

MAP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE Ltd.

**Former Methley Infants School
Little Church Lane
Methley
West Yorkshire**

TA 39150 26750

**MAP 5.24.2012
Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching Report**


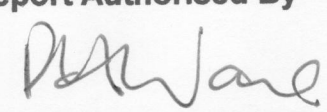
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE LTD**

**Former Methley Infants School Site
Little Church Lane
Methley
Leeds
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Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching

SE 39150 26750

**MAP 05.24.2012
Planning Application 11/04226/FUL**

Report Prepared By 	Report Authorised By 
Date: 9th March 2012	Date: 9th March 2012

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MAP 5.24.2012

Planning Application 11/04226/FUL

Non Technical Summary

The archaeological evaluation by trial trenching has been undertaken by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd under the instruction from Linden Homes in March 2012. The Archaeological Trial Trenching was to assess the impact of the proposed residential development comprising twelve dwellings and access on the site of the Former Methley Infants School, Little Church Lane, Methley, Leeds, West Yorkshire. The Development Site lies within the Methley Church Side Designated Conservation Area.

Five evaluation trenches were excavated to archaeologically evaluate the site in accordance with the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service Specification. Two trenches contained modern features, an engineering test-pit and a disused drain. No archaeological features were uncovered in any of the Archaeological Evaluation Trenches.

1. Introduction

1.1 This Report details of the results of the Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching, which had been commissioned by Linden Homes to assess the impact of the residential development at the Former Methley Infants School Site, Little Church Lane, Methley, Leeds, West Yorkshire (SE 39150 26750; Planning Ref. 11/04226/FUL: Fig. 1). The Archaeological work was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd between 1st March 2012 and the 9th March 2012.

- 1.2 Archaeological, Historical and Architectural remains are protected by means of Statutory Instruments (including Scheduled Ancient Monument Legislation and Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment). All work was undertaken in accordance with the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service Specification.
- 1.3 The site code for the Archaeological Evaluation was MAP 5.24.2012.
- 1.4 All work was funded by Linden Homes.
- 1.5 All maps within this report have been produced from Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright. License No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The Development Area is located in the village of Methley, in the Parish of Rothwell, West Yorkshire (SE 39150 26750: Figs. 1 & 2). The village of Methley is located 11 kilometres south-west of Leeds. The Development Area is 1.6 hectares in size and is currently comprised of a derelict school building and classroom with extensive playing fields, playgrounds and gardens.
- 2.2 The Development Area is located on the east side of Little Church Lane, north-east of Church Side with the Railway Line to the east, access for the Cedars and Cedars Cottage to the south and residential dwellings to the north. On the west side of Little Church Lane is Methley Bowling Green and Methley Cricket Club. There is a vehicular and pedestrian access into the site from Little Church Lane.
- 2.3 The site stands at heights between 17 and 18m AOD.

- 2.4 The Site stands on soils of the Wick 1 Soil Association (541r) described as “deep well drained coarse loamy and sandy soils locally over gravel.” (Mackney et al 1984, 9). The geology of the area consists mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures, overlain by sand and gravel river terrace deposits.

3. Planning Background

- 3.1 Leeds City Council has granted full planning approval for the planning application (11/04226/FUL), for the erection of twelve detached houses with access at the Former Methley Infants School Site.
- 3.2 Conservation Area Approval for the demolition of the school buildings has been approved (11/04425/CA).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 Methley lies within the Parish and the Township of Rothwell, in the District of Leeds, West Yorkshire, which was formerly in the Wapentake of Agbrigg in the West Riding of Yorkshire.
- 4.2 Within a 500m, there are three aerial photographic cropmark sites. There are two ring ditches and pits, which may represent Bronze Age Round Barrows (SE 393 268). The other two aerial photographic sites are described as an Iron Age/Romano-British Trackway, Field System, Enclosure, Ditches and Pits (SE 393 268) and an Iron Age/Romano-British Field System, Enclosure, and Ditch (SE 395 265).
- 4.4 Methley is likely to predate the Norman Conquest. Excavations at St. Oswald's Church in the nineteenth century uncovered remains of an earlier church, possibly Saxon in date.
- 4.5 The place-name *Methley* or '*Medelai*' derives from the Old English meaning middle water land or land between two rivers (Smith 1956, 82-

87). The first mention of Clifford in documentary sources is in the Domesday Book (1086).

- 4.6 The entry in Domesday for Methley states *“In Methley, Osulf and Cnut had 8 caracates taxable where 5 ploughs are possible. Ilbert (de Lacy) has 17 villagers and 5 borders there with 5 ploughs; woodland pasture 1 league long and 1 wide. A church with priest”*.
- 4.7 The Church of St. Oswald was originally a late Saxon/Norman Church. The present Church structure dates to the 14th/15th century with additions and alterations in the 18th, 19th and 20th century. The Medieval village was split between the church and outlying hamlet at Church Sides and the Manor located toward Mickletown.
- 4.9 There are no Listed buildings within the Application Area. Within Methley Church Side there are five listed buildings, including the Grade I Listed Church and four Grade II Listed Buildings, including Chest Tombs and Gravestones in the Churchyard, the 17th century Church Side Farmhouse (dated to 1642), Harrison’s Bridge (1835-40 designed by George Stevenson) and the Old School, now Parish Centre.
- 4.15 Archaeological work was noted within the 500m the Development Area included -
- a Desk Based Assessment for Station Road, Mickletown (WYAS 2008 Report 1774
 - an Archaeological Watching Brief on Land off Middletown Road, Methley recorded a 19th century mine shaft (AOC Archaeology 2001)
 - a Geophysical Survey and Archaeological Evaluation by Trial Trenching at Middletown Road, Methley which recorded undated linear features and two palaeochannels (AOC Archaeology 1999)

