

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
AT: 8 WATH WOOD DRIVE, WATH-UPON-
DEARNE, ROTHERHAM,
SOUTH YORKSHIRE**



On behalf of: Mr J Randsford

Planning App. No. RB2015/0671

CS Archaeology
September 2016

On behalf of: Mr J Randsford

National Grid Reference (NGR): SK 439 991

Project Number: 160

Planning App. No: RB2015/0671

OASIS ID: csarchaeo1-261695

Fieldwork, Report and Illustrations by: Chris Scurfield

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Report September 2016

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Frontispiece: view of plot, looking northeast

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- 6 post excavation view of the northern half of the site, looking west

APPENDICES

- 1 the project design
- 2 site archive

1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report is in response to an archaeological condition, on Planning Consent, Application No. RB2015/0671 for an archaeological watching brief during the foundation excavations for a double garage associated with new dwellings across the Wath Wood Drive, Wath-upon-Dearne, Doncaster.
- 1.2 The watching brief revealed an inclined surface but no archaeological features were revealed across the exposed surface.
- 1.3 Within the topsoil sherds of late 19th/20th century pottery were noted but no earlier residual pottery/artefacts were encountered or recovered.

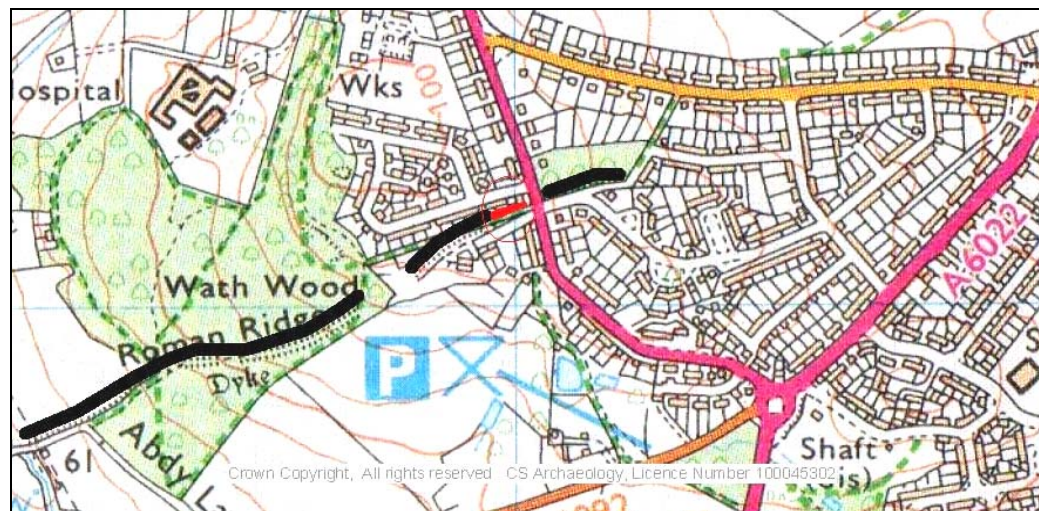
2 INTRODUCTION

- 2.1 Wath-upon-Dearne is situated 7.8kms north of Rotherham. The Proposed development area (PDA), lies to on the north side of Wath Wood Road (**Plate 1: Figures 1 & 2**), and is visually defined along a row of deciduous trees, on the line of the 'Roman Rig'.
- 2.2 This report has been commissioned by Mr J Randsford, to record any archaeological deposits/artefacts evident during the excavation of a double garage. This proposed Development Area (PDA) measured 6m x 6m.

3 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 Historic and Archaeological Background:

- 3.1.1 Little is known of the early history of Wath upon Dearne but it seems likely that there was a small settlement there back in Pre-Roman times built in a convenient spot near the river crossing. There may also have been a Roman outpost from the fort or castra at Doncaster (Danum) which controlled the passage across the ford. There was a settlement here in Anglo-Saxon times as there is evidence of Anglo-Saxon foundations in the church of All Saints.
- 3.1.2 The principal point of interest in the vicinity of the PDA is the 'Roman Rig' earthwork.



