

**ALL SAINTS' CHURCH, CHURCH LANE, CROFTON,
WAKEFIELD, WEST YORKSHIRE:
AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

On behalf of
Wakefield District Council

CS Archaeology
October 2011

On behalf of: Wakefield District Council – Street Scene
Town Hall
Normanton
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF6 2DZ

National Grid Reference (NGR): SE 3777 1810

Project Number: 88

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Fieldwork, Report and illustrations: Mr C Scurfield

Timing: Fieldwork September 2011
Report October 2011

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken during the repair of the churchyard wall, southeast of All Saints' Church, Crofton. The Archaeological watching brief was recommended by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service.
- 1.2 No significant archaeology was revealed during the site reduction works.
- 1.3 Residual human bone was recovered and re-deposited within the churchyard during reconstruction of the church yard wall.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The village of Crofton lies to the southeast of Wakefield (**Figure 1**). The site is bounded to the north by houses along Ashdene Crescent, to the west by the burial ground, to the south by houses along Rose Garth and to the west by High Street (WYAAS 2011: Figure 2).
- 2.2 The site lies in Wakefield District and in the historic township of Crofton.
- 2.3 The site lies within the churchyard of All Saints' Church, at the centre of Crofton's historic core. The churchyard is defined by a revetment wall of roughly coursed sandstone with a marked drop-off of surrounding land (**Figure 2**).
- 2.4 The watching brief took place over two days, 21st and 22nd September 2011.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 All Saint's Church is in an area of archaeological importance. The church building dates from c.1430 with some later restoration work carried out in 1875. This church is thought to have replaced an earlier church the exact location of which is unknown. Two pieces of pre Conquest sculpture were discovered in the area of Ashdene Crescent, c.180m northeast of the present church. These suggest that the earlier church may lie close to the current building, and the associated features and structures may also survive as below ground archaeological remains in this area (WYAAS 2011).
- 3.2 The damaged section of wall also lies in the oldest section of the churchyard. A medieval coffin is located against the wall of the church in this area and other medieval features, including possible burials, may be located in this area (WYAAS 2011).

4. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 The aim of the watching brief is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits which are disturbed or exposed as a result of groundworks in the area of interest.
- 4.2 This work will mitigate the destruction of buried archaeological remains through 'preservation by record'.

5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 This watching brief has been carried out in accordance with a brief issued by the WYAAS in March 2011 (Appendix 1) and fully adhered to.
- 5.2 General colour digital shots of the works were taken. These have been used to illustrate the report and are listed in Appendix 2.
- 5.3 Mrs R Remmer (WYAAS) was notified of the eventual start date of the watching brief and was also informed about the progress of the works and final results.

6. RESULTS

- 6.1 The site consisted of an 8m section of churchyard wall (**Figure 2**).
- 6.2 De-construction of the wall revealed that this section of wall had been historically rebuilt with a cement bonding. Each stone was observed and there was an absence of any significant architectural fragments. One moulded fragment was noted, and was probably re-used gravestone, which had been incorporate into the wall when it was historically rebuilt.
- 6.3 During the course of the historic rebuilding a narrow band of ground along the inside of the wall was cut back in order to reduce lateral pressure on the wall. This chamfer was then refilled with gravel. The removed material was characterised by loose loamy soil, to a pink coloured clay (probably redeposited) with angular sandstone fragments. The loose loam deposit had formed from lateral displacement of the churchyard wall to the south and erosion of the surrounding topsoil into the void, and was 0.4m wide across the upper surface and this then tapered down to clay which had clearly triggered the lateral displacement of the graveyard and the movement/collapse of the churchyard wall. A number of modern artefacts were recovered from the loamy infill, (transfer decorated pottery), but these were not retained. A handful of human bone was also collected from the up-cast. Examination of the bones revealed that they were residual and had been previously truncated, probably by a spade and probably during historic reconstruction of the churchyard wall.
- 6.4 The up-cast was scanned for metal using a metal detector with low discrimination setting. Metal detection revealed a number of miscellaneous targets (iron nails and aluminium ring pulls) but nothing of significance.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 The watching brief has confirmed modern (20th century) disturbance along the inside line of the wall. This disturbance was probably associated with the historic rebuilding of the wall probably during the late 20th century.
- 7.2 No significant archaeological deposits such as grave cuts/fills were observed and no significant artefacts were recovered.
- 7.3 No traces of an earlier church were encountered during the watching brief.

