



## ARCHERITAGE REPORT

<b>SITE ADDRESS</b>	St. Dominic's Crag, Copley Gardens, Sprotbrough, South Yorkshire		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	JVN Architecture Limited		
<b>PROJECT #</b>	5321	<b>REPORT #</b>	2010/35
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 5403 0182
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	05/01750/FUL	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	N/A

### NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

*Archaeological observations and records were made during the mechanical removal of topsoil and the demolition of a twentieth-century house during ground-works at Copley Gardens, Sprotbrough. A crude modern road and yard surface were identified and associated with the house, and the underlying soil was thought constitute modern ground-raising. The remains of an eighteenth century ice house known to survive beneath the building were monitored during demolition.*

### INTRODUCTION

On 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> May and 1<sup>st</sup> June 2010, archaeological observations were made during ground-works at St. Dominic's Crag, Copley Gardens, Sprotbrough, South Yorkshire (Figure 1). As stipulated in the Written Scheme of Investigation (see below), an archaeologist supervised a programme of strip, map and record across the site, and also the demolition of a standing building which incorporated the remains of an eighteenth century ice house.

As indicated in the WSI, the area lies close to known prehistoric, Roman and early medieval activity. Principally, the area was once part of the gardens of Sprotbrough Hall and included an ice house, the remains of which were partially incorporated beneath a dwelling house. These remains consisted of a small stone-lined basement, probably the original entrance to the ice house chamber itself, which lay beneath the northern wall of the house and projected northwards under the concrete yard surface (Figure 2). Set into this yard surface was a small skylight consisting of three panes of reinforced security glass (plate 6) which illuminated the space beneath (Plate 7). The circular ice house chamber itself is located beneath a manhole cover set into a concrete slab beneath the standing building.



**Figure 1** Site location

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### GROUND-WORKS

Soil stripping commenced in the eastern half of site, over the areas of plots 3 and 4 (Figure 2). Vegetation was removed with a mechanical excavator, which was then used to strip off up to 0.20m of the topsoil (context 1001) with a toothless ditching bucket under archaeological supervision by Ian Milsted. This revealed the remains of a crude road, 1002, which consisted of a 3.6m wide surface made of packed crushed brick rubble with limestone fragments, bounded on either side by a kerb. The kerb was constructed in some places with a single row of bricks and in others by edge-set sub-rectangular limestone blocks (Figure 2, Plates 1 and 2). This road ran along the entire northern edge of the site (Figure 2) and is considered to be modern in date. The bricks used on the surface and the kerb were machine-made and measured 0.25 x 0.11 x 0.08m, indicating a date of no earlier than c.1850; the presence of more modern building materials in the surface suggests a much more recent date than this, and the current interpretation of 1002 is that it is contemporary with the dwelling house referred to above, thought to date from the 1940s (Mark Hardy, pers. comm.).

The area exposed south of road 1002 revealed two distinct deposits (Figure 2, Plate 3). 1004 was an area of compact mid-brown sandy-silt with a large amount of crushed limestone and brick fragments, together with plastic piping and other modern materials, and was interpreted as a levelling deposit of modern building waste. 1004 extended eastwards from the eastern edge of the house and yard for around 21m. Beneath this was 1005, a firm-friable, mid-brown sandy silt with patches of re-deposited stiff orange-pink clay and occasional brick and limestone debris, which was interpreted as a ground make-up deposit. Both 1004 and 1005 contained lenses of ash, and there were several places where modern bonfires appeared to have been sited.

In the centre of the development area, immediately north of the dwelling house, was a yard, 1003 (Figure 2, Plate 5). This was constructed in a similar way to road 1002, and abutted it at its northern edge. Yard surface 1003 consisted of limestone block kerbs up to 0.90m x 0.50m in size, which bounded an area of mixed rough stone paving, concrete slabs and packed crushed brick and limestone rubble.

To the west of the house and yard surface 1003, up to 0.20m of topsoil was stripped, exposing 1006, an expanse of firm-friable, mid brown, sandy silt virtually identical to 1004, which had been disturbed by modern services and fence-lines (Figure 2, Plate 4). This area was observed by Andrew Lines, SYAS, while it was being stripped, and on the basis of observations already made, no further archaeological supervision was deemed necessary.

