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DESK BASED ASSESSMENTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION
GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY
TOPOGRAPHICAL AND LANDSCAPE SURVEY
HISTORIC BUILDING RECORDING
EIA AND HERITAGE CONSULTANCY



HENRY BOOT CONSTRUCTION LIMITED

BETTER BARNLEY LIBRARY, MAY DAY GREEN

**WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION
FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
INVESTIGATION**

February 2017

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PREPARED BY:

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DRAWINGS

Figure 1: Site Location.

Figure 2: Proposed development showing area of archaeological monitoring.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

- 1.1.1 The following document outlines a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an archaeological watching brief on land at May Day Green, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. The archaeological work is to be undertaken for Henry Boot Construction Limited, hereafter referred to as ‘the client’, during construction of the Better Barnsley Library (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Planning reference 2015/0549).
- 1.1.2 The proposed development area is located within a block of land on the west side of May Day Green, south of Kendray Street, within Barnsley Town Centre. The current development area is situated to the west of Barnsley Markets, at 10-12 May Day Green, centred on Ordnance Survey grid reference SE 3457 0638 (Figure 1). The solid geology of the site comprises sandstone, known as Kent’s Rock. This sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 310 to 312 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation mudstone, siltstone and sandstone are also recorded nearby (BGS online 2017).
- 1.1.3 The proposed development area lies within an area of archaeological potential, being within the historic core of Barnsley. Documentary evidence suggests that a mill may have been located to the west of the site from as early as the 13th century (now Peel Square) and that a watercourse, known as the Sough Dyke, runs through the northern edge of the proposed development area (SYAS 2017). A town plan of 1852 depicts an L-shaped building straddling this watercourse, although it is uncertain whether the building is medieval, or later in date. It is possible that this building is associated with the pleasure gardens depicted at the site in 1852 (ibid).
- 1.1.4 A condition has therefore been attached to the planning permission (Condition 15) which states: *“No development shall take place on any phase of the development until the applicant, their agent, or their successor in title, has secured the implementation of an archaeological watching brief in accordance with a scheme of investigation that has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. In the event that archaeological features are disturbed during the proposed development, mitigation measures should be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The development of that phase shall proceed thereafter in accordance with the approved mitigation measures.”* This is in line with government advice as set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012).

1.1.5 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is for the required archaeological investigation at the site. The WSI was prepared in accordance with a *Brief for Archaeological Monitoring (Watching Brief)*, issued by South Yorkshire Archaeology Service (SYAS 2017), and in accordance with the recommendations of Historic England as set out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE), and in conjunction with the *Regional statement of good practice for archaeology in the development process, Yorkshire, Humber and the North East* (SYAS 2011).

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Scope of the Work

- 2.1.1 The project will comprise an archaeological watching brief, to be undertaken during excavation work for the proposed new library. This will be undertaken in order to record any archaeological evidence present within the proposed development area, and to attempt to re-construct the history and past-use of the site.
- 2.1.2 The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken over the northern portion of the proposed development area, adjacent to Kendray Street and Eldon Street, covering c.400m² of land in total (Figure 2). This will involve archaeological monitoring of all excavation associated with the construction of foundations and service trenches in this area, followed by the mapping, sample excavation, and recording of any archaeological deposits or structures identified.

2.2 Watching Brief

- 2.2.1 Machine excavation will be undertaken under the direction of the monitoring archaeologist to remove modern overburden from the area of investigation as depicted in Figure 2. The excavation shall be undertaken using a mechanical excavator with toothless ditching bucket, which will also remove any surviving topsoil or subsoil in successive level spits as far as the first archaeological horizon, or alternatively as far as the clean and undisturbed natural geology, whichever is encountered first.
- 2.2.2 The surfaces will subsequently be cleaned as necessary with hand tools so as to reveal any archaeological deposits. Any archaeological features identified will be planned using a Trimble M3 Total Station, prior to excavation.
- 2.2.3 Identified features will subsequently be investigated using hand tools, and discrete features excavated in a stratigraphic manner, with accurate recording of all archaeological features, horizons and artefacts identified. This will typically involve the 50% sampling of discrete features, 25% of linear features with a non-uniform fill and 10% of linear features with a uniform fill. Smaller discrete features such as postholes will be a 100% sampled.
- 2.2.4 In summary, the main objectives of the watching brief will be:
- to establish the presence/absence, nature, and extent of archaeological remains and to record these where they are observed;
 - to investigate and record any evidence for deposits or structures present;

