

ST PETER'S AND ST LEONARD'S CHURCH, HORBURY, WAKEFIELD, WEST YORKSHIRE: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF



On behalf of
Wakefield District Council

CS Archaeology
February 2012

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

National Grid Reference (NGR): SE 2948 1848 (centre)

Project Number: 89

Oasis Reference: csarchae1-118814

Fieldwork, Report and illustrations: Mr C Scurfield

Timing: Fieldwork January 2012
Report February 2012

Enquiries to: **CS Archaeology**
Manor Farm House
Manor Occupation Road
Royston
Barnsley
South Yorkshire
S71 4SG
M: 07963 586767
E: chrisscurfield@yahoo.com

Frontispiece: the front façade of St Peter's and St Leonard's Church

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1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 An Archaeological watching brief was undertaken during ground works at St Peter's and St Leonard's Church, Horbury. The Archaeological watching brief was recommended by the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service (WYAAS).
- 1.2 Two locations (Sites 1 & 2) were going to be impacted by the proposed ground works.
- 1.3 No significant archaeology was revealed during these works.

2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 The village of Horbury lies south-west of Wakefield (**Figure 1**). The site is bounded to the west by Queen Street, to the south by Church Street and the Vicarage to the north (**Figure 2**).
- 2.2 The site lies in the Wakefield District at the centre of the historic township of Horbury.
- 2.3 The proposed ground works were had the potential to impact two areas of potential archaeology. The two sites lie within the church precinct at the centre of Horbury's historic settlement core (**Figure 2**).
- 2.4 The watching brief took place on 26th January 2012.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The current church, dedicated to St Peter and St Leonard, was built by John Carr in 1792-3, with additions in 1884, 1899 and 1920. It replaced an earlier church which was dedicated to All Saints. The earlier church is thought to have dated from around 1100 AD, and may have replaced an earlier Saxon Church (WYAAS 2011).
- 3.2 Evidence of the earlier churches may still survive on the site, and any groundwork on site has the potential to disturb human burials (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 within the area of archaeological interest. It is also aimed to record any gravestones prior to their removal.
- 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 July 2011 (Appendix1) 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 ground works impacted upon two areas to the west and east of the church (**Figure 2**).
- 6.2 **Site 1** received minimal impacts to potential archaeological deposits. The topsoil was truncated up to 0.2m and the gravestones laid onto the truncated top soil (Plate 1, 3).
- 6.3 **Site 2** consisted of a series of 10 bollards. Each bollard hole was excavated through previously laid flagstones. Similar deposits characterised by were encountered.
- 6.4 NB a metal detector was used to scan the up cast from the holes but the results were negative.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1 No significant archaeological deposits such as grave cuts/fills were observed and no significant artefacts were recovered.
- 7.2 No traces of an earlier church were encountered during the watching brief.

