

LAND NORTH OF MEAGILL RISE, RUMPLECROFT, OTLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



For: **Strategic Team Group**

Planning Application: 16/06770/FU Cond 28

CS Archaeology

May 2018

On behalf of: Mr M Hebden
Strategic Team Group
Strategic Business Centre
Blue Ridge Park
Thunderhead Ridge
Glasshoughton
Castleford
WF10 4UA

The Site's National Grid Reference (NGR): SE 191467

Project Number: 176

Oasis ID: csarchae1-317754

Planning Reference: 16/06770/FU Cond 28 (LCC)

Report by: Chris Scurfield BA (Hons)

Timing Fieldwork: Fieldwork, September 2017 - May 2018

Timing Report: May 2018

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Frontispiece: view towards the PDA, looking north west

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1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is in response to a condition placed on Planning consent (Application No. 16/06770/FU Cond 28) by Leeds City Council.
- 1.2 This condition has been imposed because the Proposed Development, may impact areas of unknown archaeology.
- 1.3 The results from this work will mitigate any potential remains through by 'preservation by record'.
- 1.4 The proposed development area was subject to a geo-physical survey, but this yielded with negative results.
- 1.5 Results of the watching brief were apart from an undated land drain, also negative.

2 INTRODUCTION

2.1 *Site Name:* Land North Of Meagill Rise, Rumpelcroft, Otley, West Yorkshire (**Figure 1**).

2.2 *Status:* none

2.3 *Grid reference:* SE 298295

2.4 *Area of Site inc. woodland:* 5.7 Ha

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 To ensure that any buried archaeological remains present are investigated in order that an understanding of their nature extent and significance be obtained, before they are damaged or destroyed. The watching brief will also allow for the identification and recording of any archaeological material that might be uncovered and that the knowledge gained is then disseminated.

3.2 If archaeology is revealed every effort will be made to enable the deposits to be preserved in situ.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 This has been carried out according to the archaeological project design in Appendix 1.

5 BACKGROUND

5.1 At this stage little is known of the Proposed Development Area (PDA). The PDA is situated in an area of unknown archaeological potential, and a recent geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2017) has confirmed little of significance.



Extract from the 1904 25'' OS map

5.6 Cartographically little changed during the later post medieval to modern periods until the development of the 'Wharfedale Union Workhouse' and Hospital by 1909 and subsequent infilling of around the Hospital (**Figure 3**) post 1934.

6 THE WATCHING BRIEF

- 6.1 This took place over initially in sporadically from November 2017 to May 2018. Site liaison enabled the targeting of the watching brief to sections of earthmoving which could contain some archaeological potential. Archaeological visibility was generally good however, the use of heavy plant did not lend itself to 100% visibility.
- 6.2 Significant was a general absence of any historic artefacts and supported the negative results. NB Residual modern artefacts were discounted. Scanning by metal detector (of exposed surfaces and spoil) also failed to identify any significant artefacts.
- 6.2 The watching brief commenced with the excavation of a single house towards the northeast edge of the site. This revealed natural substrate of clays and glacial erratics (**Plates 1-3, 7**).
- 6.3 Excavation of the principle access road began just off 'Meagill Rise' (**Plate 4**). No archaeological features were revealed (**Plates 5-6**).
- 6.4 Throughout the remaining site strip the natural glacial substrate was revealed (**Plates 8-10**). As part of the land contract the developer undertook to reinstate the farmers access track up the hill (**Plates 11 & 12**) confirming it was originally laid down with modern aggregate and was assumed to be modern in age.
- 6.5 The watching brief continued into the new year with the extension of the main access road (**Plate 13**) and large scale earth moving cutting and filling natural irregularities of the local topography.
- 6.6 Site stripping revealed a linear feature (**Plate 14**), this was recorded and hand excavated. It comprised of small to medium sized rounded stones and was consistent with a local land drain (**Figure 2: Plate 15**). This feature remained undated but testifies to an amount of land improvement probably during the later post medieval period.
- 6.7 The watching brief was maintained until early May 2018 (**Plates 16-26**) when all the site had been sufficiently observed.
- 6.8 The remaining house excavations will be dug into modern made ground and there is considered, by CS Archaeology no further to observe any further archaeological deposits.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 This report was able to confirm that the proposed development area consisted of no significant archaeological deposits.

