



WYAS
**Archaeological
Services**

St Paul's Church

Esholt

West Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Report no. 2790
September 2015

Client: Richard Crooks Partnership



St Pauls Church, Esholt, West Yorkshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

A watching brief was carried out during improvement works to St Paul's Church, Esholt involving the excavation of a drainage trench leading across the churchyard on its north side, under the lichgate and connecting to the main sewerage system in the road.

Report Information

Client: Richard Crooks Partnership
 Address: 14 Calverley Lane, Horsforth, Leeds, W. Yorkshire, LS18 4DZ
 Report Type: Watching Brief
 Location: Esholt
 County: West Yorkshire
 Grid Reference: SE 4182 4401
 Period(s) of activity represented: Post-medieval
 Report Number: 2790
 Project Number: 6034
 Site Code: SPE15
 OASIS ID: archaeol11-223779
 Date of fieldwork: July 2015
 Date of report: September 2015
 Project Management: David Williams BA MICfA
 Fieldwork supervisor: Matt Wells BSc MA
 Report: Matt Wells
 Illustrations: Matt Wells
 Photography: Site staff

Authorisation for
distribution: _____



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Contents

Report information	ii
Contents.....	iii
List of Figures	iv
List of Plates.....	iv
1 Introduction.....	1
Site location and topography	1
Soils, geology and land-use	1
2 Archaeological and Historical Background.....	1
3 Aims and Objectives	2
4 Methodology	2
5 Results	2
6 Conclusions.....	3

Figures

Plates

Appendices

Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation

Appendix 2: Inventory of primary archive

Appendix 3: Concordance of contexts yielding artefacts or environmental remains

Bibliography

List of Figures

- 1 Site location
- 2 Detailed site plan

List of Plates

- 1 View of trench, looking south-east
- 2 View of church wall showing footings, looking south-east
- 3 Section of trench, looking north-east

1 Introduction

Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) was commissioned by Richard Crooks Partnership to carry out an archaeological watching brief during groundworks relating to the excavation of a drainage trench at St Paul's Church, Esholt. The trench was excavated from the north-west corner of the nave, northwards across the churchyard, through the lichgate and extending around 7m through the road to meet an existing manhole. The watching brief was carried out in accordance with the requirements of a Church of England Faculty, employing a strategy and scope of work agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales. The archaeological work complied with the relevant standards of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014a; 2014b; 2014c) and English Heritage (2006; 2008).

Site location and topography

The church is located on the south-east periphery of the village of Esholt village around 8km to the north of Bradford (Fig. 1). The churchyard is bound to the south-east by a small tributary of the River Aire and St Paul's Wood, to the south-west by the vicarage's terraced garden, to the north-east by an extension to the graveyard and to the north by the residential buildings on Church Lane (Fig. 2). The church lies on a spur of relatively high land, north of the River Aire. Its site is centred at NGR SE 41823 44013 and lies at a height of approximately 60m OD.

Soils, geology and land-use

The underlying bedrock of the site comprises millstone grit, overlain by glacial till (British Geological Survey 2015). The soils of the area are classified as naturally slowly permeable loamy clayey soils (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983). The church and adjoining graveyard are still in active use.

2 Archaeological and Historical Background

Prior to commencement of works on site, a heritage assessment was carried out (Roberts 2015). This suggested a potential for archaeological remains to be present from all periods with flint tools, Iron Age beehive querns and a Roman coin found locally. However, Esholt became a more significant settlement from the late-medieval period onwards with a greater potential for archaeological remains of this period on the site.

The church itself is a Grade II listed building (List Entry Number: 1115568) and was built from sandstone in 1839 by William Rookes Crompton-Stansfield for use as a private family chapel. The chancel was added in 1895 by the three surviving members of the family, the Misses Crompton-Stansfield, the patronesses of the church. It was erected in memory of their

father Major General William Henry Crompton-Stansfield and their mother Frances. The architects were Messrs. T.H. & F. Healey of Bradford. Nearby structures at Esholt Old Hall Farm possibly date from the 15th century and the remains of a moat survive as an earthwork to the west and north of the Old Hall Farm, with the projected course of its south-eastern corner possibly crossing the northern end of the drainage trench.

3 Aims and Objectives

The primary aim was to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any graves, human remains and/or other archaeological features and deposits that were disturbed or revealed during the groundworks.