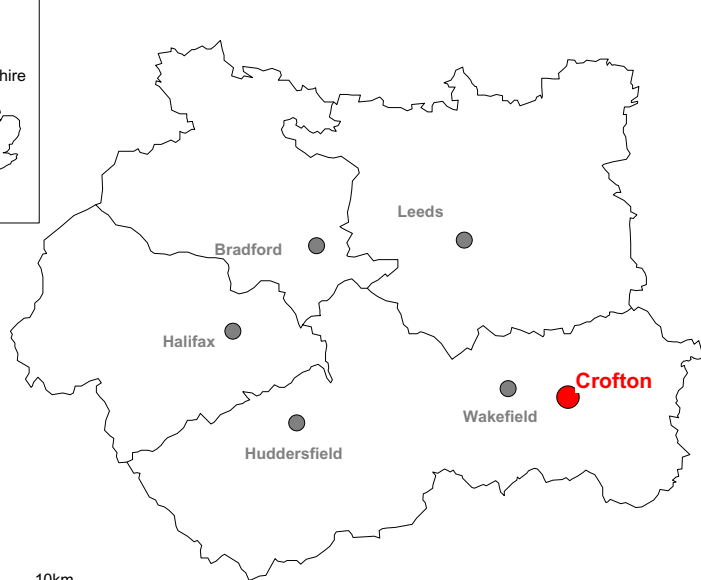
8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

WYAAS, 2011, *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at All Saints' Church, Crofton*, unpublished curator's report.

9. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Mr T Johnson of Wakefield District Council – Street Scene, for commissioning this report and to Mrs R Remmer of the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service.