- 3.1.2 This earthwork comprises of a ditch with an up-cast bank to the south, indicating that it once acted as a defence from the north. The earthworks form a defensive line linking a series of forts. This system extends from the foothills of the Pennines near to Sheffield, to marshy ground near to Mexborough and Kilnhurst. Its exact age is unknown, but is pre-Norman (Hey 1979, 23).

- 3.1.3 The so-called Roman Rig was described in 1693 as '*a cussen Dich there called Kempe Ditch.*' Cussen is the old word for cast-up and Kempe means warrior (Hey 1979, 23).
- 3.1.4 Today the 'Roman Rig extends to the southwest and northeast of the site
- 3.1.5 Geologically the PDA sits on Oaks Rock series of Late Carboniferous coal measures.

4 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 4.1 To ensure that any buried archaeological remains present are investigated in order than an understanding of their nature extent and significance be achieved 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 then the appropriate dissemination of any such knowledge.
- 4.2 If archaeology is revealed every effort will be made to enable the deposits to be preserved in situ.

5 METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 This has been carried out according to a Project Design (Appendix 1). During the course of the watching brief digital photographs were taken of the general work and these have been incorporated into this report.
- 5.2 Due to the nature of deposits and absence of any significant archaeology, no archive has been prepared.

6 RESULTS

- 6.1 The watching brief took place in September 2016. The watching brief comprised of the removal of c.0.3m of topsoil across a rectangular area c. 6 x 6m (**Figure 2: Plate 2**). This revealed an apparent southeast sloping ground consisting of 'natural' crushed sandstone with light coloured clay.
- 6.2 The natural substrate was contiguous across the PDA (**Plates 3-6**), and across the southern side of the PDA, a modern footpath and Wath Wood Drive road truncated the upper stratigraphy.
- 6.3 The PDA featured an undisturbed soil profile. 0.2m of silty loam overlying 0.1m of gravelly sand with what appeared to be a natural substrate of weathered sandstone. The excavations did not truncate this apparently natural substrate.
- 6.4 The excavations proved negative of artefacts earlier than the 19th century which were confined within the silty loam topsoil.

7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1 The watching brief proved negative for any identifiable archaeology. However the limited nature of the PDA (6 x 6m) could indicate that the excavated area was not large enough to detect a large scale earthwork such as the 'Roman Rig'.
- 7.2 The inclined 'natural' sandstone could evidence the bank material up-cast from the 'Roman Rig', however with the absence of relatable features, particularly to the north of the PDA, the exact nature of the 'Roman Rig' could not be established, if indeed it ever did run close to the PDA. Therefore the PDA may still have archaeological potential.
- 7.3 Any future work will need to concentrate on a hand excavated trench the full width of this narrow triangular plot of land of which the PDA represents a small part.
- 7.4 No other archaeological features were noted across the PDA, and no further work, as part of this planning application, is recommended.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 *Secondary Sources*

Hey D, 1979, *The Making of South Yorkshire*

8.2 *Cartographic References*

Ordnance Survey 1:50000 Geological Series, Sheet 87.

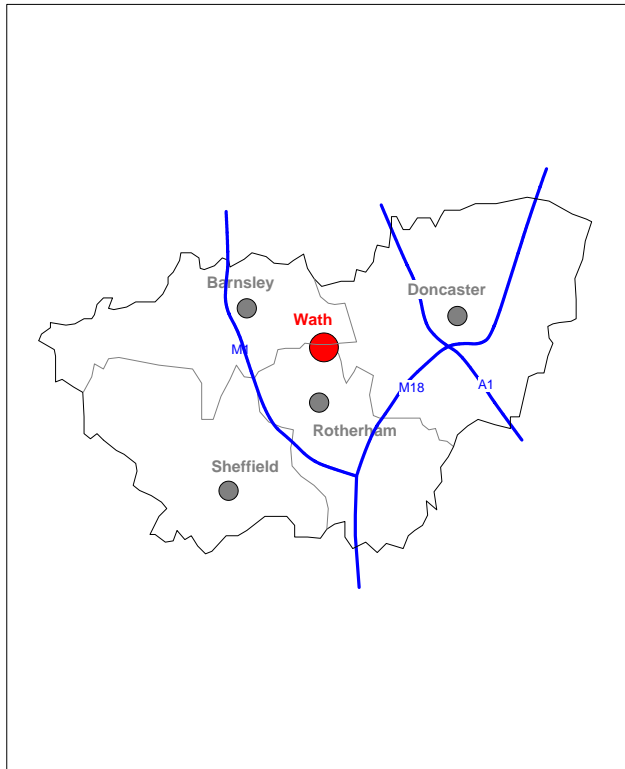
Ordnance Survey digital map 2015 courtesy of M2 Design.