8 PROPOSED ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION

- 8.1 **No further archaeological mitigation is recommended.**

9 REFERENCES

9.1 Cartographic References

2006, Ordnance Survey Explorer Map 1:25000 (Sheet 297).
1854, 6" Ordnance Survey Map
1906, 25" Ordnance Survey Map
1934, 25" Ordnance Survey Map
1948, Ordnance Survey Map

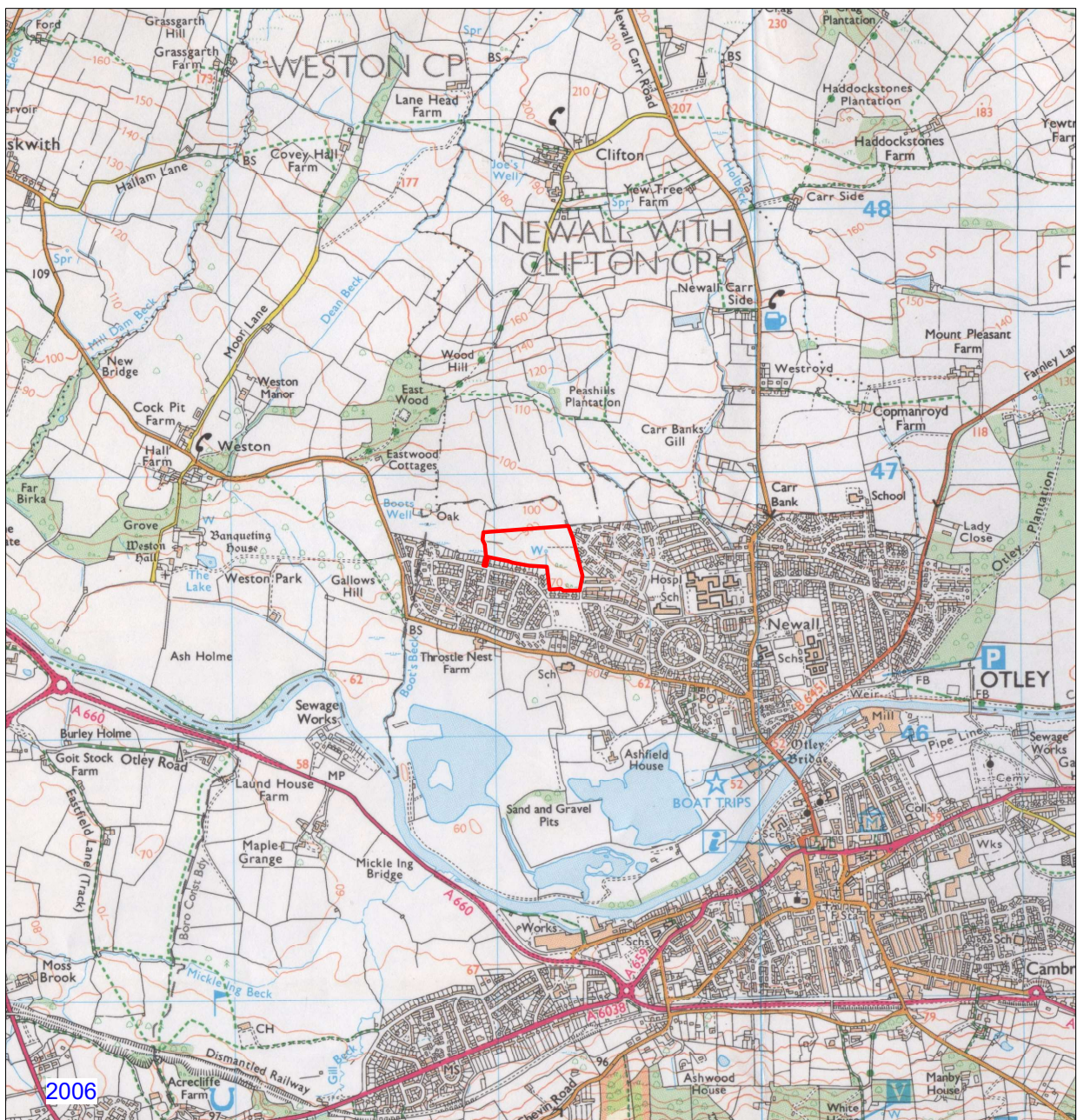
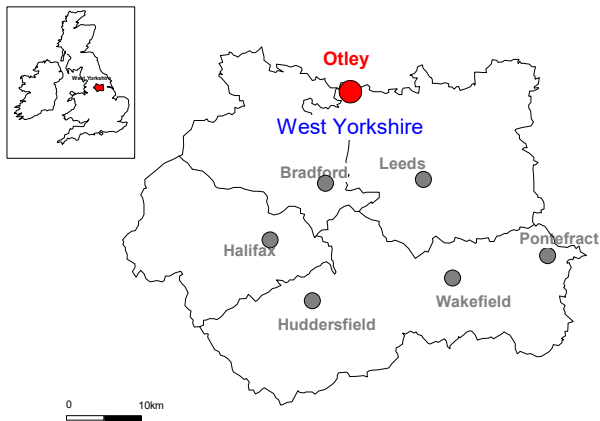
9.2 Secondary Sources

