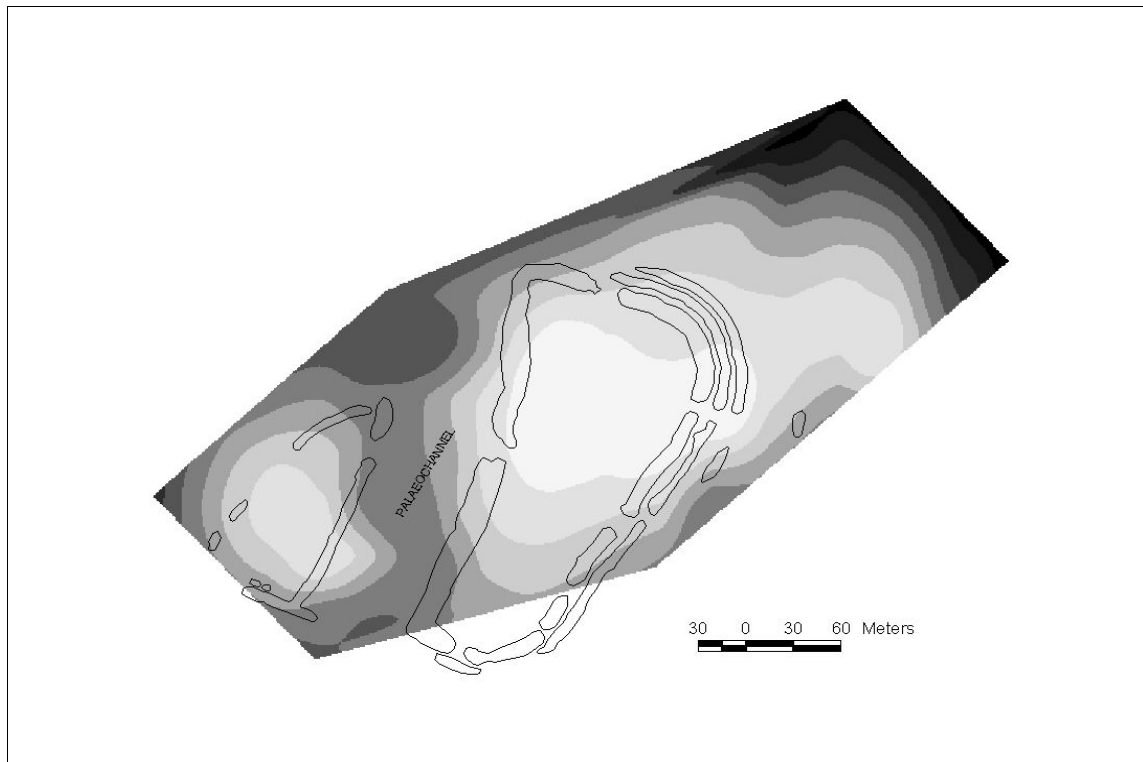


Figure 12 Results from the hydrological modelling in relation to the positions of the two enclosures (© WEARC)

from the monitoring and modelling of the water-table, which has shown that some parts of the site display consistently high water-tables relative to the land surface. Such areas are likely to sustain continued preservation. However, in other areas, despite the water-table rising beneath the enclosures, the mean water-table remains too far from the wood to enable saturation and, thereby, continued in situ preservation. Furthermore, in these areas degradation of the wood means that preservation is unlikely to be sustainable despite re-wetting.

### The future of Sutton Common

Previous work at Sutton Common indicated that the degradation of the buried organic remains that made the site so important was both rapid and extensive, and it was suggested that re-wetting might not be a feasible option to enable in situ preservation (Parker Pearson 1994). However, the present study has invoked a more optimistic view. It has shown that the picture is

more complex both in terms of current on-site preservation and the potential for continued in situ preservation. In some areas with well preserved remains, preservation may be sustained by a raised water-table. In other areas, high levels of desiccation suggest that in situ preservation is not a feasible option, and instead preservation by record would be more appropriate.

The complexity of observed states of preservation is explained by the results of hydrological monitoring and modelling. The shape of the water-table on Sutton Common displayed great variation, with locally high areas reflecting the higher elevations of the surface topography. This suggests that even the organic remains lying at the higher elevations of the site could be kept wet and, therefore, preserved. However, fluctuations in the water-table highlight how these areas would have been exposed to desiccating conditions, thereby leading to degradation of the organic remains.

The future of Sutton Common now lies in a close collaboration between many interests and a range of expertise. This combined programme has been spearheaded by CCT in partnership with English Heritage, English Nature and the Countryside Agency, with added support from WREN, the Pilgrim Trust, James Goodheart and others. Re-wetting expertise has been provided by drainage engineers Grantham Brundell and Farran, with archaeological specialist services from the Universities of Exeter and Hull. The monitoring of burial conditions provides a benchmark for assessing the results of the Sutton Common project; this work is being conducted as part of a PhD studentship by James Cheetham of the University of Hull.

**Report by Henry Chapman and Robert Van de Noort**

Centre for Wetland Archaeology report CWA/RES/EH-Sutton/98-1

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## IRON AGE AND ROMAN SOUTH YORKSHIRE

In 1998, two MA students from the University of Sheffield's Landscape course, Caroline Chissell and Sarah Newsome, reviewed the current state of knowledge of the Iron Age and Roman periods in South Yorkshire, in conjunction with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service. They reviewed the methods used to identify sites from this period, the geographical distribution of known sites and tried to account for any gaps in the evidence. Their report also suggested approaches for future work to try and address themes and areas that may have been inadequately researched in the past.

### Types of evidence

Four main types of evidence for the Iron Age and Roman periods in South Yorkshire were identified:

#### 1. *Cropmark Evidence*

D N Riley (1980) produced the most comprehensive record of cropmarks in the area through his aerial photographic surveys, as discussed in *Early Landscapes From the Air*. Patterns known as brickwork field systems are common for this period and have been extensively recorded on the Bunter Sandstone and Magnesian Limestone formations, which underly much of the Doncaster district.

#### 2. *Upstanding Earthworks*

These sites are comparatively rare in South Yorkshire, but include sites such as the earthworks at Canklow, Edlington and Scabba Woods and enclosures such as Castle Dike, Caesar's Camp and Wincobank. Also included are more unusual remains such as the Roman Ridge, Carl Wark and Sutton Common.

#### 3. *Excavated Features*

Roman pottery kilns at Cantley and Blaxton in the Doncaster district were found during redevelopment and excavated. The Roman fort at Templeborough was excavated in advance of redevelopment.

#### 4. *Recorded Finds*

The lack of Iron Age pottery in the region, with the possible exception of the fragments from Pickburn Leys, may be due to the poor quality of ceramics from the period, or little pottery use (see discussion in C G Cumberpatch (1993) 'Excavations at Pickburn Leys' *Archaeology in South Yorkshire 1992-3*). The Roman period has good ceramic evidence and coins, enabling more precise dating of certain sites. Other finds include beehive querns for corn grinding, found in Iron Age and Roman contexts at Wharnccliffe.

### Geographical distribution

Certain areas of South Yorkshire appear under-represented for Iron Age and Romano-British evidence. These are:

- 1) the area west of Sheffield and Barnsley – mainly gritstone moorland
- 2) NW Barnsley, on the lower coal measures
- 3) SE Rotherham, on the magnesian limestone and upper coal measures
- 4) NE Doncaster, including Thorne and Hatfield parishes
- 5) the urban areas of Sheffield, Rotherham and Barnsley.

The reasons for this could be low exploitation of these areas during the Iron Age and Roman periods, or that there has been no recent development work, reducing the opportunity for investigative fieldwork to identify remains. In addition, previous open cast coal mining in some of these areas will have damaged/obscured remains, as will 19th and 20th century urban expansion. It also appears that air photo work, a potential source for the identification of Iron Age and Roman remains, has concentrated on other areas of South Yorkshire.

## Summary of recent work

Many excavations of sites from this period have been as a result of proposed redevelopment work in the South Yorkshire area, and particularly in the Doncaster district. The aim of the excavations at these sites has been to examine the nature, date and function of ditches shown on aerial photos and sometimes revealed by geophysical investigations.

Traditionally, long (20–30m), thin (2m) trenches have been used to investigate these features, but in over 14 years of excavation little conclusive evidence for the date or origin of the ditches has been produced. The ditches are generally described as boundary features and as surrounding enclosures – double-ditched linear features, which were generally thought of as possible trackways, may just be more strongly emphasised boundaries. Additional evidence has been sought from palaeoenvironmental studies, but on the whole the deposits found on cropmark sites are unsuitable for the preservation of environmental material. Sutton Common is an exception because of the preservation of organic remains in waterlogged ditches and the numbers of artefacts recovered.

## Results

Apparently 'blank' areas of South Yorkshire should be targeted for research to establish whether Iron Age/Romano-British landscapes are more extensive than appears now. Aerial photographic studies and interpretation, in particular, should be encouraged in these areas. However, aerial photographic evidence does not always accurately locate features on the ground. Where sites have been identified from aerial photographs, geophysical survey should also be used. When examining such landscapes, extensive trenching is preferable to long narrow trenches that tend to miss much of the archaeology. Investigation of possible occupation areas should be made a priority. Environmental techniques are particularly valuable and deposits should continue to be sampled.

In addition, more emphasis should be placed on interpretation of evidence at a regional, rather than purely local level. In concentrating on the date and origin of cropmarked landscapes, the later 'Romanization' of the landscape of South Yorkshire's Iron Age is often pushed to one side.

**Edited from a report by Caroline Chissell and Sarah Newsome**



Figure 13 Aerial photograph of Wincobank Iron Age hillfort (© SYAS)

## SOUTH YORKSHIRE INDUSTRIAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1933 as the Society for the Preservation of Old Sheffield Tools and Machinery, so it was 65 years old in 1998. It may be the oldest society in the world for industrial history and industrial preservation in a particular area. For many years it was known as the Sheffield Trades Historical Society; the present name reflects its wider interests today.

It played an important part in saving Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet and Shepherd Wheel as historical monuments, and in 1953 it acquired Wortley Top Forge, Britain's last water powered heavy iron forge, on the river Don north of Sheffield. A sister body, the South Yorkshire Trades Historical Trust Ltd, has restored the Forge and opens it to the public on Sundays from February to November. Ken Hawley, the Hon. Custodian of the Forge for many years, was awarded the MBE in the 1998 Birthday Honours for services to industrial conservation. The Forge is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and a Grade 1 listed building, and the scheduled area was extended in January 1999 to include the weir, head gait and dams (which do not form part of the Society's property). A survey of the forge building and the adjoining cottages was carried out by Stanley Jones and Christine Ball.

The Society also owns Rockley Furnace and Engine House near Birdwell. The Furnace dates from around 1700 and made iron from the local ores. The Engine House of 1813 housed a Newcomen pumping engine, long since removed, which drained water from an iron ore mine. There is public access to the site. It owns the remains of two early steel cementation furnaces at Bower Spring, Sheffield, which can be seen from the street. During 1998 it acquired a row of three nail forges adjoining 355 Barnsley Road, Hoylandswaine. One of them still contains the original hearth and chimney and a bellows. They are a rare survivor nationally of this domestic industry, which was once important in several areas of South Yorkshire. The Society

intends to restore them and have occasional open days.

The Society has a winter programme of lectures in Sheffield and Barnsley, and an annual joint lecture with Rotherham Local History Council. In the summer there is a programme of walks and visits. The first issue of the South Yorkshire Industrial History Society Journal appeared in 1998 and includes articles on the Newcomen engine; different aspects of the Sheffield metal trades; and the Walkers, the leading 18<sup>th</sup> century iron firm which began in Grenoside and developed in Rotherham.

Since its early days the Society has been active in research into, and recording of, the area's industrial history. It has a Field Recording Group, led by Harold Taylor, which carries out projects and provides a forum where members can discuss their own projects. The Group meets about every three months to plan its work and exchange information.

In recent years the Group has made important contributions to English Heritage's Monuments Protection Programme. The Programme is a systematic review of England's historical monuments and how far they enjoy statutory or other protection. English Heritage asks consultants to report on particular classes of monument. Recently many of these reviews have covered different industries, and the consultants have asked area groups and individual experts for advice both on the broad historical and archaeological approach and on the surviving structures and sites in their area. During 1996-99 detailed reports were supplied to the Programme on the clay industries, lime, and electricity generation. The one on lime, for example, drew attention to important sites along the Chesterfield Canal, on the former Barnsley Canal, and in the Don Gorge between Conisbrough and Sprotborough. The one on electricity generation included research on the date of Tinsley cooling towers, which suggested that they may be the oldest surviving concrete cooling towers in England. Comments were made on a document about bloomeries as part of the Iron and Steel MPP, and a 'nil return' given, apart from some historical information about saltways and a well, for the Salt MPP. For each MPP one member takes the lead, collects information from other members, and carries out any necessary research and fieldwork.

Other research by members includes work on the history of Cammells' Cyclops Works; a study of Copperas House, Ringinglow, and the copperas trade nationally through five centuries; and a study of the manufacture of spindles in the Sheffield area for the textile industries.

The Society suggested sites for inclusion in a study of the buildings of the Sheffield metal trades by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England (since merged with English Heritage). Information was provided for several of their studies of individual sites; for example their report on the little mesters' workshops at Leah's Yard, Cambridge Street, Sheffield, reprinted verbatim (with permission) the notes of the Recording Group's visit with Mr Leah in 1987.

The Group comments on behalf of the Society on planning applications that affect historic industrial sites, liaises with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, and briefs the Society's present representative (Albert Kirton) on Sheffield's Conservation Advisory Group. In Sheffield, we have looked at the refurbishment of Dixons impressive silver and plate works at Cornish Place; the plans for Globe Works, Penistone Road, and the adjoining Wharnccliffe Works; plans for Leah's Yard; applications for the former water powered sites of Wisewood Forge and Oughtibridge Forge; and plans for alterations to the classic farmer/cutler's house, hand forge and outbuildings at Syke, Dungworth.

In Barnsley, the Group looked at the Pinfold Steps area of central Barnsley in advance of a proposed road scheme, and identified the site of a colliery once managed by the father of the famous railway engineer Joseph Locke. In Rotherham the Group checked on plans for Rockingham Pottery, Swinton and were involved in discussions about the restoration of the Chesterfield Canal, and the Kiveton Park Colliery site that adjoins the canal and includes listed offices and pithead baths.

During Sheffield Environment Weeks in May 1998 members of the Group led a visit to Bower Spring furnaces as part of an industrial history walk round the Shalesmoor area. The preparation for this included, besides industrial history research, a review of the scanty information about the early 19<sup>th</sup> century Sheffield architect Joseph Botham; identifying the site of a works once owned by the 'Corn Law Rhymer' Ebenezer Elliott; and finding out about the Kilhamites or Methodist New Connexion who built Scotland Street Chapel.

Sadly our member John Shepherd died In July 1998. He played an active part in caring for the remains of Bower Spring furnaces and in other work including the publication of the *Guide to the Industrial History of South Yorkshire* in 1995.

#### Report by Derek Bayliss

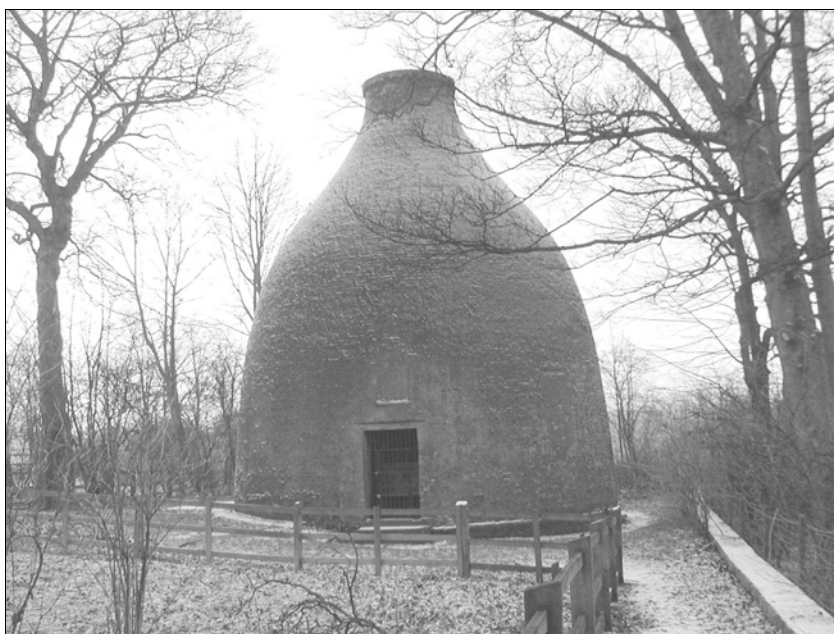


Figure 14 Surviving kiln on the site of Rockingham Pottery, Swinton

## THUNDERCLIFFE GRANGE, ROTHERTHAM

Excavation by Rotherham Archaeological Society at Thundercliffe Grange was last reported in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire 1993–4*. Since then, work has continued on site, so an update of the results seems appropriate.

Work has revealed a complex of structures, ranging in date from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, when the grange was founded by the Cistercian monks of Kirkstead Abbey, to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, when the site was abandoned. The phases and their description are as follows.

### Phase 1

A small structure with a central hearth was constructed in the north west corner of the site. This may have been the hermitage that is

known to have been Thundercliffe in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Not all of this building has yet been excavated.

### Phase 2

A long rectangular building, divided into two separate rooms by a central partition was constructed. This building appears to have been associated with the iron making activity that was carried out at Thundercliffe until the 15<sup>th</sup> century; a small bowl furnace containing a large quantity of lead slag has been uncovered. This building was partly destroyed by the construction of a cellar belonging to a later phase.

Outside of this building, the remains of a furnace were discovered – represented by a burnt clay depression with a small drain leading away from its base. A working floor of pitched stones was found adjacent.