9

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Mr J Randsford for commissioning this report and arranging access to the site during construction. Also to Mr M Scherdel of M2 Design for his assistance and to South Yorkshire Archaeology Service for monitoring this intervention and for much needed comments on the project design.

FIGURES

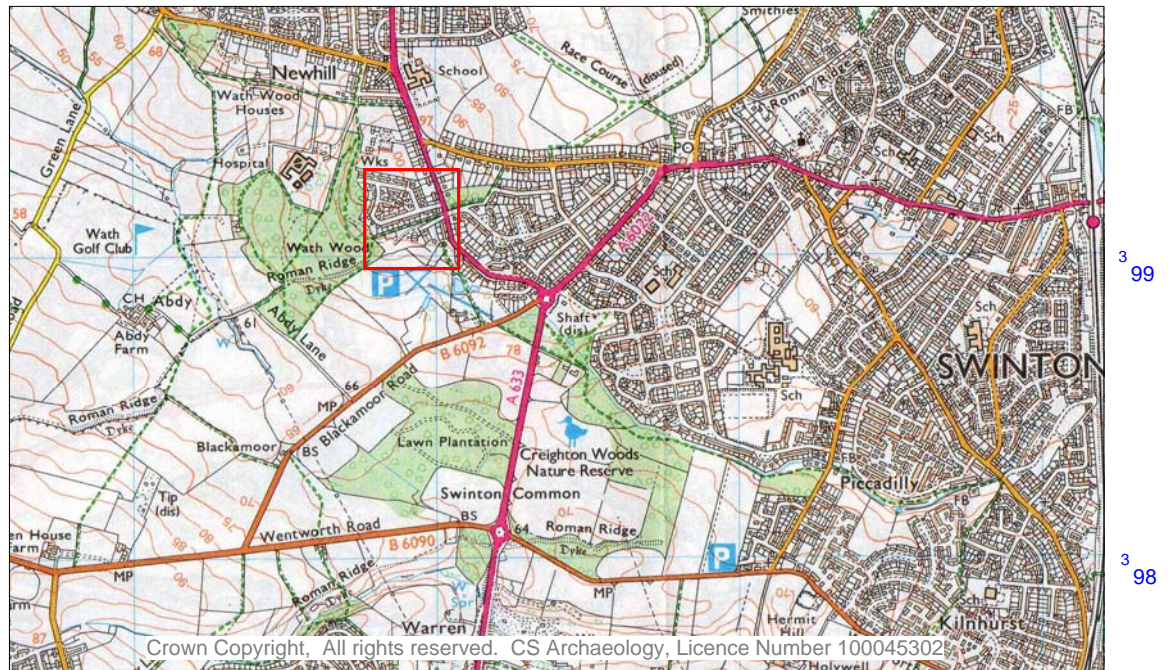


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43

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44

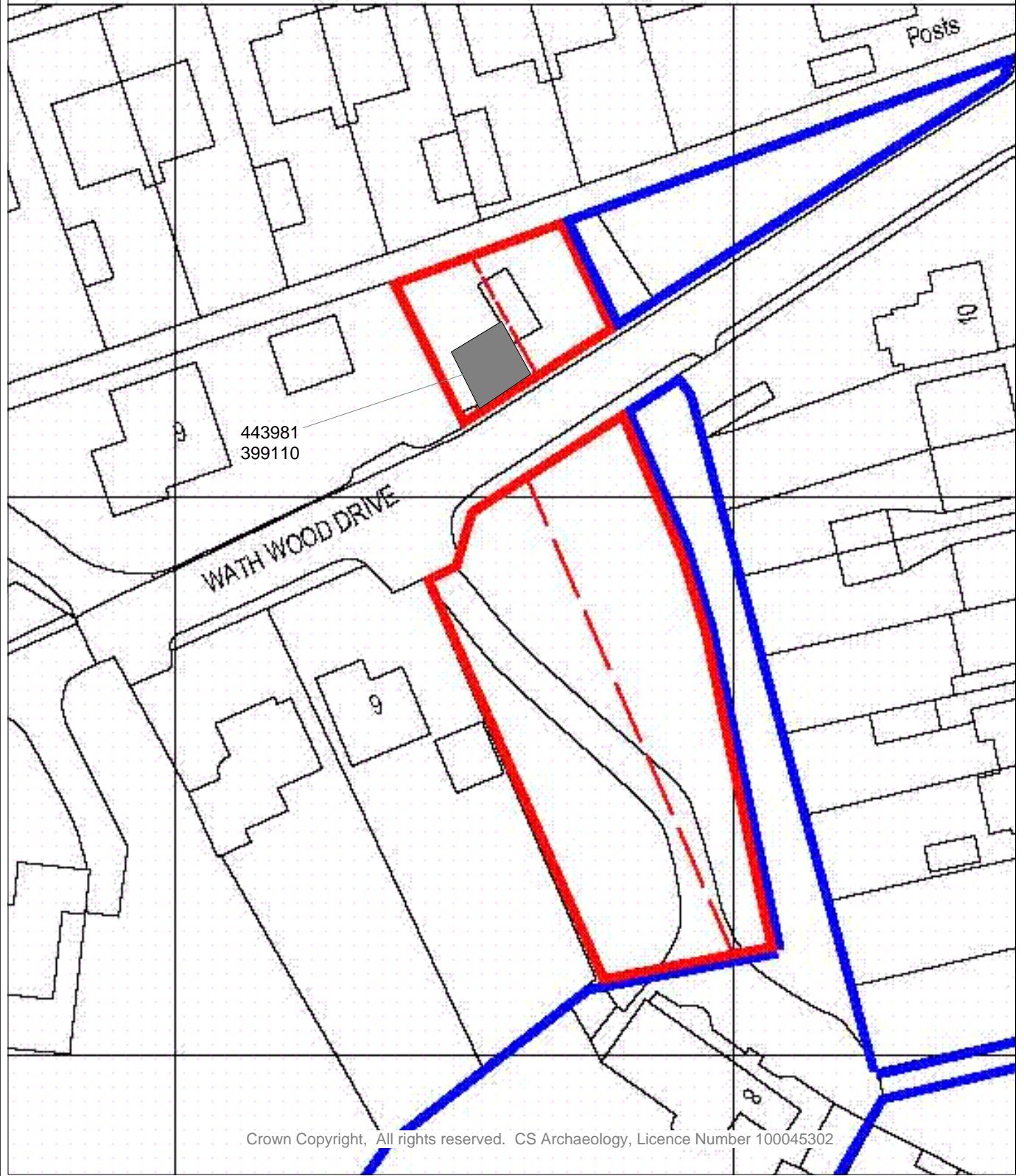
4
45

4
46



see Figure 2

- PDA (Double Garage)
- boundary 8 Wath Wood Drive
- annexed boundary



An Archaeological Watching Brief at:
 8 Wath Wood Drive, Wath-upon-Dearne,
 Rotherham, South Yorkshire

Figure 2: Site Plan

scale 1:5000

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 September 2016

PLATES



Plate 1: pre-excitation view of the site, looking northeast



Plate 2: pre-excitation view of the site, looking southwest



Plate 3: excavation view of the site, looking northeast



Plate 4: post excavation view of the southern half of the site, looking northeast



Plate 5: post excavation view of the southern half of the site, looking northeast



Plate 6: post excavation view of the northern half of the site, looking west

APPENDICES

1. Project Design
2. Archive

**Project Design for Archaeological Monitoring
at 8 Wath Wood Drive, Wath-upon-
Dearne, Rotherham,
SOUTH YORKSHIRE**

Planning Ref. RB2015/0671

CS Archaeology

February 2016

- 0.1 This Project Design (PD) is in response to a condition on Planning Consent for the erection of 2 detached dwellings at land at 8 Wath Wood Drive, Wath-Upon-Dearne, Rotherham.
- 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 works 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 monitoring (often referred to as a '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 SYAS website);
 - relevant IfA Standard and guidance documents;
 - relevant EH best practice guidance documents.
- 0.6 All archaeological work will be monitored by the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS).