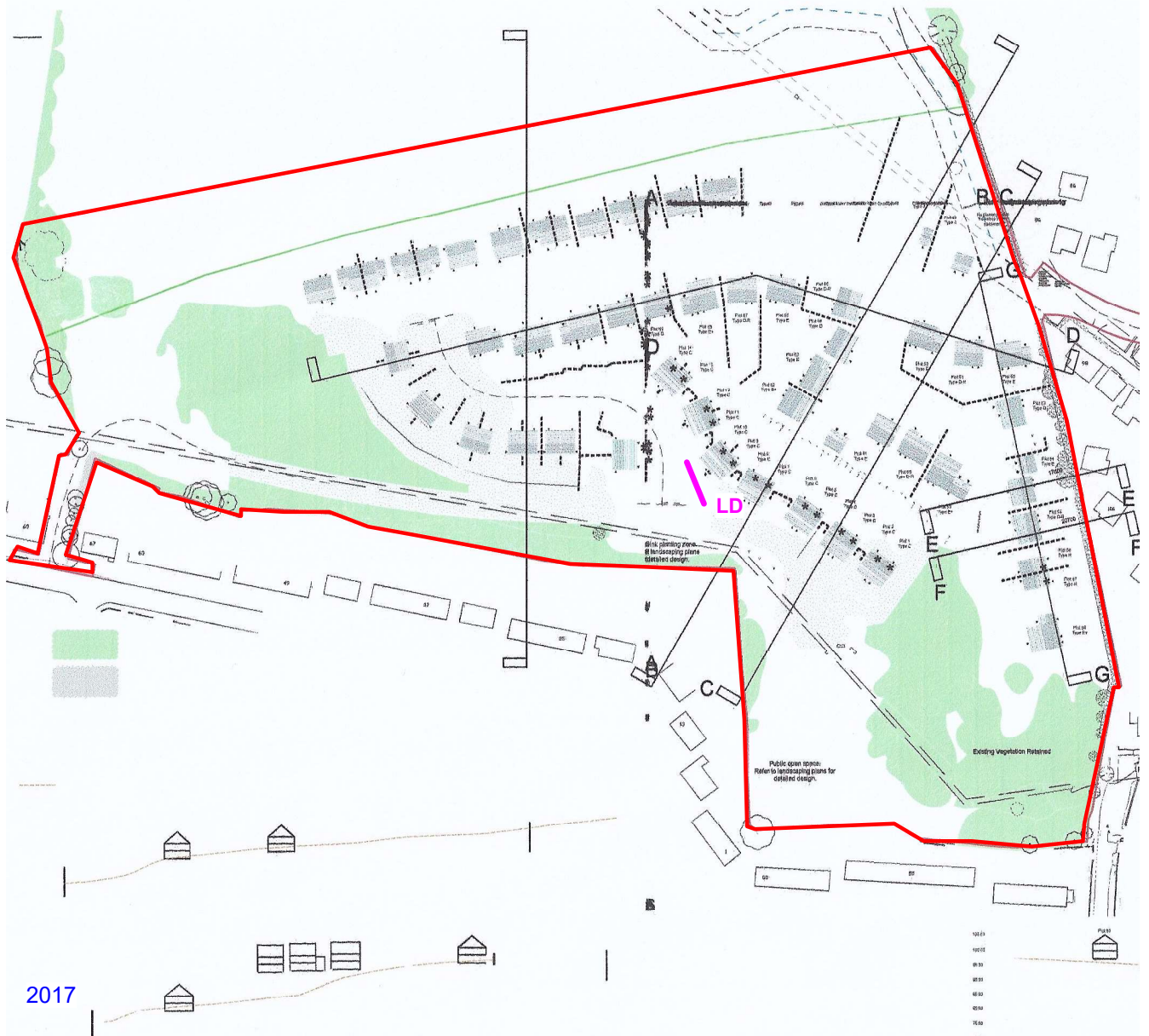
2017 Geophysical Survey Report MSSE88: Land at Meagill Rise, Otley. City of Leeds Metropolitan Borough