Although there was a presumption for preservation in situ for human remains, where this was not possible, burials would be subject to appropriate recording and careful manual excavation, such that the remains would, following analysis, be returned to the church for reburial.

The required archaeological monitoring outlined above was designed to mitigate the destruction of any buried archaeological remains through 'preservation by record'.

4 Methodology

All work was undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards (CifA 2014a; English Heritage 2008). The watching brief was conducted by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist who was present during all ground works. ASWYAS methodologies and standards were also adhered to (ASWYAS 2011). All excavations were carried out by hand, under direct archaeological supervision.

5 Results

The drainage trench measured 0.25m in width and was 0.45m to 0.60m in depth (Fig. 2, Plate 1). The south-eastern end of the trench abutted the exterior church wall, revealing the footings (Plate 2). The trench extended to the lichgate, but was not excavated beyond this and into the road as had been anticipated.

The trench was excavated through various built-up layers up to 0.24m in depth (Plate 3). These included turf and topsoil in the churchyard with tarmac, flagstones and hardcore elsewhere. These deposits sealed a dark brownish-grey silty-clay subsoil or buried topsoil (103) which had a depth of up to 0.30m. The layer contained moderate charcoal, brick and tile inclusions with the occasional modern artefact, suggesting recent disturbance. The artefacts were not kept as per the Written Scheme of Investigation (Appendix 1). A compact rubble (101), directly below the buried topsoil (103), measuring between 0.07m and 0.20m in

depth, was interpreted as a hardcore used to level the churchyard. This lay directly above an orange and grey clay (102) interpreted as natural glacial till.

6 Conclusions

The watching brief methodology was successful in mitigating any damage to archaeological remains exposed during the ground works. Although natural was exposed, no graves or human bone were disturbed during the excavations in the churchyard.