- 4.16 The earliest detailed map located for the Development Area is the 1786 Plan of Township of Methley (Methley Church Side Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan 2008, p. 5).
- 4.17 The North Midland Railway opened in 1840 and forms the eastern boundary of the site, which is part of the Leeds to Derby main line. The 1892 Edition Ordnance Survey map shows the Development Area as four fields with the Railway Line forming the eastern boundary of the site (541, 542 and parts of 540 and 543, *ibid*, p. 6).
- 4.19 The former Police Station located north of the Development Area on Little Church Lane was built in 1949. The current school building dates from c. 1952 and has been disused since 2006.

5. Aims and Objectives

- 5.1 Any ground-works in the area of the development had the potential to damage or destroy *in-situ* archaeological deposits and features.
- 5.2 The aim of the Archaeological Evaluation was to determine the nature, date, quality of survival and importance of any archaeological deposits present on the site. This was to enable an assessment of the archaeological potential and significance of the site to be made and to allow an appropriate mitigation strategy to be formulated prior to the commencement of the re-development.

6. Methodology

- 6.1 Five Archaeological Evaluation Trenches were excavated each placed as close to the locations as stipulated in the West Yorkshire Archaeological Advisory Service Specification (Fig. 2). The orientation and location of two trenches was adjusted slightly due to trees and areas of hardstanding (Trenches 4 and 5). The Five trenches all measured 20m by 2m (40m²). Excavation took place between the 1st and 6th March 2012. The trenches were surveyed in using a Leica TC-600 Total Station.

- **Evaluation Trench 1** covered an area of 40m² (20m x 2m), and was aligned north-south in the rear school playing field (Coordinates: ⁴39135.85, ⁴26788.47; ⁴39141.58, ⁴26769.10; ⁴39143.65, ⁴26769.66 and ⁴39137.97, ⁴26789.03)
- **Evaluation Trench 2** covered an area of 40m² (20m x 2m), aligned north-south and was located in the garden area to the west of the school building (Coordinates: ⁴39105.41, ⁴26747.00; ⁴39111.14, ⁴26727.62; ⁴39113.21, ⁴26728.19 and ⁴39107.53, ⁴26747.55)
- **Evaluation Trench 3** covered an area of 40m² (20m x 2m), aligned north-south in the garden/playing field to the east of the school (Coordinates: ⁴39167.22, ⁴26762.76; ⁴39172.94, ⁴26743.38; ⁴39175.02, ⁴26743.95 and ⁴39169.34, ⁴26763.31)
- **Evaluation Trench 4** covered an area of 40m² (20m x 2m); aligned east-west in the garden area to the south of the school building (Coordinates: ⁴39191.52, ⁴26697.21; ⁴39172.67, ⁴26689.94; ⁴39173.40, ⁴26687.91 and ⁴39192.24, ⁴26695.14)
- **Evaluation Trench 5** covered an area of 40m² (20m x 2m); aligned north-south in the garden area to the east of the school building (Coordinates: ⁴39211.45, ⁴26729.14; ⁴39217.18, ⁴26709.77; ⁴39219.25, ⁴26710.33 and ⁴39213.57, ⁴26729.70)

6.2 Topsoil and subsoil were excavated using a hired back-acting JCB 3CX mechanical excavator with toothless ditching bucket.

6.3 After removal of overburden, the excavation areas were hand-cleaned. All deposits and features were recorded on *pro-forma* Context Record Sheets (Appendix 1), according to guidelines laid down in the MAP Excavation Manual. Contexts were given for Evaluation Trench 1 from 1001 to 1002, Evaluation Trench 2 from 2001 to 2003, Evaluation Trench 3 from 3001 to 3002, Evaluation Trench 4 from 4001 to 4002 and Evaluation Trench 5 from 5001 to 5003.

- 6.4 Modern deposits that were removed as part of the overburden and were recorded by record. Trench Sections surveyed using a Dumpy Level Ordnance Survey Datum height.
- 6.5 The photographic record comprised thirty-five digital shots; taken with a high resolution digital camera (14 megapixel Pentax WG-1). The Photographic Record of features and general trench shots included a film register noting film number, shot number, location of shot, direction of the shot, and a brief description of the subject (Appendix 2).

7. Results

7.1 Evaluation Trench 1 (Fig. 3; Pls. 1-3)

7.1.1 Summary

Topsoil (context 1001) and subsoil (context 1002) were removed by machine excavation, to reveal natural sands and gravels. No archaeological deposits or features were noted in Evaluation Trench 1. Existing ground level was at a height of 16.55m AOD to 17.05m AOD. Natural sand and gravel was revealed at between 16.05m AOD and 16.28m AOD.

7.2 Evaluation Trench 2 (Fig. 3; Pls. 4-6)

7.2.1 Summary

Topsoil (context 2001) and subsoil (context 2002) were removed by machine in Evaluation Trench 2 to reveal natural sands and gravels. A recent engineering test-pit (context 2003) was noted at the southern end of Evaluation Trench 2. Existing ground level was at a height of between 16.93m AOD and 17.22m AOD. Natural sands and gravels were revealed at between 16.14 AOD and 16.34m AOD.