10 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

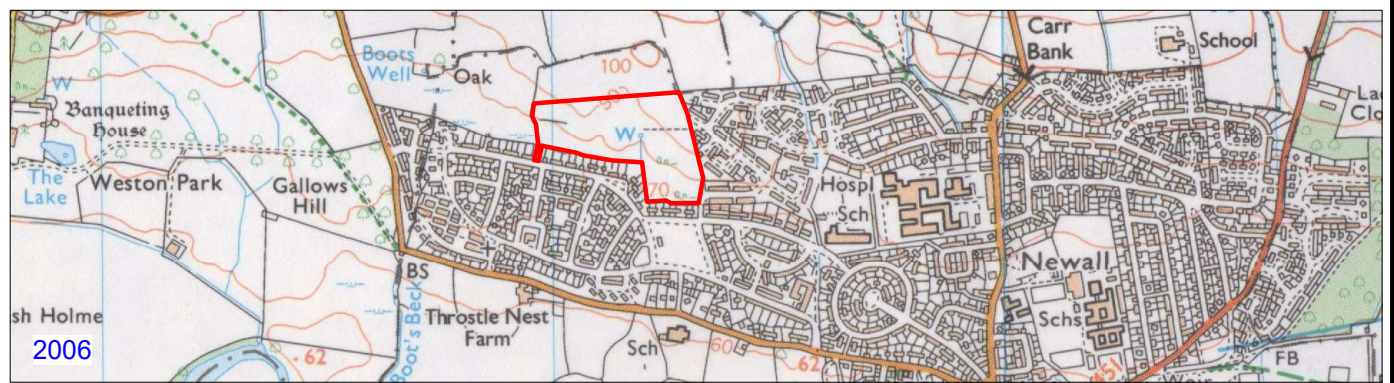
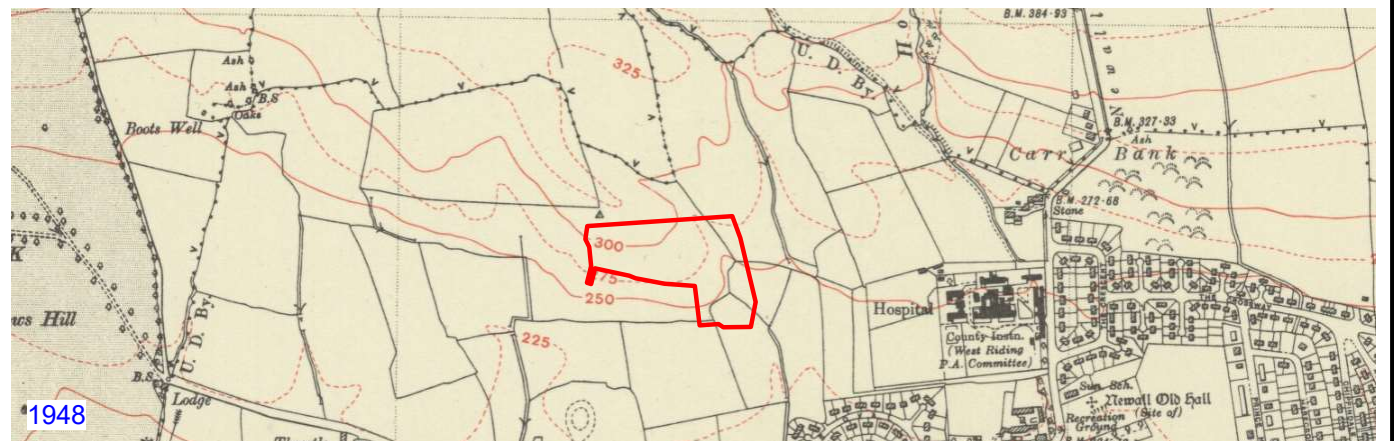
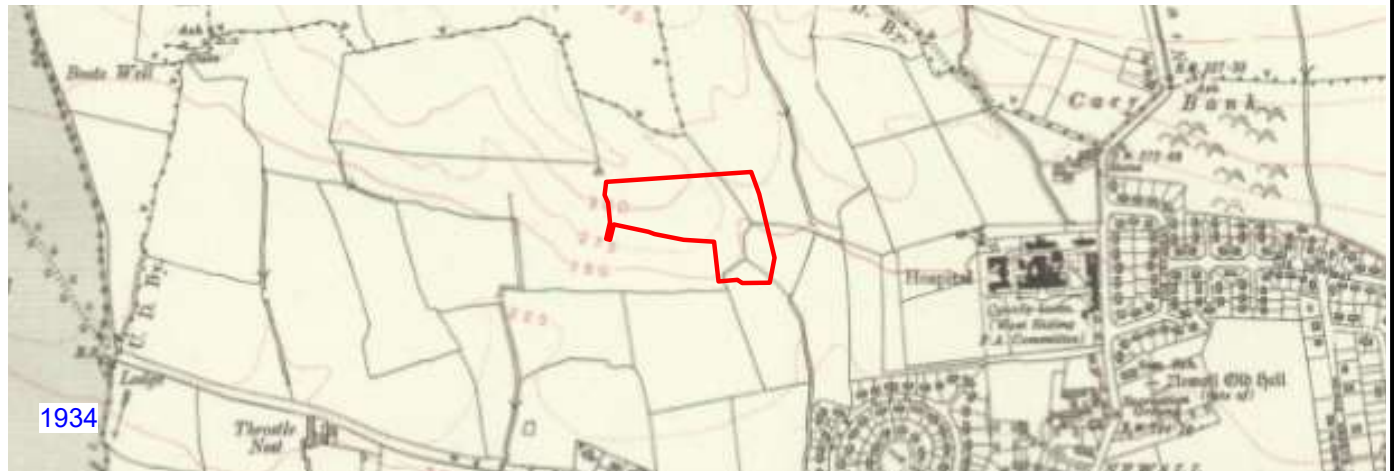
