



## Scholes Lodge Farm, Scholes, West Yorkshire

### Archaeological Assessment of Development Proposals





**SCHOLES LODGE FARM,  
SCHOLES, WEST YORKSHIRE**

**Archaeological Assessment of Development Proposals**

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Report reference: 84231.01

**September 2012**

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## QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	<b>84231</b>	ACCESSION CODE	<b>N/A</b>	CLIENT CODE	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	<b>N/A</b>	NGR	<b>438202 436836</b>		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
0	I	AB	CWM	CHRIS MOORE	21/09/2012	S:\PROJECTS\84231 (SCHOLES LODGE FARM CONSULTANCY)\84231 SCHOLES LODGE FARM RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT V0.DOCX

\* I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

**SCHOLES LODGE FARM,  
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- Figure 1** Site location  
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**SCHOLES LODGE FARM,  
SCHOLES, WEST YORKSHIRE****Archaeological Assessment of Development Proposals****1 INTRODUCTION****1.1 Project Background**

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Barwick in Elmet and Scholes Parish Council to carry out an assessment of current proposals for the enhancement and development of land at Scholes Lodge Farm, Scholes, West Yorkshire (hereafter 'the Site'; **Figure 1**). The Site encompasses the northern part of the former site of a medieval moated manor house.
- 1.1.2 The Parish Council proposes to enhance the Site to encourage public use of the area and to provide facilities that are currently lacking in the village. Following public consultation to establish local opinion, the Parish Council is considering the viability of providing a small multi-use games area (MUGA), footpaths, benches, a wildflower meadow and heritage information boards within the Site.
- 1.1.3 The Parish Council has previously commissioned geophysical and walkover surveys of the Site (Wessex Archaeology 2012) to inform an assessment of archaeological survival and significance.
- 1.1.4 This document has been prepared to inform the Parish Council of the likely archaeological implications of the proposals, and to recommend ways to minimise damage to archaeological remains during the proposed enhancement and development of the Site and its future management.
- 1.1.5 It is intended that this document will provide a basis for future discussions between the Parish Council, the local planning authority and the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service.

**1.2 The Site – Location, Geology and Current Conditions**

- 1.2.1 The Site lies on the eastern edge of the village of Scholes, approximately 7km east of Leeds (**Figure 1**). It covers 2.9ha of land between Main Street and Barwick Road (Leeds Road) and is bounded by residential development to the north, agricultural land to the south-west and the Barwick Road to the south-east.
- 1.2.2 The Site is situated on the Langsettian mudstones, sandstones and siltstones of the Pennine Lower Coal Measures which are overlain in this area by rendzinas and argillic brown earth soils (British Geological Survey online). In general, the Site slopes gently down from north to south, but contains topographical variations due to the presence of extant earthworks.
- 1.2.3 The Site is currently under grass cover which is mown two to three times a year with a tractor-drawn mower. Parts of the Site are prone to waterlogging and at the time of the site visit (7<sup>th</sup> August 2012), boggy patches and some vehicle ruts were visible.

- 1.2.4 The Site can be accessed on foot and by vehicle through a newly constructed gate off Barwick Road to the south of the Site, and on foot from Main Street to the north via a public footpath which crosses the Site.

## **2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL EVIDENCE**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The following is a collation and summary of current knowledge of the historical development of the Scholes Lodge Farm moated site. It draws on the detailed historical research of Bantoft (1998a-c), archaeological excavations and historical research by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Service (1992) and Archaeological Services WYAS (2008), recent geophysical and earthwork surveys (Wessex Archaeology (2012) and information held in the West Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (WYHER).

- 2.1.2 The place name Scholes derives from the old Scandinavian word *skáli*, meaning a shelter for sheep, indicating a small temporary settlement possibly dating to the late 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> centuries (Faull and Moorhouse 1981). Whilst Scholes is not mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086 it is thought to have been part of the Honour of Pontefract granted to Ilbert de Lacy after the Norman Conquest. During the subsequent three centuries of the medieval period the Site developed into a high status settlement, centred around a manor house surrounded by a moat.