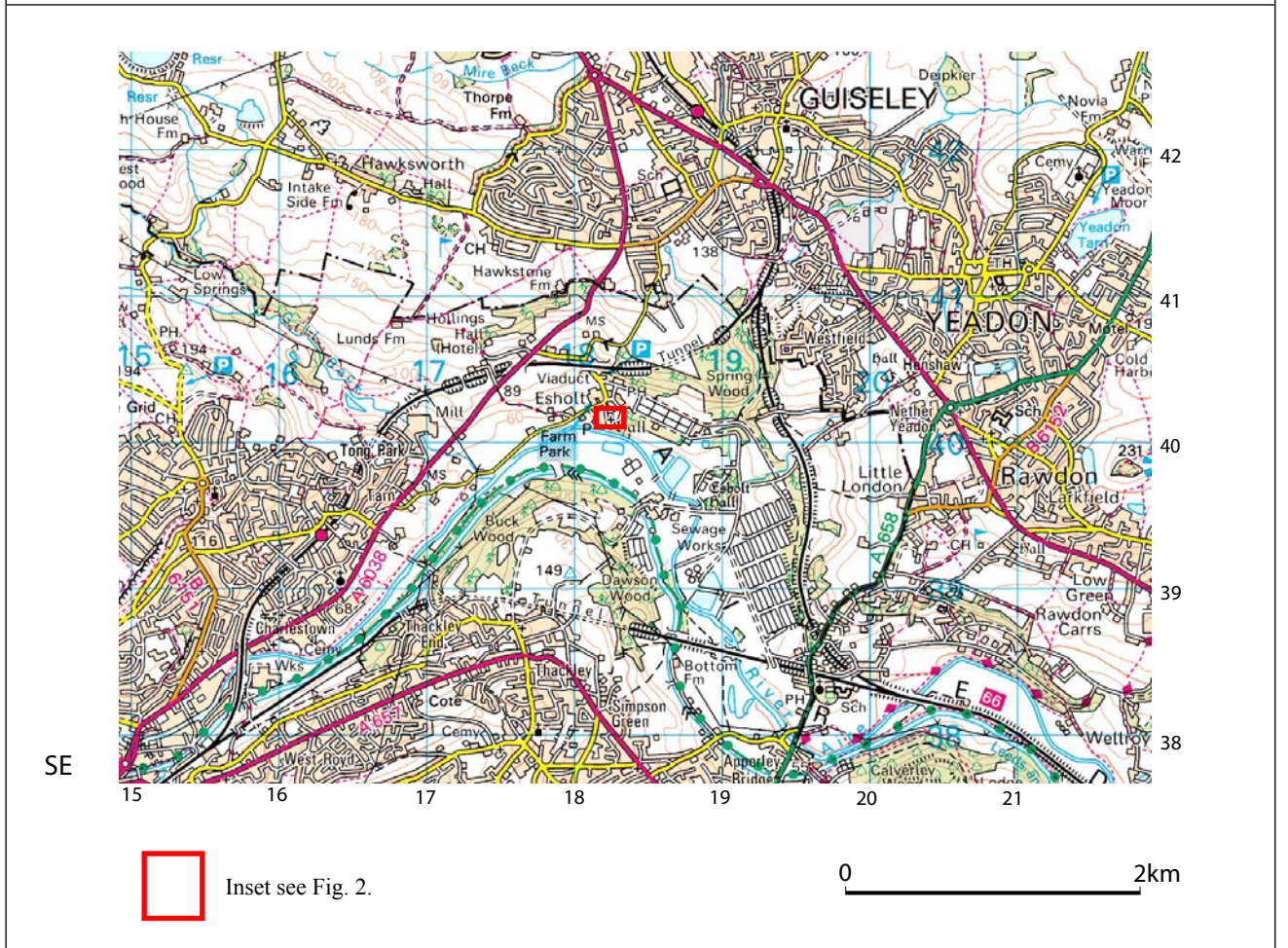
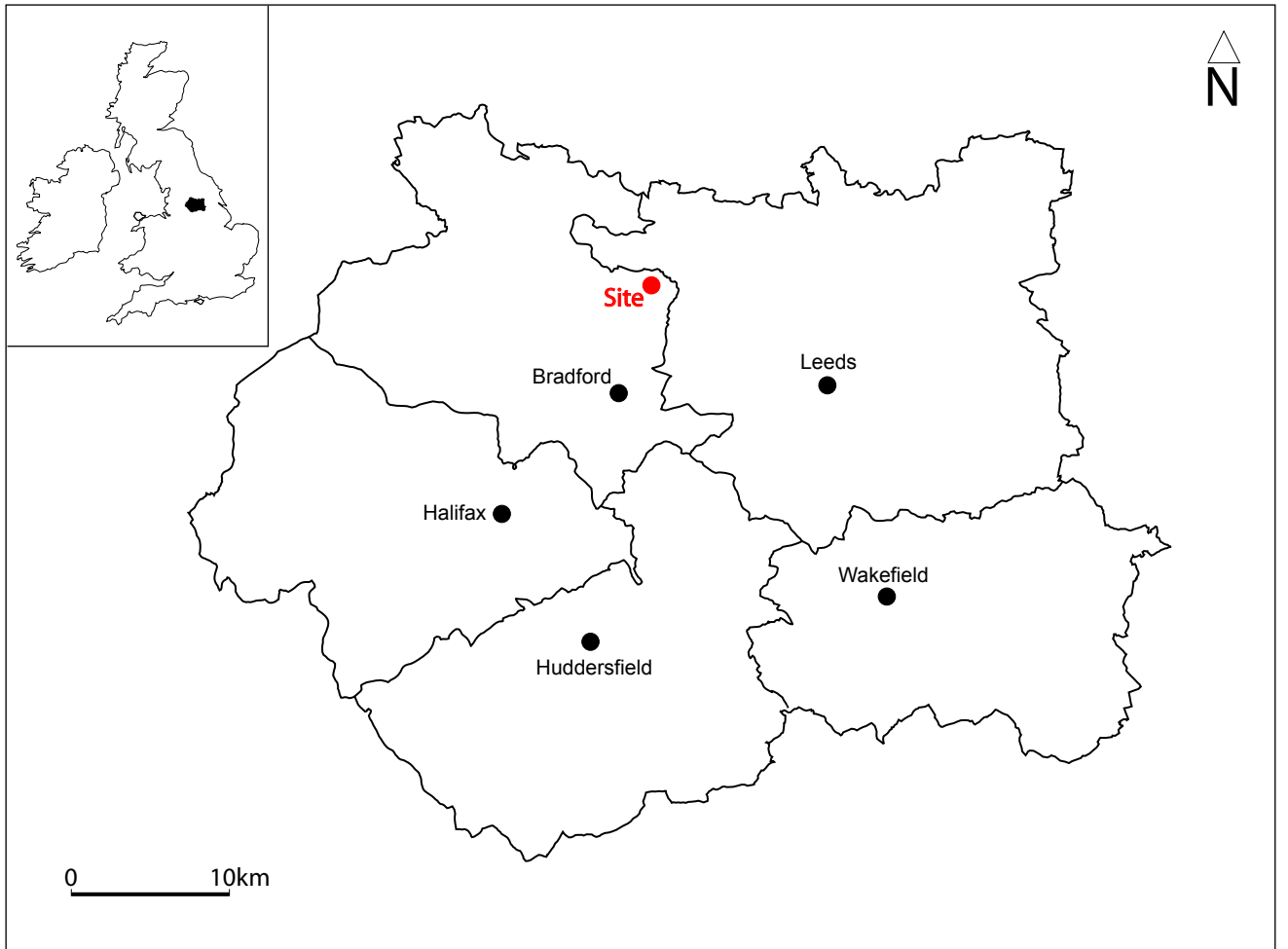