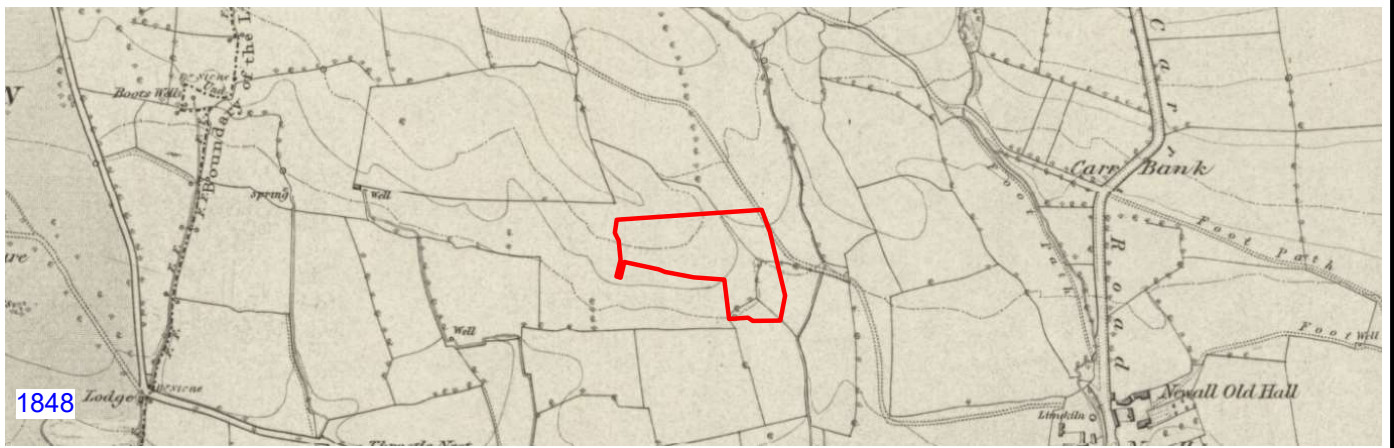
Many thanks to Mick Hebden and Strategic Team Group for Commissioning this report and arranging access.