7.3 Evaluation Trench 3 (Fig. 3; Pls. 7-9)

7.3.1 Summary

Topsoil (context 3001) and subsoil (context 3002) was removed by machine in Evaluation Trench 3 to reveal natural sand and gravel deposits. No archaeological deposits or features were noted in

Evaluation Trench 3. Existing ground level was at a height of between 16.08m AOD and 16.18m AOD. Natural sand and gravels were revealed between 15.23 m AOD and 15.55m AOD.

7.4 Evaluation Trench 4 (Fig. 3; Pls. 10-12)

7.4.1 Summary

Overburden of topsoil and subsoil (contexts 4001 and 4002) were removed by machine excavation for Evaluation Trench 4 to reveal natural sands and gravels. No archaeological deposits or features were noted in Evaluation Trench 4. Existing ground level was at a height of between 17.34m AOD and 17.44m AOD. Natural sands and gravels were noted at a height of between 16.24m AOD and 16.51m AOD.

7.4 Evaluation Trench 5 (Fig. 3; Pls. 13-16)

7.4.1 Summary

Existing ground level was at a height of between 16.52m AOD and 16.94m AOD. Deposits of topsoil (context 5001) and subsoil (context 5002) were removed by machine to reveal Natural sand and gravels between 15.88m AOD and 16.9m AOD.

A modern drainage trench (context 5003) was revealed at the southern end of Evaluation Trench 5. The Drain was constructed of modern plain brick with mortar encasing a salt-glazed drain and capped with limestone blocks. The drain was cut through subsoil deposit (context 5002).

8. Conclusions

8.1 A Modern drain was revealed in Evaluation Trenches 5 and a recent engineering testpit in Evaluation Trench 2. No archaeological features were revealed within the Development Area.

8.2 The Archaeological Evaluation has shown that there will be no impact any archaeological deposits or features within the development area. No further mitigation is required.

9. Bibliography and References

www.heritage-gateway.org.uk

www.pastscape.gov.uk

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
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| Mackney, D. et al. 1984 | Soils of England and Wales. Sheet 1. Northern England. Soil Survey of England and Wales. |
| PPS 5 2010 | Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. Communities and Local Government, TSO. |