FIGURES



Crown Copyright, All rights reserved. CS Archaeology, Licence Number 100045302

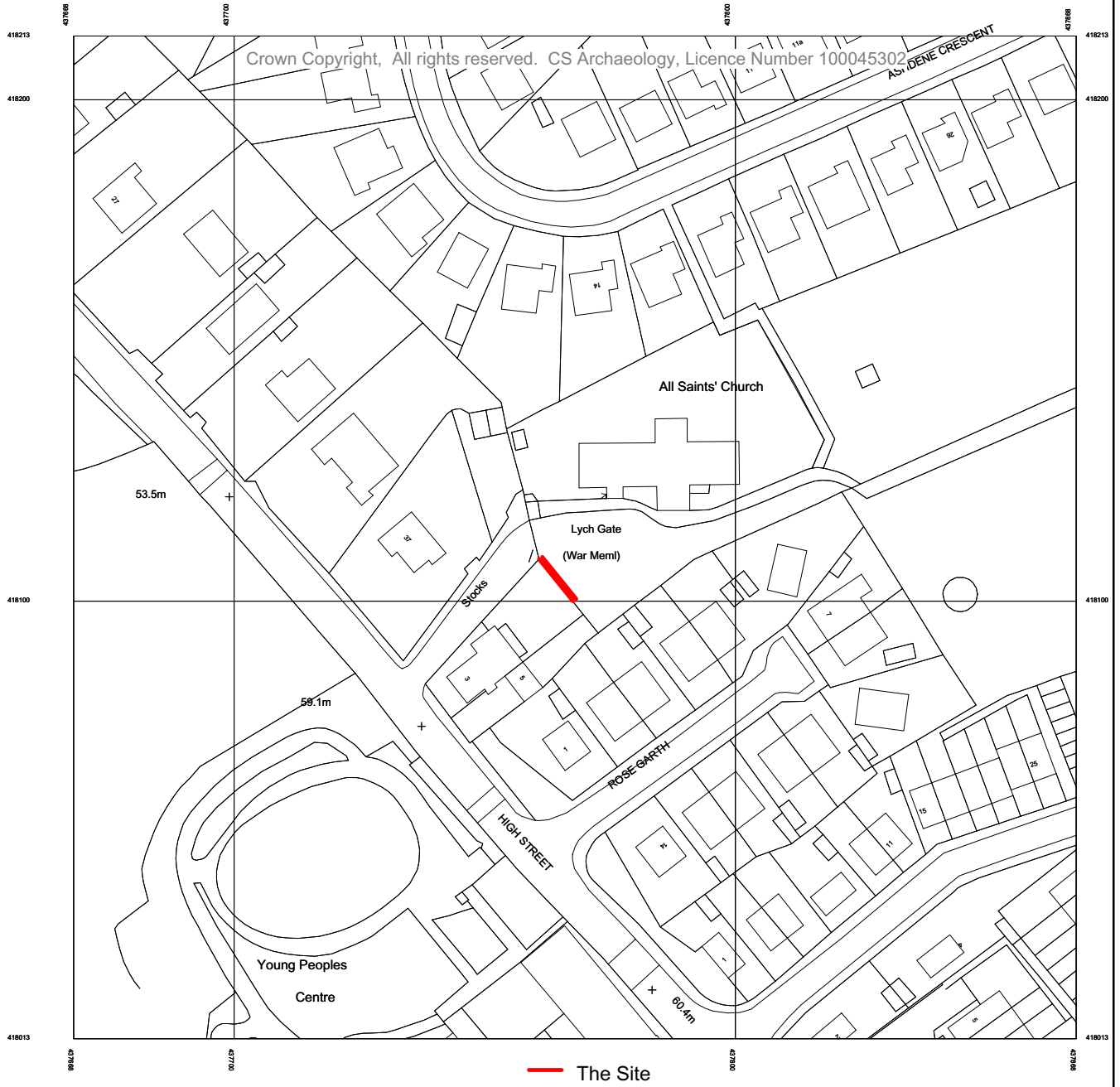
scale 1:25000

4 37

4 38

4 39

for inset see Figure 2



All Saints' Church, Crofton,
West Yorkshire: An
Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 2: Site Location Map

scale 1:1250

CS Archaeology
October 2011

PLATES



Plate 1: Pre-excavation view of the wall during dismantling, looking east



Plate 2: Pre-excitation view of the wall during dismantling, looking west



Plate 3: Post-excitation view of the wall during dismantling, looking east

**WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY SERVICE:
SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT ALL
SAINTS' CHURCH, CROFTON**

**Specification prepared at the request of Tim Johnson of Wakefield
Metropolitan District Council**

1. Summary

1.1 A limited amount of archaeological work consisting of a watching brief is proposed to identify and record any archaeological remains which are revealed and/or disturbed during groundworks at this site. This specification has been written by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (WYAAS), the holders of the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.

NOTE: The requirements detailed in paragraphs 6.2, 6.3, 6.4 and 11.1 are to be carried out by the archaeological contractor **prior** to the commencement of fieldwork.

2. Site Location & Description

Grid Reference: SE 4630 2243

2.1 The church is located in the village of Crofton, to the southeast of Wakefield. The site is bounded to the north by houses along Ashdene Crescent, to the west by the burial ground, to the south by houses along Rose Garth and to the west by High Street.

2.2 The site lies in Wakefield District and in the historic township of Crofton.

2.3 The watching brief will be maintained during all groundworks that are undertaken on site.

3. Background

3.1 In February 2011, WYAAS were contacted by WMDC and informed that a c.18m section of the Churchyard wall at All Saints' Church, Crofton is in need of repair. WYAAS informed WMDC that a watching brief would need to be maintained if the repairs required any associated groundworks due to the archaeological sensitivity of the area.

3.2 This specification has been prepared by WYAAS, at the request of Tim Johnson (Estates Manager of WMDC, Normanton Town Hall, Block C, High Street, Normanton, WF6 2DZ. 01924 307484), to detail what is required for the watching brief and to enable an archaeological contractor to provide a quotation.

4. Archaeological Interest

4.1 All Saint's Church is in an area of archaeological importance. The church building dates from c.1430 with some later restoration work carried out in 1875. This church is thought to have replaced an earlier church whose exact location is unknown. Two pieces of pre Conquest sculpture were discovered in the area of Ashdene Crescent, c.180m northeast of the present church. Which suggest that the earlier church may lie close to the current building, and the associated features and structures may also survive as below ground archaeological remains in this area.

4.2 The damaged section of wall also lies in the oldest section of the churchyard. A medieval coffin is located against the wall of the church in this area, and other medieval features, including possible burials, may be located in this area.