### DEMOLITION

The demolition of the dwelling house was observed, as stipulated by the WSI, by Ben Reeves. The condition of the ice house remains were monitored (Plates 8 & 9) and care taken to prevent damage to its fabric. The exposed walling was covered with steel sheeting following demolition of the buildings, and the area placed off-limits for machinery until consolidation takes place.

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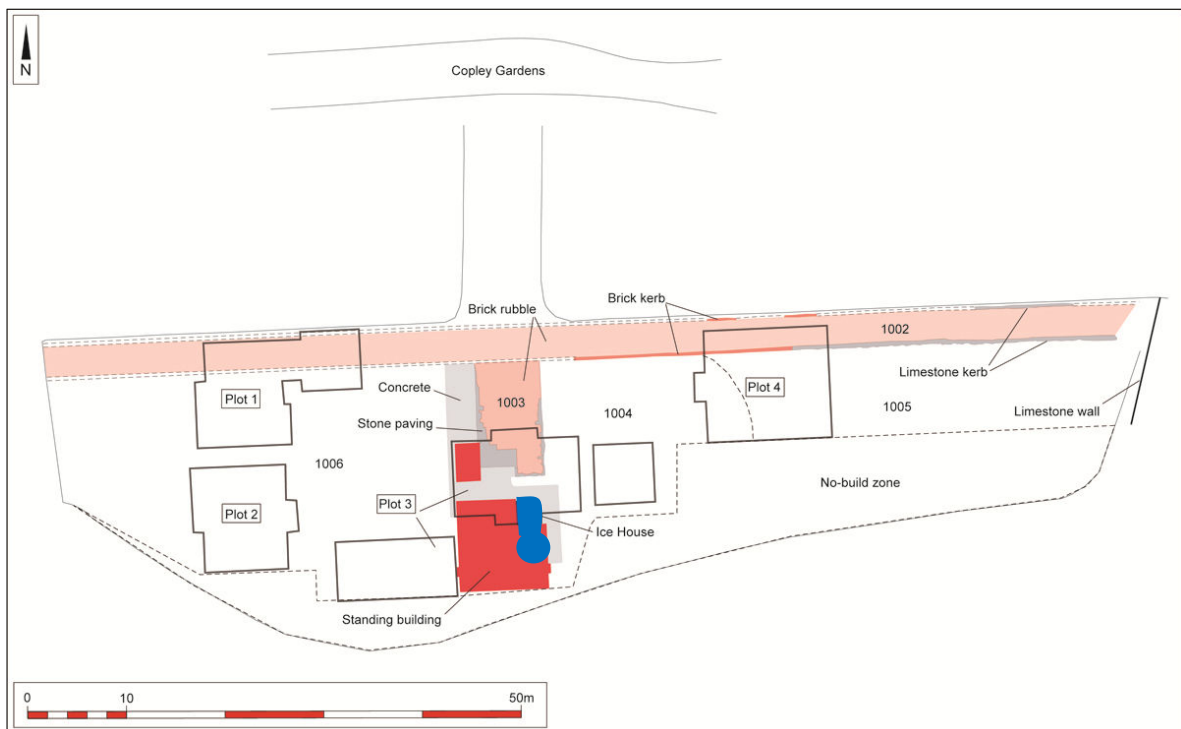
### CONTEXT INDEX

- 1000: Unstratified
- 1001: Topsoil
- 1002: Modern road
- 1003: Modern yard
- 1004: Levelling deposit
- 1005: Ground make-up deposit
- 1006: Ground make-up deposit

### ARCHIVE INDEX

- 29 monochrome 35mm prints with register
- 90 digital photographs on CD with register and scanned monochrome images
- 7 context cards with register
- 1 site plan at 1:20 on drawing film (1 sheet)
- 2 site plans at 1:50 on drawing film (6 sheets)
- 1 annotated copy of developer's plan with contexts and features

The archive will be passed to Doncaster Museum. An OASIS record is in preparation under reference number yorkarch1-77877.



**Figure 2** Location of features (adapted from developer's plan)

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*Plate 1* Looking west from eastern end of site with road 1002



*Plate 2* Detail of road 1002, looking north

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**Plate 3** Looking east, showing 1002, with 1004 in foreground and 1005 beyond



**Plate 4** Looking west, showing 1006 in western part of site

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*Plate 5* Looking south, showing yard 1003 and house to be demolished



*Plate 6* Concrete cap and sky-light over position of ice house entrance, looking west

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**Plate 7** Interior view of ice house entrance prior to demolition of building above, looking north

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**Plate 8** View of ice house entrance walls with ice house chamber access manhole in the foreground, looking north

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**Plate 9** View into ice house chamber through access manhole

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## WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL STRIP, MAP AND RECORD.