### **2.2 The Nature and Extent of the Archaeological Remains**

- 2.2.1 The archaeological and historical significance of the Site has long been apparent due to the presence of earthworks indicating the former location of a medieval moat and surrounding agricultural fields.
- 2.2.2 The earthwork and cropmark features within the Site were mapped between 2005-6, as part of the Magnesian Limestone in West and South Yorkshire Air Photo Mapping Project conducted by English Heritage. In 2006 Archaeological Services WYAS carried out excavations within the former Scholes Lodge Farm building complex (north of the Site) and in 2012 geophysical and topographic surveys of the Site were carried out by Wessex Archaeology.
- 2.2.3 These surveys combine to reveal the following information about the major upstanding feature groups within the Site (**Figure 2**):

### Feature 1: The Moat & Interior

Visible earthwork remains. Additional features identified from air photographs, topographic and geophysical surveys.

The northern part of a square-shaped enclosure defined by an east-west bank and a north-south ditch, now bisected by Barwick Road. The enclosure originally measured approximately 70m by 70m providing an internal area of some 4900m<sup>2</sup>. Most of two sides of the ditch and bank and an internal area of approximately 750m<sup>2</sup> survive within the Site. This small moat probably surrounded only the main hall, with other buildings located beyond the moat.

Previous studies have not established a date for the construction of the Scholes moat. However, moat construction is thought to have begun in the mid to late 12<sup>th</sup> century (English Heritage 1988) with an expansion in moat building from around 1200 to 1325 (Walker and Tindall 1985, 61). The Scholes moat is known to have been derelict by 1341 (Archaeological Services WYAS 2008, 1) and therefore probably dates to the late 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> centuries; a time when the manor of Scholes was in the possession of the de Lacy family.

An archaeological evaluation trench across the moat on the southern side of Barwick Road revealed a large ditch, some 10m wide at its top, that was recorded and interpreted as either the southeast corner of the moat or a fishpond, although no finds or other dating evidence were recovered (West Yorkshire Archaeology Service 1992).

During the 13<sup>th</sup> century the manor of Scholes changed hands several times but remained mainly within the de Lacy family until eventually becoming part of the vast Lancaster family estates in 1294. It is recorded that Scholes Park was subsequently maintained as part of the Lancaster's estate for hunting, grazing, coppicing and as a source of timber. By 1341 the moat and manor house had been abandoned and 'the site of the 'old manor house' was let out for grazing and haymaking' (Archaeological Services WYAS 2008, 1). It is suggested that in the 14th century the former moat lay within Scholes Park.

The field divisions depicted on an 18<sup>th</sup> century plan (West Yorkshire Archive Service ref. WYL115/MA11) indicate that the moated site originally lay within a smaller field than it does today; the location of the original western field boundary corresponds with the footpath that currently crosses the site.

*Likely date range: late 12<sup>th</sup> to late 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.*

Feature 2: The Moated Annex
Visible earthwork remains. Additional features identified from air photographs and geophysical survey.
<p>Extending westwards from level with the northern edge of the square enclosure lies a further ditch- and bank-defined area that effectively encloses the northeastern quadrant of the Site. The surviving sides of the enclosure measure 90m by 70m with an internal area of approximately 12,000m<sup>2</sup>.</p> <p>Geophysical survey has identified anomalies within this area that could represent the remains of structures. Possible subdivisions were identified on air photographs and by geophysical survey. The annex may have contained outbuildings such as barns, stables, cattle/sheep sheds and servants' accommodation.</p> <p>The north-south ditch and bank of the annex originally extended further north into Scholes Lodge Farm, where excavations recovered 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> century pottery from the ditch, which dates the period that the ditch was not maintained and was allowed to fill with soil.</p> <p>The former farm site also contained the remains of a medieval building defined by post-holes, possibly a dairy, and dated to the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries. This structure lay 'outside' the annex but is believed to have been part of the manorial complex and it is indicative of the type of remains that are likely to survive within the annex.</p> <p>The annex could not function as a stand-alone enclosure and would have been constructed as part of the manorial complex.</p> <p><i>Likely date range: late 12<sup>th</sup> to late 13<sup>th</sup> centuries.</i></p>

Feature 3: The Boundary Ditch
Visible earthwork remains. Feature also identified from air photographs and topographic survey.
<p>A northeast-southwest ditch in the western half of the Site. An approximately 50m-long part of the ditch is visible within the Site but it originally continued north into Scholes Lodge Farm, where excavations dated it to the late 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries or slightly earlier. The ditch also corresponds with a footpath shown on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map and a field boundary to the south of the Site.</p> <p>A number of possible archaeological features identified by geophysical survey appear to cluster close to the western side of the ditch but do not extend a significant distance further west. In contrast a greater number of possible archaeological features lie between the ditch and the annex. This may suggest that this ditch lay outside the manorial complex.</p> <p><i>Likely date range: possibly medieval until 19<sup>th</sup> century</i></p>