10. List of Contributors

Excavation Team Zara Burn, Kelly Hunter, Mark Stephens and Paula Ware

Editorial Paula Ware

Report Kelly Hunter

Illustrations Kelly Hunter

Plates Kelly Hunter

Filing Sophie Langford



Figure 1. Site Location

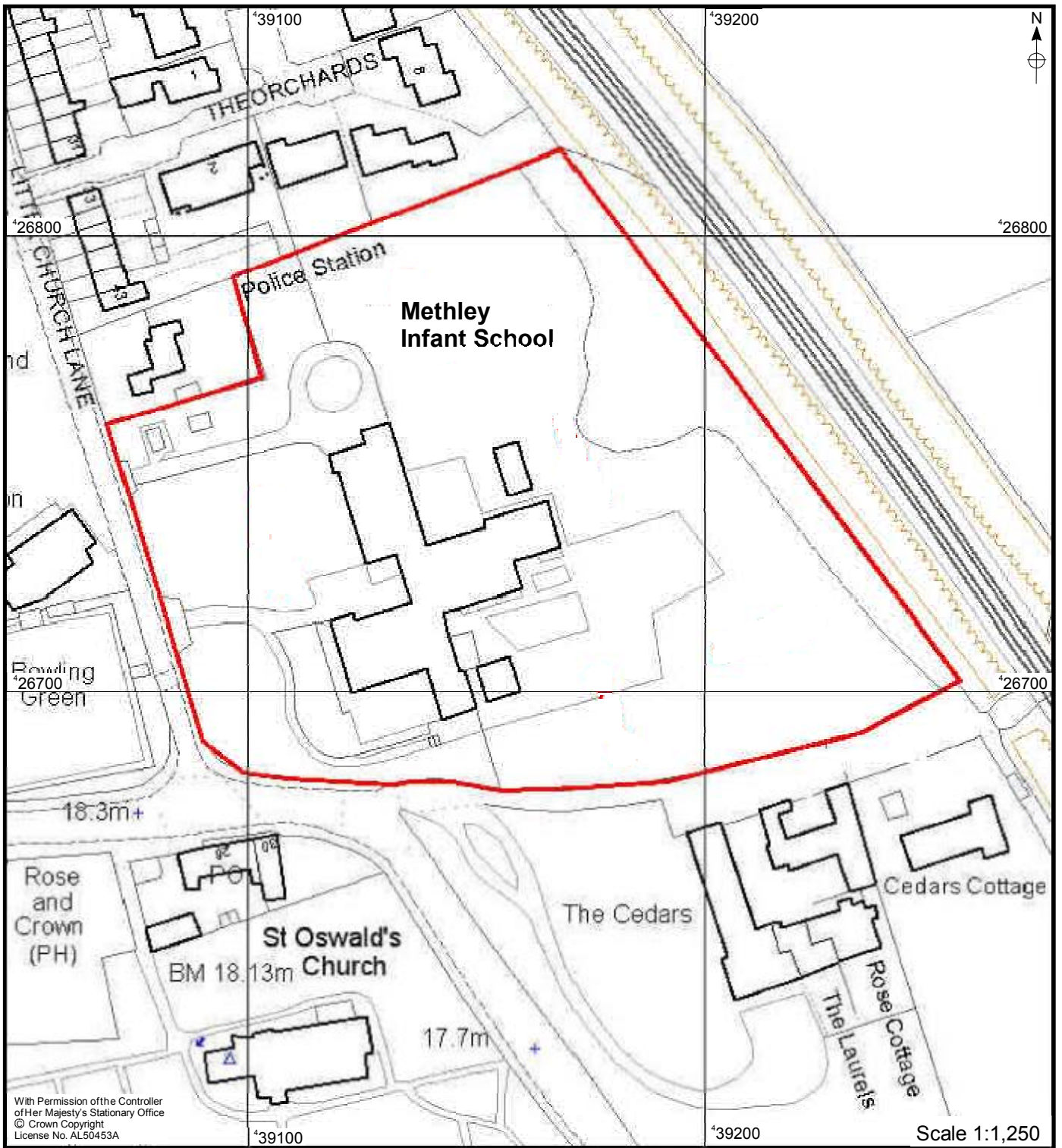


Figure 2. Plan of the Development Area.

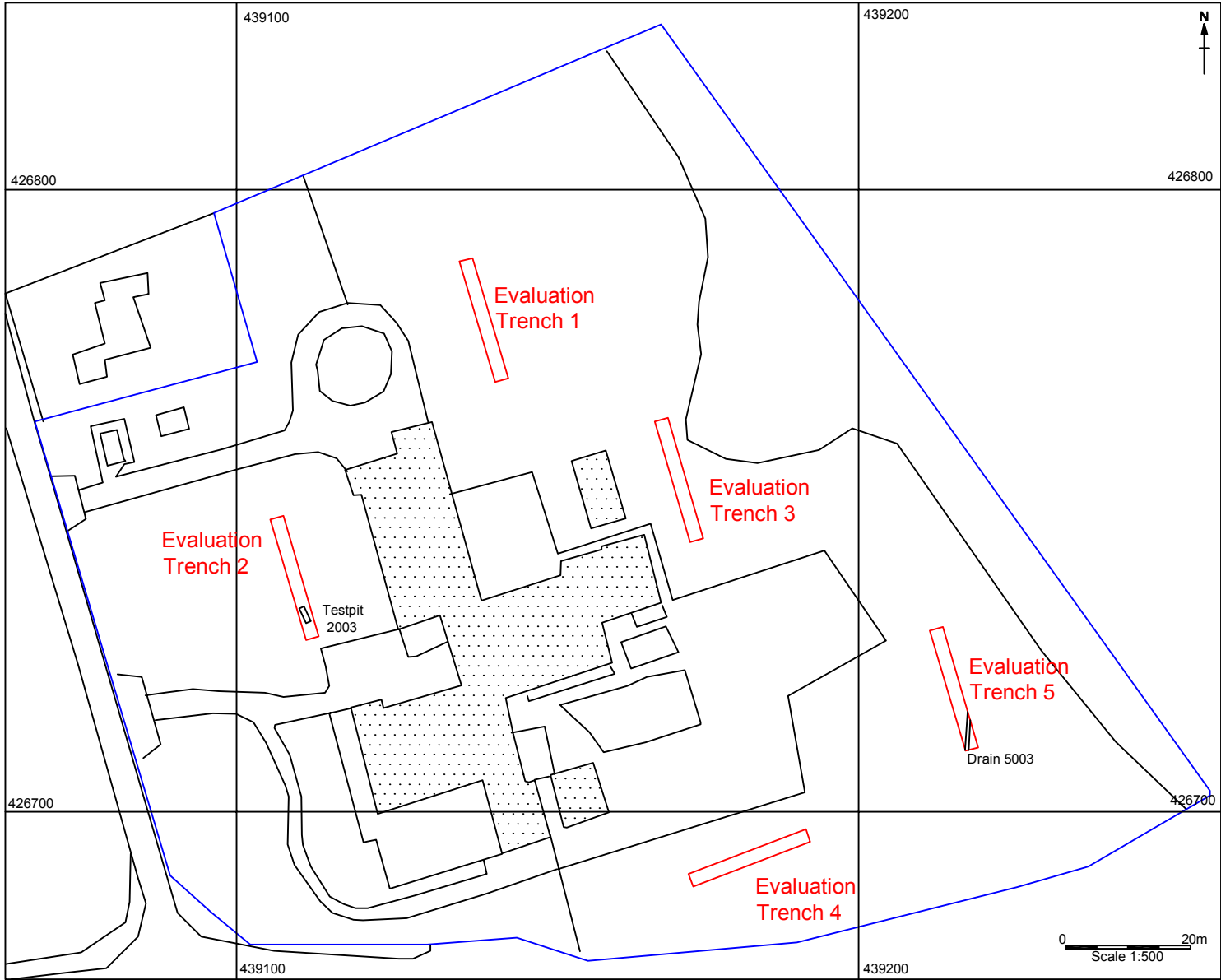


Figure 3. Location of Archaeological Evaluation Trenches.



Plate 1. Area of Evaluation Trench 1 before Excavation. Facing North.



Plate 2. Evaluation Trench 1. Facing North.



Plate 3. Evaluation Trench 1. Facing South.



Plate 4. Area of Evaluation Trench 2 before Excavation. Facing East.