Prepared for JVN Architecture Ltd by ArcHeritage, 26/1/2010. Report number 2010/20

Site Location: St Dominic's Crag, Copley Gardens, Sprotbrough  
 NGR: SE 5403 0182  
 Proposal: Erection of 4 dwellings  
 Planning ref: 05/01750/FUL  
 Status of WSI: Approved by SYAS

### 1 SUMMARY

- 1.1 Planning permission has been granted for the erection of 4 dwellings at Copley Gardens, Sprotbrough.
- 1.2 The following archaeological condition has been imposed: 'No development shall take place until the applicant, their agent, or their successor in title has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation that has been submitted to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority' (LPA).
- 1.3 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared for approval by the LPA. The work will be carried out in accordance with this WSI.

### 2 SITE LOCATION & DESCRIPTION

2.1 The proposal site is currently under rough grassland, on land to the south of Copley Gardens, Sprotbrough (Illustration 1). A single dwelling stands in the centre of the site, which has been unoccupied for some time. A belt of trees stands to the south of the site. A 'no-build' zone lies between the tree belt and the development area (Illustration 3).

### 3 DESIGNATIONS & CONSTRAINTS

3.1 There are no known constraints on the open grassed areas. The woodland is a green belt and an SSSI, delineated by a stone wall.

### 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL INTEREST

3.1 The site is in an area of historic interest. Prehistoric activity has been recorded nearby, and limestone outcrops may have functioned as rock shelters. Evidence for Roman activity in the form of coins, has been found close to the site, and Roman roads, forts and settlements are known in the wider area. Sprotbrough was in existence prior to the Domesday survey, and the present 12<sup>th</sup>-century church may sit on the site of an earlier church. The site itself was once part of the gardens of the former Sprotbrough Hall. The ice house, the well-preserved remains of which now lie underneath St Dominic's house, was part of this former designed landscape.

3.2 Several investigations have taken place in the last five years. These include an archaeological assessment (HEC Ltd August 2005), geophysical survey (HEC Ltd December 2005), a survey of the ice house (HEC Ltd May 2006) and a trial trench excavation (HEC Ltd August 2006). The ice house is well preserved, and will be protected by a foundation design solution. A drawing of the proposed ring beam is appended (Illustration 2). The geophysical survey gave rather ambiguous results, and the trial trench did not reveal anything of archaeological significance. The reports will be consulted prior to site works taking place.

### 4. WORKS TO BE MONITORED

4.1 The extant building will be demolished. An archaeologist will monitor the demolition of the part of the building above the ice house, to ensure that no historic fabric is damaged. A methodology for the demolition is provided in Appendix 1.

4.2 It is proposed that half the site is stripped in the first instance. This will allow storage of spoil in the other part of the site, and will afford the opportunity for SYAS to inspect the site, and a judgement be made on whether to strip the remaining portion of the site. If the remaining portion requires stripping, the spoil will be moved and the same strip methodology will be applied.

4.3 The area to be stripped will be defined by the footprint of the houses, driveways and access roads (Illustration 3). The garden areas will not be disturbed during the development, except to have the soil turned over to remove weeds and grass. The gardens areas will therefore be considered a contingency, and will only be stripped for archaeological monitoring if archaeological features are found in other areas, following discussion with SYAS. The no-build zone will not be affected by the development works.

4.4 The areas for investigation will be stripped of topsoil or overburden. The areas must be stripped using a machine fitted with a suitable toothless bucket (e.g. ditching bucket) to produce a clean, flat surface for archaeological inspection. The stripping activity will be monitored at all times by an archaeologist. Areas will be cleaned by the archaeologist(s) as necessary to allow any archaeological features to be identified. Machines will not cross the stripped area.

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### 5 PROGRAMME

5.1 All earth-moving machinery must be operated at an appropriate speed to allow the archaeologist to recognise, record and retrieve any archaeological deposits and material.

5.2 It is not intended that the archaeological monitoring should unduly delay site works. However, the archaeologist on site will be given the opportunity to observe, clean, assess and, where appropriate hand excavate, sample and record any exposed features and finds. In order to fulfil the requirements of this WSI, it may be necessary to halt the earth-moving activity for sufficient periods to enable the archaeology to be recorded properly.

