



ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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**Barnsley Road Playing Field
Scawsby
South Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report No. 1463

November 2005

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Brodsworth Parish Council

Barnsley Road Playing Field

Scawsby

South Yorkshire

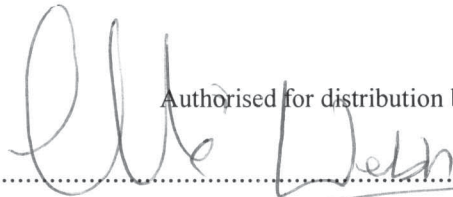
Archaeological Watching Brief

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief that monitored the stripping of topsoil for the installation of new pathways, a games area and entrances in an area of playing fields observed no archaeological features or finds.



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1. Introduction

- 1.1 Archaeological Services WYAS was commissioned by Brodsworth Parish Council to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Barnsley Road playing fields, Scawsby during development. The site is centred NGR SE 549 048 and is situated on land bound by housing to the south of Barnsley Road, c.2km north-west of Doncaster (Fig 1). The development involved the construction of a new ball games area and footpaths and entrances (Fig. 2). Planning permission was granted by Doncaster MBC (application number 03/0349/P/FUL3) and South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) advised the local planning authority for a condition specifying that archaeological monitoring accompany the works. The work was carried out in accordance to a brief for archaeological monitoring provided by SYAS (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The underlying geology of the site is upper magnesium limestone (British Geological Survey 1969).
- 1.3 The monitoring was undertaken on 20th to 22nd and 26th September 2005.

2. Archaeological Background

- 2.1 The development site lies within an area where Roman burials have previously been found and recorded in the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). These consist of an inhumation burial associated with a lid-sealed jar containing a cremation burial. The potential for such burials and associated features and/or finds within the development area has been highlighted by SYAS.

3. Method

- 3.1 The excavation of the ball games area and footpaths was carried out using a mechanical excavator (mini-digger) fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. An archaeologist monitored all soil stripping and the resulting spoil was checked for finds material. The stripped surface was examined for potential features. Watching brief monitoring forms were used to record the details of the works.

4. Results

- 4.1 The results of the monitoring are detailed below and the areas discussed are shown in Fig. 2.
- 4.2 **Pathways and entrances.** The excavation of pathways and entrances removed topsoil to a depth of 0.15m over a width of 1.5m. In some areas the subsoil was exposed although excavations were mostly within the topsoil. Patches of rubble were noted in the topsoil. Topsoil was also stripped for lorry access and cabins adjacent to the access from Barnsley Road. No archaeological features or finds were observed in all cases.

- 4.3 **Games area.** The games area of 20 by 12m was excavated to a depth of between 0.15 to 0.25m. This revealed a layer of topsoil 0.15m thick which overlay a thin 0.1m thick layer of subsoil. Natural deposits were revealed in places and consisted of clean yellowy orange silty sand. Bricks and tarmac were noted in the topsoil in places. No archaeological features or finds were identified.
- 4.4 Due to the limited nature of the monitoring this report contains all the information from the watching brief monitoring forms produced on site and forms the primary archive.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The stripping of topsoil for the new pathways, entrances and games area at Barnsley Road playing field observed no archaeological features or finds. In most areas of the strip the topsoil was not removed, but in some cases the subsoil or silty sand natural was exposed. No features were observed in these horizons. The presence of modern building material within the topsoil may suggest some recent levelling or disturbance. If archaeological remains are present below the playing field area they have not been disturbed by the present development.

Bibliography

British Geological Survey, 1969. Geological map of England and Wales, Sheet 88, Solid and Drift editions