- to establish the character of those features in terms of cuts, soil matrices and interfaces;
 - to recover artefactual material, especially that useful for dating purposes;
 - to recover palaeoenvironmental material where it survives in order to understand site and landscape formation processes.
- 2.2.5 All written records will utilise Wardell Armstrong (WA) pro-forma record sheets, in accordance with the Wardell Armstrong Excavation Manual (WA 2016). Plans and sections will be drawn on water resistant permatrace. Plans will be drawn to a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. A combination of multi and single context planning will be utilised. A full photographic record in monochrome and digital formats will be maintained. The site will be levelled with respect to the Ordnance Datum, and the excavations will be tied into the National Grid.
- 2.2.6 Archaeological finds will be managed by Megan Stoakley, WA Finds and Archives Officer. Wardell Armstrong will undertake first aid conservation, but if further conservation is required there will be extensive consultation with appropriate specialists. All non-modern finds will be collected and retained for processing. Ceramics and animal bone will be collected in bulk and recorded by context. Significant *in situ* finds will be recorded in three dimensions prior to collection. A metal detector will be employed to maximise the recovery of metal finds
- 2.2.7 All appropriate procedures will be followed in the event of the discovery of artefacts covered by the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996. Finds falling under the statutory definition of Treasure (as defined by the Treasure Act of 1996 and its revision of 2002) will be reported immediately to the relevant Coroner's Office, the landowner/client and SYAS. A Treasure Receipt (obtainable from either the FLO or the DCMS website) will be completed and a report submitted to the Coroner's Office and the FLO within 14 days of understanding the find is Treasure. Failure to report within 14 days is a criminal offence.
- 2.2.8 Any environmental evidence found during the work will be sampled as recommended by the Historic England regional scientific advisor, and undertaken according to the Wardell Armstrong standard sampling procedure and nationally agreed procedures (English Heritage 2002), the recommended sample sizes for dry deposits being 30-60 litres and for wet deposits the sample sizes should be approximately 5 litres.

- 2.2.9 Should any human remains be encountered, the client, SYAS, the police and the Coroner's office will be informed immediately upon the discovery of the remains. The removal of any human remains will be done under a Section 25 Licence obtained from the Ministry of Justice. The relevant Historic England guidelines, in particular the document *Guidance for best practice for treatment of human remains excavated from Christian burial grounds in England* (English Heritage 2005), will be adhered at all times.
- 2.2.10 All fieldwork will be carried out in accordance with codes and practices outlined by the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists regarding archaeological watching briefs (ClfA 2014a) and archaeological excavation (ClfA 2014b). A Harris matrix will be compiled for stratified deposits to provide a detailed record of the stratigraphic sequence, according to the conventions written in the WA Excavation Manual (WA 2016) and in accordance with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologist (ClfA) and Historic England guidelines.
- 2.2.11 The opportunity will be given for a representative from SYAS to inspect the site during the archaeological investigation, if required.
- 2.2.12 Should the work reveal unexpected significant or complex archaeological remains which are greater in extent than can be dealt with under the watching brief, SYAS and the client will be informed of the discovery, and an appropriate excavation strategy will be implemented, tailored to the remains encountered.