Plate 5. Evaluation Trench 2. Facing South.



Plate 6. Evaluation Trench 2. Facing North.



Plate 7. Area of Evaluation Trench 3 before Excavation. Facing South-east.



Plate 8. Evaluation Trench 3. Facing South.



Plate 9. Evaluation Trench 3. Facing North.



Plate 10. Area of Evaluation Trench 4 before Excavation. Facing West.



Plate 11. Evaluation Trench 4. Facing West.



Plate 12. Evaluation Trench 4. Facing East.



Plate 13. Area of Evaluation Trench 5 before Excavation. Facing South-east.



Plate 14. Evaluation Trench 5. Facing South.



Plate 15. Evaluation Trench 5. Facing North.



Plate 16. Evaluation Trench 5: Modern Drain 5003. Facing South.

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Methley Infants School, Little Church Lane, Methley, West Yorkshire (MAP 5.24.2012)

Evaluation Trench 1

Context	Type	Description
1001	Deposit	Topsoil - dark grey brown sandy loam
1002	Deposit	Subsoil - dark brown silty sand

Evaluation Trench 2

Context	Type	Description
2001	Deposit	Topsoil - dark grey brown sandy loam
2002	Deposit	Subsoil - dark brown silty sand
2003	Cut	Modern Engineering Testpit

Evaluation Trench 3

Context	Type	Description
3001	Deposit	Topsoil - dark grey brown sandy loam
3002	Deposit	Subsoil - dark brown silty sand

Evaluation Trench 4

Context	Type	Description
4001	Deposit	Topsoil - dark grey brown sandy loam
4002	Deposit	Subsoil - dark brown silty sand

Evaluation Trench 5

Context	Type	Description
5001	Deposit	Topsoil - dark grey brown sandy loam
5001	Deposit	Subsoil - dark brown silty sand
5003	Structure	Modern disused saltgalzed grain encased in a brick structure with stone cap

APPENDIX 3

Photographic Listing

Methley Infants School, Little Church Lane, Methley, West Yorkshire (MAP 5.24.2012)

Digital Camera

Date	File Name	Description
01/03/2012	IMGP0869	Vehicular Site Entrance from Little Church Lane. Facing East.
01/03/2012	IMGP0870	View of Area of Evaluation Trench 2 before Excavation, Facing East.
01/03/2012	IMGP0871	View of Area of Evaluation Trench 4 before Excavation, Facing East.
01/03/2012	IMGP0872	View of Area of Evaluation Trench 4 before Excavation, Facing West.
01/03/2012	IMGP0873	View of rear Playground. Facing North.
01/03/2012	IMGP0874	Area of Evaluation Trench 4 during machine excavation. Facing East.
01/03/2012	IMGP0875	Area north of Evaluation Trench 4 towards Church Side. Facing West.
01/03/2012	IMGP0876	Area of Evaluation Trench 4 during machine excavation. Facing East.
01/03/2012	IMGP0877	Area of Evaluation Trench 5 before Excavation. Facing South-east.
01/03/2012	IMGP0878	Area of Evaluation Trench 5 during machine excavation. Facing South-east.
01/03/2012	IMGP0879	Evaluation Trench 5: Drain 5003 during machine excavation. Facing South-east.
01/03/2012	IMGP0880	Area of Evaluation Trench 1 before Excavation. Facing North.
01/03/2012	IMGP0881	Gate into Rear Playing Field. Facing West.
01/03/2012	IMGP0882	Area of Evaluation Trench 3 before Excavation. Facing South-east.
01/03/2012	IMGP0883	Area of Evaluation Trench 1 before Excavation. Facing North.
05/03/2012	IMGP0902	Evaluation Trench 2. Facing South.
05/03/2012	IMGP0903	Evaluation Trench 2. Facing North.
05/03/2012	IMGP0904	Evaluation Trench 2: Engineering Testpit 2003. Facing South.
05/03/2012	IMGP0905	Evaluation Trench 1. Facing North.
05/03/2012	IMGP0905	Evaluation Trench 1. Facing South.
05/03/2012	IMGP0907	Evaluation Trench 3. Facing South.
05/03/2012	IMGP0908	Evaluation Trench 3. Facing North.
05/03/2012	IMGP0909	Evaluation Trench 5. Facing South.
05/03/2012	IMGP0910	Evaluation Trench 5. Facing North.
05/03/2012	IMGP0911	Evaluation Trench 5: Drain 5003. Facing South.
05/03/2012	IMGP0912	Evaluation Trench 4. Facing West.
05/03/2012	IMGP0913	Evaluation Trench 4. Facing East.
3/6/2012	IMGP0914	Evaluation Trench 2 after backfilling. Facing South.
3/6/2012	IMGP0915	Evaluation Trench 3 after backfilling. Facing North-east.
3/6/2012	IMGP0916	Evaluation Trench 3 after backfilling. Facing North-east.
3/6/2012	IMGP0917	Evaluation Trench 1 after backfilling. Facing North.
3/6/2012	IMGP0918	Evaluation Trench 5 after backfilling. Facing North.
3/6/2012	IMGP0919	Evaluation Trench 4 after backfilling. Facing South.
3/6/2012	IMGP0920	Evaluation Trench 4 after backfilling. Facing North.
3/6/2012	IMGP0921	View of Rear of School Building. Facing West

**WEST YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY ADVISORY SERVICE:
SPECIFICATION FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION BY TRIAL
TRENCHING AT METHLEY INFANTS SCHOOL, METHLEY.**

Specification prepared on behalf of Leeds City Council at the request of Paula Ware of MAP Archaeological Practice (Planning Application reference 11/04226/FUL)

1. Summary

1.1 A limited amount of archaeological work consisting of trial trenching is proposed to help establish the archaeological significance of the above site. Any work arising from the results of the evaluation will be covered by a further specification.

