

**Roughbirkworth Lodge  
Roughbirkworth Lane,  
Oxspring**

Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief  
and Evaluation by Trial Trenching

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## **Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief and Evaluation by Trial Trenching**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by Archaeological Services WYAS (ASWYAS) for David Platt, to carry out an archaeological watching brief and an archaeological evaluation by trial trenching prior, during and after demolition of Roughbircworth Lodge complex, at Roughbircworth Lane, near Oxspring, South Yorkshire as per planning permission (application 2018/1433). The archaeological work will comply with the relevant standard of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020a-d), Historic England's best practice documents (1991, 2006, 2008) and the "Regional statement of good practice for archaeology in the development process, Yorkshire, the Humber & the north east" (available for download from the 'Technical Documents' page of the SYAS website).

### **2. Site location, topography and land-use**

- 2.1 Roughbircworth Lodge and its associated buildings are located within the hamlet of Roughbircworth, close to the centre of the village of Oxspring and to the south of the river Don, approximately 8.50km south-west of Barnsley in South Yorkshire. It lies to the immediate south-west of the Trans Pennine Trail, formerly a railway line, which is set within a deep cutting here. Access to the site is via a tree-lined driveway leading off Roughbircworth Lane to the south-east.
- 2.2 The site area is approximately 0.51ha and is centred at NGR SE 26740 02052
- 2.3 The site generally falls from a high point of approximately 210m AOD and is bounded by the Trans Pennine Trail to the east, by farmland to the north, and by residential development to the west.

### **3. Geology and soils**

- 3.1 The underlying geology is indicated to be a sandstone outcrop (Grenoside Sandstone) of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures, which is described by the BGS as "a fine-grained, thinly bedded, cross-laminated, micaceous and carbonaceous sandstone" (British Geological Survey 2022). The soils are classified as freely draining slightly acid loamy soils (Landis 2022).

### **4. Archaeological background**

- 4.1 A search of the Heritage Gateway has revealed that although no earlier prehistoric, Iron-Age and Roman activity has been identified within the site, evidence of later prehistoric and Roman activity is present in the vicinity, specifically a possible Iron Age enclosure on Roughbircworth Common (HER 02173/01), located 0.8km to the south-west of the site and the remains of four Iron-Age/Romano British features, recorded as stone "house platforms" (HER

04332/01, 04333/01, 04334/01 and 04335/01) identified 4km to the south-east of site. Post-Roman, Anglo-Saxon or early medieval activity does not appear within the site either. In the wider landscape, the late medieval and early modern periods are represented by medieval ridge and furrows (HER 03804/01) at Penistone Viaduct, 3km north-west of the site; by Oxspring Lodge (HER 00338/01), the demolished Corn Mill (HER 03449/01), the Mill Race (HER 03449/01), Willow Bridge (HER 04289/01), Sycamore House (HER 02203/01) and by the Manor Farm (HER 02204/01).

The Manor of Oxspring (then Ospring) is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 under the ownership of Lord Swein, who also owned neighbouring Roughburchworth. The two Manors had a joint monetary value of two geld (Oxspring Parish Council, 2018). Roughburchworth appears in the Domesday Book under the name berceworde/bercewrde, however, the exact location of the original settlement is not known, but is likely to have been centred on a Manor House. It is well understood that the River Don has been used as a power source for mills since from the early medieval period and a document cited by the Parish Council show that locally in 1306 Robert de Oxspring granted part of his fulling mill to Henry de Rockley (Gwilliam 2019).

In 1547 Geoffrey Bosville of Gunthwaite Hall bought the Manors of Oxspring, Roughburchworth and Hornthwaite, and by the end of the 16th century he had built a Manor House at Oxspring to use as a hunting lodge and meeting place for the Oxspring Manorial Court (Oxspring Parish Council, 2018). The Manor House/Lodge at Oxspring stood on the north side of the River Don until the early part of the 20th century when it was demolished. Its location is marked on early Ordnance Survey maps as the 'Manor House' (HER 00338/01). Jeffery's map of 1771 (Fig. 2a) shows 'Rough Burchworth' as a group of buildings along a road running west from the River Don. Oxspring is depicted on the north side of the river, north-west of the current village centre. It is possible during this period that the building of new mills and factories along the River Don would have attracted workers, effectively moving the village centre towards the centre of employment (Gwilliam 2019).

- 4.2 It is possible that an L-shaped building at 'Rough Burchworth' shown on Jeffreys' 1771 map of Yorkshire represents Roughburchworth Lodge, although the scale of the map is such that it is difficult to be certain. The previous Archaeological Assessment and Building Appraisal report (Gwilliam 2019) identified that much of the existing complex was in place by 1854 when the Ordnance Survey 6" to 1 mile map (sheet 281) was published, and proposed three pre-1850 phases to the buildings that were present by the mid-19th century; however, no approximate dates for these pre-1850 phases, based on structural evidence, were attempted. The accompanying plans show that parts of the west service range are not set at a right angle to the house itself, whilst the detached range does not run parallel to the north range.