A large amount of iron slag has been recovered from the site. It had been used as infilling, wall foundations and to provide a metallised surface in a small building that may have been a

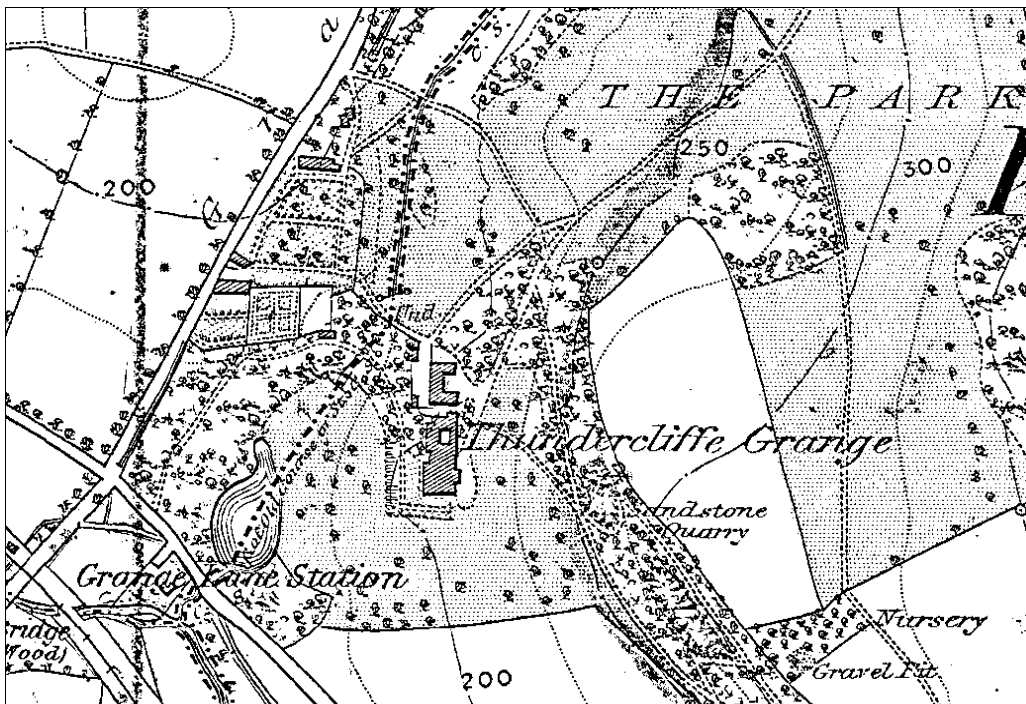


Figure 15 Thundercliffe Grange shown on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map. The site of the earlier grange is located adjacent to the walled garden

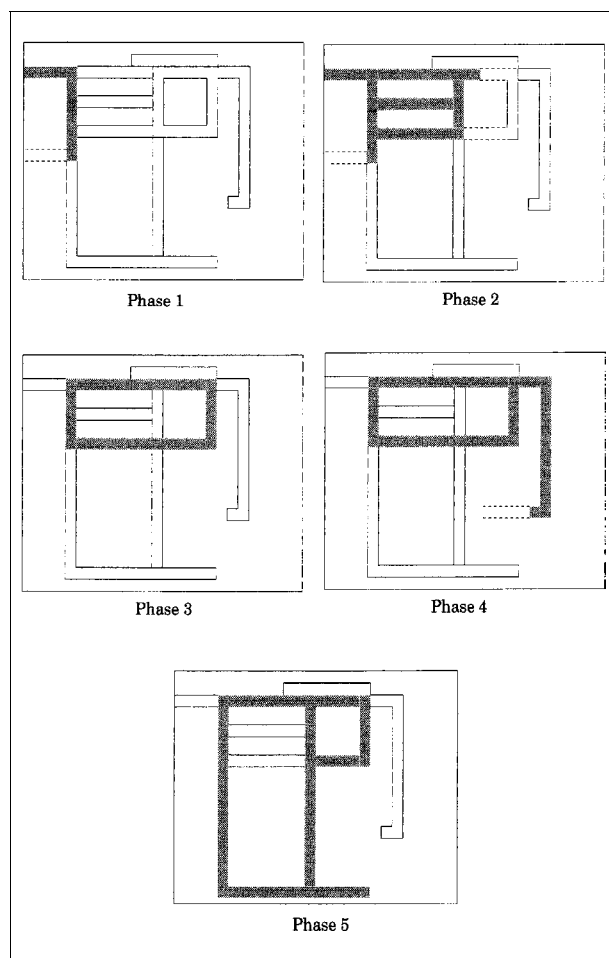


Figure 16 Diagram showing the possible building sequence at Thundercliffe Grange (© Brian Dolby)

'workshop' used during the iron making process. An iron bar produced at Thundercliffe during the medieval period has also been recovered.

### Phase 3

A timber-framed building was erected during the 15<sup>th</sup> century, probably by the Rokeby family. This building utilised some of the walls of earlier buildings. The east end of this building was in turn destroyed, when a later cellar was constructed.

### Phase 4

A section of wall belonging to a large building, which may have been an extension to the Phase

3 building, has been revealed. The remains of a porch and pathway entering the building from the east have been uncovered. Further work is necessary to determine the size and purpose of this structure.

### Phase 5

A large building with a central cross wing and two projecting wings was constructed. Of these two wings, only the north wing has been excavated at the present time. It is the cellar below this wing that has cut through and destroyed some of the earlier buildings.

A large quantity of medieval pottery has been recovered from the site; other finds include Venetian glass and fragments of an orange-coloured marble.

Report by Brian Dolby

## BILHAM BELVEDERE, HOOTON PAGNELL

**B**ilham Belvedere is the preserved ruin of a summer house on the Brodsworth Estate. The buildings had fallen into such a state of disrepair that, under the advice of English Heritage, a programme of stabilisation was begun in 1995, which was completed in 1997. The fieldwork group of the Doncaster Group of the Yorkshire Archaeology Society (Doncaster Archaeology Society) began a series of excavations in 1998, with the encouragement of Mr and Mrs Williams of the Brodsworth Estate. This work had a number of aims

1. Identify the type and source of building materials used.
2. Establish a chronology for various phases of the building.

3. Establish the nature and condition of the foundations.
4. Attempt a visual reconstruction of the building in its finished form.

Bilham Belvedere is situated in the Summer House Plantation some 1km north of the Hickleton crossroads on the A635 Doncaster to Barnsley road. The Belvedere is sited slightly below the crest of the scarp slope of an outcrop of the Lower Magnesian Limestone and commands excellent views of the surrounding countryside being some 110m above OD.

Documentary evidence for the Belvedere is scant with Hunter (1831) tentatively attributing the origins to Selwood Hewett, but it is likely that the initial platform was part of the landscaping of Bilham Park carried out in 1758. Miller (1804) states 'W.N.W. Hewett ... erected an elegant small structure called *Bel-vedere* ...' but this must refer to the final phase apparently designed by John Rawsthorne, a pupil of James Wyatt. The drawings for this phase were exhibited at



Figure 17 Bilham Belvedere as it is today (© SYAS)

the Royal Academy in 1800 but there are no surviving copies.

At present (summer 1998) some 50% of the, unroofed, structure survives (and has been consolidated) with the debris of collapse filling the interior to a depth of approximately 2m. The aim of the first season of excavation was to excavate this rubble down to floor level.

A 1m wide trench was opened up in the interior of the north wing adjacent and parallel to the west-facing wall. Initially the debris being excavated was mixed with modern mortar, for some 25cm, after which a gritty matrix was encountered. This persisted until the lowest 30 cms or so of the fill and is interpreted as wall plaster (mortar scratch coat and plaster finish) mixed with general erosion products. The next 20cm of fill consisted almost entirely of ceiling plaster – large and small fragments within a finer matrix of the same material. At the base of the trench, a layer of sand was encountered, which was interpreted as 'blinding' below an evidently robbed flagstone flooring. A single flag from the actual floor remained in situ. Also revealed were the remains of mortar pads, presumably upon which the flags were set.

Amongst the rubble were various artefacts and evidence from the fabric of the building. The artefacts included two iron plough shares and sherds from at least two possible storage jars. These jars are similar, decorated vessels with exterior brown and interior green glaze, that could well be 18<sup>th</sup> century in date; significantly, they were found in the earliest, undisturbed layer. Evidence of iron cramps and ties in the stonework are in keeping with a late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century date for the original construction of the building. An iron rosette recovered appears to be a decorative feature from an iron banister. The base of a baluster, cornices and masonry from the exterior debris indicate the existence of a parapet on the Belvedere. Curved portions of cornice are also evident in the exterior debris, which obviously relate to a parapet around its

apsidal extension. Masons' marks were noted, three different designs being apparent, all on bedded faces, in keeping with the date of the material. The presence of sash weights and fine 'crown glass' are commensurate with Georgian rectangular windows in the Belvedere itself (Fig 17). A moulded stone mullion and similarly styled sill may be from the west facing windows of the north wing. Rounded pilasters, several pieces of which are to be found in the exterior debris, may well have been dressing to these windows – a composite type in late 17<sup>th</sup> century style (Brunskill 1978, 131).

The one solitary wall plaster fragment recovered in the excavation, save for a few patches in situ, indicates that the building has been left open to the elements. Eroded wall plaster gives rise to much of the matrix of the fill of the wing. This is in contrast to the well-preserved state of the ceiling plaster, which was, presumably, protected firstly by its own depth and then by the build up of debris. No trace of roofing material was found. If the roof was lead covered, as seems likely, then it would, no doubt, have been re-cycled. The roof would, presumably, have been flat, given that access to it was provided and that the essential purpose of the Belvedere was as a viewpoint (Williams 1997).

The basic decorative wash to the plaster of the lower storey suggests a utilitarian purpose for this room. Similarly, the storage jars recovered here suggest that this was the 'below stairs' domain.

As far as could be ascertained, the construction materials were all available, and no doubt obtained, from the immediate locality. A description is set out below.

Limestone: several quarry sites are situated close by. The Lower Magnesian Limestone that is used in much of the construction has three distinct types:



Figure 18 Bilham Belvedere, showing rectangular Georgian window (© SYAS)

- a) A soft, shelly yellow limestone from the upper part of the succession that is readily available in the plough soil of the surrounding fields. This is used in the random coursed in-fill and for other non-load bearing applications.
- b) A fine, creamy white limestone derived from the middle layers of the deposit. This is used for decorative and moulded masonry and as ashlar on the west face of the initial vaulted platform.
- c) A gritty, competent grey limestone from the lower part of the succession. This is used in the quoins and other structural masonry.
- e) Measures, the fishponds close by being a possible location. These bricks are used in the construction of the vaulting of the viewing platform/undercroft.
- f) A brick of similar size to the above, but many vitrified examples are apparent and the bricks are less prone to weathering. These bricks were initially used in the square lining to the central tower but were then reused in later phases.
- f) A larger brick (average 75 x 90 x 215mm), with some moulded variants, and much more uniform in size than the previous types. These bricks were used to remodel the interior of the central tower.

Brick: again, three types are apparent:

- d) A small red brick (average 50 x 80 x 210mm) with few vitrified examples. The clay source seems to be from the Coal

Other materials: Carboniferous Sandstone can be quarried in the vicinity and was used as both flooring and roofing material. Permian Sands are also sourced locally and were used as bedding for the flagstone floors and no doubt for mortar in

stonework and plaster. No construction timber has survived, possibly due to the preservation conditions but more likely because it was robbed for reuse.

The present structure is the ruin of at least three phases of building. The ruin was consolidated in 1995; the measures taken are detailed in a booklet (Williams 1997) that records the Belvedere's history, relying upon brief references in both Miller (1804) and Hunter (1831). The archaeological investigation and recording has allowed a more detailed appraisal of the building's history

#### Phase 1

Construction of the cross-vaulted undercroft, set into the scarp slope, c.1760, concurrent with the construction of Bilham House and Park. This is constructed in brick; the present limestone ashlar face is not necessarily contemporary.

#### Phase 2

A square tower, probably a later phase of work, which would have necessitated the removal of any earlier superstructure. This two-storey tower had an exterior of rusticated limestone quoins with limestone rubble infill, which was rendered in roughcast. The structure had a brick built square interior. Apertures are obviously Georgian in style. The brick is of a similar size to that used in the undercroft, but it is less weathered and possibly fired to a higher temperature.

#### Phase 3

Wings added to the north and south of the tower; an apsidal entrance porch, housing a semi-circular stone staircase, added to the original, east facing entrance of the central tower. The wings are two-storey, with the lower floor on the same level as the undercroft, effectively giving the tower a superior elevation of one-storey over the wings. The evidence that this work is a later phase than the tower are the alterations to the latter, entailing the construction of a circular interior in a brick of larger size than previously used and altered windows. Access to the wings on the ground floor is through the undercroft; on

the first floor access is through altered windows in the central tower. Other alterations that presumably took place at this time were:

- cladding, in stone, of the undercroft, matching the style of the western facade of the lower elevation of the wings
- the provision of a door to the undercroft
- the construction of a stone lined sump to the west of the north wing;
- alterations to the access to the cellar/icehouse.

Little dating evidence was recovered from the excavation, other than that nothing denies the documentary evidence already available. No clear dating evidence was found for the demolition/disuse of the Belvedere; the ploughshares are of a type that may well have been in use until the middle years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Further investigations are intended in an attempt to reveal the foundations of the buildings and investigate a soft water well.

#### Acknowledgements

Doncaster Archaeology Society wishes to thank Mr and Mrs Williams for their kind support. In addition the efforts of the following volunteers who took part in the excavation are gratefully acknowledged: Carol Baldwin, Susan Baldwin, Gillian Burns, Kim Blagden, Albert Cruse, David Fordham, John Fordham, David Hedges, Pat Higgins, Tracy Molyneux, Mel Timmins, Ian Stead.

#### Report by Doug Croft

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## GENERAL PROJECTS

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## FORMER BRODSWORTH COLLIERY, NEAR ADWICK LE STREET

**A** desk-top assessment was prepared in 1997 for the site of the former Brodsworth Colliery; a final report was produced in October 1999. The assessment was produced for BHWB Environmental Design & Planning, in advance of proposed reclamation of the site, which covers 115 hectares.

The existence of coal in Doncaster District was only proved in 1899, by the sinking of a borehole at Haxey. The Brodsworth Main Colliery Company Ltd was launched in 1905, to exploit the Barnsley Seam on a 90-year lease from the Brodsworth estate. The mine was located in what had been a rural area and to accommodate the miners a new village, Woodlands, had to be constructed.

Two shafts were sunk and the Barnsley seam reached at 595 yards (544m) in October 1907; approximately 57 tons of coal was extracted in the first week. In 1920 both shafts were deepened to the Thorncliffe Seam at 839 yards (767m). A third shaft was sunk to the Barnsley Seam in 1934–4. In 1937 management of the colliery was merged with that of five other local collieries, under Doncaster Amalgamated Collieries Ltd. A report produced in 1942 states that the average yearly output from the Brodsworth mine was 1,157,000 tons. At that time, 646 men were employed on the surface and 3,472 underground. At nationalisation in 1947, the colliery was valued at £5.5 million.

Mechanisation began in the 1950s and by 1965 100% coalface mechanisation was achieved. In 1968 the neighbouring Bullcroft Colliery was connected to Brodsworth by an underground drift. As output was through Brodsworth, the Bullcroft Colliery buildings were demolished. By

the late 1970s, the Barnsley Seam was largely worked out. Attempts were made to work the Newhill Seam, but these were interrupted by the 1984–5 miners' strike. During the strike, the Barnsley Seam was also finally abandoned, leaving production limited to the Parkgate and Thorncliffe Seams. By 1986, only the Thorncliffe Seam was in operation. British Coal then reviewed the operation of the colliery; due to mounting financial losses, the colliery was closed in September 1990, making 765 men redundant.

By the time of the assessment, the majority of surface structures had been demolished. Only the general offices and former central laboratory remained, both in use as offices. Elsewhere, the former colliery buildings and railway sidings were represented by demolition rubble and spoil, although the concrete bases of the canteen, Trade Union office and workshop survived. The site of the pithead baths was visible as grassed terraces. The spoil heap was mostly reclaimed and grass-covered. Concrete pillars mark the positions of the three shafts.

In 1915, a Bronze Age cremation urn was found whilst top soil stripping for a claypit associated with the colliery brickworks, suggesting that the colliery destroyed some archaeological evidence. Geotechnical boreholes dug in 1997 in the northern part of the mine site all revealed varying depths of disturbed ground. Two of these boreholes (B333 and B3142) revealed evidence for the early phase of mining. One area of earlier archaeological potential was identified: a number of test pits on the eastern edge of the site identified a layer of peat, apparently increasing in depth towards the north west. This deposit is presumed to relate to the former course of a stream shown on early Ordnance Survey maps. This peat deposit will be sampled to test its palaeo-environmental potential, as part of any reclamation scheme.

Centred at Grid Reference SE 525 075

From a report by Ed Dennison  
Archaeological Services

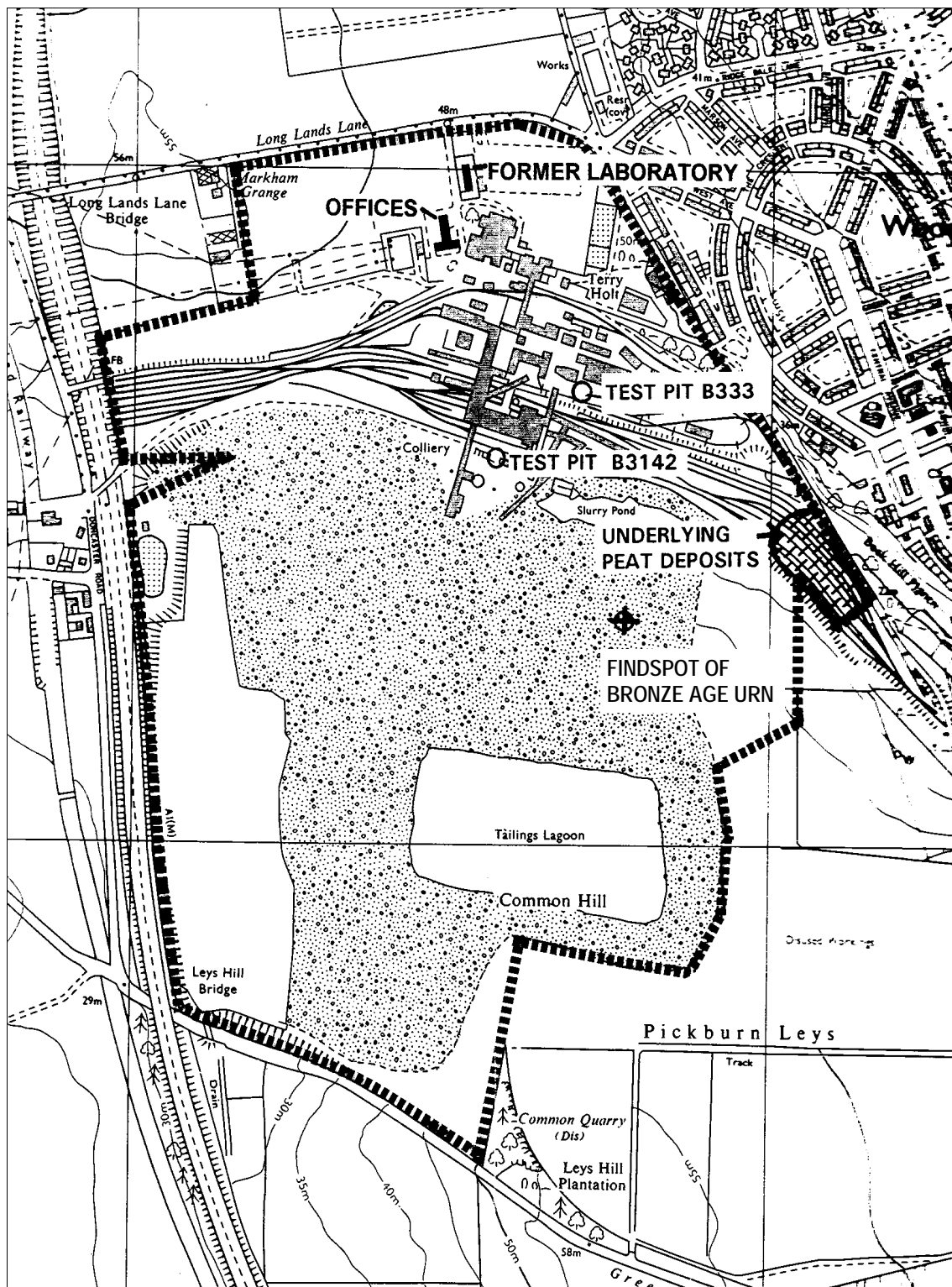


Figure 19 Plan of former Brodsworth Colliery (© Ed Dennison Archaeology Services). Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with permission. © Crown Copyright. All rights reserved. Sheffield City Council LA076325

## REDHOUSE PARK, ADWICK LE STREET

**A** geophysics (gradiometer) survey was carried out along the route of a proposed surface water sewer – required for the nearby Redhouse development. The work was undertaken for Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council's Engineers, to establish whether the sewer was likely to impact on archaeology; this area is known to contain remains of the Iron Age/Romano-British 'brickwork' field system. Most of the anomalies revealed were indicative of modern field drains, but three anomalies of possible archaeological origin, including one indicative of a buried ditch, were also identified.

Grid Reference SE 527 093 - SE 532 094

From a report by Mark Whittingham,  
Archaeological Service WYAS

paths and possible buried structural features, were also identified. The 1991 evaluation had revealed both Romano-British and medieval remains.

Grid Reference SE 486 034

From a report by Mark Whittingham,  
Archaeological Services, WYAS

## THE LINGS, BARNBY DUN

**E**ight trial trenches were excavated on behalf of Tilcon (North) Ltd. in March 1998, as part of their application for mineral extraction at The Lings. The trenches were located to investigate remains of an Iron Age/Romano-British 'brickwork' field system, identified by aerial photography. The location and density of features encountered corresponded well with the aerial photographic evidence. No structural or artefactual evidence indicative of settlement activity was found.