Fig. 1. Site location

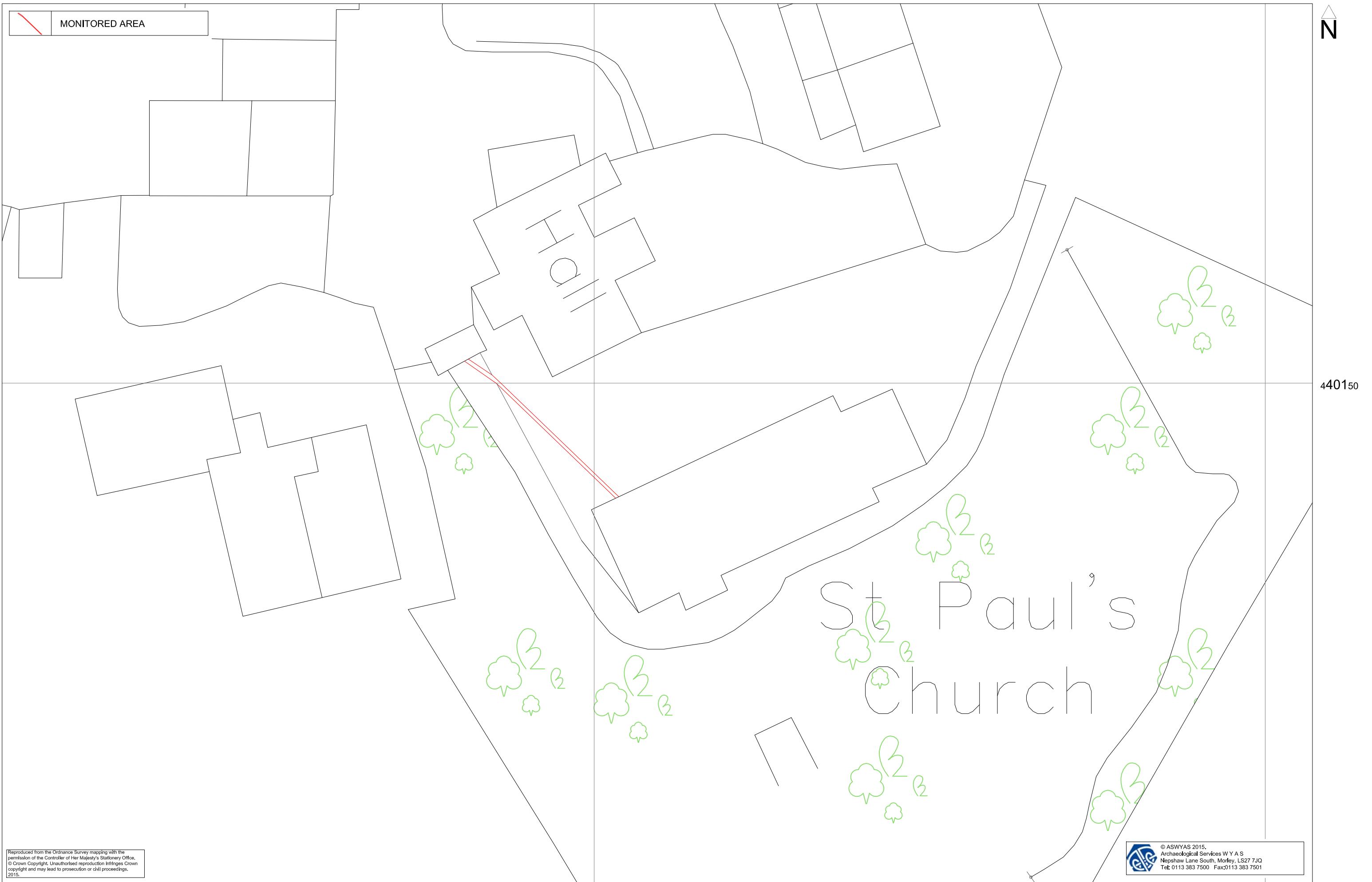


Fig. 2. Detailed site plan (1:250 @ A3)