1.2 This specification has been prepared by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service, the holders of the WY Historic Environment Record.

NOTE: The requirements detailed in paragraphs 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6 and 8.1 are to be met by the archaeological contractor **prior** to the commencement of fieldwork by completing and returning the attached form to the WY Archaeology Advisory Service.

2. Site Location & Description

Grid Reference: centred on SE 3914 2672

2.1 The proposed development site is located to the west of Methley. It is bounded to the north and south by dwellings, to the east by a railway line and to the west by Little Church Lane. The site is currently occupied by the former infants school buildings with areas of rough grassland and hard standing. The site is level and lies at 20m AOD. The geology of the area consists mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures, overlain by sand and gravel river terrace deposits.

2.2 The site is located in the Leeds district, historically within the township of Methley.

3. Background

3.1 A planning application for a residential development has been submitted to Leeds City Council (11/04226/FUL).

3.2 The Planning Authority have been advised by the WYAAS that there is reason to believe that important archaeological remains may be affected by the proposed development and that an archaeological evaluation is required to establish the degree of archaeological recording that is necessary.

3.3 This specification has been prepared by the WYAAS at the request of Paula Ware of MAP Archaeological Practice, acting on behalf of the applicants.

4. Archaeological Interest

4.1 The former infants school lies in the middle of an extensive cropmark landscape. To the west are features comprising pits, ring ditches and round barrows, Iron Age/Romano British ditches, enclosures, lanes and field systems and a number of possible Mesolithic flint finds. To the east are more possible Bronze Age ring ditches and Iron Age/Romano British pits, ditches, enclosures, lanes and field systems.

4.2 To the south of the proposed site is St Oswald's Parish Church, which dates to the 11th century, but may have Anglo Saxon origins. The church is well known for its collection of medieval monuments and effigies. This church may have been the focus of medieval or earlier settlement in the area, and so the proposed development site also has the potential to contain contemporary features.

4.3 Immediately south of the church are more cropmarks of a prehistoric/Romano British field system.

5. Aim of the Evaluation

5.1 The aim of the evaluation is to gather sufficient information to establish the extent, condition, character and date (as far as circumstances permit) of any archaeological features and deposits within the area of interest.

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. 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 while attempting to conform to this specification.

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 the 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 the WYAAS to any variations is required prior to work commencing. Unauthorised variations are made at the sole risk of the contractor. **Modifications presented in the form of a re-written specification/project design will not be considered by the WYAAS.** Any technical queries arising from the specification detailed below should be addressed to the WYAAS *without delay*.

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. 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

6.4.1 The project will be monitored as necessary and practicable by the WYAAS, in its role as “curator” of the region’s archaeology. The WYAAS should receive as much notice as possible, and certainly one week, of the intention to start fieldwork. This notification is to be supplied **in writing**, and copied to the relevant District Museum (see para. 9.1 below). As a courtesy, English Heritage’s Science Adviser Dr Andy Hammon should also be notified of the intention to commence fieldwork (contact : tel. 01904 601983; email andy.hammon@english-heritage.org.uk). A copy of the contractor’s risk assessment should accompany notification of intention to commence work.

6.5 Documentary Research

6.5.1 Prior to the commencement of *fieldwork*, the WY HER should be visited by either the project manager or the site supervisor, in order to gain an overview of the archaeological/historical background of the site and environs. In addition to providing a knowledge base for the work in hand, the results of this assessment may be incorporated into the contractor’s report where they are considered to contribute to that report, but any extraneous material should be omitted. Please note that the WY HER makes a charge for consultations of a commercial nature. The results of this exercise should be used to inform the whole project. Please note, however, that a formal desk-based report is not required and the results of this stage of work should be incorporated in the final report.

7. Fieldwork Methodology

7.1 Trench Size and Placement (Fig. 1)

7.1.1 The work will involve the excavation of five 20mx2m trenches, which can be machine-opened. The contractor should also allow for a contingency amount of 50 square metres. The use of the contingency will depend upon the results obtained in the initial trial trenching. The use of the contingency will be at the decision of the WYAAS, whose decision will be issued in writing, if necessary in retrospect after site discussions.

Total site area: **16680m² (of which 8727m² is to be developed)**

Total area of trenching: **200m²**

Contingency trenching: **50m²**

7.2 Method of Excavation

7.2.1 The trial trenches may be opened and the topsoil and recent overburden removed down to the first significant archaeological horizon in successive level spits

of a **maximum** 0.2m. thickness, by the use of an appropriate machine using a wide toothless ditching blade. **Under no circumstances should the machine be used to cut arbitrary trenches down to natural deposits.** All machine work must be carried out under direct archaeological supervision and the machine halted if significant archaeological deposits are encountered. The top of the first significant archaeological horizon may be exposed by the machine, but must then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features and then dug by hand.

7.2.2 No archaeological deposits should be entirely removed unless this is unavoidable in achieving the objectives of this evaluation, although **all** features identified are expected to be half-sectioned and the **full** depth of archaeological deposits must be assessed. All trenches are to be the stated dimensions at their base.