- 4.3 In 1854, Roughbitchworth Lodge was named 'Low House', and was approached by a drive from Roughbitchworth Lane with a turning circle in front (east) of the house. However, by the time that the 1893 Ordnance Survey 25" to 1 mile map (sheet 281/4) was published, it was re-named as Roughbitchworth Lodge. The area between the house and Roughbitchworth Lane had been sub-divided by a series of paths and a glasshouse erected to the centre. Between 1893 and 1905, the north range was sub-divided into six units, and it is suggested that this was when it was converted to a series of cottages (Gwilliam 2019, 11). Local information stated that these cottages were known colloquially as 'Little London', and the 1901 census returns list a 'Little London' at Oxspring with ten individual households, six with family heads who were railway workers. The Sheffield, Manchester and Lincolnshire Railway line, which cut through to the immediate north-east of Roughbitchworth Lodge, was opened in 1845 and Oxspring was later provided with its own goods station, located on the opposite side of Roughbitchworth Lane to the Lodge. The cottages are believed to have become disused by the 1960s and were subsequently used to breed turkeys (Gwilliam 2019).

## **5. Aims and Objectives**

- 5.1 The overall aim of the archaeological watching brief and trial trench evaluation is to provide information on the presence or absence and the extent, character, chronology, depth of burial and degree of archaeological survival across the site. The results of the trial trenching will be used to inform the level and type of archaeological investigations that may be required to mitigate future development.

## **6. Methodology**

- 6.1 All work will be undertaken in accordance with the relevant standards (CIfA 2020a-d; Historic England 1991, 2006, 2008).
- 6.2 The archaeological watching brief will monitor the groundworks for geological test pitting and it will also be maintained during the demolishing works at the Roughbitchworth Lodge complex. Archaeological monitoring and supervision will be conducted by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist who will be present during all ground works. The intention of the archaeological watching brief is not to unduly delay the work of other contractors on site, however, a degree of flexibility is also expected of the developer in order that the archaeologist can fulfil the terms of this WSI. The archaeologist should view the area as it is being dug and any trench sections after excavation has been completed. Where archaeology is judged to be present, the excavated area should be rapidly cleaned and the need for further work assessed. Where appropriate, any features and finds should then be quickly hand excavated, sampled if appropriate, and recorded (see below).

- 6.3 The subsequent evaluation will involve the excavation of five trial trenches, each measuring 20m by 2m, with their proposed locations assessed and finalised after the demolition works. The evaluation will be conducted by an appropriately qualified and experienced archaeologist who will be present during all ground works.
- 6.4 The trial trenches will 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 will the machine be used to cut arbitrary trenches down to natural deposits. Any machine work will 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 will then be cleaned by hand and inspected for features.
- 6.5 Any archaeological features/deposits identified during the watching brief and the trial trenching will be manually excavated in an archaeologically controlled and stratigraphic manner, in order to meet the aims and objectives outlined above.
- 6.6 No archaeological deposits will 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 assessed.
- 6.7 Features will be sample excavated employing the following strategy:
- Linear features: sufficient excavation will be carried out to investigate the depth, profile and fills of a ditch or gully and to recover dating and environmental evidence from its fills. Normally this will involve a minimum of 10% sample dispersed along the length of the feature (each sample section to be not less than 1m), With respect to trial trenches, one 1m section will be located and recorded adjacent to the trench edge. Feature intersections will always be excavated in such a way to determine a stratigraphic relationship.
  - Discrete features: pits, post-holes and other discrete features will normally be half-sectioned to determine and record their form with a minimum sample of 50% of discrete features in each area. The complete excavation of such features may be appropriate, but only following consultation with SYAS.
- 6.8 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 or 1:20. 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.

- 6.9 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.
- 6.10 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 (2020b). Any necessary conservation work will be undertaken by approved conservators working to UKIC guidelines.
- 6.11 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.
- 6.12 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.
- 6.13 All finds defined as 'treasure' under the Treasure Act 1996 shall be reported to HM Coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996.
- 6.14 Appropriate specialists will visit the site to advise on sampling strategies and their suggested strategies will then be implemented.
- 6.15 Provision will be made to recover material suitable for scientific dating. Contingency sums will be made available to undertake such dating.
- 6.16 Further contingency provision will be made for additional specialist advice, e.g. for finds analysis and conservation.