2.3 Finds

- 2.3.1 Finds analysis will be under the direction of Megan Stoakley, WA Finds and Archives Officer. WA will undertake first aid conservation, but if further conservation is required following the production of an assessment report, there will be extensive consultation with appropriate specialists, SYAS, and representatives of the client.
- 2.3.2 Specialist services to be provided, as required, by:

Illustration	Adrian Bailey, WA
Prehistoric Pottery	Rob Young, Archaeological Consultant
Roman Pottery	Louise Hird, Archaeological Consultant
Medieval Pottery	Ian Millar, Salford University
Post Medieval	Jo Dawson, Greenlane Archaeology

Lithics	David Jackson, WA
Glass	Hugh Wilmott, University of Sheffield
Wood	Ian Tyers, Archaeological Consultant
Leather	Tim Padley, Tullie House Museum
Textiles	Eleanor Palmer (Lancashire Museums Service)
Conservation	Archaeological Services, University of Durham

2.4 Environmental Samples

- 2.4.1 Detailed work on environmental samples will take place at the unit's premises at Carlisle. Further specialist services will be utilised at the University of Durham, if required. Environmental samples will be processed under the direction of Lynne Gardner, WA Environmental Officer, in consultation with Andy Hammon, Historic England Regional Scientific Adviser, Yorkshire. Human remains and animal bone will be assessed by Megan Stoakley, who is a qualified osteoarchaeologist.
- 2.4.2 Recommendations will also be made regarding the suitability of recovered organic deposits and ecofacts for scientific dating. This will only be undertaken in consultation with the client and SYAS.

3 REPORTING AND PUBLICATION

3.1 Client Report

- 3.1.1 The fieldwork programme will be followed by the production of a client report, with each page and paragraph numbered. The report will include details of the planning history of the site, site geology and a summary of the archaeological and historical background. The report will contain illustrative material, including historic maps, plans, and photographs, as necessary.
- 3.1.2 The report will contain a phased summary of the archaeological sequence encountered at the site, containing brief descriptions of archaeological structures, features and deposits and incorporating details of artefacts or environmental evidence (where sampled). A plan showing the location and layout of the area of investigation, at an appropriate scale, will also be included. Detailed plans and sections will be included of any archaeological remains or historic structures recorded.
- 3.1.3 The stratigraphic information, ecofacts and artefacts recovered from the fieldwork shall be assessed for their potential for further (full) analysis in relation to the project's research aims and the broader context of regional and national archaeological research priorities. An assessment and statement of the actual and potential significance of the archaeology will be made. The research questions will take into account the themes of *The Yorkshire Archaeological Research Framework* (Roskams and Whyman 2007).
- 3.1.4 In summary the report will include:
- a site location plan, related to the national grid
 - the dates on which the project was undertaken
 - a concise, non-technical summary of the results
 - a description of the methodology employed, the work undertaken and the results
 - maps, plans and other illustrations at an appropriate scale
 - a description of the archaeological structures, features and deposits encountered with plans, sections and photographs as appropriate
 - a database and description of finds recovered during the fieldwork, and an assessment of their potential
 - an assessment of the palaeoenvironmental potential of the site, with recommendations for further work if appropriate

- a quantified index to the site archive
 - the project OASIS reference number
- 3.1.5 Confidentiality: all internal reports to the client are designed as documents for the specific use of the client, for the particular purpose as defined in the project design, and should be treated as such. They are not suitable for publication as academic documents or otherwise without amendment or revision.
- 3.2 **Publication**
- 3.2.1 Should a publication be required, an updated WSI will be produced, which will define in detail the nature of the analysis required and the form of the proposed publication. It is anticipated that as a minimum this may take the form of a summary report in *Archaeology of South Yorkshire*. A separate costing will be required if a more detailed publication is required, in agreement with the client and SYAS.
- 3.3 **Archive**
- 3.3.1 The project archive will be prepared in accordance with the recommendations in Brown (2011) *'Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation'*, the ClfA 2014 *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014c), and the *Archaeological Archive Deposition Policy for Museums in Yorkshire and the Humber* (2012).
- 3.3.2 All finds belong to the landowner, but initially they will be transferred to the Wardell Armstrong Archaeology premises at Carlisle. Agreement will be sought on the final deposition of finds prior to the fieldwork commencing with Barnsley MBC Arts and Museums Service. It is anticipated that this will be with the Barnsley Museum.
- 3.3.3 During and after the excavation, all recovered artefacts will be stored in the appropriate conditions to ensure minimal deterioration and loss of information (this will include controlled storage, correct packaging, and regular monitoring of conditions, immediate selection for conservation of vulnerable materials). All work will be carried out in compliance with ClfA Guidelines for Finds Work (ClfA 2014d), and those set by UKIC.
- 3.3.4 Wardell Armstrong supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. This project aims to provide an online index and access to the extensive and expanding body of grey literature created as a result of