7.2.3 All artefacts are to be retained for processing and analysis except for unstratified 20th-century material, which may be noted and discarded. Finds will be stored in secure, appropriate conditions following the guidelines in First Aid for Finds (3rd edition).

7.3 Method of Recording

7.3.1 The trenches are to be recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation. The stratigraphy of each trial trench is to be recorded even where no archaeological deposits have been identified.

7.3.2 The actual areas of trenching and any features of possible archaeological concern noted within the trenches should be accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, summary scale drawings and written descriptions sufficient to permit the preparation of a report on the material. The site grid is to be accurately tied into the National Grid and located on the largest scale map available of the area (either 1:2500 or 1:1250).

7.3.3 Digital photography: as an alternative to colour slide photography, good quality digital photography may be supplied, using cameras with a minimum resolution of 4 megapixels. Note that conventional black and white print photography is still required and constitutes the permanent record. Digital images will only be acceptable as an alternative to colour slide photography if each image is supplied in three file formats (as a RAW data file, a DNG file and as a JPEG file). The contractor must include metadata embedded in the DNG file. The metadata must include the following: the commonly used name for the site being photographed, the relevant centred OS grid coordinates for the site to at least six figures, the relevant township name, the date of photograph, the subject of the photograph, the direction of shot and the name of the organisation taking the photograph. Images are to be supplied to WYAAS on gold CDs by the archaeological contractor accompanying the hard copy of the report.

7.4 Use of Metal Detectors on Site

7.4.1 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.)

7.4.2 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."

7.5 Environmental Sampling Strategy

7.5.1 Bulk samples must be taken from **all** securely stratified deposits using a strategy which combines systematic and judgement sampling, but which also follows the methodologies outlined in the English Heritage (2011) 'Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation (Second Edition)' guidance

7.5.2 Samples for specialist environmental analysis and scientific dating (soil profiles, archaeomagnetic dating, dendrochronology etc.) should be taken if suitable material is encountered during the excavation. The English Heritage Science Advisor should be consulted (Dr Andy Hammon, tel.: 01904 601983, email: andy.hammon@english-heritage.org.uk) and provision should be made for an appropriate specialist(s) to visit the site, take samples and discuss the sampling strategy, if necessary. The sampling strategy used must be presented in the evaluation report.

7.6 Conservation Strategy

7.6.1 A conservation strategy must be developed in collaboration with a recognised laboratory. All finds must be assessed in order to recover information that will contribute to an understanding of their deterioration and hence preservation potential, as well as identifying potential for further investigation. Furthermore, all finds must be stabilised and packaged in accordance with the requirements of the receiving museum. As a guiding principle only artefacts of a "displayable" quality would warrant full conservation, but metalwork and coinage from stratified contexts would be expected to be X-rayed if necessary, and conservation costs should also be included as a contingency.

7.7 Location of Services, etc.

7.7.1 The archaeological contractors will be responsible for locating any drainage pipes, service pipes, cables *etc.* which may cross any of the trench lines, and for taking the necessary measures to avoid disturbing such services.

7.8 Human Remains

7.8.1 Any human remains that are discovered must initially be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. WYAAS will be notified at the earliest opportunity. If removal is necessary the remains 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.

7.9 Treasure Act

7.9.1 The terms of the Treasure Act 1996 must be followed with regard to any finds that might fall within its purview. Any finds must be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner as required by the procedures as 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.

8. Monitoring

8.1 The representative of the WYAAS will be afforded access to the site at any reasonable time. It is usual practice that the visit is arranged in advance, but this is not always feasible. The WYAAS' representative will be provided with a site tour and an overview of the site by the senior archaeologist present and should be afforded the opportunity to view all trenches, any finds made that are still on site, and any records not in immediate use. It is anticipated that the records of an exemplar context that has previously been fully recorded will be examined. Any observed deficiencies during the site visit are to be made good to the satisfaction of the Advisory Service's representative, by the next agreed site meeting. Access is also to be afforded at any reasonable time to English Heritage's Archaeological Science Advisor.

8.2 Please note that WYAAS now make a charge for site monitoring visits. An invoice will be raised on the archaeological contractor. One monitoring visit will be charged for this project. Please contact us for the current charge.

9. Archive Deposition

9.1 Before commencing any fieldwork, the archaeological contractor must contact the relevant District museum archaeological curator in writing (copied to WYAAS) to determine the museum's requirements for the deposition of an excavation archive. In this case the contact is: Katherine Baxter, Leeds Museum Discovery Centre, Carlisle Road, Hunslet, Leeds, LS10 1LB (Tel.:0113 2141558; email: Katherine.baxter@leeds.gov.uk).

9.2 It is the policy of the Leeds Museum to accept complete excavation archives, including primary site records and research archives and finds, from all excavations carried out in the District, which it serves.

9.3 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to endeavour to obtain consent of the landowner, in writing, to the deposition of finds with the Leeds Museum.

9.4 It is the responsibility of the archaeological contractor to meet the Leeds Museum's requirements with regard to the preparation of fieldwork archives for deposition.

10. Unexpectedly Significant or Complex Discoveries

10.1 Should there be unexpectedly significant or complex discoveries made that warrant, in the professional judgement of the archaeologist on site, more detailed recording than is appropriate within the terms of this specification, then the archaeological contractor should urgently contact the WYAAS with the relevant information to enable them to resolve the matter with the developer.