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Details

- 1.1.1 *Site Name:* 5/0671 Erection of 2 detached dwellings at land at 8 Wath Wood Drive Wath-upon-Dearne Rotherham
- 1.1.2 *Status:* non- statutory

1.2 Archaeological Background

- 2.2.1 Little is known of the early history of Wath upon Dearne but it seems likely that there was a small settlement here back in Pre-Roman times build in a convenient spot near the river crossing. There may also have been a Roman outpost from the fort or castra at Doncaster (Danum) which controlled the passage across the ford. There was a settlement here in Anglo-Saxon times as there is evidence of Anglo-Saxon foundations in the church of All Saints.
- 2.2.2 The manor of Wath was given by the Conqueror to Roger de Busli, from whose family it passed to the Flemings and then to the Wentworths. After the death of the last Marquis of Rockingham it passed to Earl Fitzwilliam. A market has existed here since the Middle Ages and the remains of the Market Cross (buttercross) are preserved. According the information 1312. *King Edward II granted Reiner Fleming IV, Lord of the Manor of Wath, permission for an annual market and fair. Reiner probably set up the Market Cross at the bottom of Sandygate 1989. The new shaft was given in memory of George Bramall and Richard Ogden, Builders of this Town.* It appears that the market was discontinued some time afterwards but was revived in 1814.
- 2.2.3 Around the turn of the 19th century the poet and newspaper editor James Montgomery who was a resident of Wath at that time, described it as "the Queen of villages". This rural character changed rapidly in the 19th and 20th century with the development of the deep mining industry.
- 2.3.4 The 1837 version of White's Directory called Wath-upon-Dearne "A fertile and extensive parish, roughly 6 miles by 4, and bounded to the south by Rawmarsh, Greasbrough, Kimberworth and Chapeltown, to the west by Tankersley, to the north by the parishes of Darfield and Adwick, and on the east by the River Don." It contained roughly 11,000 acres and in 1801 when the first census was taken there was a population around 4,000 which increased to just under 7,000 by 1831.
- 2.3.5 Kelly's West Riding Directory (1867) stated that that Wath had a National School for boys built in 1663 and endowed by the Rev. Thomas Wombwell, who had been vicar of the parish. The girls did not get a school until 1858 when the money to build it was

raised by subscription. There were three chapels for Wesleyans, Wesleyan Reformers and the Primitive Methodists. Servant hiring statutes were held on 24th November each year. A pioneer of shorthand called William Addy who had a shorthand bible published in 1687 was born in the town.

2.3.6 Coal mining must have become an important industry towards the end of the 18th Century. The Dearne and Dove Canal, which was opened in stages from 1798 to 1804 was built to transport fuel from the local collieries on the southern side of the Dearne Valley to markets in the rest of Britain. The canal passed through the town just to the north of the High Street on a large embankment and then turned north into the Dearne valley: a wide section known locally as the 'Bay of Biscay'. The canal finally closed in 1961 after many years unused and in poor repair. Much of the line of the canal in the town has since been used for new roads; one called 'Biscay Way'.

2.3.7 Rail took over from the canal as a means of transporting coal out of the area, and Wath-upon-Dearne became a railfreight centre of national importance. One of the biggest and, for its time, most modern railway marshalling yards, the Wath marshalling yard in the UK was built north of the town in 1907. It was one of the eastern ends of the trans-Pennine Manchester-Sheffield-Wath electrified railway (also known as the Woodhead Line), a project which spanned World War II, and was in part justified by the need to transport large amounts of coal mined in the town of Wath-upon-Dearne to customers in North-West England.

2.3.8 Large scale coal mining commenced with the sinking of Wath Main begun in 1875. There were two shafts when the mine was fully working. Manvers Main at Wath consisted of three collieries. The first was sunk in the late 1890s, the second 1900-1901 but when the third shaft was started has eluded me. Manvers was owned by Manvers Main Collieries Ltd., Wath-on-Dearne, Rotherham, Yorks in 1945. By about 1900 the pits must have brought a good deal of wealth to the town if you judge by the substantial well-built houses from the period. It was part of one the largest smelliest, and dirtiest concentrations of industry in South Yorkshire with coking ovens and vast railway yards, as well as the pits. These all closed in the 1980s.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 This Project Design (PD) has been written in response to a condition on planning consent (Application No. RB2015/067).