developer-funded archaeological fieldwork. As a result, details of the results of this study will be made available by Wardell Armstrong as a part of this national project.

4 HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 4.1.1 Wardell Armstrong Archaeology is fully compliant with HSE guidance and legislation. It is the duty of all personnel, under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc 1974, to take reasonable care for the health and safety of him/herself and other persons who may be affected by his/her acts or omissions at work. He/she must also co-operate with the Technical Director regarding any duty or requirement imposed on the Technical Director or any other person by or under any of the relevant statutory provisions so far as it is necessary to enable that duty or requirement to be performed or complied with. Any personnel contravening relevant statutory provision may be prosecuted in a Sheriff Court (Scotland) or Magistrates' Court. All personnel taking part in field work have a responsibility to adhere to sensible standards of behaviour. Personnel are made aware that fieldwork activities have inherent hazards which staff members minimise with appropriate safety precautions. However, the potential dangers make it imperative that personnel co-operate by behaving responsibly in order to reduce the risk of accidents.
- 4.1.2 Risk assessments are undertaken prior to any fieldwork taking place and staff are fully briefed regarding on site hazards and safe working procedure. Full consideration will be given to health and safety issues during all fieldwork for this project.

5 STAFFING AND COMPANY SUMMARY

- 5.1.1 Wardell Armstrong (WA) is a Registered Archaeological Organisation (RAO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). All staff adhere to the Code of Conduct of the CIfA.
- 5.1.2 The work will be undertaken under the overall direction of Martin Railton BA (Hons) MA CMIfA, WA Senior Project Manager, who has over 15 years' experience.
- 5.1.3 The watching brief will be undertaken by a WA Project Supervisor and (if required) a WA Project Assistant(s), whose names will be confirmed at the start of the project; all WA staff are experienced field archaeologists with an extensive background in the archaeology of the UK.

6 WORK TIMETABLE

- 6.1.1 The watching brief will be undertaken on a day-to-day basis as required to coincide with the contractor's work programme, as the exact length of the excavation work is unknown. Monitoring will be undertaken during excavation within the defined area as depicted on Figure 2 of this WSI, followed by the mapping of all archaeological features identified. Following this an assessment can be made of the time needed for any required sample excavation.
- 6.1.2 SYAS will be given 5 working days' notice of the commencement of the fieldwork. A draft report at least will be available within approximately 2 weeks of the completion of the fieldwork, but the final report may take longer to complete, depending on the requirement for specialist work on the finds or samples recovered.
- 6.1.3 Copies of the final report (printed and digital) will be provided to SYAS to be deposited within the South Yorkshire SMR, no later than three months following the completion of all fieldwork, once approved by the client.