FIGURES





LD undated land drain



PLATES



Plate 1: general pre-excitation view of the first house site (Plot 1) to be excavated, looking east



Plate 2: post site strip view of plot 1, looking south



Plate 3: excavated trench from plot 1 showing the glacial till, looking north



Plate 4: pre site strip view of access road off Meagill Rise, looking south



Plate 5: excavation view during the site strip of access road off Meagil Rise, looking northwest



Plate 6: further excavation view during the site strip of access road off Meagil Rise, looking northwest



Plate 7: post construction view of plot 1, looking west



Plate 8: general view of the earth moving operation, looking north



Plate 9: general view of the east-west access road with truncation of colluvial/glacial deposits, looking northeast



Plate 10: further general view of the east-west access road with truncation of colluvial/glacial deposits, looking west



Plate 11: general view of the re-surfacing of the 'farmer's track up slope, looking northwest



Plate 12: general view of the re-surfacing of the 'farmer's track down slope, looking southeast



Plate 13: general view, looking northwest



Plate 14: general view of a stone filled drain aligned NW-SE, looking northwest



Plate 15: excavated section of the stone filled drain aligned NW-SE, looking southeast



Plate 16: general view, looking southwest



Plate 17: general view following earth re-grading, looking north



Plate 20: general view following earth re-grading, looking west



Plate 21: general view during earth re-grading, looking south west



Plate 22: general view during earth re-grading, looking west northwest



Plate 23: view towards a fill zone during earthworks excavations, looking east down the Wharfe valley



Plate 24: view during earthworks excavations, looking west



Plate 25: view during earthworks excavations, looking south



Plate 26: view during earthworks excavations, looking north



Plate 27: post excavation view following the top soil strip towards the northeast corner of the site, looking northwest



Plate 28: post excavation view following the top soil strip towards the northeast corner of the site, looking southeast

APPENDIX

**PROJECT DESIGN FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF:
LAND NORTH OF MEAGILL RISE, RUMPLECROFT,
OTLEY, WEST YORKSHIRE**

For: Strategic Team Group

Planning Application: 16/06770/FU Cond 28

CS Archaeology

September 2017

- 0.1 This Project Design (PD) is a response to a condition (28) on planning application approved by Leeds City Council (Ref: 16/06770/FU) for the erection of 75 dwellings, at land north of Meagill Rise, Rumplecroft, Otley, West Yorkshire.
- 0.2 This PD proposes that an archaeological watching brief is implemented to record potential archaeological deposits during all below ground works, specifically during site reduction, service trenches and foundation excavations.
- 0.3 The results from this work will provide a more detailed record of the Proposed Development Area's (PDA) archaeological resource, and will mitigate any archaeology by 'preservation by record'.
- 0.4 Archaeological Watching Brief is required to ensure that remains that are to be affected by works will be recorded and/or retrieved.
- 0.5 All archaeological work will comply with:
- *“Regional statement of good practice for archaeology in the development process, Yorkshire, the Humber & the North East”* (available for download from the WYAAS website);
 - relevant IfA Standard and guidance documents;
 - relevant EH best practice guidance documents.
- 0.6 All archaeological work will be monitored by the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisor Service (WYAAS).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Details