5. Aim of the Watching Brief

5.1 The aim of the watching brief is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits which are disturbed or exposed as a result of groundworks in the area of interest.

5.2 This work will mitigate the destruction of buried archaeological remains through 'preservation by record'.

6. General Instructions

6.1 Health and Safety

6.1.1 The archaeologist on site will naturally operate with due regard for Health and Safety regulations. In this case, where archaeological work is carried out at the same time as the work of other contractors, regard should also be taken of any reasonable additional constraints that these contractors may impose. This work may require the preparation of a Risk Assessment of the site, in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Regulations. The West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service and its officers cannot be held responsible for any accidents or injuries that may occur to outside contractors engaged to undertake this watching brief while attempting to conform to this specification. Any Health and Safety issues which may hinder compliance with this specification should be discussed with WYAAS at the earliest possible opportunity (see section 12.2).

6.2 Confirmation of Adherence to Specification

6.2.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor must confirm adherence to this specification in writing to WYAAS, or state (with reasons) any proposals to vary the specification. Should the contractor wish to vary the specification, then written confirmation of the agreement of English Heritage to any variations is required prior to work commencing. Unauthorised variations are made at the sole risk of the contractor (see para. 12.2 below). Modifications presented in the form of a re-written specification/project design **will not** be considered by WYAAS.

6.3 Confirmation of Timetable and Contractors' Qualifications

6.3.1 Prior to the commencement of *any work*, the archaeological contractor **must** provide WYAAS **in writing** with:

- a projected timetable for the site work
- details of the staff structure and numbers
- names and CVs of key project members (the project manager, site supervisor, any proposed specialists, sub-contractors *etc.*)

6.3.2 All project staff provided by the archaeological contractor must be suitably qualified and experienced for their roles. The timetable should be adequate to allow the work to be undertaken to the appropriate professional standard, subject to the ultimate judgement of WYAAS.

6.4 Notification and Monitoring

6.4.1 The watching brief will be monitored as necessary and practicable by WYAAS in its role as curator of the county's archaeology. WYAAS should be provided with **as much notice as possible in writing** (and certainly not less than one week) of the intention to start the watching brief. A copy of the archaeological contractor's risk assessment of the site should accompany the notification.

6.4.2 The museums officer named in paragraph 11.1 should be notified in writing of the commencement of fieldwork at the same time as WYAAS.

7. Fieldwork Methodology

7.1 To repair the wall, the council propose to take the damaged section down to ground level. The wall is currently holding back c.900mm of raised ground, and this soil will probably need to be excavated back at a 45 degree angle in order to prevent collapse once the wall is removed. The wall will then be rebuilt and the ground backfilled. The archaeologist should view the area as the wall is being removed and during the excavation of earth. Where archaeology is judged to be present, the excavated area should be rapidly cleaned by the archaeologist and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds should then be quickly hand excavated, sampled if appropriate, and recorded.

7.2 The presence, amount and nature of disarticulated human remains should be noted, but need not be retained as long as it is redeposited back into the consecrated ground of the churchyard. The presence, depth, extent and number of grave cuts (if present), is to be recorded. Articulated human remains prior to 1900 are to be regarded as archaeologically significant, but excavation of the articulated remains should only extend to the degree required by the development/repair work.

7.3 Features/deposits of archaeological concern should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report. Section drawings (at a minimum scale of 1:20) **must** include heights O.D. Plans (at a minimum scale of 1:50) **must** include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features.

7.4 The actual areas of ground disturbance (even if no archaeological remains are present) should be recorded on a suitable base map/development plan and the

stratigraphic sequence and the depth of the excavations will be briefly recorded. If archaeological remains are identified, their location is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on an up-to-date 1:1250 O.S. map base.

7.5 Excavated soil should be searched as practicable for finds. All finds, except unstratified 20th century material, should be collected and retained for processing.

7.6 All securely stratified contexts should be sampled for environmental analysis and scientific dating. Additional 'spot' samples should be taken if suitable material is encountered during the watching brief.

7.7 The intention of the archaeological watching brief is not to unduly delay the work of other contractors on site, however, a degree of flexibility is also expected of the developer in order that the archaeologist can fulfil the terms of this specification (see 8.1 below). The archaeologist shall not excavate any area beyond those scheduled for destruction by the development.