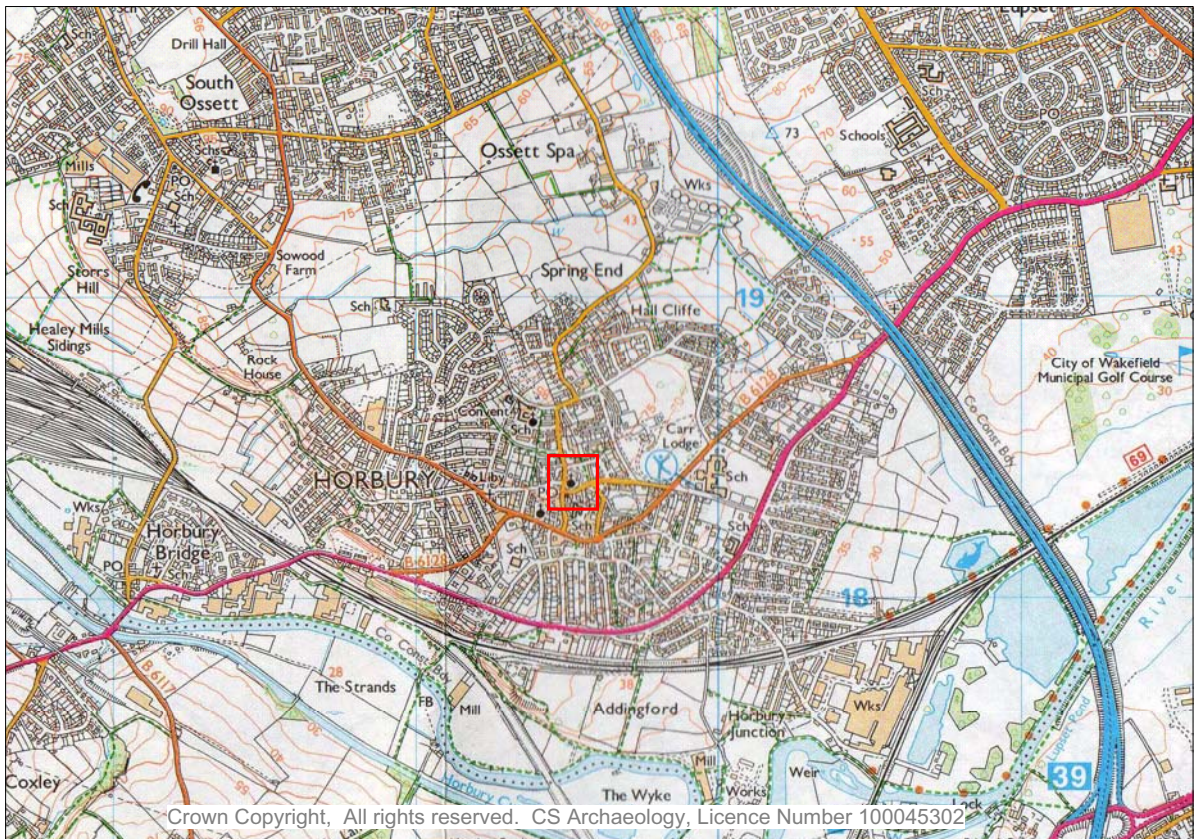
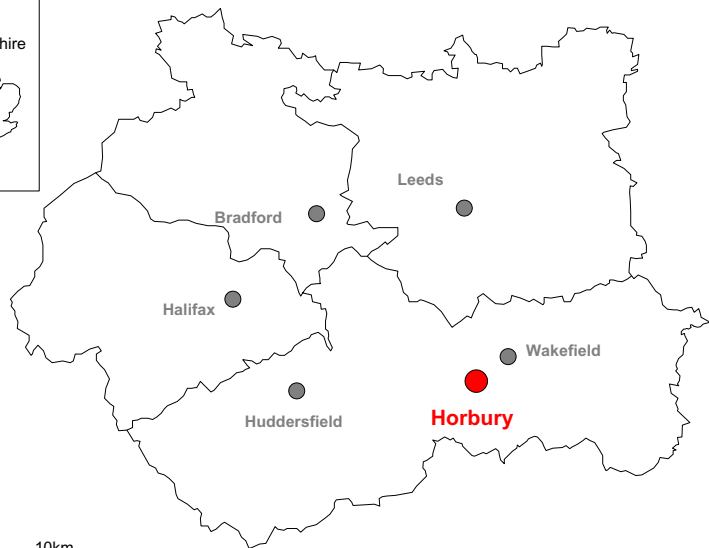
8. BIBLIOGRAPHY

WYAAS, 2011, Specification For An Archaeological Watching Brief At The Parish Church Of St Peter And St Leonard, Horbury.