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).

2 OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 To ensure that any buried archaeological remains present are investigated in order than an understanding of their nature extent and significance, 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 Mr J Randsford, 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 (SYAS).
- 3.1.7 During the watching brief analytical drawings and a written report on the deposits will be made sufficient to illustrate archaeological details.

3.2 Photography

- 3.2.1 A general and detailed photographic record of the demolition will be made. General and detailed photographs will be taken with a 35mm camera. If required black and white photographs will use an appropriate silver based film (Ilford Delta 400 Professional), this will form the primary photographic record.
- 3.2.2 This record will be supplemented by 35mm colour slides, especially where colour is an aspect that needs to be recorded, e.g. bedrock and characteristic stratigraphy. All photographs will contain an appropriate graduated photographic scale. Digital photographs will also be taken to illustrate the report and to supplement the archive, copies will be included in the digital archive which will be supplied both the client and to SYAS.

3.3 Site Monitoring

- 3.3.1 SYAS will be notified at least two weeks in advance of the site works and the start of the 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 Rotherham Museum Service, and a project initiation form (attached) will be completed in advance with copies sent to Rotherham Museum and SYAS.
- 3.4.3 All recording, marking and storage of material will be of archive quality and recording systems will be compatible with Rotherham 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)	Mr M Holst, York Osteo-Archaeology

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

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 to and a design solution if feasible will be developed in full consultation with SYAS.

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 Doncaster Museum 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 Doncaster Museum 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 Doncaster Museum'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 Mr. A Lines of the SYAS. 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) and digital formats to:
- The Client Mr J Randsford
 - Mr J McNeil and the HER at the SYAS.
- 3.10.3 A summary report of an appropriate length, accompanied by illustrations, will be prepared and submitted in digital format (word/jpg >300dpi), for publication in *Archaeology in South Yorkshire*.

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 Rotherham Museum 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.
South Yorkshire Archaeology Service, 2014, 'Model Brief for Archaeological Monitoring (Watching Brief)
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:

CS Archaeology

E: chrisscurfield@yahoo.com
T: 01609 772721 M: 07963 586767

APPENDIX 2: THE ARCHIVE

1. PHOTOGRAPHIC REGISTER

Black and White (Ilford Delta 400 Professional) and colour digital

Plate	Description	From
2	Pre-excavation view of the PDA	NW
4	Post -excavation view of the southern half of the site	NE
5	Post -excavation view of the southern half of the site	W
6	Post -excavation view of the southern half of the site	W

2. Day Record Sheet (22/08/2016)

*Mix of
loam
silt, clay
sand, silt
C. 11m
medium
sandy
loam
silt*

DAY BOOK

PROJECT CODE:	PROJECT NAME/LOCATION: 8 Wath Wood Drive, Wath-upon-Dearne	ARCHAEOLOGIST: Chris Scuffield	TIME OUT:
TIME IN: 8:30	SIGNED IN/OUT:	DATE: 22/08/2016	
WEATHER: Fine	PLANT: NW		

1. WORK UNDERTAKEN BY CLIENT/CONTRACTORS: (location/site of area cleared, topography, bounded by)

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS: (inc. soil/subsoil, nature and depth)

UNDER TO BE SOIL PROFILE: 0-2m - willy loam
0-1m - gravelly sand
2-3m - redish yellow substrate

Normal SE slope, horizontally truncated by wall (R) - 4m
BASE OF ADJACENT - CLARENCE.

3. VISIBILITY: (Would archaeology have been visible under prevailing conditions/methods employed on site.)

4. RECOMMENDATIONS: none

See overview for sketch plan and additional descriptions/interpretation

5. PHOTOGRAPHY: black & white/digital (underline relevant format)

Photo No./Ref	Subject	Looking
1	PRE-EXC.	NW
2	POST-EX. 1/2 S. SITE.	W.
3	" " " N SITE.	

6. Sketch