7.8 If, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, the watching brief reveals below-ground conditions which indicate that potentially archaeological levels are absent, the archaeologist should contact WYAAS to discuss reducing or curtailing the requirements. The work may only be curtailed with the prior agreement of WYAAS and written confirmation will be provided by WYAAS.

7.9 Digital photography: as an alternative for colour slide photography, good quality digital photography may be supplied, using cameras with a minimum resolution of 4 megapixels. Note that conventional black and white print photography is still required and constitutes the permanent record. Digital images will only be acceptable as an alternative to colour slide photography if each image is supplied in three file formats (as a RAW data file, a DNG file and as a JPEG file). The contractor must include metadata embedded in the DNG file. The metadata must include the following: the commonly used name for the site being photographed, the relevant centred OS grid coordinates for the site to at least six figures, the relevant township name, the date of photograph, the subject of the photograph, the direction of shot and the name of the organisation taking the photograph. Images are to be supplied to WYAAS on gold CDs by the archaeological contractor accompanying the hard copy of the report.

7.2 Use of Metal Detectors on Site

7.2.1 Spoil heaps are to be scanned for both ferrous and non-ferrous metal artefacts using a metal detector capable of making this discrimination, operated by an experienced metal detector user (if necessary, operating under the supervision of the contracting archaeologist). Modern artefacts are to be noted but not retained (19th-century material and earlier should be retained.)

7.2.2 If a non-professional archaeologist is to be used to carry out the metal-detecting, a formal agreement of their position as a sub-contractor working under direction must be agreed in advance of their use on site. This formal agreement will apply whether they are paid or not. To avoid financial claims under the Treasure Act a suggested wording for this formal agreement with the metal detectorist is: "In the process of working on the archaeological investigation at [*location of site*] between the dates of [*insert dates*], [*name of person contributing to project*] is working under

direction or permission of [*name of archaeological organisation*] and hereby waives all rights to rewards for objects discovered that could otherwise be payable under the Treasure Act 1996."

8. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

8.1 Should there be, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant more detailed recording than possible within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor is to urgently contact WYAAS with the relevant information to enable the matter to be resolved with the developer.

8.2 Any human remains that are discovered must initially be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. WYAAS will be notified at the earliest opportunity. If removal is necessary the remains must be excavated archaeologically in accordance with the *Guidance for Best Practice for Treatment of Human Remains Excavated from Christian Burial Grounds in England* published by English Heritage (2005), a valid Ministry of Justice licence and any local environmental health regulations.

8.3 The terms of the Treasure Act, 1996 must be followed with regard to any finds, which might fall within its purview. Any such finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures laid down in the 'Code of Practice'. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures must be taken to protect the finds from theft.

9. Post-excavation Analysis and Reporting

9.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines. Finds of 20th century date should be quantified and summarily described, but can then be discarded if appropriate. All finds of 19th century or earlier date should be retained and archived.

9.2 A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and fully labelled photographs/slides. Standards for archive compilation and transfer should conform to those outlined in *Archaeological Archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Archaeological Archives Forum, 2007). Labelling should be in HB pencil on the *back* of the print and should include film and frame number; date recorded and photographer's name; name and address of site; national grid reference. Photographic prints should be mounted in appropriate archivally-stable sleeves. A quantified index to the field archive should form an appendix to the report. The original archive is to accompany the deposition of any finds, providing the landowner agrees to the deposition of finds in a publicly accessible archive (see Section 10 below). In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be deposited in the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record.

9.3 A fully illustrated report should be produced, which should include background information on the need for the project, a description of the methodology employed, and a full description and interpretation of the results, placing them in a local and regional, and if appropriate, national context. It is not envisaged that the report is likely to be published, but it should be produced with sufficient care and attention to detail to be of academic use to future researchers.

9.4 Location plans should be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the areas covered by the watching brief (a scale of 1:50,000 is not regarded as appropriate unless accompanied by a more detailed plan or plans). Plans should be at an appropriate scale showing: areas excavated and the identified (and, where possible, predicted) archaeological features/deposits. Trench and feature plans **must** include O.D. spot heights for all principal strata and any features. Section drawings **must** include O.D heights and be cross-referenced to an appropriate plan.

9.5 All artefacts and environmental material will be analysed by a qualified and experienced specialist. Artefact analysis is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue. Finds critical for dating and interpretation should be illustrated.