## 7. Analysis and Reporting

- 7.1 Following the conclusion of the fieldwork a report shall be produced. For all categories of material recovered, including finds, palaeo-environmental, industrial and other specialist samples, an assessment by an appropriately experienced specialist will be undertaken. Samples must be processed and sorted, and any artefacts recovered provided to the appropriate specialist(s) to be considered alongside the hand-recovered material. Basic stratigraphic information will be supplied to the project specialists. All finds are to be treated in accordance with current best practice guidance, including English Heritage's '*Investigative Conservation*'. Finds are to be cleaned and marked, according to accepted principles and in line with appropriate period/material guidelines. For ceramic assemblages, recording shall be carried out in a manner compatible with existing typological series in local pottery reference collections, e.g. the South Yorkshire and North Derbyshire medieval ceramics reference collection. All ferrous objects and a selection of non-ferrous objects (including all coins), will be x-radiographed. Where material suitable for scientific dating was recovered, sufficient dating will be undertaken to meet the aims of the evaluation. Where further fieldwork is not to be undertaken and assessment has identified the need for further analysis, this will be completed drawing upon the contingency allowed.
- 7.2 The site archive will be assembled in line with the recommended composition provided in English Heritage PPN3 (2008) and UKIC's document *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage* and the ClfA's '*Standard And Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*.'
- 7.3 In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive shall contain all the data collected during the fieldwork, 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.

- 7.4 In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive shall contain:
- a summary report synthesising the context record;
  - a summary of the artefact record; and
  - a summary of the environment record.
- 7.5 The integrity of the primary field record will be preserved. Security copies will be maintained where appropriate.
- 7.6 Provision will be made for the deposition of the archive, artefacts and environmental material in Doncaster Museum, subject to the permission of the landowner. 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 (2020c) guidelines. Provision will be made for the stable storage of paper records and their long-term storage.
- 7.7 Upon completion of the investigations, the artefacts, ecofacts and stratigraphic information shall be assessed to ascertain their potential and significance for further analysis.
- 7.8 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 evaluation, 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 evaluation;



- assessments of each material category of finds recovered, including their types, quantities and concentrations, illustrations and/or photographs as appropriate;
  - a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location.
- 7.9 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 evaluation and any findings.
- 7.10 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.
- 7.11 Bound copies of the report will be supplied to David Platt and the South Yorkshire SMR. A digital copy will also be supplied to SYAS and to Historic England's Regional Science Advisor.
- 7.12 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/>).
- 7.13 It is possible that the excavation findings will warrant wider publication. This may be effected through publication with *Archaeology in South Yorkshire*.
- 7.14 A recommendation on whether further investigation or preservation is considered appropriate will first be discussed with SYAS and then be clearly expressed in the report.**
- 7.15 The evaluation report will include a detailed context index and an index to the archive.
- 7.16 A printed and bound copy of the report must be supplied to SYAS for incorporation into the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record. A digital copy of the report must also be supplied to SYAS and to the HE Science Advisor.
- 7.17 A summary report of an appropriate length, accompanied by illustrations (at 300dpi resolution), will be prepared and submitted in digital format, for publication in the appropriate volume of *Archaeology in South Yorkshire*, if the results warrant it.
- 7.18 Provision will be made for publicising the results of the work locally, e.g. by presenting a paper at South Yorkshire Archaeology Day, if the results warrant it.
- 7.19 ASWYAS will complete the online OASIS form at <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>.

- 7.20 Where further fieldwork is not to be undertaken and further analysis is completed, contingency will be made for the preparation and submission of a separate report on the results.
- 7.21 Where further fieldwork does not take place, a contingency will be made for the preparation and publication, in a local, regional or national journal, of the results of the evaluation.

## **8. Copyright, Confidentiality and Publicity**

- 8.1 Copyright in the documentation prepared by ASWYAS 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. ASWYAS will 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 ASWYAS 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. Insurance**

- 10.1 ASWYAS is covered by the insurance and indemnities of the West Yorkshire Joint Services Committee. Insurance has been effected with: Zurich Municipal, Zurich House, 2 Gladiator Way, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 6GB (policy

number QLA-03R896-0013). Any further enquiries should be directed to: Head of Finance, Wakefield Council, Wakefield One, PO Box 700, Wakefield, WF1 2EB.

## **11. Monitoring**

- 11.1 Access to the site will be arranged through David Platt.
- 11.3 The project will be monitored by the SYAS to whom notification will be sent before the start of the work. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork is required.
- 11.4 If appropriate, the advice of the Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (Yorkshire and the Humber Region) at Historic England will be called upon.
- 11.5 ASWYAS will ensure that any significant results are brought to the attention the client and their main contractor as soon as is practically possible.
- 11.6 SYAS will be responsible for monitoring the evaluation. A minimum of one week's notice of the commencement of fieldwork must be given by ASWYAS to the SYAS in order that arrangements for monitoring the fieldwork may be made.
- 11.7 Site inspections will be arranged so that the general site stratigraphy can be assessed in the initial stage of trial trenching and/or so that the site can be inspected when fieldwork is near to completion but before any trenches have been backfilled.

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