1.1.1 *Site Name:* Land North of Meagill Rise, Rurplecroft Otley, West Yorkshire (MSSE88)

1.1.2 *Status:* non- statutory

1.2 Archaeological Background

1.2.1 At this stage little is known of the Proposed Development Area (PDA). The PDA is situated in an area of unknown archaeological potential, and a recent geophysical survey (Magnitude Surveys 2017) has confirmed little of significance.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 This Project Design (PD) is in response to planning consent (Ref: 16/06770/FU, Cond. 28), by Leeds CC.

1.3.2 This PD represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements during the redevelopment of the PDA. This is in accordance with Local Plan Policies and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 12).

1.3.3 Leeds CC are the planning authority who are advised by the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service (WYAAS).

2 OBJECTIVES

2.1 To ensure that any buried archaeological remains present are investigated in order that an understanding of their nature extent and significance be obtained, before they are damaged or destroyed. The watching brief will also allow for the identification and recording of any archaeological material that might be uncovered and that the knowledge gained is then disseminated.

2.2 If archaeology is revealed every effort will be made to enable the deposits to be preserved in situ.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Procedures and Objectives

3.1.1 Access during the works will be afforded to CS Archaeology at all reasonable times, arrangements for access to the site will be agreed with the client or client's agent in advance.

3.1.2 CS Archaeology will ensure that any plant and machinery operated by CS Archaeology is used with due care and attention.

3.1.3 Ditching bucket will be used at all times unless modern/concrete deposits are encountered.

- 3.1.4 This project will be undertaken in a manner consistent with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage 1991) and professional standards and guidance (IFA, 2001).
- 3.1.5 All finds that are 'treasure' will be reported to the coroner in accordance with the Treasure Act Code of Practice (1997).
- 3.1.6 If architectural features or archaeological remains are discovered during the course of the site works CS Archaeology will be afforded the opportunity to investigate and record them. Significant or unexpected discoveries will be immediately reported to the archaeological monitor (WYAAS).
- 3.1.7 During the watching brief analytical drawings and a written report on the deposits will be made sufficient to illustrate archaeological details.
- 3.1.8 Should the WYAAS judge this project design to be deficient, CS archaeology will either amend it or adhere to WYAAS's standard watching brief.

3.2 Photography

- 3.2.1 All photographs will contain an appropriate graduated photographic scale. Archival proven black and white photographs will form the archive and digital photographs will be taken to illustrate the report and to supplement the archive. Copies of all photographs will be included in the digital archive which will be supplied both the client and to WYAAS. Hard copies will be included in the site archive and deposited with West Yorkshire Museum Service

3.3 Site Monitoring

- 3.3.1 WYAAS will be notified in advance of the start of site works, so that arrangements for monitoring the work can be made.
- 3.3.2 Monitoring will be arranged so that all excavated areas can be inspected in an exposed condition.

3.4 Finds Recovery and Conservation Strategy

- 3.4.1 If any site reduction work does take place and this is not anticipated, the following categories of artefact may be predicted on this site: pottery, ferrous and non ferrous metalwork, glass, ceramic building material, worked bone, flint and/or worked stone. Potential finds could date from any period.
- 3.4.2 Should a site archive be created this will be offered to West Yorkshire Museum Service Service.
- 3.4.3 All recording, marking and storage of material will be of archive quality and recording systems will be compatible with Pontefract Museum. Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilisation of all objects and an assessment of their long-term conservation and storage needs.
- 3.4.4 Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication First Aid for Finds. In accordance with the procedures outlined in MAP2, all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy will be X-radiographed before assessment.

3.4.5 If required a specialist assessment report on the recovered artefacts will be undertaken, with a view to their potential for further study. Any assessment report will form an appendix to the main report. Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and storage needs.