9.6 Details of the style and format of the report are to be determined by the archaeological contractor, but should include a full bibliography, a quantified index to the site archive, details of the current and intended location of the archive and, as an appendix, a copy of this specification.

10. Report Submission and Deposition with the HER

10.1 The archaeological contractor will supply a copy of the report to the client and another copy **directly** to the WYAAS within a period of **one month** following completion of fieldwork, unless a revised date has been agreed in writing with WYAAS. Completion of this project and a recommendation from WYAAS to discharge the planning condition are dependant on receipt by WYAAS of a satisfactory report which has been prepared in accordance with this specification. Any comments made by WYAAS in response to the submission of an unsatisfactory report will be taken into account and will result in the reissue of a suitably edited report to all parties, within a timescale which has been agreed with WYAAS.

10.2 The report will be supplied on the understanding that it will be added to the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record. and will become publicly accessible once deposited with the WYAAS unless confidentiality is explicitly requested, in which case it will become publicly accessible six months after deposition.

10.3 Copyright - Please note that by depositing this report, the contractor gives permission for the material presented within the document to be used by the WYAAS, in perpetuity, although The Contractor retains the right to be identified as the author of all project documentation and reports as specified in the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* (chapter IV, section 79). The permission will allow the WYAAS to reproduce material, including for non-commercial use by third parties, with the copyright owner suitably acknowledged.

10.4 The West Yorkshire HER supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large-scale developer funded fieldwork. The archaeological contractor must therefore complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>. Contractors are advised to contact the West Yorkshire HER officer prior to completing the form. Once a report has become a public document by submission to or incorporation into the HER, the West Yorkshire HER may place the information on a web-site. Please ensure that you and your client agree to this procedure in writing as part of the process of submitting the report to the case officer at the West Yorkshire HER.

10.5 The attached summary sheet should be completed and submitted to the WYAAS for inclusion in the summary of archaeological work in West Yorkshire published on WYAAS' website.

11. Archive Deposition

11.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the archaeological curator of the relevant district museum to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. In this case the contact is Wakefield M.D.C. Museum and Arts, Wakefield Art Gallery, Wentworth Terrace WF1 3QE telephone 01924 305352; Keeper of Archaeology: Mrs Pam Judkins. Agreement for deposition should be confirmed in writing by the archaeological contractor; this correspondence is to be copied to the WY Archaeology Advisory Service.

11.2 It is the policy of Wakefield Museum to accept complete excavation archives, including primary site records and research archives and finds, from all excavations carried out in the District that it serves.

11.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain the written consent of the landowner to the deposition of finds with Wakefield Museum.

11.4 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet Wakefield Museum's requirements in the preparation of excavation archives for deposition.

12. General Considerations

12.1 Authorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

12.1.1 If, on first visiting the site or at any time during the course of the recording exercise, it appears in the archaeologist's professional judgement that:

- i) a part or the whole of the site is not amenable to recording as detailed above, and/or
- ii) an alternative approach may be more appropriate or likely to produce more informative results,

then it is expected that the archaeologist will contact WYAAS as a matter of urgency in order that the matter can be resolved in liaison with the developer and the Local Planning Authority.

12.2 Unauthorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

12.2.1 It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility to ensure that they have obtained WYAAS's consent in writing to any variation of the specification prior to the commencement of on-site work or (where applicable) prior to the finalisation of the tender. Unauthorised variations may result in WYAAS being unable to recommend determination of the planning application to the Local Planning Authority based on the archaeological information available and are therefore made solely at the risk of the contractor.

12.3 Technical Queries

12.3.1 Similarly, any technical queries arising from the specification detailed above, should be addressed to WYAAS without delay.

12.4 Valid Period of Specification

12.4.1 This specification is valid for a period of one year from date of issue. After that time it may need to be revised to take into account new discoveries, changes in policy or the introduction of new working practices or techniques.

Rebecca Remmer

March 2011

West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service

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Appendix 2: Photographic Index

PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER of digital photographs (indexed by photographic position No.)

Photo. Position	Plate	Description	From
1	1	Pre-excavation view of the churchyard wall	W
2	2	Pre-excavation view of the wall	E
3	3	Post excavation view of the wall	SE