Centred Grid Reference SE 633 105

From a report by Graeme Young, Northern  
Archaeological Associates

## BARNBURGH HALL, BARNBURGH

**A** geophysics (resistivity) survey was carried out within the walled garden at Barnburgh Hall, covering approximately 0.4 hectares, in March 1999. The survey was undertaken for Wortley Construction Ltd., to establish the full extent of archaeological remains within the walled garden – in advance of proposed residential development. The area had been tested by trial trenching in 1991 and these trenches were picked up, as areas of low resistance. High resistance anomalies, corresponding to garden

## ST OSWALD'S CHURCH, BARNBY DUN WITH KIRK SANDALL

**A**n archaeological watching brief was undertaken on drain repairs at St Oswald's Church, on behalf of the Churches Conservation Trust, in

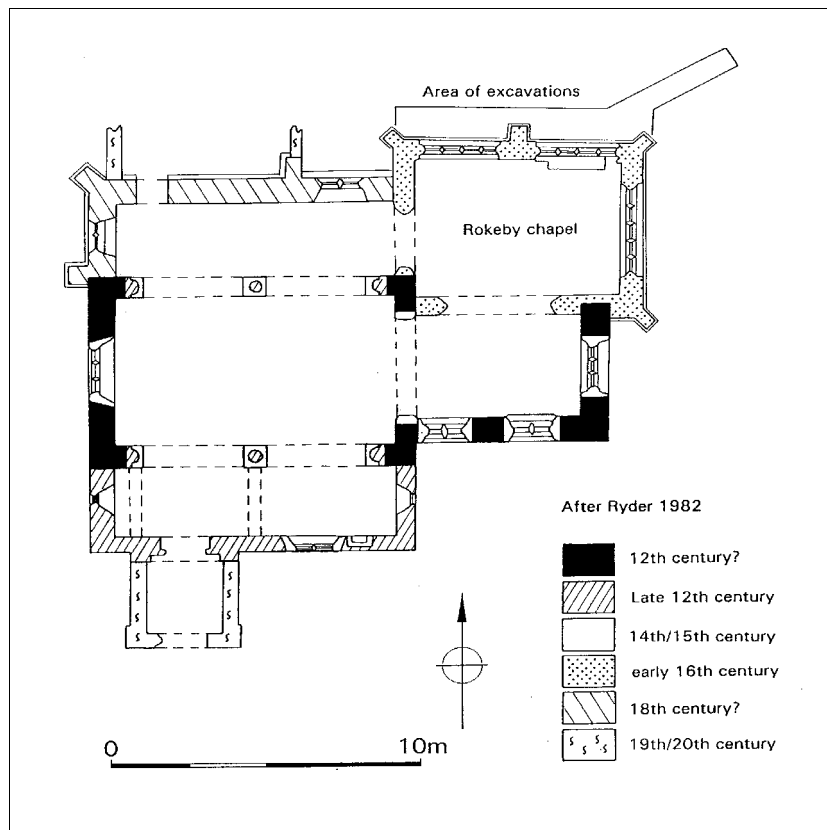
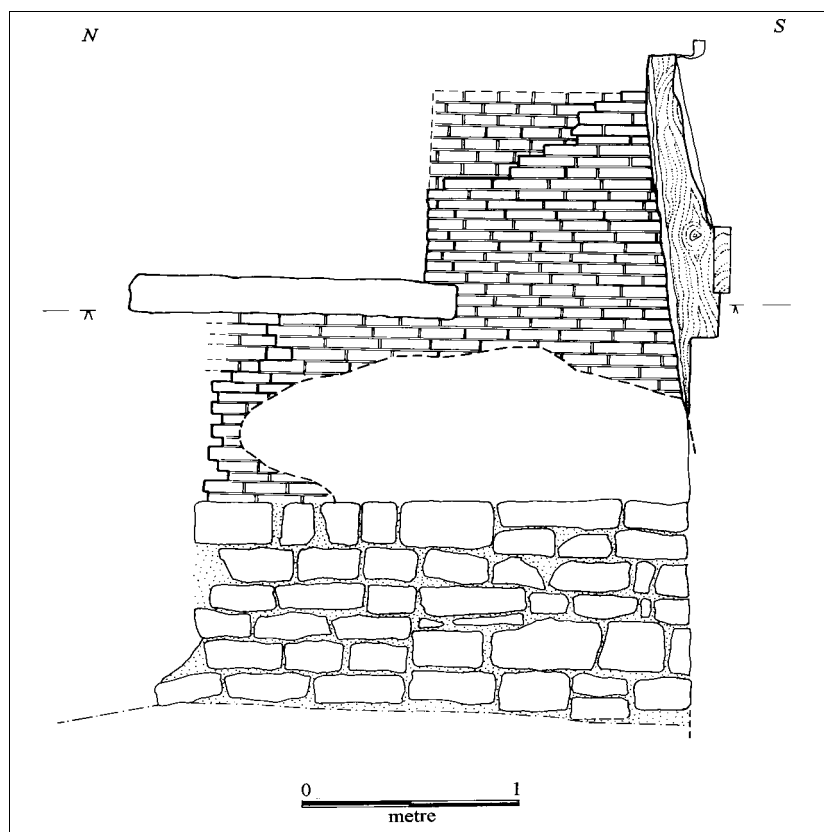


Figure 20  
Plan showing excavated area at  
St Oswald's Church, Barnby  
Dun with Kirk Sandall  
(© Ed Dennison Archaeological  
Services)

Figure 21  
West-facing elevation showing  
in situ corner post of timber  
framed building at 1-5 Church  
Street (© ARCUS)



October and November 1998. Some new information was obtained on the construction of the Rokeby chapel, including the fact that the north side of the chapel, at least, was built on a firm and well-mortared foundation. A broken section of window mullion and other stonework was built into the foundation raft, material that is likely to have originated from the north wall of the chancel - demolished when the chapel was built. The excavations also revealed a step on the north side of the central buttress of the north wall and that the lowest course of masonry in the western part of the wall is slightly misaligned with those courses above it. The only significant finds recovered were several broken roofing tiles and a few pieces of post c.1850 cream and blue transfer-printed wares.

Grid Reference SE 609 081

From a report by Ed Dennison  
Archaeological Services

## 1-5 CHURCH STREET (CLARKE'S YARD), BARNSELY

From February to May 1998 building recording and a watching brief was undertaken at 1-5 Church Street, for Hattrell and Partners. The buildings on the western side of the site were demolished; those on the eastern side of the site were retained and restored. The watching brief took place during demolition and the excavation of new footings and during the excavation of a service trench between standing buildings on the eastern side of the site.

Prior to demolition and clearance, the site contained an agglomeration of buildings, mainly from the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. Fronting

Church Street itself was the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Thoms building, behind which was a series of buildings grouped around a small yard. At the rear (eastern end) of the site were two parallel stone buildings of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century date - the former premises of a linen manufacturer, Henry Clarke.

During demolition works, what was thought to be an extension to one of these warehouses was revealed to be the remains of a timber-framed building. What was left of the structure, in situ, was recorded prior to further demolition taking place. Samples for dendrochronological analysis were taken from the already demolished timbers.

The original extent of the timber-framed building is not known, but prior to its demolition it comprised three bays, orientated N-S. Only part of the southernmost bay survived to be recorded; this comprised a single corner post, resting directly on to a stone sill wall, with no sill beam or padstone. The post curved inwards; about one-third of the way up, a knee-brace was attached using a bare-faced dovetail joint secured by four wooden pegs. Dendrochronological analysis of the recovered timbers indicate felling dates no earlier than AD 1465, AD 1512 and AD 1557; if the timbers are remnants of a single phase of construction, this could well have occurred in the second half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century, possibly incorporating re-used timbers. Alternatively, one phase of construction could have taken place in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, with a second phase in the later 16<sup>th</sup> century. All the timbers were oak and several were clearly from pollarded trees.

The structure was modified in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century by replacement of the original walls with ones of brick. Most of the timber uprights, except those supporting the roof structure at the corners and between bays, must have been removed at this time. It is possible that any original sill beam was also removed when the brick walls were inserted. These brick walls were then stuccoed and marked to suggest ashlar stonework.

The watching brief revealed that the eastern side of the site had been built up in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries; the pipe trench cut through these levelling layers and earlier yard surfaces. Any earlier remains on the western side of the site were found to have been removed by the excavation of cellars and footings in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The only surviving feature of interest here was a brick built well, probably late-18<sup>th</sup> century in date.

Grid Reference SE 344 064

From a report by Paul Belford, ARCUS

## LAND OFF BARUGH LANE, BARUGH GREEN, BARNSELY

**A**rchaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken in September 1998, for Haslam Homes Ltd, after an earlier desk-top assessment revealed the possibility of medieval and post-medieval remains surviving on the site. The evaluation did not reveal substantial archaeological remains. However, a 17<sup>th</sup> century trackway and yard, plus a large quantity of ceramics were identified. The archaeological evidence enhances our understanding of the layout of the farm that occupied this site from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

Building recording of the farm complex confirmed that the farmhouse dates from the late 17<sup>th</sup> century. The main dating evidence is the attics' recessed, splayed mullion windows, which came into fashion in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. A substantial barn, joined on to the farmhouse, was probably built soon after. Both the barn and the farmhouse contained re-used timbers; most notable are the

cruck blades now used as entrance lintels to the barn. Numerous other re-used timbers show mortises, peg-holes and halved rebates (for joining timbers). Dendrochronological analysis has given a felling date of AD 1507 for one of the re-used purlins in the farmhouse.

Grid Reference SE 311 083

From a report by Jon Prudhoe,  
Archaeological Services, WYAS



Figure 22 Barugh Lane Farm, showing blocked window in gable, and ridge of barn running into the upper purlin of the house (© Archaeological Services, WYAS)

## LAND AT FERRY MOOR, NEAR CUDWORTH, BARNSELY

**A** desk-top assessment was prepared for RJB Mining (UK) Ltd., in April 1998, as part of their application for planning permission for land reclamation and opencast coal extraction at Ferry Moor. The proposed development site lies in the Dearne valley, between the villages of Cudworth and Grimethorpe. The site of the former Grimethorpe Colliery and Cokeworks is included, together with associated spoil tips.

The site is split between Cudworth and Brierley by the Shafton Beck, which runs north-south towards the River Dearne. The assessment demonstrated that this area was predominantly agricultural in the medieval and early post-medieval periods. The exception was Ferry Moor, a marshy area until the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The site of Ferry Moor Farm is within the proposal area – it is first shown on the 1840 tithe map for Grimethorpe and survived until c.1988.

Coal mining has taken place in Barnsley since the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of 'old coal pit' and 'old coal shafts' on the 1854 Ordnance Survey map indicate that early mining occurred within the proposal area. Large-scale mining began with the opening of Grimethorpe Colliery in 1894 by the Mitchell Main Colliery Company. Problems with the water table meant that the mine was still unfinished in 1896 when it was sold to the Yorkshire and Derbyshire Coal and Iron Company. However, by the turn of the century, the mine was operating successfully and by 1902 over 2000 people were employed there. This led to rapid growth of the village of Grimethorpe, formally a small hamlet within the parish of Brierley.

The colliery developed through the 1920s and 30s, with new above ground facilities. After nationalisation in 1946, investment continued. In 1975 a Coal Research Station was established and between 1976 and 1980 a revolutionary coal-fired power station was constructed. Despite this, a review by British Coal led to the pit closing on the 7<sup>th</sup> May 1993. All structures have since been demolished, leaving concrete hardstanding and demolition rubble.

The assessment demonstrated that the greatest archaeological concerns arising from the proposed scheme was the potential impact on historic hedgerows west of Shafton Beck and on shallow early mine workings that are likely to survive within the proposal area. To minimise damage to historic hedgerows, the proposed scheme is designed to avoid hedgerows of enclosure date or earlier; the lines of later hedgerows will be replanted as part of the restoration scheme. Topsoil stripping will be monitored to enable areas of early mine working to be identified; these will be recorded as features are exposed in section by the extraction process. The site of Ferry Moor Farm had been previously damaged by the re-alignment of Ferry Moor Lane.

Centred at Grid Reference SE 395 085

From a report by Simon Atkinson, ARCUS

## LAND AT EAST GAWBER FARM, BARNSELY

**A** desk-top assessment and walkover survey was conducted in September 1998, for Peter Dimberline, Architect, of land proposed for reclamation. The assessment found that in the medieval period

46the site had probably been part of a monastic farm or grange known as New Laithes, belonging to Monk Bretton Priory. After the dissolution the land became the property of the Bliitheman family, who are known to have had mining interests in Barnsley. However, the earliest documentary evidence for mining on this site relates to the East Gawber Hall Colliery, which mined the area between 1856 and 1922. The walkover survey found no evidence of earlier coal working on the site.

Centred at Grid Reference SE 344 088

From a report by Greater Manchester  
Archaeological Unit

## LAND AT ARKSEY LANE, BENTLEY

**A**n archaeological watching brief was undertaken in July and August 1998 on residential development at Arksey Lane, for South Yorkshire Housing Association. The redevelopment site lies 20m the north of the medieval moated site, Moat Hills (scheduled ancient monument no. 13216). Moated settlement sites can date from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the early 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Beyond the confines of the moat itself, associated features such as gardens, boundaries and trackways can be expected. However, no deposits or features of archaeological interest were observed during this watching brief, although the site appeared relatively undisturbed.

Grid Reference SE 572 063

From a report by Richard O'Neill,  
Archaeological Service, WYAS

## CHURCH FARM, BRADFIELD

**A**rapid archaeological survey of the Church Farm holding was undertaken in June/July 1998, for the tenant farmer, as part of an application for grant aid from the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Church Farm is situated next to the church, on the edge of the village of High Bradfield. The land held by the farm is extensive and includes areas of moorland, semi-improved moorland and improved lower lying pasture.

One part of the farm was too overgrown with bracken and dense woodland to be surveyed, although several archaeological sites are known to exist in this area. The most significant of these sites is the field system at Cowell Flat; a series of earth and stone banks and a cairnfield thought to be Bronze Age or possibly Romano-British in date. Prehistoric evidence from around the survey area is also known, in the form of flint tools and the site of a stone circle and enclosure, now destroyed.

Two walls at Rocher Head were found to have unusual features that may suggest they are medieval or post-medieval in date. Most of the features found at Church Farm were definitely post-medieval and include quarries, lynchets, ponds, a ruined farmstead and boundary walls.

Centred at Grid Reference SK 267 926

From a report by Heidi Taylor, Peak District  
National Park Archaeology Service

## LAND OFF BAWTRY ROAD, BRAMLEY

**A** geophysical survey (magnetometer) was undertaken in January/February 1999 on land to the north of an area where earlier field work had revealed a number of archaeological features, including part of a field system and a number of kilns (see below). East-west ridge and furrow was also recorded, which is thought to extend into the area currently under investigation. The work was undertaken for Stone and Moon Associates in advance of the erection of factories and offices.

The survey did not reveal any clear archaeological anomalies, with the exception of one kiln type response. However, this anomaly was identified in an area of the site that had clearly been recently disturbed by the dumping of building materials, so the anomaly must be considered suspect. A second and third geophysical survey was undertaken on the site; the magnetometry surveys revealed several linear features, along with areas of probable modern disturbance.

Centred at Grid Reference SK 495 918

From a report by EAS, sub-contracted by  
ARCUS

## LAND AT SANDY LANE, BRAMLEY

**E**xcauation on this site was undertaken in 1995, for McLean Homes Northern Ltd; a final report on the results was produced in 1999. The excavation

followed on from evaluation by trial trenching (reported in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire 1993–1994*). The excavation revealed the remains of five kilns and their associated flues. The discovery of frequent inclusions of limestone in many of the fills of these features suggests the kilns were used for burning lime. Scientific dating of residues suggests that the kilns were last used during the late medieval or early post-medieval period. A trackway was also identified that was probably contemporary with the kilns. In addition, a number of ditches were excavated, which may have formed part of an Iron Age or Romano-British complex of field boundaries and enclosures, known from aerial photography.

Grid Reference SK 494 916

From a report by J Kate Howell,  
Archaeological Services, WYAS

## LAND AT SCAWSBY HALL, BRODSWORTH

**A** geophysical survey (resistivity), covering approximately 1 hectare, was carried out in October 1998 in advance of proposed building development, for Scawsby Hall Nurseries Ltd. The work was undertaken because the area proposed for redevelopment is adjacent to Scawsby Hall, a 17<sup>th</sup> century building, and is also close to well preserved and complex earthworks – thought to represent the remains of the medieval settlement of Scawsby. As well as the actual application site, the work was extended to cover the field containing a series of these earthworks, at the request of the developer.

Interpreting the results of the geophysics was made difficult by the fact that the underlying geology of this site is Magnesian Limestone,

which produces natural variations in soil depth through differential weathering. No obvious pattern to the geophysical anomalies recorded could be observed, but a number of the linear anomalies and areas of high/low resistance detected may be caused by archaeological remains.

Grid Reference SE 539 050

From a report by Mark Whittingham,  
Archaeological Services, WYAS

## ST HELEN'S CHURCH, BURGHWALLIS

St. Helen's lies in the centre of the village of Burghwallis, adjacent to Burghwallis Hall. The earliest fabric of the church is thought to be Saxon, dating from the 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> centuries; the tower is later, being 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century in date. Additions and alterations were made in the 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries and the church was restored in 1864 and 1883. The lych-gate was added on the north side of the churchyard at this time.

A watching brief was maintained on the digging of a service trench in the churchyard in November 1998, for the Rector and Churchwardens. The trench, to provide a gas and water supply to the church, was dug from the north side of the west tower to the west side of the lych-gate. For the majority of its length, the trench followed a paved footpath. The limited nature of the excavations meant that little of archaeological interest was observed, apart from the foundation layer of a former path through the churchyard. A piece of 19<sup>th</sup> century roofing tile recovered from this layer suggests that it may be associated with one of the 19<sup>th</sup> century restorations of the church.

Grid Reference SE 536 120

From a report by Ed Dennison  
Archaeological Services

## MODEL FARM, GRANGE LANE, BURGHWALLIS

The buildings of this former model farm, which probably dates from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, were recorded in March 1999. The farm complex lies north of the 17<sup>th</sup> century house, Home Farm. The work was undertaken for Building Design Ltd, in advance of the buildings' conversion to residential use. The buildings recorded include a large stable, with extensive hayloft, a barn and east/west ranges around a central yard.

Improved farming became fashionable in the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, reflecting the practical developments of the 'agricultural revolution'. Planned, or model farms were designed to bring organised labour saving layouts to the farmyard; sometimes these farms were a completely new set of buildings, often they incorporated older buildings. Buildings on a model farm will be of a functional design, on a courtyard plan. They were often built with conscious architectural effort and, as such, are usually a conspicuous feature of the landscape.

The stable, to the north of the complex, was built with irregular sized and irregular coursed limestone with some handmade brick, which was used for the flat arches of the window heads and the voussoirs of the basket-arched cart entrances. This entrance, through the north and south walls of the stable, divided the stable into two unequal parts. To the east lie the stables, to

the west the tackroom. A trapdoor and winch above the entrance allowed hay to be moved between the ground and first floors – directly on and off the carts. Twelve king-post trusses supported the stone slate roof; some of the tie-beams having been re-used from an earlier building.

The barn, to the south of the complex, was built with random rubble limestone with some handmade brick. There were three levels of ventilators in the walls, the upper only marginally below eaves level. Internally, the barn was divided into five bays by four king-post roof trusses. The two eastern bays still have a first floor, partially supported by a brick pillar; the western bays would have had a first floor, evidenced by beam sockets, but this is now missing.

The east and west ranges, built mostly in limestone, would have been vaulted, although only the vaulting to the west survives; most of the east range having been demolished and rebuilt. Four intact vaults indicate that the vaulting did not continue to the rear wall of the range, resulting in a passage linking the vaulted cells. The vaults appear to have had a variety of uses. A central drain in one probably indicates that animals were kept there, e.g. for calf fattening. A central ventilation hole in another suggests that it was used for storing root crops. In addition, vaulting is a method of fireproof construction, and may indicate the position of a granary above.

**Grid Reference SE 534 119**

**From a report by Jon Prudhoe,  
Archaeological Services, WYAS**

## THE SAW MILL, BARKHOUSE LANE, CAWTHORNE

**A**rchaeological recording (by photographs and drawing) was carried out on the Saw Mill (formerly Jowett Mill) in April 1998. The work was undertaken for Mr Derek Harratt, prior to some redevelopment work.