Acknowledgements

Project management

Alistair Webb BA MIFA

Paul Wheelhouse BA MIFA

Louise Martin BSc

Report

Daniel Lee BSc

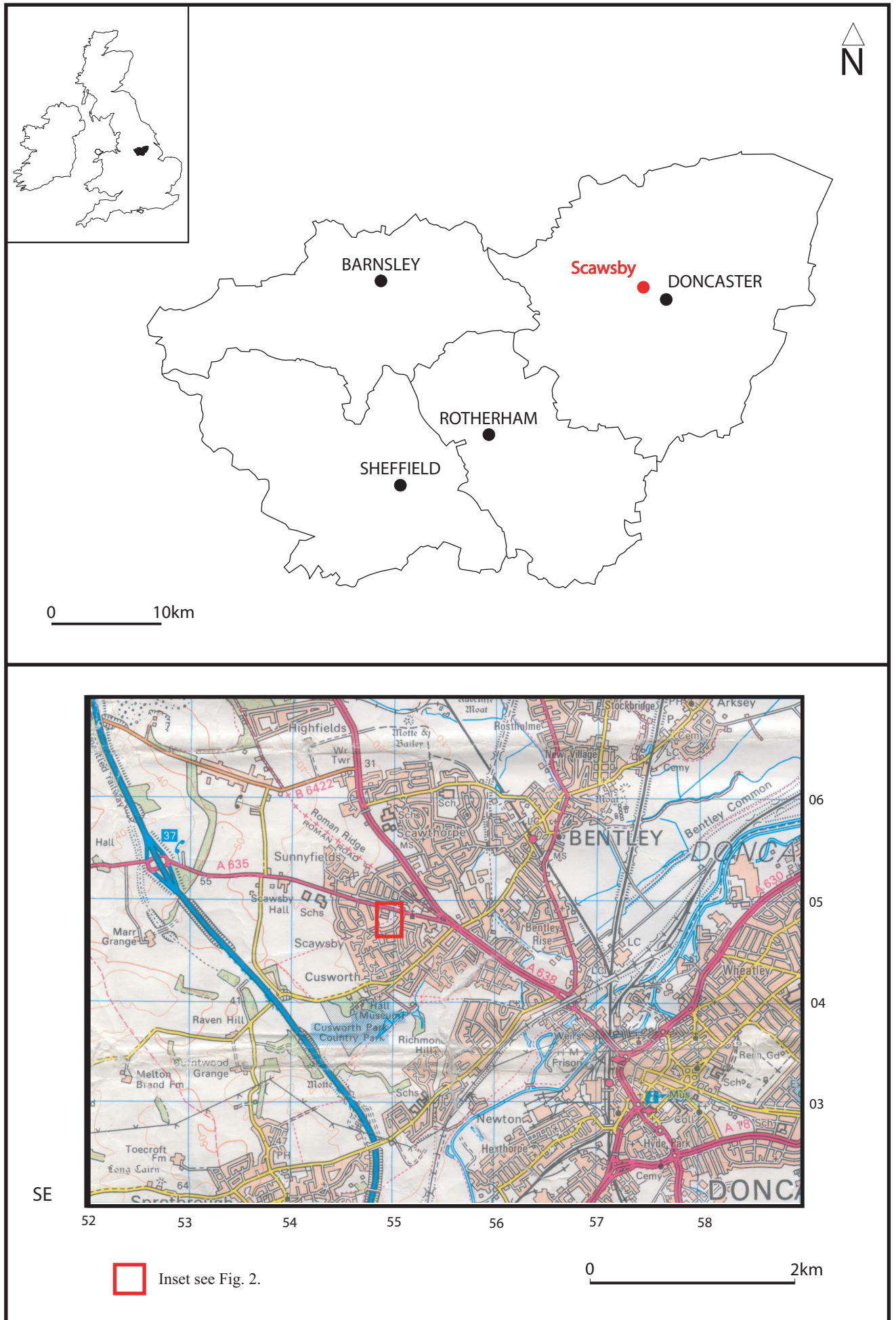
Graphics/illustrations

Daniel Lee

Fieldwork

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Fig. 1. Site location

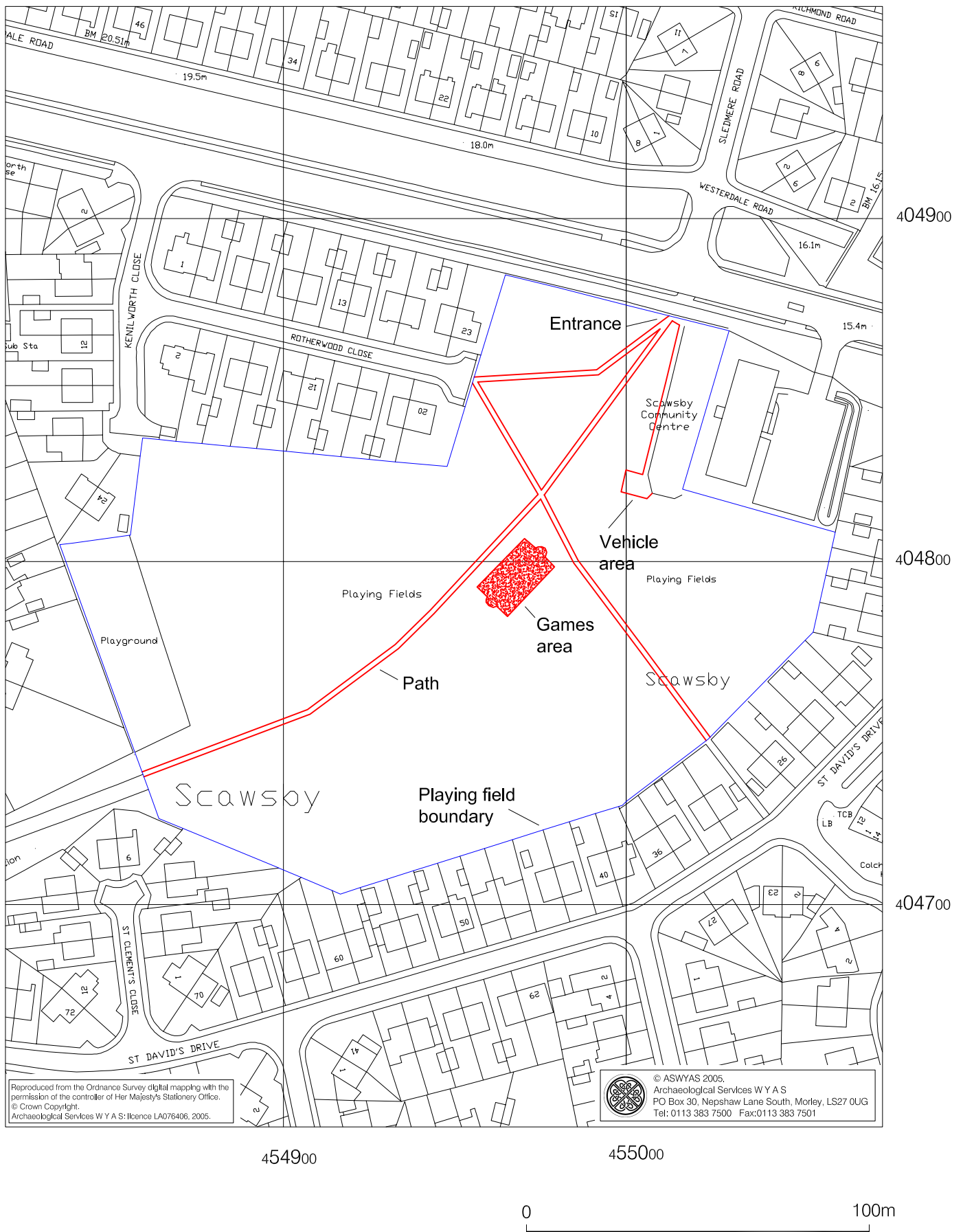


Fig. 2. Site location showing paths, entrances and games area

Appendix I
Brief for archaeological monitoring

BRIEF FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING

Proposal: Construction Of Games Area, Creation Of Surfaced Footpaths Etc.

Planning Application number: 03/0349/P/FUL3

NGR: SE 549 047

Location: Barnsley Road Playing Field, Barnsley Road, Scawsby.

Area of Proposal site: See enclosed plans

Land use and vegetation cover: Playing Field

Summary

A planning application has been approved by Doncaster MBC.

There is reason to believe that archaeological remains may be disturbed in the course of the proposed development, although little is known of their nature, extent or state of preservation. In order that any remains that are affected by the development are recorded and/or retrieved, an archaeological condition requiring that a scheme for archaeological works be undertaken has been attached to planning permission for this development. South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS) has advised the Local Planning Authority that, in this instance, the size and nature of the development proposals are such that the requirement for this recording can be accommodated by an archaeological watching brief.