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



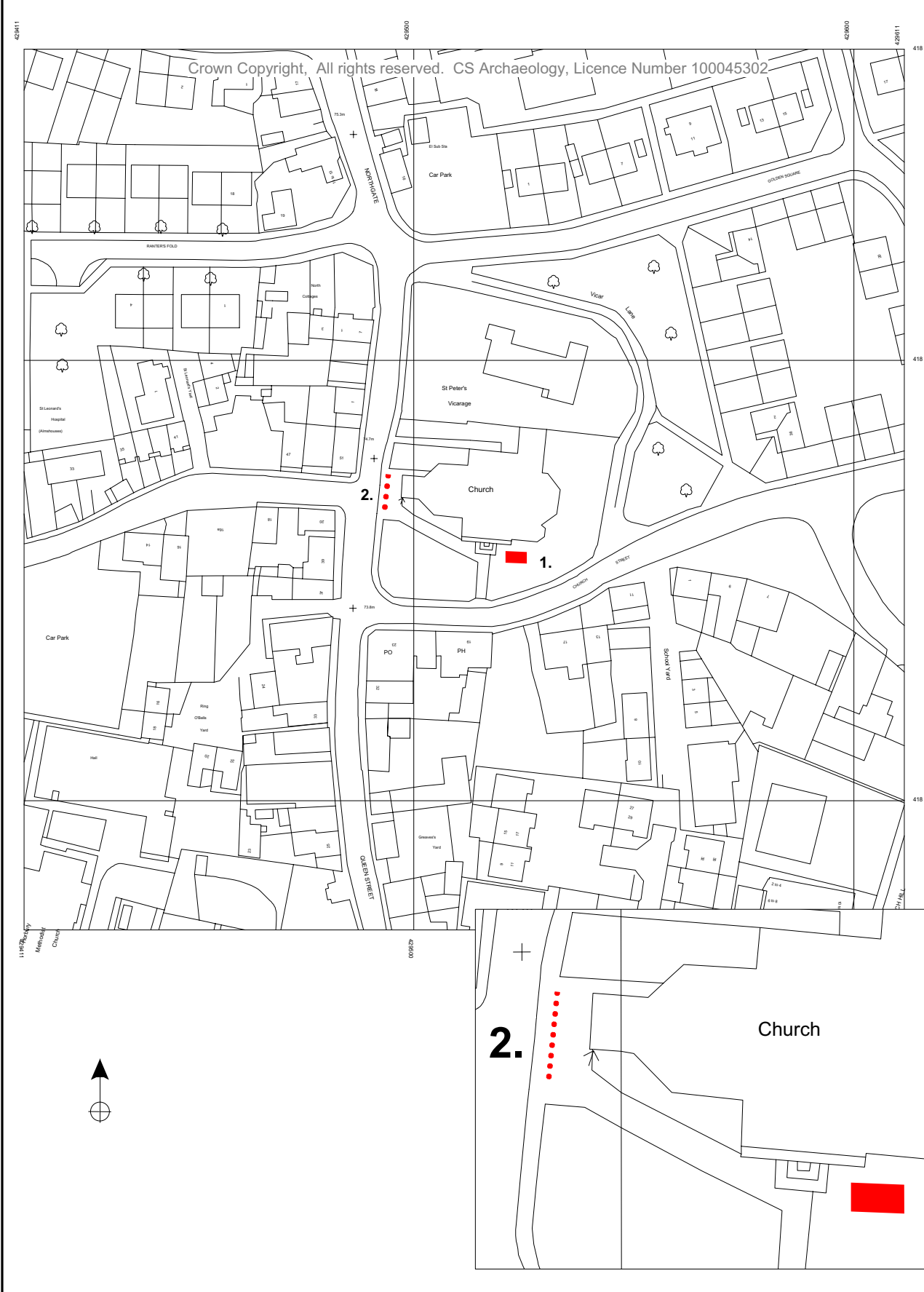
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scale 1:25000

429

430

for inset see Figure 2



St Peter's and St Leonard's Church
 Horbury, West Yorkshire:
 An Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 2: Site Location Map
 scale 1:1250 and 1:500

CS Archaeology
 February 2012

**WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY SERVICE:
SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF AT THE
PARISH CHURCH OF ST PETER AND ST LEONARD, HORBURY**

**Specification prepared at the request of Andy Nicholls of Wakefield
Metropolitan District Council**

1. Summary

1.1 A limited amount of archaeological work consisting of a watching brief and grave stone recording 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 2952 1836

2.1 The church is bounded to the south by Church Street, to the west by Northgate/Queen Street and to the north and east by Vicar Lane.

2.2 The site lies in the district of Wakefield and in the historic township of Horbury.

3. Background

3.1 Wakefield Metropolitan District Council propose to carry out improvement works at the church of St Peter and St Leonard in Horbury. The work will consist of repairing areas of damaged paving (which is made up of headstones removed from the graveyard in the 1970s). To the west of the church, the headstone paving will be entirely lifted and replaced with a tarmac surface, as this area is regularly driven on due to the narrowness of the road. The headstones removed from this area will then be used to fill in gaps in the headstone paving to the south of the church. Broken headstones from both the west and south areas of paving will not be removed from site, but will be laid in the currently grassed area to the east of the church. To the east, excavation may be required so that the headstones placed here will be level with the existing ground surface (we do not know the depths of the proposed excavations, but they are likely to be shallow).

3.3 This specification has been prepared by WYAAS, at the request of Andy Nicholls (of WMDC. ANicholls@wakefield.gov.uk), to detail what is required for the watching brief and to enable an archaeological contractor to provide a quotation.