Historically, the mill seems to have functioned as an integral part of the Cannon Hall estate, although it now lies just outside Cannon Hall Country Park. The mill worked off Daking Brook, a tributary of the River Dearne. A corn mill was first recorded here in the 13<sup>th</sup> century, at Okenthorpe (later Jowett House). The corn mill is mentioned in a lease of 1539 and again in 1650. In 1706–7, this mill was demolished and a new mill and kiln erected. A survey of 1765 shows the work of the landscape gardener Richard Woods at Cannon Hall, for the Spencer family, including the newly built road bridge – Cascade Bridge – adjacent to Jowett House Mill. In 1803 the mill was again demolished and rebuilt; a new forebay was made and the weir, shuttles and kiln repaired. By 1807 the mill was supplying sawn timber to the estate. This conversion may have been prompted by the availability of cheap ground corn, brought in on a branch of the Barnsley Canal that opened in 1802; the Killamarsh windmill could also supply flour. In the 1840s, the mill was extended. In 1854 a new waterwheel was installed and in 1858 a large house was added, built in the Tudor style. The mill is shown as Jowett Saw Mill on the 1906 Ordnance Survey map.

The recording found no in situ fabric from the medieval or early post-medieval timber-framed mill building. However, a number of structural timbers within the present building have clearly been re-used and some of the visible joints are



Figure 23 Stable at Model Farm, from the north west (© Archaeological Services, WYAS)



Figure 24 Gearing wall inside building 1 at the Saw Mill, showing location of phase 2 hursting (© Archaeological Services, WYAS)

suggestive of a timber-framed building. They could survive from the mill building demolished in 1705–7. The buildings erected in stone after this date seem to survive largely intact, as the basement of the present building. The functional, vernacular form of the doorways and windows at basement level conform to such a date. In addition, the gearing wall, the hursting arrangement and the earlier waterwheel housing, along with the adjacent pit-wheel pit, are all features of this rebuild.

The later rebuilding, of 1803, consisted of raising the present structure, and adding a southwest wing. In the late 1840s, the mill was supposedly extended with material from the former Killamarsh windmill – it is possible that this is the origin for some (or all) of the re-used timbers present. A new composite waterwheel and cast-iron penstock tank were added c.1854, indicating large scale internal alterations; the wheel was designed to drive gear in a new building to the south-east. The tank casting includes the following text 'R. Inns & Co. Old Foundry Barnsley 1854'. These features remain in situ. The demise of rural water-powered mills in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as steam driven roller mills took over, means that this mid 19<sup>th</sup> century wheel is a fairly rare survivor.

**Grid Reference SE 272 078**

**From a report by M Fletcher, Archaeological Services, WYAS**

**THE EARTH CENTRE,  
CONISBROUGH**

**A** desk-top assessment was prepared in January-February 1998, for the Earth Centre, to assist with the preparation of reclamation and redevelopment

proposals for the site. The main complex will cover an area of 156 hectares, to the north of the River Don. The area includes the sites of the former Denaby and Cadeby Main collieries, the former Providence glassworks and the former Cadeby brickworks. The study area also extended to the east, along the disused Dearne Valley Railway, to include a 35 hectare site around the former Edlington brickworks.

A total of 22 archaeological sites were identified within the study area. Of these, Denaby Main and Cadeby Main collieries were the most significant. Denaby Main was sunk between 1863 and 1867 and Cadeby Main in 1893. Both collieries were developed on former agricultural land adjacent to the River Don. The colliery company built Denaby Main village for their workforce. Denaby Main closed in 1968 and Cadeby Main in 1986 and apart from a few minor features, all colliery buildings and associated industrial structures have already been demolished. Both sites have since been extensively reclaimed, restored and re-vegetated. At the time of the assessment, such work was continuing as part of the Earth Centre redevelopment scheme.

In the absence of evidence to the contrary, it is assumed that most features associated with the identified archaeological sites within the study area have already been destroyed, either during colliery and other industrial operations, or as a result of subsequent reclamation and restoration projects. Of the features that survive, only a railway tunnel portal and the Conisbrough viaduct are significant. However, a small area of land at the east end of the study area, adjacent to the former Edlington brickworks, appears to have remained in agricultural use and so may have some archaeological potential.

**Centred at Grid Reference SE 515 995**

**From a report by Ed Dennison  
Archaeological Services**

## DENABY WOOD, OLD DENABY

**S**mall scale archaeological investigation, as training for Workers Education Association students, has been carried out on a steep incline of land, in deciduous woodland to the east of Old Denaby. During two seasons of excavations at the site, including work in 1998, Roman artefacts have been recovered, including pottery sherds, a bracelet and a coin. Metal slag is also prominent over much of the surface of the woodland in the area investigated.

Grid Reference SK 486 990

Compiled from a verbal report by the excavator, Lloyd Powell

## LAND AT CHEQUER ROAD, DONCASTER

**A** series of evaluation trenches were excavated in May 1998 on land close to the historic core of Doncaster. The work was carried out for Ian Darby Partnerships, in advance of a proposed development. Prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the site appears to have been used as gardens or agricultural land. A number of post-holes, stake-holes and other similar features were found, cut into a post-medieval soil horizon; these represent property boundaries of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The sub-soil beneath this layer appeared to indicate there had been agricultural activity here in the medieval period;

finds recovered from this level included residual sherds of Roman pottery.

Grid Reference SE 578 030

From a report by Paul Belford, ARCUS

## HIGH FISHER GATE, DONCASTER

**A** watching brief was maintained on the excavation of a pipe trench across High Fisher Gate in March 1998. The work was carried out, on behalf of Yorkshire Water, as the trench was located on the edge of the Market Place – formerly part of the graveyard for St Mary's Church. As there was the possibility of encountering human remains a Home Office licence was obtained before work started. However, the trench only revealed previously disturbed ground, so nothing of archaeological interest or significance was encountered.

Grid Reference SE 576 035

From a report by Paul Belford, ARCUS

## DONCASTER INTERCHANGE, DONCASTER

**A**n archaeological desk-top assessment was prepared in January 1999, prior to the submission of a planning application for the redevelopment of the Doncaster Interchange. The work was undertaken for Ove Arup and Partners. The

assessment identified that the River Cheswold had previously passed the site. Therefore, there could be Roman and/or later waterfronts in this vicinity. Deep alluvial deposits may also be present in the northern portion of the proposed development area, which could contain palaeo-environmental evidence. In addition, the site lies partially within the bounds of the medieval town and the course of the medieval town ditch runs across the site.

**Grid Reference** SK 572 030

**From a report by Anna Badcock and Paul Belford, ARCUS**

## **NORTH BRIDGE PROJECT, DONCASTER**

**A** desk-top assessment was undertaken in August/September 1998 for Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, in relation to a revised proposal for a North Bridge relief scheme. The route of the new crossing over the River Don and associated road alterations, in the vicinity of North Bridge, lie on the edge of the historic town of Doncaster. Twenty-one sites of archaeological interest are documented in the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record for this area, including the Roman fort and civilian settlement, the possible Anglo-Saxon 'burh' (fortified settlement), as well as later medieval occupation. Buried alluvial deposits here may also have palaeo-environmental potential.

The assessment indicated that the road scheme could impact on these archaeological remains and recommended a three-stage programme of archaeological works. The first would be evaluation, to establish what archaeology is present where construction works are to be

carried out. The second would be excavation/survey of any identified areas with significant archaeology. The third would be a watching brief on other areas, where archaeology would be less seriously impacted upon.

Two excavations were undertaken in relation to an earlier North Bridge relief road proposal, at Low Fishergate (reported in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire 1993-1994* and on the site of Askews Print Shop, Church Way (reported in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire 1994-1995*). Post-excavation on both these projects was halted when the Government pulled funding from the North Bridge scheme (amongst others). It is hoped that this post-excavation work will now be resumed, as funding has been secured by Doncaster's Engineers for this revised road scheme.

**Centred at Grid Reference** SE 574 036

**From a report by the Babbie Group**

## **LAND AT BUSHY WOOD ROAD, DORE**

**A** geophysical (gradiometer) survey was undertaken on land off Bushey Wood Road in May/June 1998, for AXIS Architecture and Design Management. The site, proposed for redevelopment, is on, or near, the location of the 9<sup>th</sup> century 'Battle of Dore'. The results of the survey suggested that the land had been open fields until very recently. A rectangular levelled area was revealed, which is likely to have been a tennis court or similar. Several paths or other garden features were also detected by the survey all of recent origin. No trace of the battlefield site was found. A subsequent watching brief on groundworks

revealed no features or finds of archaeological interest.

Grid Reference SK 310 810

From a report by Colin Merrony, ARCUS

## SMITHY WOOD, THORPE HESLEY, ECCLESFIELD

**A**n aerial photographic appraisal was undertaken in September/October 1998, for Gifford & Partners. The work was required as part of an assessment of a proposed development for a Motorway Service Area – the site is adjacent to Junction 35 on the M1.

The appraisal indicated that a complex of bell pits (evidence for early mining) is present on the extreme southern edge of the application site. The northern portion of Smithy Wood also contains evidence for earlier mining – an extensive complex of circular shaft heads was identified, representative of collapsed and infilled shafts either for ventilation to larger workings or to extract coal and/or iron stone on a localised basis. The open area between the surviving portions of Smithy Wood was found to have been used as a borrow pit during the construction of the M1 motorway – as first recorded on an aerial photograph taken in 1967. The use of this area as a borrow pit may have destroyed any archaeological remains that once existed here.

Centred at Grid Reference SK 371 955

From a report by Chris Cox, Air Photo  
Services Ltd.

## ST PETER'S CHURCH, OLD EDLINGTON

**S**t Peter's lies in the centre of Old Edlington, a village that has been eclipsed by the growth of New Edlington, a former colliery village, that lies a little way to the northeast. The church is Norman in origin, surviving fabric primarily dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. The main interest in the building is the south doorway, which has zigzag and beak-head ornamentation carried down the jambs.

St Peter's was neglected following the growth of a new church at New Edlington and in 1966 the roof and internal fittings was removed as a prelude to demolition. Fortunately, in 1971 the church was vested in the Redundant Churches Fund and repairs and restoration work were initiated. The works to the south doorway are a part of this ongoing programme of conservation.

The south doorway of the church was recorded in December 1998 to January 1999, for the Churches Conservation Trust. In 1874, a report by R N Phillips described the doorway as being in an excellent state of preservation. However, deliberate damage and rapid deterioration due to weathering were reported in the late 1960s. The current recording exercise demonstrated that detail had been lost from the surface of the carved stones around the doorway for more than half of the doorway as a whole.

The decoration around the doorway consists of three bands. The inner band is of chevrons with bunches of grapes set in the inner centres; only two complete examples survive, on the uppermost stones. The middle band is of beak-heads on a roll-moulding; only four examples survive to their original extent, all towards the top

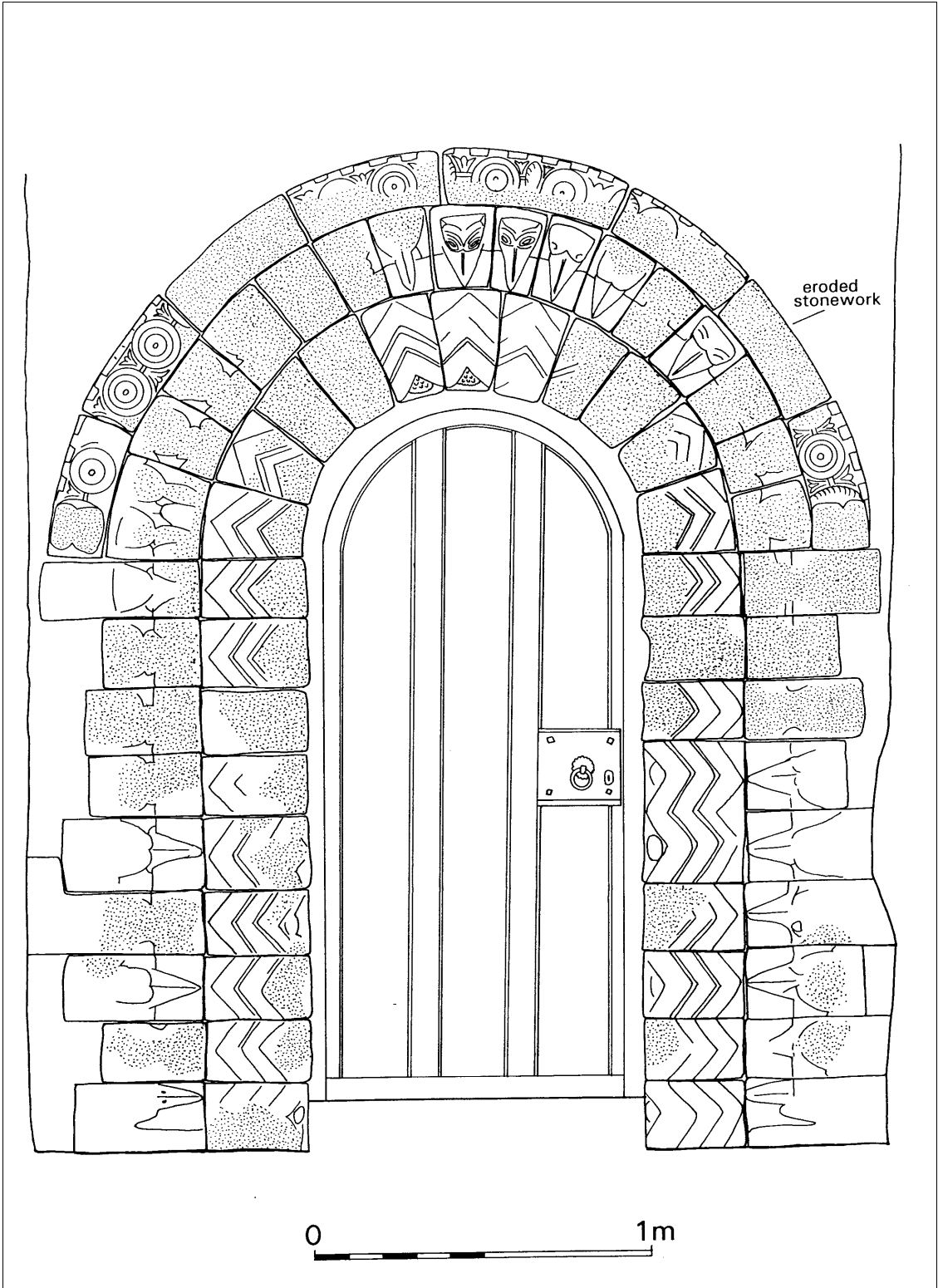


Figure 25 The south doorway of St Peter's Church, Old Edlington, (© Ed Dennison Archaeological Services)

east side of the doorway – it is possible that one or more of these have been replaced. The outer band, forming a hood mould, is of paired rosettes with anthemions between and a dentilled outer edge; original detail is only fully visible on one stone, on the east side.

The information from this survey will provide the church architect with additional information with which to formulate an appropriate repair and conservation strategy.

**Grid Reference** SK 532 972

**From a report by Ed Dennison  
Archaeological Services**

## LAND ADJACENT TO THE A1, REDHOUSE (TO FERRYBRIDGE), HAMPOLE

**G**eophysical (magnetometer) survey was undertaken on selected areas either side of the A1 between Redhouse in South Yorkshire and Ferrybridge in West Yorkshire. The work was undertaken for RPS Clouston, as part of an evaluation of the impact of upgrading this stretch of the A1 to motorway. Fieldwalking was also undertaken to determine the presence of occupation sites within the proposed route corridor. The work was undertaken in April-December 1994 but the results have not previously been published; a report was deposited with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service in 1999. The sites relevant to South Yorkshire are discussed below, from south to north (all grid references are site centred):

Site 4 (SE 521 093) lies within a circular plot of land formed by the sweep of a slip road associated with the A1 and the A638 junction. A metal pipeline crossed through the middle of the survey area, causing a strong magnetic disturbance. Crossing the middle of the site and at right angles to the pipeline were two linear anomalies, interpreted as old field boundaries. On the south side of the site was a weaker linear anomaly, which was possibly another field boundary or a trackway. There were also several discrete magnetic anomalies, most likely 'spikes' from buried metal objects. Fieldwalking also took place and the following artefacts were recorded, but not collected: 1 sherd of medieval pottery, 16 sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery and 45 fragments of tile/brick.

Site 10A (SE 517 118) lies close to the Roman Fort at Robin Hood's Well. The area contained demolition debris from a building and the remains of an associated yard or hardstanding. A number of clearly defined linear features were revealed by survey, all of which have the appearance of field boundaries; several of the linear features form a rational rectilinear arrangement. Other anomalies do not form part of this pattern and one has a pronounced curve at the southern end, indicative of a historic trackway. Fieldwalking was undertaken at the site and the following artefacts were recorded but not collected; 15 sherds of Roman pottery, 2 sherds of medieval pottery, 264 sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery, 338 fragments of tile/brick and 2 flint tools. Glass, slag, fragments of clay pipes, slate and shell were also recorded.

Site 10B (SE 516 121) is the area of a 'Site of Antiquity' on the 1:25000 OS map – Bishops Tree, a medieval oak that is no longer standing. Running north-south towards the eastern side of the survey area, a series of weak linear anomalies were recorded that seem to represent a rather complex system of enclosure ditches. Some evidence of an earlier field system was also revealed. Fieldwalking undertaken at the site recorded, but did not collect; 1 sherd of

medieval pottery, 4 sherds of post-medieval/modern pottery, 23 fragments of tile and brick, 1 fire-cracked flint and 2 flint tools.

Site 22 (SE 513 136), close to Woodfield Road, produced a geophysical plot of random 'mottled' appearance. This is most likely caused by the underlying geology. A series of straight, weakly magnetic anomalies, all parallel with the nearby road, probably represent modern drainage or subsoiling. In the western and eastern corners of the survey area, four distinct parallel features were recorded. These terminate at, or close to, a meandering feature that was revealed to run across the width of the site. The irregular spacing of the parallel linears suggests that they are more likely to be boundary ditches than for drainage. In the southern corner of the site a complex of mainly negative anomalies were recorded, segregated from the rest of the site by another meandering feature. These may represent small ponds, or could be natural features. Fieldwalking was undertaken at the site, although at the time only 30% of the ground surface was visible, due to the advanced state of the winter wheat crop. The following artefacts were recorded but not collected: 4 sherds of medieval pottery, 40 sherds of post medieval/modern pottery, 32 fragments of tile and brick and 1 flint tool.

An assessment of the likely nature of the archaeological evidence for this area was also made, to put these results in context: In the early stages of the Roman occupation the local tribe of the area, the Brigantes, were likely to have been used by the Romans as a buffer between themselves and the northern tribes. The fort at Robin Hood's Well may be a testament to this early strategy. The Roman road from Doncaster to Castleford is followed by the existing A1 in the southern part of the study area and can be observed as a causeway in places from Adwick Le Street to Barnsdale Bar, where the proposed corridor diverges from it. In the post Roman period the study area appears to have been border country, with the Magnesian limestone

forming a defensible ridge between the British and the English. The history of the area before the Norman Conquest is very turbulent and very little material has been found relating to this period. The Great North Road (the A1) was the principle north-south route in the later Anglo-Saxon period. Place name evidence indicates Scandinavian settlers moving into an Anglo-Saxon speaking area. In the medieval period the typical medieval *vill* or township, contained sufficient woodland, common and pasture to sustain a balanced local economy. The hamlet locations in the study area do not seem to have moved significantly since Domesday. Medieval boundaries were often ditches and banks and documentary sources indicate that these were frequently created and levelled again, an activity that should leave traces in the archaeological record. In the post-medieval period open fields were enclosed and many ornamental parks were established, quarrying also became more extensive. New settlements were established and medieval villages were extended, but the principle routeway through the area remained the Great North Road, now the A1.