Feature 4: Arable Agriculture
Visible earthwork remains. Features also identified from air photographs and topographic and geophysical surveys.
<p>Remnants of ridge and furrow earthworks were identified in two areas within the southern half of the site. Additional buried plough furrows were identified by geophysical survey.</p> <p>A 14m by 21m rectangular depression between the annex and the boundary ditch may relate to the furrows to its south. Buried archaeological features located at the ends of buried furrows are also likely to have been caused by ploughing.</p> <p>Evidence of agriculture is present within the moated annex and the wider area but not within the moat.</p> <p>The date of these features is not known. In addition to the late 12<sup>th</sup> to mid 13<sup>th</sup> century manorial occupation of the Site, the excavations at Scholes Lodge Farm also identified an 18<sup>th</sup> century farm building. Given the presence of agricultural features within the annex it is likely that some, if not all, of the ridges and furrows post-date the manorial site.</p> <p><i>Likely date range: post-medieval (after 1500)</i></p>

### 3 INTERPRETATION OF THE SITE

#### 3.1 The 13<sup>th</sup> Century: The Manorial Complex

- 3.1.1 The combined historical and archaeological evidence indicates that the moated manor house and ancillary buildings within the annex were built in the late 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century by the de Lacy family. The complex was probably occupied until the late 13<sup>th</sup> century and its decline appears to correspond with the change in ownership of the Site in 1294, from the de Lacys to the Earl of Lancaster.
- 3.1.2 The form and layout of the manorial site is not known, but it is likely that the small moat contained the house, whilst the enclosed annex would have contained yards, kitchens, gardens, barns, stables, cattle/sheep sheds and servants' accommodation. A building excavated just outside the annex and identified as a dairy is also thought to have been part of the manorial site (Archaeological Services WYAS 2008).
- 3.1.3 No contemporary accounts have been identified and the oldest known description of the manorial site dates to 1628, three centuries after its decline:

*'...it containeth 2.5 acres of ground in the midst of it is a quadrangle moted round and in that quadrangle stood the house. The motes are now dried up. Another 2.5 acres which was formerlie the yard or garden close to the earthed mote...' (West Yorkshire Archive Service ref. ACC1874).*

3.1.4 It is not clear whether the ridge and furrow earthworks – which indicate continued arable use of the land and ploughing with a single sided plough – date to this period as well. As the agricultural use of the land extends into the annex, it is likely that the ridge and furrow was not contemporary with the moat and hall. The ridge and furrow respects the position and alignment of the large moat and ditches, demonstrating the longevity of these features in the landscape centuries later.

3.1.5 The northern boundary of the medieval moated complex is assumed to be marked by Main Street. To the east and south medieval remains have been truncated by roads. However, the western boundary does appear to lie within the Site; an 18<sup>th</sup> century plan (West Yorkshire Archive Service ref. WYL115/MA11, reproduced in Archaeological Services 2008, p27), depicts the moat within a field that extends westwards only as far as the modern footpath. This boundary encloses all of the known medieval features within the Site, including those excavated within the former farm to the north, and can, therefore, reasonably be considered to be the position of the medieval field boundary that marked the western extent of the manorial site.

### **3.2 The 14<sup>th</sup> Century: Scholes Hunting Park**

3.2.1 In the 14<sup>th</sup> century the Site was probably incorporated into Scholes Park, part of the Earl of Lancaster's estates used for hunting and grazing. A 1341 survey of manors in the honour of Pontefract recorded that the 'old manor house' at Scholes was let out for grazing and haymaking (West Yorkshire Archive Service ref. WYL1902), confirming that it was no longer a high-status building. Excavated evidence indicates that the annex ditch silted up during the 15<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> centuries (Archaeological Services WYAS 2008).