1.0 Archaeological background

1.1 The proposed development lies within an area where the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) records the discovery of Roman burials. These comprised a lid-sealed jar containing a cremation burial, in association with an inhumation burial. As such, there is the potential for further finds and features of a similar, or associated, nature to survive within the application area.

2.0 Fieldwork methodology

2.1 The two major aspects to this development comprise the formation of a ball games area, together with the formation of a number of footpaths and entrances.

- a) **The Ball Games Area.** The proposal is to excavate to a depth of c. 400mm maximum. The machining in this area (to be done with a toothless ditching bucket), will be comprehensively monitored. Any features encountered will be appropriately investigated (see below).

b) **The Footpaths And Entrances.** The proposal for the footpaths is to excavate to a depth of c. 200mm maximum. The machining (to be done with a toothless ditching bucket), will be comprehensively monitored. Any features encountered will be appropriately investigated (see below).

2.2 Access to the site should be afforded to the developer's nominated archaeological contractor at all reasonable times.

2.3 Reasonable prior notice (14 days) of the commencement of the development is to be given to the archaeological contractor. SYAS should be notified of the chosen contractor in advance of the works.

2.4 The archaeological contractor should be suitably qualified and experienced, and be acceptable to the Local Planning Authority following consultation with SYAS.

2.5 Where structures, soil features and finds of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the archaeological contractor shall be given the opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate hand excavate, sample and record these features and finds. Heavy plant or excavators shall not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded and the archaeological contractor on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location. Where archaeological remains are observed by contractors or plant operators, they shall immediately notify the archaeological contractor.

2.6 All features need to be investigated - discrete features will be half-sectioned in the first instance; linear features will be sampled a minimum of 20% along their length (each sample section to be not less than 1m), or a minimum of a 1m sample section, if the feature is less than 10m long. In addition, we expect the deposits at junctions or interruptions in linear features to be sufficiently excavated for the relationship between components to be established.

2.7 Provision will be made to recover material suitable for scientific dating and contingency sums will be made available to undertake such dating, if necessary - to be decided in consultation with the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS).

2.8 Further contingency provision will be made for additional specialist advice, e.g. for finds analysis and conservation.

2.9 Any human remains revealed will be excavated following the receipt of an appropriate licence from the Home Office (N.B. the coroner only needs to be informed if the remains have been buried for less than 50 years).

2.10 All finds that are 'treasure' in terms of the Treasure Act 1997 will be reported to the Coroner and appropriate procedures then followed.

2.11 All finds to be treated in accordance with the EH guidance document 'A strategy for the care and investigation of finds' (1995) and the UKIC's document 'Guidelines

for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage' – in particular, all ferrous objects and a selection of non-ferrous objects (including all coins), will be x-radiographed.

3.0 Archive

3.1 Upon completion of fieldwork samples shall be processed and all finds shall be cleaned, identified, assessed, spot-dated and properly stored. A field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections and photographs.

3.2 The field archive should be deposited with Doncaster Museum. The archaeological contractor should contact Mr Peter Robinson [01302 734290] at the beginning of the project, to arrange this.

4.0 Report & Publicity

4.1 A report shall be produced to include background information, a summary of the works carried out, a description and interpretation the findings, and an assessment of the importance of the archaeology found. All excavated areas should be accurately mapped with respect to nearby fixed structures and roads, and all archaeological features should be illustrated with appropriately scaled plans or sections. Illustrations to be included are: a detailed location map, a detailed site plan showing all trenches, all trench plans and sections and detailed plans and sections of features, select artefact illustrations and a selection of scanned photographs; an overall site plan showing all (phased) archaeological features recorded will also be included.

4.2 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, e.g. by presenting a paper at South Yorkshire Archaeology Day and talking to local societies.

4.3 A summary report on the results of appropriate length, accompanied by illustrations, will be prepared and submitted (in both paper and digital format) for publication in SYAS' annual review.

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