Centred at Grid Reference SE 515 125

From a report by Stratascan Geophysical and Specialist Survey Services

## LAND ADJACENT TO HAZEL LANE QUARRY, HAMPOLE

A desk-top assessment was prepared in February 1999 about land proposed for mineral extraction. The work was carried out for Catplant Ltd., who wished to extend their mineral extraction operations. The site proposed for extraction lies within an area of significant archaeological

activity; cropmarks noted from aerial photographs taken in 1974 indicate the presence of possible archaeological features on the site. Work in advance of earlier mineral operations, on land to the south of the current proposal, revealed an enclosure of Iron Age/Romano-British date (reported in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire 1996–1998*).

Centred at Grid Reference SE 498 114

From a report by Philip C Sidebottom,  
Archaeological Consultant

## HATFIELD WATER SUPPLY PIPELINE, HATFIELD

A desk-top assessment was prepared for the route of a proposed water pipeline between Hatfield and Armthorpe. The work was undertaken in September 1998, for Mott Macdonald, acting on behalf of Yorkshire Water. Five archaeological sites were identified in the locality, including earlier field systems recorded as cropmarks on oblique aerial photographs and findspots of prehistoric, Roman and medieval artefacts.

In November 1998 a geophysics (gradiometer) survey, covering 2.8 hectares, was undertaken on one area that had been identified as containing buried remains (NGR SE 6525 0820). Weak, linear anomalies, some of which correspond with crop marks known from aerial photographs were identified. However, not all the known crop marks were matched by geophysical anomalies. This 'non-detection' could be due to the underlying geology; sands and gravels have a low magnetic susceptibility, making buried features hard to distinguish from the surrounding natural.

In February and March 1999, sections were excavated across the features that had been identified from aerial photographs and the geophysical survey. The features were confirmed as boundary ditches forming part of the 'brickwork' field system. No dating evidence was recovered, but they are likely to be Iron Age or Romano-British in date, by analogy with similar remains elsewhere in South (and West) Yorkshire. Archaeological monitoring of stripping for the pipeline was also undertaken, but no other features were identified.

Centred at Grid Reference SE 653 082

From reports by Northern Archaeological  
Associates and Alistair Webb, Archaeological  
Services, WYAS

## HATFIELD GAS PIPELINE, HATFIELD

Evaluation in advance of construction of a gas pipeline identified areas of potential archaeological significance along the route, which runs from Lindholme airfield (SE 694 068) and terminates 1.5km to the west of the River Trent (SE 818 066), a distance of 16km. The work was undertaken in January & February 1999, for Scottish Power.

Three trial trenches were excavated along Lindholme Road on Hatfield Moors, to evaluate the potential of peat deposits beneath the road, for both preserving archaeological features and containing palaeo-environmental information. No archaeological deposits were recorded within the three trenches, indicating that the present road does not follow the line of earlier tracks. A series of palaeo-environmental samples were taken and assessed; they were found to have good

preservation of pollen and fossil insects. Radiocarbon dating of material from the peat sequences would be required to provide a chronological framework for the area.

Construction work on the pipeline commenced in February 1999; the work was archaeologically monitored. Features associated with Anglo-Saxon settlement and industrial activity were recorded on the North Lincolnshire side of the border, south of Belton; palaeo-environmental evidence and some landscape features were recorded around Hatfield Moors and the Isle of Axholme, in South Yorkshire. Although outside South Yorkshire, it seems useful to include a summary of the results from Belton here. Two grubenhauser, a slot-built structure and industrial pits were found along a 200m section of the stripped corridor, immediately to the south of Belton village. The Lindsey Archaeological Trust and the Palaeo-ecology Research Trust assessed the pottery and animal bone recovered, respectively; Christine Haughton examined a small metalwork assemblage. The pottery assemblage was largely of the middle Saxon period, within a date range of the 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> centuries AD. The main domesticates were represented in the animal bone assemblage; cattle remains clearly predominated in all deposits. A moderate-sized fish assemblage was recovered from sediment samples, including both freshwater and estuarine species. A copper-alloy pin recovered from a pit is similar to several examples of middle Saxon date recovered from Heslerton. Several iron knives recovered could be of the same date, but alternatively could date back to the Roman period.

### Acknowledgements

Fieldwork was supervised by Graeme Young and Dr Pat Wagner; the assistance of Keith Miller of English Heritage is acknowledged.

Centred at Grid Reference SE 700 068

From a report by Northern Archaeological Associates

## BRIDGE OVER THE FORMER MIDLAND RAILWAY, INGS LANE, LITTLE HOUGHTON

A photographic and drawn record of this public overbridge was prepared in February 1999, for Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council. The bridge was to be demolished to allow the construction of the Coalfields Link Road/Cudworth Bypass.

The bridge crossed the original line from Derby to Leeds via Rotherham, built by the North Midlands Railway Co. The section from Masborough to Leeds was opened on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1840. It was widened from 2 to 4 tracks in 1900 – the bridge was rebuilt at that date – for the now Midland Railway Co. The line was closed in 1968, but reopened in 1973 as a goods line. The superstructure of the bridge was raised at this time. The line closed on October 4<sup>th</sup> 1982 but the bridge remained in use as a thoroughfare. Graffiti found on both sides of the bridge relates to the 1984 Miners' strike – the bridge was close to Houghton Main Colliery – and reads 'SUPPORT NUM + SAVE JOBS' and 'OFFICIAL PICKET'.

Grid Reference SE 420 050

From a report by Adrian Siswick, Consultant

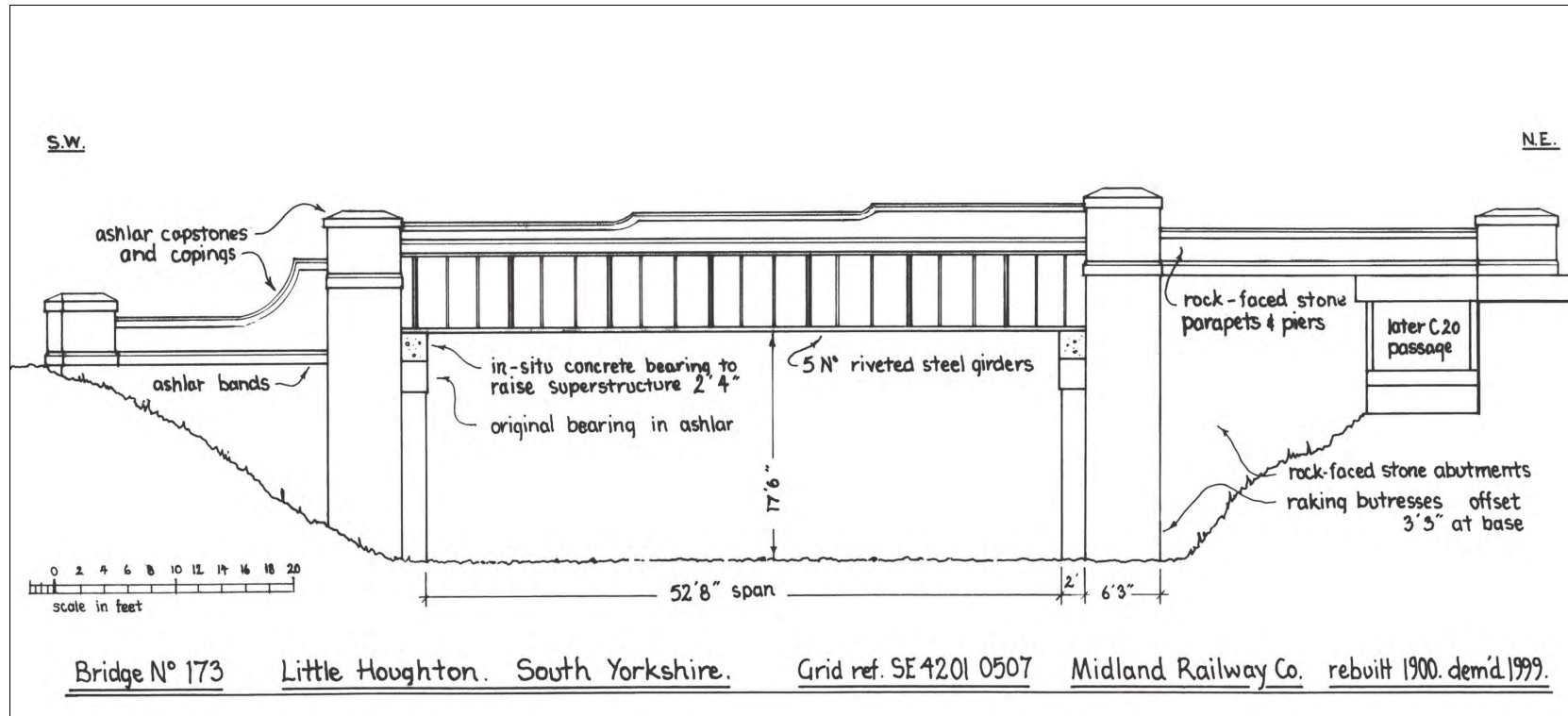


Figure 26 South facing elevation of the bridge over the former Midland Railway, Ings Lane, Little Houghton (© Adrian Siswick)

## LAND TO THE NORTH OF ALL SAINTS', OWSTON

**A** watching brief was maintained on cable reinstatement on land north of All Saints' Church, Owston. The work was carried out in February 1999, for Yorkshire Electricity. The cable trench revealed a sharp division between an area of old pasture and a series of dark garden/yard soils. The garden soils contained 17<sup>th</sup> century material and sealed the base of a pit containing animal bone and a fragment of iron smithing residue. The top of a stone-lined well was also revealed, but no dating evidence was recovered from it. However, sherds of late medieval pottery were recovered from the spoil excavated from the trench. This watching brief demonstrates both a previously unknown area of medieval activity within the village and the presence of significant deposits of post-medieval date.

Grid Reference SE 551 112

From a report by Tim Allen, ARCUS

## LAND OFF HIGH STREET, SHAFTON

**R**esidential development is proposed for a large area of agricultural land on the edge of the village of Shafton. The site itself contains no known archaeological remains, but it lies in proximity to an enclosure identified from aerial photographs. As it is likely that related archaeology continues on to this prospective development site, a sample geophysics (gradiometer) survey,

totalling c.6 hectares, was carried out as an evaluation. The survey was done in March 1999 for Ben Bailey Homes Ltd. Several magnetic anomalies indicative of infilled ditches were identified. These demonstrate the existence of a rectilinear enclosure, with a possible double-ditched trackway to the south. Isolated anomalies could indicate pits or areas of burning associated with the enclosure. Other linear anomalies identified are ridge and furrow, resulting from medieval ploughing. Some very strong magnetic responses were obtained, indicating the likely presence of capped mine shafts and associated industrial debris.

Further evaluation, in the form of trial trenching, will be required to test these anomalies and establish whether the identified enclosure and trackway are Iron Age/Romano-British, as seems likely.

Grid Reference SE 392 107

From a report by Alistair Webb and Mark Whittingham, Archaeological Services, WYAS

## REDMIRE WATER TREATMENT WORKS, SHEFFIELD

**A** desk-top assessment of the route of a proposed pipeline between Redmires Reservoirs and the Rivelin Pumping Station was produced in January 1999. The work was undertaken for Babcock Water Engineering Ltd. The assessment demonstrated that there is evidence for prolonged archaeological activity in this area. The earliest evidence is possibly from the Mesolithic period; there is certainly evidence for Bronze Age activity and on through to the present day. Most of the available data relates to spot finds rather than archaeological features or structures and it

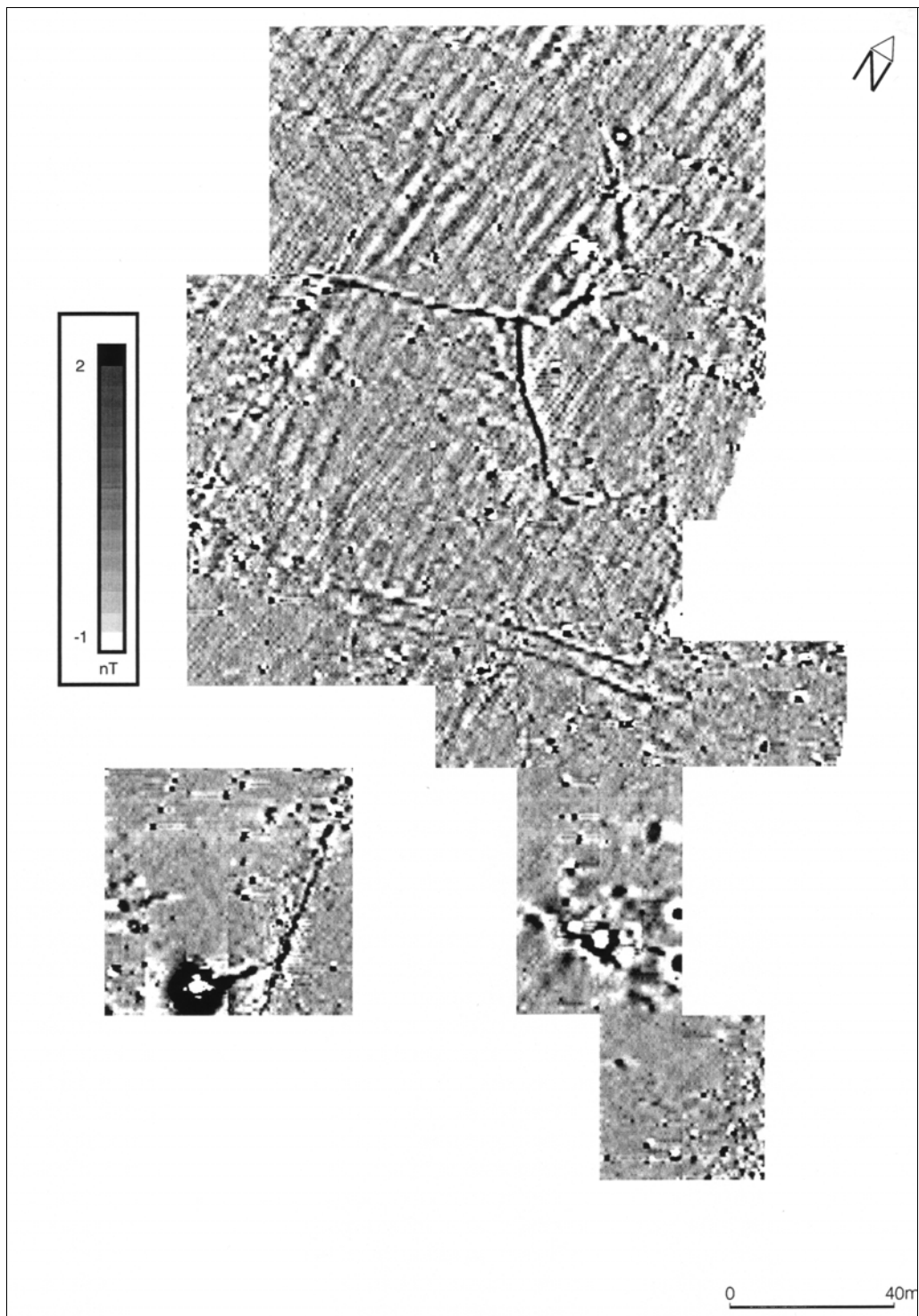


Figure 27 Gradiometer survey of land off High Street, Shafton (© Archaeological Services, WYAS)

is therefore difficult to draw many conclusions as to the potential impact of the proposed pipeline. Further investigation or monitoring is recommended.

Centred at Grid Reference SK 280 862

From a report by On-Site Archaeology

### CLOUGH FIELDS FARM, NEAR CROOKES, SHEFFIELD

**A**n archaeological survey of drystone walls was undertaken at Clough Fields Farm in March 1999, prior to their reconstruction as part of a Countryside Stewardship Scheme. The survey was recommended as earlier work, by Leslie Butcher and Liz Wright, had identified quernstone fragments and roughouts in the fabric of walls in

this locality. This survey identified several flat and beehive quernstone roughouts, which date from the Iron Age/Roman periods, to the post-medieval period.

Centred at Grid Reference SK 319 875

From a report by Anna Badcock, ARCUS

### FORMER FORK SMITHY AT HATFIELD HOUSE, HATFIELD HOUSE LANE, SHEFFIELD

**I**n February 1999, a photographic survey of an outbuilding at Hatfield House was undertaken, prior to consolidation of its walls and general restoration by Mr and Mrs Gaffney, the present owners. Hatfield House itself is believed to be a surviving wing of a larger



Figure 28 A general view of the landscape at Clough Fields Farm  
(© ARCUS)

house, or hall. It is built using typical post-and-truss construction, with a king-post roof, and is one of the few timber-framed structures still standing in Sheffield. The house was formerly known as Renathorpe Hall, it acquired its present name in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The house was let to the Challoner family from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, who manufactured forks on the site. The outbuilding to be recorded is a small stone-built shed, which abuts the house on its northeastern corner, and was believed to be the location of these fork-making activities.

The outbuilding had lost almost all evidence for its industrial use by the time of the survey. The southern wall retains the most interesting features and hints at the original external appearance of the building. The other walls had been so extensively rebuilt in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries that they retain little of their original character.

Although no evidence for the use of the building as a fork smithy was revealed, it was clear that this was a substantial structure that probably housed some form of domestic-industrial activity. The most likely original layout would have included a hearth in the northwestern corner of the building, with a hand operated pulley-driven stamp in the centre of the room. The windows would have provided light for finishing operations, undertaken on workbenches at the eastern end of the building.

**Grid Reference SK 365 921**

**From a report by Paul Belford, ARCUS**

## LAND AT SHUDE HILL, SHEFFIELD

**T**his site was evaluated for J F Finnegan Ltd, in advance of the construction of a hotel. The work was undertaken in January 1999 and consisted of the excavation of two trial trenches, which demonstrated that the site had been extensively disturbed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In one of the trenches a well was exposed, which could not be accurately dated, but was probably post-medieval. The evaluation, therefore, demonstrated that the potential for archaeological remains surviving on this site, and being damaged by the hotel's construction, appears to be extremely low.

**Grid Reference SK 358 875**

**From a report by Glyn Davies, ARCUS**

## HEART OF THE CITY PHASE 1A (HOWDEN HOUSE), SHEFFIELD

**I**n advance of the construction of Phase 1A of the Sheffield 'Heart of the City' project, TWC Europe (Building) commissioned the preparation of a desk-top assessment; the work was carried out in October 1998. The site of the proposed building lies outside the medieval town, on open land called 'Alsop Fields' on 18<sup>th</sup> century maps. Buildings are shown on the newly laid out plot, between Union Street and Union Lane, for the first time on a Fairbank's map of 1835. The surveyed buildings belong to Samuel Young, apparently a manufacturer of barrels, as the buildings are marked as 'Cask Sheds' and 'Hoop Shed' as

well as 'Counting House'. The 1853 Ordnance Survey map shows the 'Union Street Works' lying to the south of the buildings surveyed by Fairbank. It is uncertain what was made at this Works, although it is likely to have been related to the metals trades. Certainly, a works just outside the development area was making surgical instruments in 1896.

Grid Reference SK 353 869

From a report by Glyn Davies, ARCUS

## PEACE GARDENS, PINSTONE STREET, SHEFFIELD

Construction of the Peace Gardens on the site of the former church and churchyard of St Paul's, between November 1997 and February 1998, enabled archaeological and osteological recording and analysis of the remains of sixteen individuals. The work was undertaken for Tilbury Douglas Construction Ltd. on behalf of Sheffield City Council; the earlier assessment and evaluation phases of this project were reported in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire 1996–1998*. The human remains excavated represent approximately 10% of those remains encountered during the construction works, when approximately 150 individuals were exhumed and removed off site for reburial by exhumation contractors. The remains that were archaeologically recorded, on site, were then also removed for reburial by the exhumation contractors.

Survival of human remains varied considerably across the site. In many cases, graves contained only fragments of bone – usually where the 1938 exhumations had been most comprehensive.

However, some graves were remarkably intact and it became clear that parts of the cemetery had been only partially cleared in the 1930s. Most of the northwestern part of the site was found to contain human remains, the majority of which were removed by exhumation contractors. The practice of 'stacking' burials in 19<sup>th</sup> century graveyards means that the majority of the remains encountered by the archaeologists on site were probably the deepest in graves that would originally have contained several burials.