11. Post-Excavation Analysis and Reporting

11.1 Finds and Samples

11.1.1 On completion of the fieldwork, any samples taken shall be processed and any finds shall be cleaned, identified, assessed/analysed, dated (if possible), marked (if appropriate) and properly packed and stored in accordance with the requirements of national guidelines.

11.1.2 Samples should be processed for the recovery of artefactual material, animal/fish/human bones, industrial residues, shell, molluscs, charcoal and mineralised plant remains as a minimum. 'Specialist' samples (e.g. monoliths, cores, plant/invertebrate macrofossils) should be processed separately as appropriate.

11.1.3 Material suitable for scientific dating (e.g. charcoal) should be identified to species and assessed for suitability by an environmental specialist prior to submission to a dating laboratory. Any human remains submitted for C14 dating should also have carbon ($\delta^{13}C$) and nitrogen isotope analysis carried out by the radiocarbon laboratory.

11.1.4 All finds and biological material must be analysed by a qualified and experienced specialist.

11.1.5 Following identification, finds of 20th-century date should be noted, quantified and summarily described, but can then be discarded if appropriate. All finds which are of 19th century or earlier date should be retained and archived.

11.2 Field Archive

11.2.1 A fully indexed field archive shall be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, photographic negatives and a complete set of labelled photographic prints/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). An index to the field archive is to be deposited with the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service (preferably as an appendix in the report).

11.2.2 Prints may be executed digitally from scanned versions of the film negatives, and may be manipulated to improve print quality (but **not** in a manner which alters detail or perspective). All digital prints must be made on paper and with inks which are certified against fading or other deterioration for a period of 75 years or more when used in combination. If digital printing is employed, the contractor must supply details of the paper/inks used in writing to the WY Archaeology Advisory Service, with supporting documentation indicating their archival stability/durability. Written

confirmation that the materials are acceptable must have been received from the WYAAS prior to the commencement of work on site.

11.2.3 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 para. 8.4 above). In the absence of this agreement the field archive (less finds) is to be deposited with the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service.

11.3 Report Format and Content

11.3.1 A 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 results produced. 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.

11.3.2 Location plans should be produced at a scale which enables easy site identification and which depicts the full extent of the site investigated (a scale of 1:50,000 is not regarded as appropriate unless accompanied by a more detailed plan or plans). Site plans should be at an appropriate scale showing trench layout (as dug), features located and, where possible, predicted archaeological deposits. Upon completion of each evaluation trench all sections containing archaeological features will be drawn. 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. Where no archaeological deposits are encountered at least one long section of each trench will be drawn.

11.3.3 Artefact analysis is to include the production of a descriptive catalogue, quantification by context and discussion/interpretation if warranted, with finds critical for dating and interpretation illustrated.

11.3.4 Environmental analysis is to include identification of the remains, quantification by context, discussion/interpretation if warranted, and a description of the processing methodology. Radiocarbon results must be presented in full (laboratory sample number, conventional radiocarbon age, delta C13 value, calibration programme). Copies of the laboratory-issued dating certificates must be included as an appendix to the report.

11.3.5 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, and as an appendix, a copy of this specification.

11.4 Summary for Publication

11.4.1 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.

11.5 Publicity

11.5.1 If the project is to be publicised in any way (including media releases, publications etc.), then it is expected that the WYAAS will be given the opportunity to

consider whether it wishes its collaborative role to be acknowledged, and if so, the form of words used will be at the WYAAS' discretion.

11.6 Consideration of Appropriate Mitigation Strategy

11.6.1 The report should not give a judgement on whether preservation or further investigation is considered appropriate, but should provide an interpretation of results, placing them in a local and regional, and if appropriate, national context. However, a client may wish to separately commission the contractor's view as to an appropriate treatment of the resource identified.

11.7 Report Submission and Deposition with the WY HER

11.7.1 A copy of the report is to be supplied **directly** to the WYAAS within a period of **two months** following completion of fieldwork, unless specialist reports are awaited. In the latter case a revised date should be agreed with the WYAAS. Completion of this project and advice from WYAAS on an appropriate mitigation strategy are dependant upon 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.

11.7.2 The report will be supplied on the understanding that it will be added to the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record where it will be publicly accessible once deposited with the WYAAS unless confidentiality is explicitly requested, in which case it will become publicly accessible six months after deposition.

11.7.3 A copy of the final report (in .pdf format) shall also be supplied to English Heritage's Science Advisor (Andy Hammon, English Heritage, 37 Tanner Row, York YO1 6WP).

11.7.4 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.

11.7.5 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.

12. General Considerations

12.1 Authorised Alterations to Specification by Contractor

12.1.1 It should be noted that this specification is based upon records available in the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record and on a brief examination of the site by the WYAAS. Archaeological contractors submitting tenders should carry out an inspection of the site prior to submission. 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 evaluation 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 the WYAAS as a matter of urgency. If contractors have not yet been appointed, any variations which the WYAAS considers to be justifiable on archaeological grounds will be incorporated into a revised specification, which will then be re-issued to the developer for redistribution to the tendering contractors. If an appointment has already been made and site work is ongoing, the WYAAS will resolve the matter 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 the WYAAS' 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 the WYAAS being unable to recommend determination of the planning application to the Local Planning Officer 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 the 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
West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service

January 2012

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