Plate 1. View of trench, looking south-east



Plate 2. View of church wall showing footings, looking south-east



Plate 3. Section of trench, looking north-east

Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation

St Paul's Church

Esholt

West Yorkshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

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On behalf of: Richard Crooks Partnership

July 2015



Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief at St Paul's Church Esholt

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) for Richard Crooks Partnership to carry out an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a new drainage system at St Paul's Esholt. The watching brief will be carried out in accordance with the requirements of a Church of England Faculty, employing a strategy and scope of work agreed with the Archaeological Advisor to the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales. The archaeological work will comply with the relevant standard of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2014).

2. Site location, topography and land-use

- 2.1 The church is located in the village of Esholt, on land bounded by the river Aire to the south, Chapel lane to the west, residential properties off church lane to the north and woodland to the east. The site is centred at NGR SE 18202 40130 and lies at a height of approximately 60m OD.

3. Geology and soils

- 3.1 The underlying bedrock of the site comprises Millstone Grit Group, a Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 313 to 326 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers (British Geological Survey 2015). With alluvial superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. The soils of the area are unclassified (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4. Archaeological background

- 4.1 The church is a grade II listed building (List Entry Number: 1115568) and was built in 1839 by William Rookes Crompton-Stansfield for use as a private family chapel from sandstone
- 4.2 The chancel was added in 1895 by the three surviving members of the family, the Misses Crompton-Stansfield, the patronesses of the church. It was erected in memory of their father Major General William Henry Crompton-Stansfield and their mother Frances. The architects were Messrs. T.H. & F. Healey of Bradford.

5. Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 The primary aim is to identify and record the presence/absence, extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any graves, human remains and/or other archaeological features and deposits that are

disturbed or revealed during the groundworks and inform the archaeological impact and implications of any remedial works that are recommended.

- 5.2 The drain trenches in the churchyard will avoid all extant grave monuments and be tied into the pre-existing drainage, and avoid all known burials. There is, however, potential for it to disturb unknown burials of medieval or early post-medieval date. Although there is a presumption for preservation in situ for human remains this will not always be possible. Therefore, the aim of the watching brief in the churchyard will primarily be to guard against the unwitting and unrecorded removal of unknown human remains and, where possible, to mitigate such by appropriate recording and careful manual excavation, such that the remains may, following analysis, be returned to the church for reburial elsewhere within the churchyard.
- 5.3 The required archaeological monitoring outlined above is designed to mitigate the destruction of any buried archaeological remains through 'preservation by record'.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 All work will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards (ClfA 2014; English Heritage 2008). The watching brief will be conducted by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist who will be present during all ground works.
- 6.2 Mechanical excavations, if required, should only be carried out using a small machine equipped with a toothless ditching bucket, operated under direct archaeological supervision. Where archaeological remains require clarification, the relevant areas will be cleaned by hand.
- 6.3 Any archaeological features/deposits will be manually excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner, in order to meet the aims and objectives outlined above.
- 6.4 Features will be sample excavated employing the following strategy:
- Non-burial features: sufficient excavation will be carried out to investigate the depth, profile and fills of a ditches, pit and post-holes to recover dating and environmental evidence from their fills;
 - Buried walls or vaults will be recorded in plan and elevation, and will only be dismantled/excavated to facilitate the required works being carried out;
 - Graves will be recorded in plan and the human remains within them only disturbed if are to impacted by the ground works. There will be a presumption for preservation *in situ* wherever possible (Church of

England and English Heritage 2005, annexe E4). Human remains will be cleaned and recorded both photographically and using *pro forma* context and skeleton recording sheets. There will be no requirement to recover complete skeletons if they lie partially beneath the baulk (see Church of England and English Heritage 2005, annexe E5). All exposed human remains will be concealed from the public gaze by the employment of appropriate fencing or tents.