4. Archaeological Interest

4.1 The current church, dedicated to St Peter and St Leonard, was built by John Carr in 1792-3, with additions in 1884, 1899 and 1920. It replaced an earlier church which

was dedicated to All Saints. The earlier church is thought to have dated from around 1100 AD, and may have replaced an earlier Saxon Church. Two listed medieval cross slab grave covers survive to the north of the church. These are located adjacent to the northwest wall of the church, and should be protected from any landscaping works. WMDC know about these listed grave covers.

4.2 The church was surrounded by a graveyard, but the headstones were moved and used as paving to the south and west of the church in the 1970s. It is not thought that the burials themselves were cleared at this time, and there is nothing to suggest that a graveyard survey was carried out before the headstones were moved.

4.3 Evidence of the earlier churches may still survive on the site, and any groundwork on site has the potential to disturb human burials.

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 within the area of archaeological interest. It is also aimed to record any gravestones prior to their removal.

5.3 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, in accordance with PPG 16 para. 21. 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

7.1.1 The excavation should be carried out in a controlled manor, initially by machine. Material should be removed in controlled spits of maximum 20cm thickness under close archaeological supervision and the machine halted to allow access to the archaeology. An archaeologist should be present on site **during any excavation** in the area of interest whether this is for site preparation, drainage trenches or landscaping. The archaeologist should view the area as it is being dug and any trench sections after excavation has been completed. Where archaeology is judged to be present, the excavated area should be rapidly cleaned and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds should then be quickly hand excavated, sampled if appropriate, and recorded. If buried gravestones are uncovered, these should be recorded prior to being moved (we recommend that these are not removed from the site). All significant gravestones that are to be used as paving should be laid face down in order to preserve their inscriptions.

7.1.2 Each gravestone and its inscription, if present, should be recorded photographically, and an individual record sheet created for each stone recording the inscription, the shape and dimensions of the monument, and the decoration and material of the monument. The original and revised location of the gravestones within the churchyard should also be recorded on a plan.

7.1.3 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.

7.1.4 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 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.

7.1.5 Excavated soil should be searched as practicable for finds. Any finds, except unstratified 20th century material, should be collected and retained for processing. It is likely that dis-articulated human remains may be present in excavated soils, the presence of such remains should be noted but disarticulated bone does not need to be collected or analysed.

7.1.6 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.

7.1.7 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.

7.1.8 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.

7.2 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 It is unlikely that human burials will be disturbed during the proposed landscaping works, but if they are, any articulated human remains discovered during the watching brief 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. Dis-articulated, un-stratified human remains can be noted but does not warrant collection or analysis.

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 and English Heritage 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, Pontefract Museum, 5 Salter Row, Pontefract, WF8 1BA. telephone 01924 305352; Museums Curatorial and Collections Officer: Mr David Evans. 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 Museums 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 Museums.

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

July 2011

West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service

West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record
Registry of Deeds
Newstead Road
Wakefield
WF1 2DE

Telephone: (01924) 305992

Fax: (01924) 306810

E-mail: remmer@wyjs.org.uk

Appendix 2: Photographic Index

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

Photo. Position	Plate	Description	Looking
1		Pre-excavation view of Site 2	south
2		Pre-excavation view of Site 2	north
3	1	Post-excavation view of Site 1	east
4		Post-excavation view of Site 1	north-east
5		General view of the church	North-east
6		Post-excavation view of post hole 1 (PH 1)	West
7	2	Post-excavation view of post hole 2 (PH 2)	West
8		Post-excavation view (detail) of post hole 2 (PH 2)	West
9		Post-excavation view of post hole 4 (PH 4)	West
10		Post-excavation view (detail) of post hole 4 (PH 4)	West
11		Post-excavation view of post hole 5 (PH 5)	West
12		Post-excavation view (detail) of post hole 5 (PH 5)	west
13		Post-excavation view of post hole 3 (PH3)	west
14		Post-excavation view (detailed) of post hole 3 (PH 3)	West
15		Post-excavation view of post hole 6 (PH 6)	West
16	3	Post Excavation view (detail) of post hole 6 (PH 6)	West
17		Post-excavation view of post hole 7 (PH 7)	West
18		Post Excavation view (detail) of post hole 7 (PH 7)	West
19		Post Excavation view of post hole 8 (PH 8)	West
20		Post Excavation view (detailed) of post hole 8 (PH 8)	West
21		Post Excavation view of post hole 9 (PH 9)	West
22		Post Excavation view (detailed) of post hole 9 (PH 9)	West
23		Post Excavation view (detailed) of post hole 10 (PH 10)	West
24	4	Post Excavation view of Site 2	West
-		(Miscellaneous photos of the church)	various