The excavations shed some light on the practices of the living population that buried these dead. Waterlogged conditions in several parts of the site ensured the survival of many of the coffins, as well as their organic contents. The coffins had been packed with sawdust and wood shavings, presumably to absorb the products of decomposition. In one coffin, a number of leaves – laurel and ash – were found, possibly from a wreath laid over the body. In another, the remains of a chisel were found under the head of the coffin occupant – either a tribute to the deceased, or a mistake on the part of the coffin-maker. The coffin furniture was generally of iron, no brass fittings were found, and the coffin plates were tin, often ornately inscribed and/or painted.

Although statistically insignificant (the sample analysed probably represents around 0.02% of the original number of burials), the results from the examination of this sample are important as one piece of a larger puzzle. To date, very little archaeological and osteological work has been done nationally on urban populations of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In Sheffield, which experienced rapid industrialisation during this period, such work could illuminate our picture of life in the city at that time.

Grid Reference SK 354 872

From a report by Paul Belford and Annsophie Witkin, ARCUS

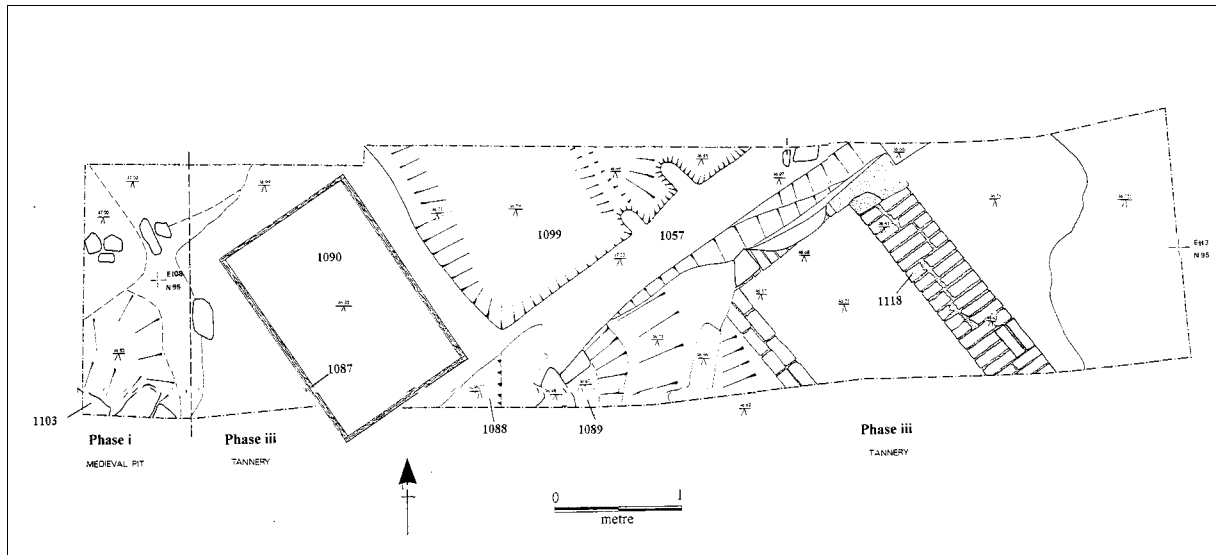


Figure 29 Phases I and III of the tannery complex, Trench 1, Broad Street Car Park (© ARCUS)

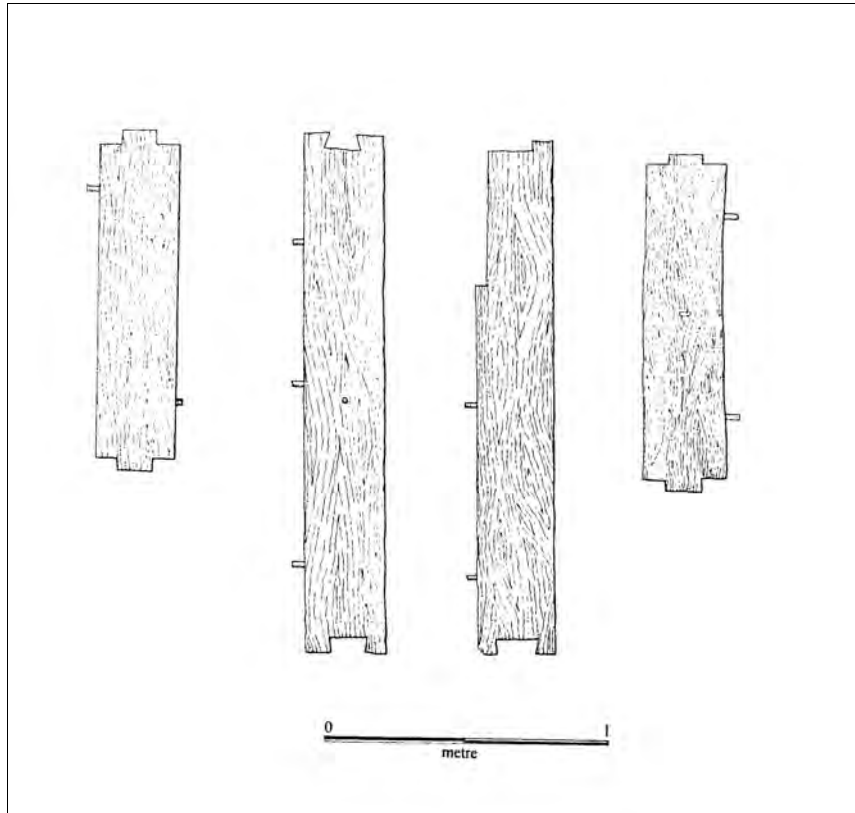


Figure 30 Timber from tanning pit (1087), Trench 1 (© ARCUS)

## CASTLE, SHEAF AND SETTS MARKETS, SHEFFIELD

A desk-top assessment was prepared for the Sheffield Markets area in July 1998, for TPS Consult, on behalf of Sheffield City Council. The area contains some of the oldest and most important archaeological remains in Sheffield city centre. As its name suggests, the Castle Market is on the site of Sheffield Castle. A motte-and-bailey castle was built here c.1100, but it may have replaced an earlier construction. The motte-and-bailey was destroyed by fire in 1266 and was replaced with a crenellated stone castle in 1270. The castle was modified during the 14<sup>th</sup> century and, at the peak of its development, occupied most of the present markets site. The Castle was destroyed in 1648, following a siege by Parliamentary troops. In the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, tenements and workshops were constructed on Castle Hill. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, markets were moved into this area, with the location of the Corn and Hay Markets on the eastern bank of the River Sheaf; slaughter houses were constructed on and adjacent to the Castle site. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, many of the older streets in this vicinity had been widened and realigned and the Sheaf culverted.

An assessment had been produced earlier for the area of the Broad Street car park, adjacent to the Sheaf Market (reported in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire 1996-8*). The site is crossed by the, now culverted, River Sheaf. In the medieval period, the west of this area lay between the Castle's Outer Bailey and the river (the boundary of the Outer Bailey probably ran along the line of the present Shude Hill). The presence of tanners here is documented in the 17<sup>th</sup> century, when Edward Sanderson had a tanyard to the south of what is now Broad Street and Christopher Capper had a tanyard to the south of that.

Tanneries and other noxious industries were often located away from main urban centres and tanning, in particular, would have required a steady supply of water. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, there was diversification, with the introduction of a brewery and malt kilns, as well as the continuation of tanning. The tannery remained in use until the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the Sheffield United Gas Light Company acquired the site. After the gas works went out of use in 1875, the area became incorporated into the market complex. On the eastern side of the river, the land remained in agricultural use until the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century, when the 'Pheasant Inn' and a row of tenements were constructed.

In November 1998, two trial trenches were excavated to test the remains below Broad Street Car Park, for Tarmac Development Management. Archaeological features were found to be present up to 5m below the present ground surface. The difference in the development history of land on either side of the River Sheaf was marked.

On the western side of the river, along the Shude Hill frontage, remains were found indicating activity from the medieval period onwards. The earliest feature revealed was a medieval pit, of possible industrial function. Despite truncation by later features, enough of this feature survived to give a good impression of its overall size and form. The whole pit was lined with sandstone fragments, some showing signs of burning or heating, set in clay. The pit was filled with a series of clay and silt layers containing sand and cinders. Two of these layers produced sherds of later medieval pottery (Firsby ware and/or Rawmarsh ware). The bulk of this pottery can be dated to the 14<sup>th</sup> century, but it was deposited here no earlier than the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century. The natural silt around this feature was stained green-blue and the presence of iron-panning within it suggests the pit at one time contained water. No certain function can be ascribed to this feature, but given the later history of the site, it is tempting to suggest it is an early tanning pit.

Other early remains had probably been destroyed by the construction of a 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century tanning complex. The first evidence for this tannery is in the period after 1650, when a circular pit was constructed, followed by a brick-lined tanning pit in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. These isolated fragments had survived truncation of the site by the construction of a series of rectangular pits running NE-SW, in two parallel lines, in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. These later tanning pits were lined with thick grey clay, which had helped to preserve a wooden lining in one of the pits. The lining was constructed of boards, dovetailed at the corners and mortised using dowels. The boards were assessed for dendrochronological dating but no absolute date was obtained. However, two groups of three planks were matched together to form undated chronologies; as new reference data become available, it may be possible to date these sequences in the future. The wood was identified as Scot's Pine and the lining was clearly constructed in a single phase. It seems likely that

all the pits were originally similarly lined but that the others had been robbed prior to infilling. The sediments at the base of each pit contained a large quantity of organic material; over 10 shoes and shoe fragments were recovered, residue from the tanning process.

These pits appear to have been infilled by domestic refuse, before the site was levelled by demolition rubble, prior to the construction of the gasworks. Much of the area exposed in the evaluation trench was covered by a cobbled yard surface of mid 19<sup>th</sup> century date, gently sloping towards the river. Cartographic evidence suggests that buildings containing sundry gas-making processes were grouped around this yard. Beneath the yard surface were numerous pipes and culverts that would have carried chemicals from one part of the site to another. The gasworks was itself demolished by the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the markets were extended into this area with the construction of the Fish Market, which remained in use until the 1970s.

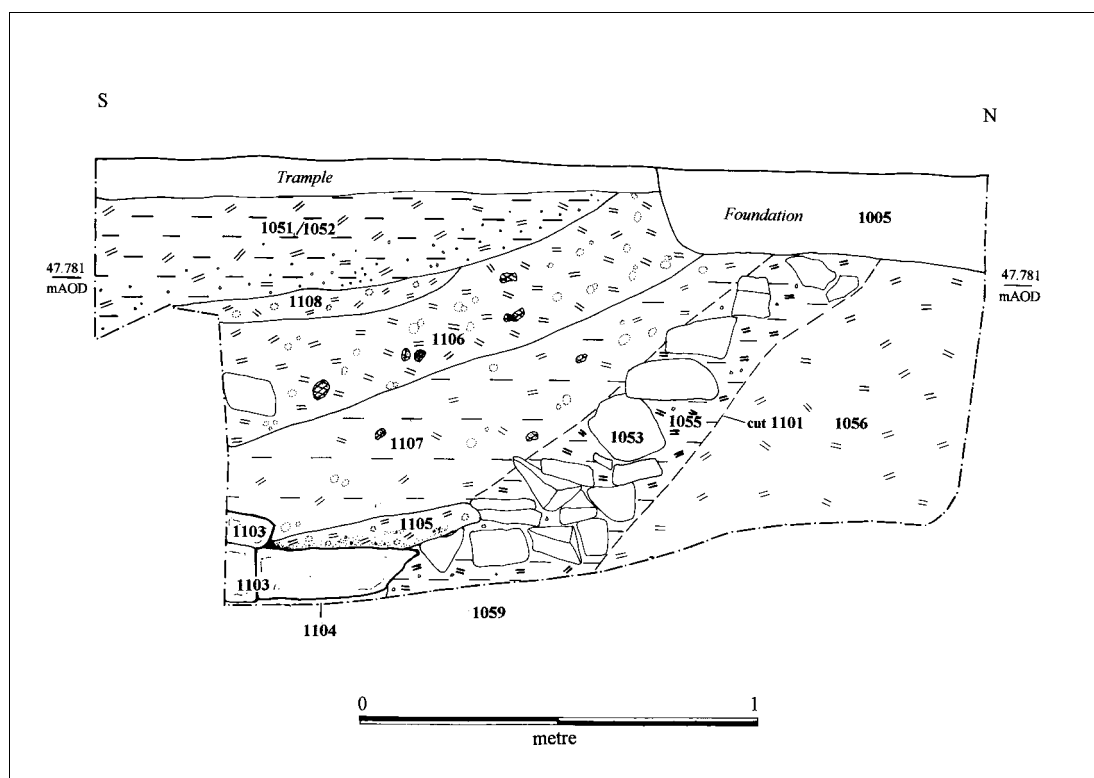


Figure 31 East facing section of the medieval pit in Trench 1 (© ARCUS)

To the east of the river, a much simpler archaeological sequence was revealed. At the base of this sequence was an agricultural soil, containing fragments of pottery, glass and clay pipes of late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century date. No evidence for ploughing was revealed, suggesting this area was a riverside pasture, manured with domestic refuse. A well-constructed dry-stone wall, made with limestone and sandstone blocks, was revealed running down slope, towards the river; two coarseware sherds of possibly 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century date were recovered from within the wall itself. Flooding of the Sheaf in 1810 and 1827 is well documented and may explain the presence of up to 1m of clay dumped over the earlier land surface. Above this, evidence for the construction of tenements along Broad Street in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century was revealed. Some of these properties were in industrial use, as deposits of cinders, ash and slag were recovered, as well as domestic debris. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the River Sheaf was culverted; the constructed culvert rose above the then ground level, necessitating the dumping of a rubble layer over 1.3m deep; the area was then surfaced and used for an open-air market. For the first time, the area now occupied by the Broad Street car park was a single space.

Grid Reference SK 357 878

From a report by Paul Belford, ARCUS

## CORNISH PLACE, CORNISH STREET, SHEFFIELD

**C**ornish Place is a large 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century complex of factory buildings, associated with the cutlery and silverware manufacturers James Dixon and Sons. In January 1998, planning permission

and Listed Building Consent were granted for the conversion of Cornish Place to residential, office and leisure use. AXIS Architecture, on behalf of their clients M J Gleeson plc, commissioned a programme of building recording prior to conversion, which was undertaken June - August 1998. The work included drawn and photographic recording of the buildings and machinery on site, together with research into written, drawn and oral historical sources.

Cornish Place is located on the southern bank of the River Don, approximately one mile upstream from the medieval Lady's Bridge, in Sheffield's centre. The site was in use as a tilt and rolling mill from the 1780s, then as a cutlery and silverware manufactory from 1819 until 1992. Changes in the use and layout of buildings that were identified by the recording work closely mirror changes in the running of James Dixon and Sons. The series of buildings present on the site demonstrates the development of the concept of the factory in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The first stage of development at Cornish Place occurred when the site was still relatively isolated and open. Dixon's first development split the site in two, creating the northern and central yards with the construction of a three-storey range incorporating Building 3 and the predecessor to Building 13. This was followed by further workshops in Building 2 and an impressive frontage with an arched entrance along Cornish Street. James Dixon may originally have envisaged extending his facilities along the River Don frontage, using the space later occupied by Buildings 7 and 14. Instead, he moved into silver production, which probably provoked the construction of the predecessor buildings to Building 12, and the purchase, in the mid-1830s, of land to the south. With the construction of Buildings 4 and 5, this new southern yard could be dedicated to the production of silver, as indeed it was. Britannia Metal production, electroplating and silversmithing were located in their own separate areas, united behind the Cornish Street façade,

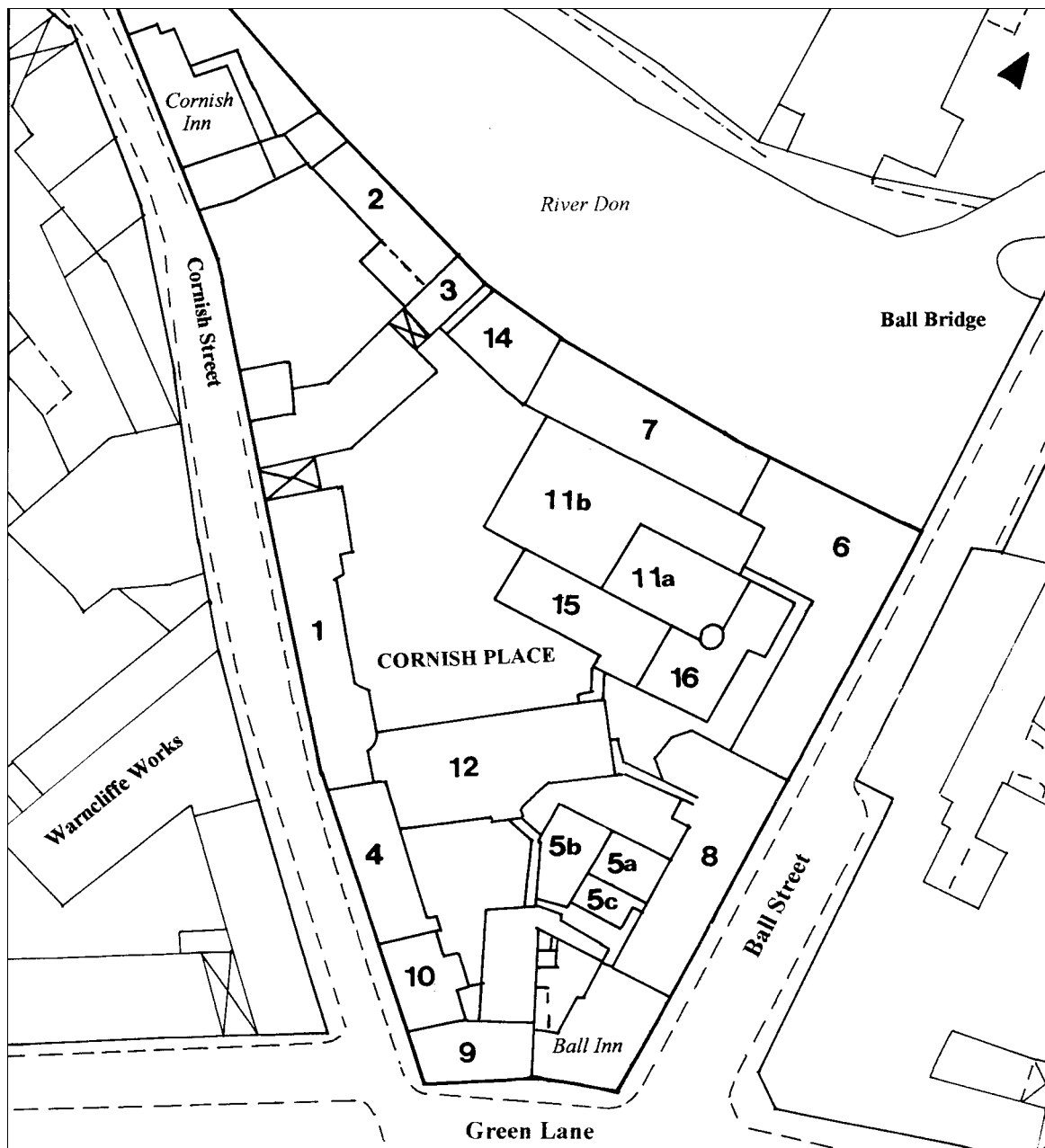


Figure 32 Plan showing the layout of Cornish Place (© ARCUS). Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with permission.  
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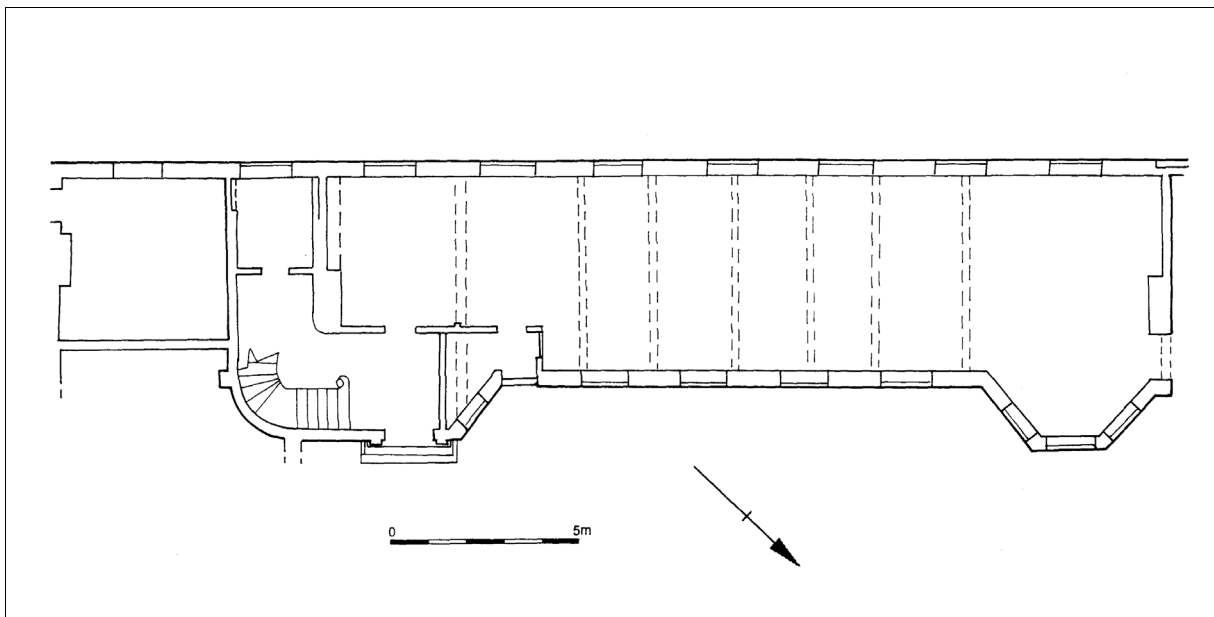


Figure 33 General ground floor plan of building 1, Cornish Place (© ARCUS)

which contained offices and workshops. Thus, by the late 1840s, Dixon had devised a layout for the works that mirrored the specialisms of his own firm. The predecessor to Building 12, which also contained offices, provided a central place where goods were packed and stored. Each area had its own yard and its own relationship to the centre. Once established, this pattern was not significantly altered. Indeed, some parts of the works retained their original use and function throughout the 170 years of Cornish Place's existence, for example, the Britannia Metal casting shop in Building 3 and the stamp room on the ground floor of Building 5a.