5.3 Plant or excavators shall not be operated in the immediate vicinity of archaeological remains until the remains have been recorded and the archaeologist on site has given explicit permission for operations to recommence at that location.

5.4 Illustrated notices will be displayed on site, explaining what work is in progress and why, with the client's agreement. Text will be reproduced at a minimum 16 point font.

### 6 RECORDING METHODOLOGY

6.1 If a base plan of intervention areas is available, the areas being monitored will be determined using this information. If a plan is not available, the location of the monitoring will be determined using a hand-held GPS or Total Station survey.

6.2 Each context will be described in full on a pro forma context record sheet in accordance with the accepted context record conventions.

6.3 Archaeological deposits will be planned at a basic scale of 1:50, with individual features requiring greater detail being planned at a scale of 1:20. Larger scales will be utilised as appropriate. Cross-section of features will be drawn to a basic scale of 1:10 or 1:20 depending on the size of the feature. All drawings will be related to Ordnance Datum using tapes or Total Station survey. Where it aids interpretation, structural remains will also be recorded in elevation. All drawings will be drawn on inert materials. All drawings will adhere to accepted drawing conventions

6.4 Photographs of archaeological deposits and features will be taken. This will include general views of entire features and of details such as sections as considered necessary. The photographic register will comprise 35mm format black and white prints and 35mm colour slides. Digital photography may be used in addition, but will not form part of the primary site archive. All site photography will adhere to accepted photographic record guidelines.

6.5 Areas which are inaccessible (e.g. for health and safety reasons) will be recorded as thoroughly as possible within the site constraints. In these instances, recording may be entirely photographic, with sketch drawings only.

6.6 All finds will be collected and handled following the guidance set out in the IfA guidance for archaeological materials. Unstratified material will not be kept unless it is of exceptional intrinsic interest. Material discarded as a consequence of this policy will be described and quantified in the field. Finds of particular interest or fragility will be retrieved as Small Finds, and located on plans. Other finds, finds within the topsoil, and dense/discrete deposits of finds will be collected as Bulk Finds, from discrete contexts, bagged by material type. Any dense/discrete deposits will have their limits defined on the appropriate plan.

6.7 All artefacts and ecofacts will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*, and recording systems must be compatible with the recipient museum. All finds that fall within the purview of the Treasure Act (1996) will be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures outlined in the Act, after discussion with the client and the local authority.

6.8 A soil sampling programme will be undertaken for the recovery and identification of charred and waterlogged remains where suitable deposits are identified. The collection and processing of environmental samples will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage guidelines (English Heritage 2002). Environmental and soil specialists will be consulted during the course of the evaluation with regard to the implementation of this sampling programme. Soil samples of approximately 30 litres for flotation (or 100% of the features if less than this volume) will be removed from selected contexts, using a combination of the judgement and systematic methodologies. Judgement sampling will involve the removal of samples from secure contexts which appear to present either good conditions for preservation (e.g. burning or waterlogging) or which are significant in terms of archaeological interpretation or stratigraphy. Systematic sampling will involve the sampling of all cut features and buried ground surfaces. The spatial distribution of systematic samples can not be predetermined, given the relatively small nature of the areas available in an evaluation.

6.9 Industrial activity is not likely to be present on the site. If industrial activity of any scale is detected, industrial samples and process residues will also be collected. Separate samples (c. 10ml) will be collected for micro-slugs (hammer-scale and spherical

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droplets) (English Heritage 2001).

6.10 Other samples will be taken, as appropriate, in consultation with ArcHeritage specialists and the English Heritage Regional Science Advisor, as appropriate (e.g. dendrochronology, soil micromorphology, monolith samples, C14, etc.). Samples will be taken for scientific dating where necessary for the development of subsequent mitigation strategies. Material removed from site will be stored in appropriate controlled environments.

6.11 In the event of human remains being discovered during the evaluation these will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected, in the first instance. The removal of human remains will only take place in compliance with environmental health regulations and following discussions with, and with the approval of, the Ministry of Justice. If human remains are identified, the Ministry of Justice and curator will be informed immediately. An osteoarchaeologist will be available to give advice on site. If disarticulated remains are encountered, these will be identified and quantified on site. If trenches are being immediately backfilled, the remains will be left in the ground. If the excavations will remain open for any length of time, disarticulated remains will be removed and boxed, for immediate reburial by the Church. If articulated remains are encountered, these will be excavated in accordance with recognised guidelines (see 6.12) and retained for assessment. Any grave goods or coffin furniture will be retained for further assessment.