3.5 Health and Safety

3.5.1 CS Archaeology will operate with due regard to health.

3.6 Post –Recording Work and Report Preparation

3.6.1 Once the site works have been completed, a full report of the results of the watching brief will be undertaken by CS Archaeology, within 3 months. The post-excavation assessment of material if recovered will be undertaken in accordance with the guidance of MAP2 (English Heritage, 1991). The report will include: background information, methods, detailed results, grid references, conclusion and discussion.

3.6.2 The watching brief report may if required include a phased interpretation of the site, and a detailed photographic index.

3.6.3 A copy of this PD will be included as an appendix to the final report.

3.7 Post Excavation Specialists

3.7.1

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Prehistoric and Medieval Pottery | Dr C G Cumberpatch, Sheffield |
| Roman Pottery | Ms R Leary |
| Anglo-Saxon Pottery | Ms J Young |
| Slags | Dr R MacKenzie, Sheffield |
| Environmental sampling and analysis | Ms E Simmons, Sheffield |
| Bone (Animal) | Mr J Buglass, Northallerton |
| Bone (Human) | M Holst, York Osteolo-Archaeology |

3.7.2 Should any further specialists be required these will be employed accordingly after approval by the WYAAS.

3.8 Preservation in situ

3.8.1 During the course of the watching brief, structures and deposits could be encountered that require the need for preservation in situ. CS Archaeology will ensure that any feature meriting preservation will be reported, and a design solution, if feasible will be developed in full consultation with WYAAS.

3.9 Archive Preparation & Deposition

3.9.1 A site archive will be prepared in accordance with English Heritage MoRPHE guidelines (English Heritage 2006). See also *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive, the Transfer of*

Archaeological Archives to Museums: Guidelines for use in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales Society of Museum Archaeologists 1995.

- 3.9.2 The site archive, including finds and environmental material, subject to the permission of the relevant landowners, will be labelled, conserved and stored according to the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC)'s *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (Walker 1990) and the Museums and Galleries Commission's *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections*, 1992.
- 3.9.3 Arrangements will be made for the full and final archive to be deposited in with West Yorkshire Museum Service in accordance with their deposition and archiving standards. If, after the watching brief, no further archaeological work is initiated, the archive will be deposited. An agreed allowance will be made for a contribution to West Yorkshire Museum Service towards the curation and storage of material.
- 3.9.4 If further archaeological mitigation is requested any additional archaeological work undertaken, the archive will be prepared accordingly for incorporation into the final archive.
- 3.9.5 Archive deposition will be arranged in consultation with, and will take account of West Yorkshire Museum Service's requirements and the relevant guidelines (see above). The timetable for deposition shall be agreed on completion of the site archive and report.

3.10 Report Submission

- 3.10.1 Upon completion of the field work a full report will be produced and copies with CD Rom containing the text of the report and illustrations (including all photos and slides taken), scanned at 300 dpi, is to be provided with each copy of the printed report submitted to the client and to Mr D Hunter (WYAAS). As a minimum, a summary or interim statement will be produced 6 weeks after completion of the fieldwork, and a full report within 3 months.
- 3.10.2 Copies of the completed report will be submitted in both hard (if required using archival paper) and digital formats to:
- The Client, Strategic Team Group
 - Mr D Hunter and the HER at the WYAAS.

3.9 Publicity

- 3.9.1 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, and an OASIS form will be completed for the project.
- 3.9.2 CS Archaeology will either arrange for copyright on the deposited material to be assigned to the West Yorkshire Museum Service in perpetuity; this licence will allow the archive to reproduce material, including for use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.
- 3.9.3 CS Archaeology is aware that this work may lead to further archaeological dissemination.

3.10 References

- English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*
Institute of Archaeologists, 2001, *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations*
Reading
Watkinson D. & Neal V., 1998, *First Aid for Finds* (3rd edition), RESCUE & the Archaeological
Section of the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation.
Treasure Act, 1996, Code of Practice
National Planning Policy Framework, 2012, Department for Communities and Local
Government, Chp 12. Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment

Any comments on this PD please address to Chris Scurfield at:

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