- 6.5 A full written, drawn and photographic record of all material revealed during the course of the work shall be made. The excavation limits will be surveyed using electronic survey equipment with larger scale hand drawn plans of features, at 1:20 or 1:50, being created as appropriate. Sections of linear and discrete features will be drawn at 1:10. All sections, plans and elevations will include spot-heights related to Ordnance Datum in metres as correct to two decimal places. Tie-in information will be undertaken during the course of the evaluation and will be fixed in relation to nearby permanent structures and roads and to the National Grid. The photographic archive will comprise monochrome negative photographs at a minimum format of 35mm, augmented by digital photographs taken using cameras with a resolution of at least 10 megapixels.
- 6.6 All excavated archaeological contexts shall be fully recorded by written records, giving details of location, composition, shape, dimensions, relationships, finds, samples, and cross-references to other elements of the record and other relevant contexts, in accordance with best practice. All contexts, and any small finds and samples from them will be given unique numbers. Bulk finds will be collected by context.
- 6.7 All artefacts will be removed from the site for assessment and analysis, and where it is appropriate, their find spots shall, if appropriate, be recorded three dimensionally. Non-modern artefacts from the excavated topsoil and subsoil will be collected. Finds material will be stored in controlled environments, where appropriate. All artefacts recovered will be retained, cleaned, labelled and stored as detailed in the guidelines laid out in the ClfA (20014b). Any necessary conservation work will be undertaken by approved conservators working to UKIC guidelines.
- 6.8 A soil-sampling programme shall be undertaken during the course of the investigation for the identification and recovery of carbonised and waterlogged remains, vertebrate remains, molluscs and small artefactual material. English Heritage's Regional Science Advisor, environmental and soil specialists may be consulted during the course of the excavation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme, should waterlogged deposits be identified. In the event of waterlogged deposits being found an Environmental Strategy will make provision for the potential study of waterlogged plant material, insects and parasites. Provision will be made for the removal of soil samples of a minimum 40 litres from deposits with clear potential, and larger samples from

any organically-rich deposits. Samples may also be taken from seemingly sterile deposits. Particular attention will be paid to the sampling of primary feature fills, any surviving buried soils beneath banks or other positive features, and basal deposits within graves. Environmental material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with guidelines set out by the Association for Environmental Archaeology (1995) and English Heritage's Environmental Archaeology Guidelines (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/environmental-archaeology-2nd/environmental-archaeology-2nd.pdf>). In addition, the processing of environmental samples will only take place within facilities approved for such purposes by English Heritage's Regional Science Advisor.

- 6.9 In the event of human remains being discovered they will, in the first instance, be left *in situ*, covered and protected. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with either a faculty issued by the Chancellor of the Diocese, or the Burial Act 1857. In the case of the latter (i.e. in the absence of a faculty) an exhumation licence must be obtained from the Ministry of Justice prior to the removal of the remains. Provision will be made for the specialist reporting of the remains by a recognised osteoarchaeologist, before the remains are returned to the church for reburial within the churchyard.
- 6.10 All finds of gold and silver and associated objects shall be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1997.

7. Analysis and Reporting

- 7.1 Following the conclusion of the fieldwork a report shall be produced.
- 7.2 The site archive will be assembled in line with the recommended composition provided in English Heritage PPN3 (2008).
- 7.2 In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive shall contain all the data collected during the excavation, including records, finds and environmental samples. It will be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent. Archive consolidation will be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork and will involve:
- the site record being checked, cross-referenced and indexed as necessary;
 - retained finds being cleaned, stabilised, marked and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the recipient museum;
 - retained finds being assessed and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Initial artefact dating will be integrated within the site matrix; and

- environmental samples being processed by suitably experienced and qualified staff and recorded using pro forma recording sheets.
- 7.3 In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive shall contain:
- site matrices, as appropriate;
 - a summary report synthesising the context record;
 - a summary of the artefact record; and
 - a summary of the environment record.
- 7.4 The integrity of the primary field record will be preserved. Security copies will be maintained where appropriate.
- 7.5 Provision will be made for the deposition of the archive, artefacts and environmental material in the Leeds Museum, subject to the permission of the Church of England. The museum will be contacted to ascertain their requirements for the archive (e.g. marking and labelling requirements, accession number). The archive will otherwise be prepared in accordance with the UKIC (1990), the Museums and Galleries Commission (1994) and ClfA (2014) guidelines. Provision will be made for the stable storage of paper records and their long-term storage.
- 7.6 Upon completion of the investigations, the artefacts, ecofacts and stratigraphic information shall be assessed to ascertain their potential and significance for further analysis.
- 7.7 An assessment report will be prepared within an agreed timescale following the completion of on-site archaeological investigations and include the following:
- a non-technical summary of the results of the work;
 - a summary of the project's background;
 - the dates the fieldwork took place;
 - the site location, including National Grid Reference;
 - an account of the method;
 - the results of the watching brief, including phasing and interpretation of the site sequence;
 - conservation assessment;