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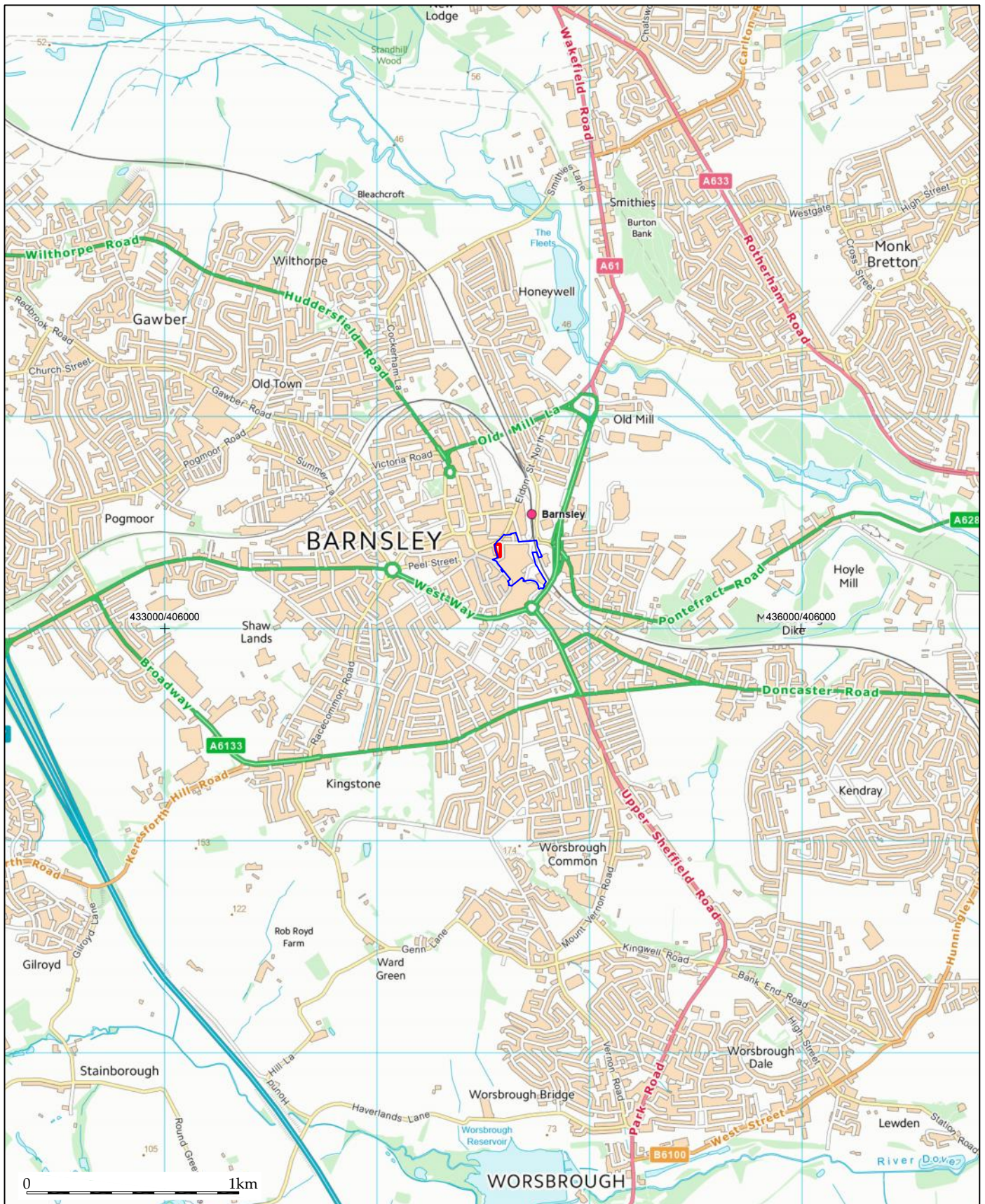
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Wardell Armstrong
2017

PROJECT: Better Barnsley Library,
May Day Green
CLIENT: Henry Boot Construction Limited
SCALE: 1:25,000 at A4
DRAWN BY: AB
CHECKED BY: AB
DATE: February 2017
REPORT No: MC10190

KEY:



site location



outline of proposed
development area



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Figure 1: Site location



Figure 2: Proposed development showing area of archaeological monitoring.

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