6.12 Where a licence is issued, all human skeletal remains will be properly removed in accordance with the terms of that licence. Where a licence is not issued, the treatment of human remains will be in accordance with the requirements of Civil Law, IfA Technical Paper 13 (1993) and English Heritage guidance (2005).

6.13 All features will be investigated - discrete features will be half-sectioned in the first instance; linear features will be sampled a minimum of 25% 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 5m long. In addition, deposits at junctions or interruptions in linear features will be sufficiently excavated for the relationship between components to be established.

### 7 REPORT & ARCHIVE PREPARATION

7.1 Upon completion of the groundworks, a report will be prepared to include the following:

- A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
- An introduction which will include the planning reference number, grid reference and dates when the fieldwork took place.
- An account of the methodology and results of the operation, describing structural data, associated finds and environmental data.
- A selection of photographs and drawings, including an overall plan of the site accurately identifying the areas monitored.
- Specialist artefact and environmental reports as necessary.
- Details of archive location and destination (with accession number, where known), together with a catalogue of what is contained in that archive.
- A copy of the key OASIS form details
- Copies of the Brief and WSI
- Additional photographic images may be supplied on a CDROM appended to the report
- a phased interpretation of the site, if phasing is evident

7.2 Copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body and to SYAS, for incorporation into the SMR. A digital copy will also be provided.

7.3 The requirements for archive preparation and deposition will be addressed and undertaken in a manner agreed with the recipient museum, in advance of work commencing on site. In this instance the Doncaster Museum is recommended and an agreed allowance should be made for the curation and storage of this material. An Advance Notification of Fieldwork form will be completed and forwarded to the museum before fieldwork starts.

7.4 Provision for the publication of results, if appropriate, will be made.

7.5 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, e.g. press release (at the client's discretion), by presenting a paper at South Yorkshire Archaeology Day or talking to local societies.

7.6 A summary (of appropriate length, to be discussed with SYAS) of the findings of the work, accompanied by appropriate illustrations, will be submitted to SYAS in digital format for inclusion in the South Yorkshire Archaeology annual review. Text will be supplied in ASCII format and any images in .tif form.

7.7 An online OASIS form will also be completed at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

<b>COMPLETED BY</b>	I. Milsted/B. Reeves	<b>CHECKED BY</b>	M. Stockwell	<b>FINISHED</b>	16/06/10
<b>FINDS</b>	No	<b>SAMPLES</b>	No	<b>PHOTOS</b>	Yes
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in England No. 1430801





## ARCHERITAGE REPORT

<b>SITE ADDRESS</b>	St. Dominic's Crag, Copley Gardens, Sprotbrough, South Yorkshire		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	JVN Architecture Limited		
<b>PROJECT #</b>	5321	<b>REPORT #</b>	2010/35
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	SE 5403 0182
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	05/01750/FUL	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	N/A

### 8 HEALTH AND SAFETY

8.1 Health and safety issues will take priority over archaeological matters and all archaeologists will comply with relevant Health and Safety Legislation.

8.2 A Risk Assessment will be prepared prior to the start of site works.

### 9 TIMETABLE & STAFFING

9.1 The timetable will depend upon the time it takes to strip the topsoil. The report will be completed four weeks after site works have finished, unless significant discoveries have been made which require more detailed analysis.

9.2 Specialist staff available for this work are as follows:

Head of Artefact Research - Dr Ailsa Mainman

Human Remains - Malin Holst (York Osteoarchaeology Ltd) & Rebecca Storm (University of Bradford)

Palaeoenvironmental remains - Palaeoecology Research Services Ltd

Head of Curatorial Services - Christine McDonnell

Finds Researcher - Nicky Rogers

Medieval Pottery Researcher - Anne Jenner

Finds Officers - Geoffrey Krause & Rachel Cubitt

Archaeometallurgy & Industrial Residues – Dr Rod Mackenzie & Dr Roger Doonan

Conservation – Ian Panter

Any queries relating to this specification should be addressed to Anna Badcock, ArcHeritage, Campo House, 54 Campo Lane, Sheffield S1 2EG (Tel: 0114 3279793, email: [abadcock@yorkat.co.uk](mailto:abadcock@yorkat.co.uk))

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