- an assessment of the stratigraphic and other written, drawn and photographic records;
 - a catalogue of the archaeological material recovered during the watching brief;
 - assessments (as appropriate) of each material category of finds recovered, including their types, quantities and concentrations, with a statement of their significance;
 - a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location.
- 7.8 The report will be produced within an agreed time-scale. It will be supported by an overall plan of the site, accurately identifying the location of the watching brief and any findings.
- 7.9 The report will outline the archaeological significance of the deposits identified, and provide an interpretation of the results in relation to other sites in the vicinity.
- 7.10 Copies of the report will be supplied to Richard Crooks Partnership, the West Yorkshire HER, the Archaeological Advisor to the Diocese of West Yorkshire and the Dales and the PCC. A digital copy will also be supplied to the West Yorkshire HER.
- 7.11 Upon completion of the work, the archaeological contractor will make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>).
- 7.12 It is possible that the excavation findings will warrant wider publication. This may be effected through publication with an appropriate archaeological journal.
- 8. Copyright, Confidentiality and Publicity**
- 8.1 Copyright in the documentation prepared by the archaeological contractor and specialist sub-contractors should be the subject of additional licences in favour of the repository accepting the archive to use such documentation for their statutory educational and museum service functions, and to provide copies to third parties as an incidental to such functions.
- 8.2 Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR), information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'.
- 8.3 Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. The archaeological contractor should inform the client of EIR requirements, and ensure that any

information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work.
Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.

- 8.4 Unless the Client commissioning the project wishes to state otherwise, the copyright of any written, graphic or photographic record and reports will rest with the originating body (Archaeological Services WYAS).

9. Health and Safety

- 9.1 Archaeological Services WYAS has its own Health and Safety policy which has been compiled using national guidelines. These guidelines conform to all relevant Health and Safety legislation.
- 9.2 In addition each project undergoes a 'Risk Assessment' which sets project specific Health and Safety requirements to which all members of staff are made aware of prior to on-site work commencing. Health and Safety will take priority over archaeological matters. Necessary precautions will be taken over underground services and overhead lines at the outset of the project.

10. Health and Safety

- 10.1 Archaeological Services WYAS is covered by the insurance and indemnities of the City of Wakefield Metropolitan District Council. Insurance has been effected with: Zurich Municipal Insurance, Park House, 57–59 Well Street, Bradford, BD1 5SN (policy number RMP 03GO39–0143). Any further enquiries should be directed to: The Chief Financial Officer, Insurance Section, Wakefield MDC, PO Box 55, Newton Bar, Wakefield WF1 2TT.

11. Monitoring

- 11.1 Access to the site will be arranged through Richard Crooks Partnership.
- 11.2 Archaeological Services WYAS will produce an initial Risk Assessment and review this in the light of any developing potential risks. They will ensure that Health and Safety requirements of the main contractor are adhered to.
- 11.3 The project will be monitored by the Archaeological Advisor to the DAC and the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service to whom written documentation will be sent before the start of the work confirming:
- the date of commencement;
 - the names of all finds and archaeological science specialists likely to be used in the evaluation; and
 - notification to the proposed archive repository of the nature of the works and opportunity to monitor the works.

- 11.4 If appropriate, the advice of the Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (Yorkshire and the Humber Region) at English Heritage will be called upon.
- 11.5 Archaeological Services WYAS will ensure that any significant results are brought to the attention the client and their main contractor as soon as is practically possible.

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Appendix 2: Inventory of primary archive

File/Box No	Description	Quantity
File no.1	Daily record sheets	2
	Digital photograph records	1
	Annotated site plan	1
	Permatrace	1
	Context cards	4

Appendix 3: Concordance of contexts yielding artefacts or environmental remains

Context	Description	Artefacts and environmental samples
100	Dark-brown sandy-silt topsoil	-
101	Compact rubble layer	-
102	Natural clay	-
103	Dark brownish-grey silty-clay subsoil	-

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