The rebuilding programme of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century saw the floor area of the factory increase by more than 400% in little more than a decade. New buildings were constructed for specific purposes, and Building 6, the first of these, was a crucial part of the scheme. Not only did this building provide up to date workshop accommodation on four floors, it also allowed the generation and transmission of power to be radically altered. Continued building naturally led to the construction of Buildings 7 and 8 (and later

14). However, Dixon's were slower to develop the total factory concept than their contemporaries and their sporadic building programme meant that the factory was never redesigned. Their use of space was, therefore, inflexible. Dixon's failure to reinvest or restructure make it something of a surprise that the company survived well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Grid Reference SK 349 882

From a report by Paul Belford, ARCUS

## LAND NEAR SKELLOW HALL, SKELLOW

**A** watching brief was carried out on all groundworks for building development on land near to Skellow Hall, Skellow. The watching brief was undertaken for Yorkshire Premier Homes between February

1998 and February 1999. The work revealed no evidence for archaeological features. However, a buried topsoil was revealed close to the motte and bailey castle, which produced over forty sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

**Grid Reference SE 530 103**

**From a report by Archaeological Services,  
WYAS**

**POTHOUSE FARM,  
(BOLSTERSTONE GLASSHOUSE),  
STOCKSBRIDGE**

**T**he 17<sup>th</sup> century glasshouse and the land surrounding it are scheduled as an Ancient Monument. To the south, a later stone building abuts the glasshouse; this structure is excluded from the scheduling. Although it is described as a barn, the structure was probably associated with the site's industrial use. A watching brief was, therefore, maintained when the barn was converted to residential use. This work was done for M Humphries of Cottage Style Homes in August-September 1998.

The conversion works included consolidation of the south gable of the glasshouse building, by re-pointing, and the erection of an auxiliary north wall to the barn, adjacent to the glasshouse gable – to take the load of the barn roof. This auxiliary wall was constructed of breezeblocks and girders resting on the east and west walls of the barn. A drawn record of the south gable of the glasshouse was made before it was obscured.

The old concrete floor of the barn was removed, revealing a levelling layer made up of furnace ash and pottery, as well as modern debris. In the

northeast corner of the barn, beneath this layer, an earlier flagstone surface (and drain) was revealed, which stopped abruptly at the line of an original partition across the barn – visible traces of which could be seen on the east wall of the building. This floor was set directly into clean sand and probably dates from the original, industrial period.

Earlier excavations in the glasshouse had indicated the possibility that a small flue/drain running north to south continued under the barn. No evidence for such a feature was revealed by this work. However, excavation in the barn near the glasshouse gable was shallow.

The levelling layer beneath the concrete contained only two small lumps of glass waste from a discarded crucible and over 40kg of pottery. This suggests that the material originated from a pottery waster dump that must have survived into the 20<sup>th</sup> century at a nearby location. All the pottery was domestic earthenware in bright red fabric, consisting in roughly equal measure of black-glazed wares and multi-coloured slipwares. The sherds showed feathering and a tulip design distinctive to the potter Joseph Lindley, active at Bolsterstone in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, after the glasshouse closed.

The probate inventory of Robert Blackburn, who ran the glassworks from 1704 until his death in 1727, shows he held considerable stocks of finished glassware, as well as of chemicals and equipment. Included in the items listed are £40 of window glass and £20 of goods in the Chapman's room and £25 of bottles and £100 of goods in the Warehouse and a further £10 of goods in the Storeroom.

It is likely that the building known today as the barn was added to the glasshouse in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, as the business expanded and that it was here that the goods listed in the Inventory were stored. The building certainly had an upper floor, as indicated by joist holes in the end wall

and the upper doorway. The ground floor was subdivided, with one area paved and drained. It is tempting to see this area as the stables that Blackburn must have had; the inventory lists five horses, probably packhorses, used for transporting the goods. When the barn was added to the glasshouse, the roof of the glasshouse was raised – the original line is visible in the south gable wall. Two of the squared blocks used above the middle door lintel have bottle glass

adhering to them; these are re-used siege stones, indicating repairs to the glass furnace sieges, presumably shortly before the barn was built.

Grid Reference SK 266 980

From a report by Denis Ashurst, Consultant  
Archaeologist

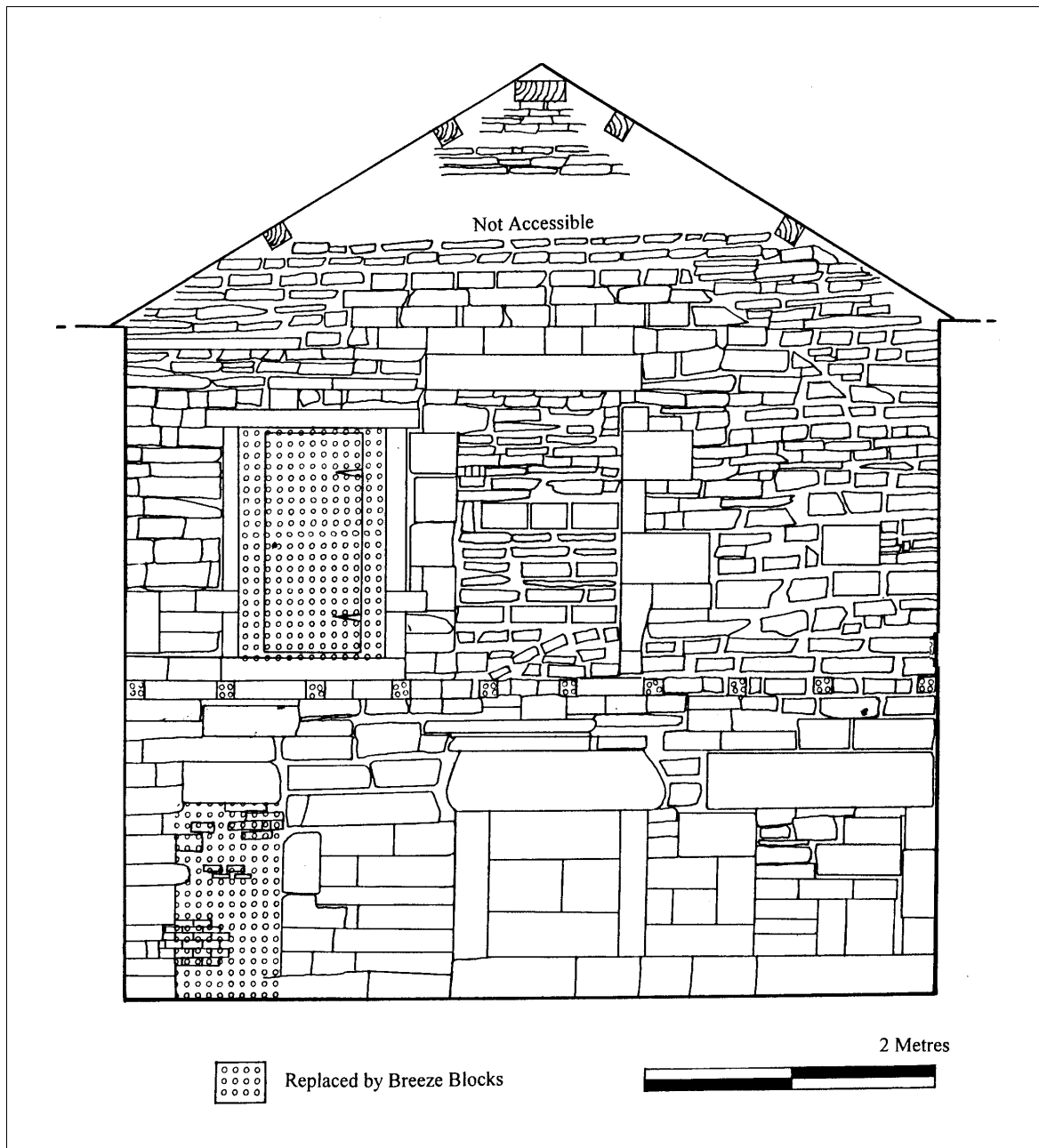


Figure 34 Pothouse Farm, Stocksbridge. The Bolsterstone glasshouse, south gable (© Denis Ashurst)

## WHARNCLIFFE CRAGS, DEEPCAR, STOCKSBRIDGE

Yorkshire Electricity has been renewing and improving the overhead electricity lines passing through Wharncliffe Craggs Woods. Scheduled Monument Consent was required for the work, as the power lines run through the area of former Iron Age and Roman quern working, scheduled as an Ancient Monument (SY1253). The first phase of archaeological work on this project, carried out in 1997, was reported in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire 1996–8*. In this phase of work, carried out in June/July 1998, two pairs of poles were renewed, which required the excavation of pits for the erection of the new poles; a further pit was excavated for a temporary stay, which was required to stabilise the line of new cables. All of the excavations revealed a similar soil sequence, with a thin peaty topsoil over clay and a basal layer of stone and clay mix. No archaeological deposits or finds were identified during this phase of the watching brief.

Grid Reference SK 296 977

From a report by Glyn Davies, ARCUS

## FLINT LANE, SWINTON

The replacement of an electricity cable, by Yorkshire Electricity, in March 1999, required an archaeological watching brief; the route passed close to the Roman Ridge dyke and lies in an area where aerial photographs suggest former Romano-British activity. No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the course of

the watching brief. However, two features related to the Roman Ridge were encountered

1. a crude roadway of probable 20<sup>th</sup> century date, associated with an opening in the Ridge
2. a ditch of apparently 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century date, probably defining the opposite side of Scolah's Lane from that defined by the Roman Ridge.

Grid Reference SK 442 992

From a report by Tim Allen, ARCUS

## GOLDEN SMITHIES LANE, SWINTON

Trial trench evaluation of land at Golden Smithies Lane was reported in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire 1996–1998*. The results of that work led on to a watching brief during the construction of a footpath close to the Roman Ridge in the southern half of the site and stripping of an area around the identified post-medieval well in the centre of the site. The work was undertaken for Beazer Homes in April and June 1998 and in January 1999. It had been agreed that ground disturbance in the vicinity of the Roman Ridge would be kept to a minimum; the footpath was, therefore, kept 5m away from the Ridge, wherever possible. The post-medieval well was fully exposed and the area around it examined, but no further structures were identified. Further work will be undertaken when the development extends into the northern half of the site, in the vicinity of the undated ditch identified in the evaluation.

Grid Reference SK 453 995

From a report by Glyn Davies, ARCUS

## LAND AT WESTWOOD NEW ROAD, TANKERSLEY

**A** gradiometer survey covering 1.6 hectares (50% of the site) was carried out on the site of a proposed housing development, for Ben Bailey Homes Ltd, in October/November 1998. Anomalies indicative of ridge and furrow were detected as were two areas of possible industrial activity. A weak, positive curvi-linear anomaly, possibly pre-dating the ridge and furrow was also been identified.

Trial trenching was then undertaken to test these anomalies. This confirmed the presence of probably medieval ridge and furrow within the proposed development area, in addition to a total of five stone-filled drains. No artefactual evidence was recovered from any of these features and no deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered.

Centred at Grid Reference SE 344 001

Report by J Kate Howell, Archaeological Services, WYAS

## TEMPLEBOROUGH STEEL WORKS, TEMPLEBOROUGH

**T**he Magna Project intended converting the former Templeborough Steel Works into an educational visitor centre, using the theme of steel as a focus. A desk-top assessment was undertaken in September/October 1998 to establish the impact of the scheme on the site's archaeology.

The steelworks are well documented as having been built on the site of a substantial Roman fort and associated civilian settlement. The main points raised by the desk-top assessment are

- 1) archaeological investigations over the past 120 years recorded three successive Roman forts with associated industrial annexes, roads and civilian settlements on this site
- 2) the area was low-lying adjacent to the River Don and much of the site has been levelled up with industrial waste and demolition rubble
- 3) geotechnical data indicates a variable thickness of this 'made ground' across the area
- 4) despite the construction of extensive 20<sup>th</sup> century steelworks on the site there is evidence that some archaeological material of Roman date is still extant under this overburden
- 5) the proposed construction of service roads will impinge on those areas where the survival of archaeological features is most likely.

Evaluation of these areas of interest will be required to fully test the impact of the scheme on these buried archaeological deposits.

Grid Reference SK 410 915

From a report by Pat Wagner, ARCUS

## LAND OFF UNION ROAD (CANALSIDE), THORNE

**A** desk-top assessment was prepared to establish the impact of a proposed housing development, for Bellway Urban Renewal, in April 1998. The

proposed development area was known as Horse Fair Green and does not appear to have been developed until the post-medieval period. The site is bounded by two drainage features, the Boating Dyke and the Stainforth and Keadby Canal. Small-scale industrial and residential development characterised the area during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, when the site contained one of the most important shipyards in Thorne.

Boatbuilding was an important industry in Thorne from the 1790s; it originally focussed along the River Don, at Waterside, later yards focussed on the newly built canal. Dunston's Shipyard was built in 1858 and was the most substantial yard on the canal front, building large vessels. In its early years, the yard built wooden craft, but changed to steel hulls in 1922. The yard closed

in 1985 and by the time of the assessment few features relating to the shipyard survived on the site. One block of buildings and a dry dock, still with lock gates, from the shipyard were noted. Other buildings on the site, to be demolished as part of the proposed scheme, included 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century cottages. The assessment noted that a short section of the Boating dyke may also survive buried on the site.

In advance of development, further archaeological recording of the standing structures will be required, with a watching brief on some areas of work.

Grid Reference SE 684 131

From a report by Glyn Davies, ARCUS

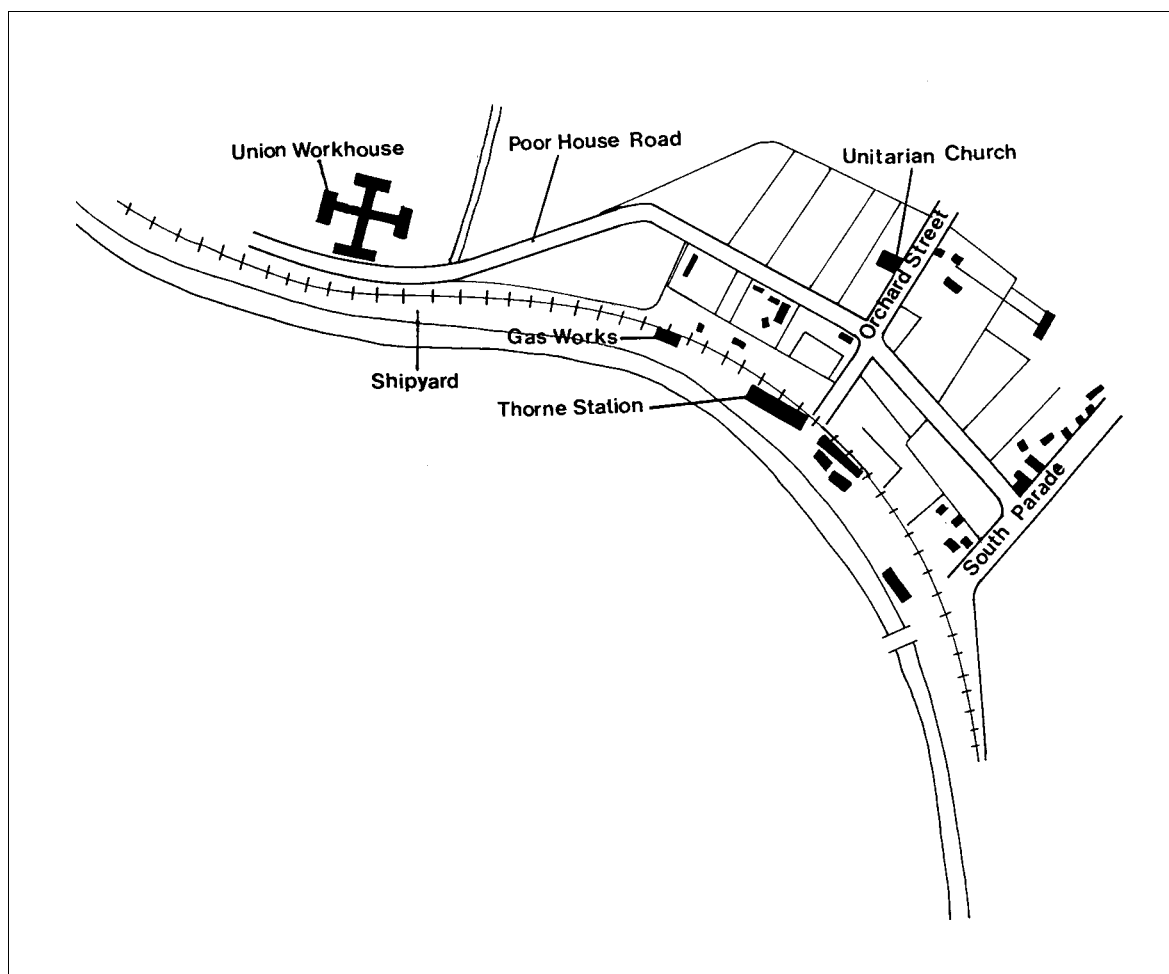


Figure 35 Land off Union Road, Thorne, taken from the Ordnance Survey 1854, 1st Edition

## ANNULAR SPOIL HEAPS AT THORPE HESLEY

**B**etween 1997 and 1998 a monitoring and recording exercise took place during the removal of an annular spoil heap at Kirby Lane, Thorpe Hesley, as a result of a condition attached to the relevant planning permission. This spoil heap was one of a series of such features and lay within a private garden, the remainder being outside the garden, in a field and woods beyond, to the south east. By negotiation with the contractor responsible for the removal of the mound, it was possible to carry out a controlled investigation of the structure as it was demolished. This work was carried out for Mr and Mrs A O Smith.

The opportunity to record the structure was welcomed; such mining remains have been subject to inconsistent explorations. The almost invariable association of the term 'bell pit' with the term 'annular spoil heap' is the most obvious example of this. Additionally, the traditionally suggested origins and methods of accumulation of the annular spoil heap configuration are largely untenable. Finally, attributions of date for such features are often unsubstantiated.

The Thorpe Hesley mounds are located on the carboniferous Tankersley Ironstone Bassett Edge and were generated exclusively as a result of ironstone mining, no evidence for coal extraction having been found. Research by the local historian Melvyn Jones indicates that the workings in this area are probably early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

A detailed EDM survey was undertaken, prior to any contractors' site work. A contoured image of this spoil heap and the other mounds, along with their surrounding topography, was compiled by CAD. The area was then photographed in

oblique sunlight. Initial stripping was by machine, with hand clearing as features emerged. The electronic survey was intermittently updated and hand sketches made, where appropriate.

In its original form, the annulus was approximately 4m high at the rim, with a 1<sup>1/2</sup>m depression in the center. The base diameter was about 11m. The mound was found to consist almost entirely of carboniferous shales, degraded into finer particles at the surface, but in their 'as excavated' condition within the body of the structure. As sectioning proceeded, it became evident that the mound contained a clearly stratified horizon at approximately 1m above natural ground level. When fully exposed, this was revealed to be a compacted, level surface surrounding the central shaft. It is reasonable to conclude that this represents a working platform around the shaft, the pit bank. Further sectioning showed that the immediate circumference of the shaft was surrounded by a collar of more cohesive material, which had served to retain the unconsolidated shales forming the platform from the shaft edge.

Perhaps the most significant conclusion to be drawn from these observations is that it refutes the popular account of the creation and purpose of such mounds. The presence of the level working surface surrounding the shaft seems to indicate that the fully developed form of 'annular spoil heap' post dates the cessation of mining activity, rather than being concurrent with it as is often supposed.

The evidence at the Thorpe Hesley site suggests that the working procedure was in fact as follows: the initiation of shaft sinking was attended by the formation of a shaft collar, the function of which was to stabilise the edge of the shaft. Spoil from the sinking was then distributed radially outwards from the shaft collar over the surrounding ground surface and leveled to form a flat surface. This continued until the shaft had attained working depth. At least in coal mining, in this earlier period, the practice was to bring to

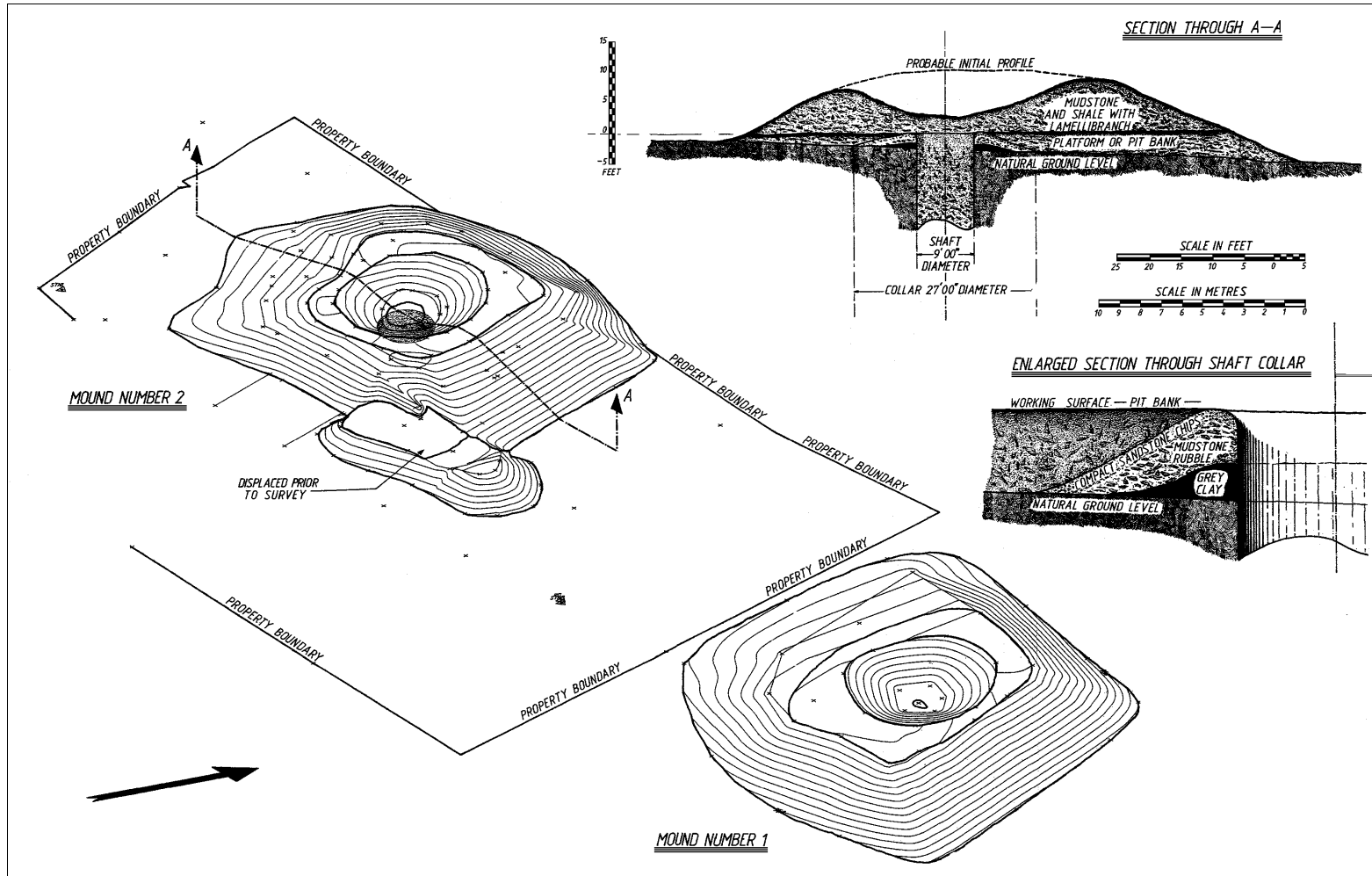


Figure 36 Annular spoil heaps at Thorpe Hesley (© Structural Perspectives)

the surface only saleable material, the waste being retained below ground. Thus the platform would cease to grow after shaft sinking was completed. The level, radial platform around the shaft appeared to have been deliberately beaten, to create a reasonably consolidated working surface. It can be assumed this surface carried the winding apparatus and also served as a stocking ground for the extracted mineral. Wagon loading for ultimate dispatch from the site would have been assisted by the outer periphery of the platform edge acting as a loading dock. This configuration, of raised working area around the shaft, is clearly shown on many illustrations of early 19<sup>th</sup> century collieries and the term pit bank, still in use in mining terminology, is intelligible in this context.

At the termination of mining, the lessee was usually obliged to fill the shaft and restore the ground to agricultural condition. It seems clear that this would involve recovering the surrounding platform material and returning it to the shaft. The final phase would involve heaping the material into a dome over the now filled shaft. Immediately after filling, the shaft content would be uncompacted, but settlement would result in the column contracting in height, drawing down material from the dome over the shaft and thus creating the characteristic 'donut' or annular shape. The final restoration of the ground to agriculture would only be possible after shaft settlement had concluded, following which the excess spoil would be cleared to leave a level field.

This suggests that the annular spoil heap was a transitional stage in the process of restoring land after mining had been completed. It was the result of a deliberate attempt to compensate for settlement and avoid surface depressions and cavities developing in the aftermath of mining. If the process was carried out to completion, the spoil heap would disappear entirely; the remaining examples probably represent arrested recovery. This would account for two frequently observed characteristics of the spatial

distribution of surviving mounds. Firstly, many are to be found in woodland, where complete restoration to level ground might not always have been necessary. Secondly, it is also often the case that the mounds we see today are confined to single fields, where geological conditions would imply that a more continuous series might be expected. It is now clear that the spread of spoil mounds would formerly have been more extensive than we see today, but that complete recovery has removed many examples, leaving only those which have not completed the full cycle.

It is hoped that a more comprehensive account of this work will be available in a forthcoming publication by Structural Perspectives, reviewing the company's involvement with opencast activity.

Grid Reference SK 366 976

Report by Ron Fitzgerald, Structural Perspectives

## LAND OFF BILLINGLEY DRIVE, THURNSCOE

A geophysical (gradiometer) survey was undertaken on land proposed for residential development, for Persimmon Homes Ltd., in February 1999. Aerial photographs have recorded cropmark evidence for enclosures on this site – provisionally dated to the Iron Age/Romano-British period. The survey successfully recorded two of the three enclosures. A number of additional ditch-type anomalies, some in pairs suggesting a trackway, were also recorded.

Grid Reference SE 452 052

From a report by GSB Propection

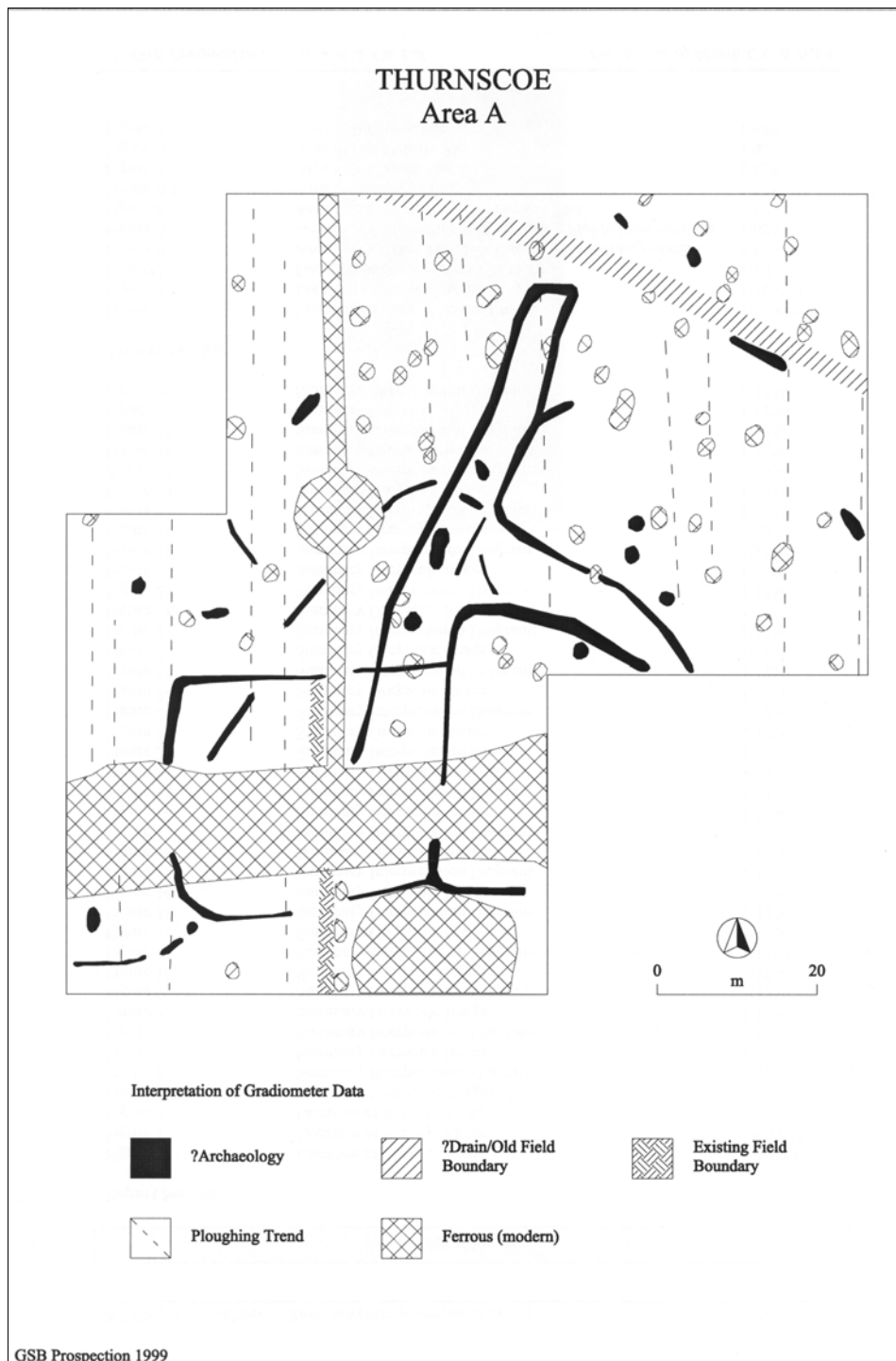


Figure 37 Geophysical plot of features on land off Billingley Drive, Thurnscoe (© GSB Prospection)

## GARTH COTTAGE, STANCIL, TICKHILL

A watching brief was kept on the groundworks for a small extension and a free-standing garage, for F J Durdy and Co, in March 1999. The cottage stands within the designated area of Stancil Roman Villa (SAM no. 1142), which is a scheduled ancient monument. No significant datable archaeological remains were encountered in the footings for the extension. At the site of the proposed garage one fragment of Romano-British roof tile was recovered, along with pottery dating to the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. A setting of small blackened limestone blocks was also found here, but no associated finds were present to date this probable hearth. The cottage sits on a low hill, so it is likely that finds from the villa site would be deposited downslope. The work should not, however, be taken as evidence of the absence of Romano-British deposits or structures in any areas other than those directly examined during the watching brief.

Grid Reference SK 609 960

From a report by Tim Allen, ARCUS

## FORMER SILVERWOOD COLLIERY, THRYBERGH

A desk-top assessment was undertaken in February/March 1999 for the Ogden Group of Companies, Coal Recovery Division, prior to proposed recovery of coal from colliery waste heaps and the removal

of the pithead at the former Silverwood Colliery. The study revealed that the site lies within an area of archaeological activity from the prehistoric to the post-medieval periods and there is a possibility that archaeological features may be contained in areas where the ground surface has not been disturbed by previous mining and quarrying operations. The site of Blacking Mill lies on the edge of the development area; remains of this 18<sup>th</sup> century mill and its associated water courses may survive. Further investigations will be needed to assess the survival of such below ground features.

Centred at Grid Reference SK 474 938

From a report by Neil McNab, York  
Archaeological Trust

## TODWICK MANOR, TODWICK

Todwick Manor House lies within the scheduled area (SAM no. 13231) around the remains of the medieval moated site of Todwick Manor. A watching brief was, therefore, kept on small-scale groundworks in January 1999, for Robin Ashley Architects. The footing trenches for the new extension revealed a sequence of deposits; 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century material was found to overlie layers that appeared to be upcast from the medieval moat, although no dating evidence was recovered.

Grid Reference SK 498 842

From a report by Tim Allen, ARCUS

## ST HELEN'S CHURCH, TREETON

**A** desk-top assessment was prepared in November 1998, for the Parochial Church Council, to look at the archaeological implications of a series of conservation measures and repairs proposed for the church. These measures included the replacement of weathered and eroded stonework, the stitching and securing of various movement cracks and fractures and the repointing of several wall elevations.

St Helen's Church lies in the centre of the village of Treeton, where the presence of a church is mentioned in the Domesday Book. The church has a 12<sup>th</sup> century arcade and lower part of the tower, otherwise it is late 13<sup>th</sup> to early 14<sup>th</sup> century in date, with 15<sup>th</sup> century additions. The church was restored in 1869 and 1892.

Although the proposed conservation and repair works are fairly extensive, only small areas of heavily eroded or weathered original stonework are due to be replaced. Therefore, there appeared to be few archaeological implications to the proposed works. However three areas of particular interest were noted, where care will be required during the works, to prevent any disturbance to original features. The areas of interest noted were

- the external face of the west nave wall, which contains numerous masons' marks
- the internal west wall of the south porch, which contains some reused stonework, including a 12<sup>th</sup> century child's coffin
- the lower east side of the tower, which contains the scar of a former roofline.

**Grid Reference** SK 432 877

**From a report by Ed Dennison  
Archaeological Services**

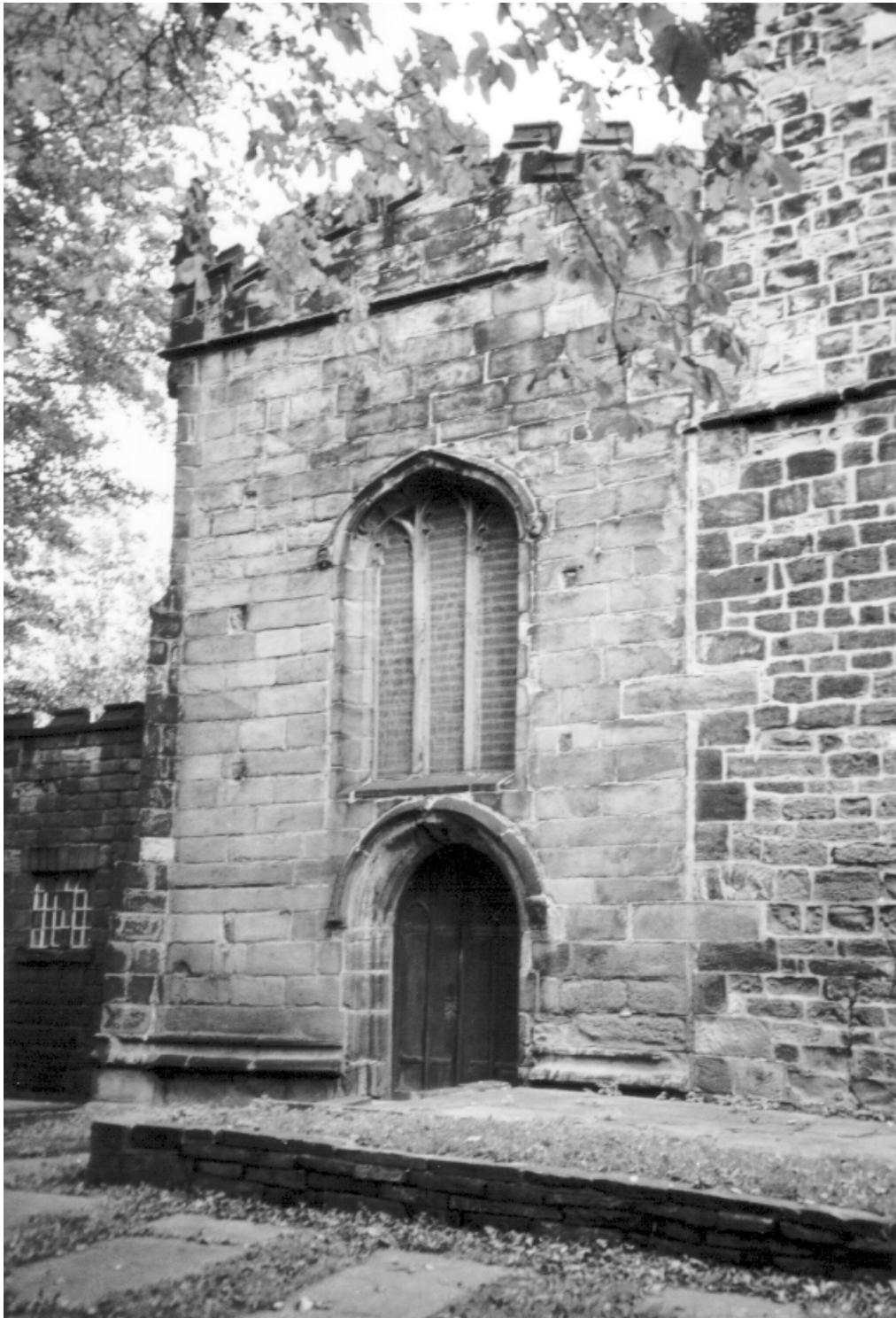


Figure 38 West side of the nave at St Helen's Church, Treeton (© Ed Dennison Archaeological Services)

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