### **3.3 The 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Centuries: Scholes Lodge Farm**

3.3.1 By 1628 the buildings within the Site had been demolished (West Yorkshire Archive Service ref. ACC 1874), but although the moat and ditches were silted up they would still have been clearly visible. The excavations at Scholes Lodge Farm found that at around this time part of the manorial annex ditch was re-cut, possibly to create an enclosure or a boundary (Archaeological Services WYAS 2008). It is not known whether this re-cutting extended into the Site. At this time the Site lay in the ownership of the Baronet Sir Gascoigne of Parlington. A 1772 plan of his estate names the large open field corresponding with the Site as 'garths' (West Yorkshire Archive Service ref. WYL115/MA11), the fieldname possibly referring to the former enclosed gardens or yards of the manorial complex. The ridge and furrow earthworks within the Site may date to this period.

3.3.2 In the mid to later 18<sup>th</sup> century new farm buildings were constructed just beyond the Site, adjacent to the re-cut annex ditch. This farm is likely to have been the original 'Scholes Lodge Farm', possibly named because it lay close to or replaced a hunting lodge within the former Scholes Park. Some 600m to the west of the moat a property named 'Scholes Park' provides further place-name evidence for the original park.

### **3.4 The 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries: Destruction of the Medieval Remains**

3.4.1 The remains of the moat were significantly disturbed by the construction of the Seacroft and Scholes Branch of the Tadcaster and Halton Dial turnpike

road in approximately 1848. (A notice in the London Gazette on the 13<sup>th</sup> November 1847 described an intended application to parliament to execute an 1840 Act for the construction of ‘...a new road from Seacroft, to and into the highway leading from Scholes to Barwick-in-Elmet...’). The 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map of the area, surveyed in 1845-7 and published in 1849, depicts the new road bisecting the moat. By 1906 the part of the moat outside the Site had been further damaged by the construction of new properties along the southern side of the road.

- 3.4.2 Subsequent editions of the Ordnance Survey map indicate that whilst the Site remained mostly undeveloped, residential properties were built along Main Street and at the junction of Main Street and Barwick Road between 1909 and 1938. A large scale 1938 edition of the map also shows a small building in the southwest of the Site, a range of buildings within the Site adjacent to Scholes Lodge Farm, and a number of boundaries (possibly fences) which are likely to relate to stock control.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE SITE**

### **4.1 Predicted Remains**

- 4.1.1 Based upon the above interpretation the Site can be divided into three areas of archaeological potential, defined as high, medium or low (**Figure 3**).

- 4.1.2 Medieval occupation and activity was probably focussed within the moat and annex. Beyond the moats the majority of the identified archaeological remains appear to relate to agriculture and may well post-date the manorial use of the Site. The original western extent of the manorial site is likely to be marked by the present footpath leading from Main Road through the Site. The area to the west of the footpath contains few identified or predicted archaeological features (either) and lies outside of the manorial complex; it is therefore likely to contain the lowest density of remains.

### **4.2 Archaeological Survival**

- 4.2.1 Generally, the survival of archaeological remains across the Site is likely to be good. The presence of visible earthworks, particularly at the eastern end of the Site, clearly demonstrates that erosion or truncation of features is minimal: any below-ground remains are likely, therefore, to be well-preserved. The number and quality of the visible earthworks decreases across the Site from east to west.
- 4.2.2 There is evidence of some erosion within the central part of the Site, just west of the annex, where vehicle tracks are visible.
- 4.2.3 Three main areas of modern disturbance have been identified. Twentieth century Ordnance Survey maps indicate that the western end of the Site was used in the 1930s and 1940s and the mapped structures include fences and small buildings (**Figure 2**). The extent of ground disturbance associated with the construction and removal of these structures is not known, but some disturbance to archaeological remains seems likely to have occurred.

- 4.2.4 Recent site surveys identified a modern drain, with two manholes, crossing the centre of the Site from north to south, and another small drain at the eastern boundary. Online satellite imagery photographed in 2006 (available via Google Earth) depicts the extent of the disturbance caused by construction work within Scholes Lodge Farm and the insertion of the drain. An approximation of the area stripped for spoil storage, car parking and insertion of the drain is shown on **Figure 3**. It is considered likely that some disturbance of buried archaeological remains has occurred as a result of the construction work but the extent is not known.

### **4.3 Archaeological Significance**

- 4.3.1 The earthworks within the Site represent a rare example of a medieval moat within West Yorkshire. It has been assigned the highest level of local significance by the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service on the county Historic Environment Record and has previously been proposed to English Heritage for designation as a Scheduled Monument. However, English Heritage determined that the level of preservation and condition of the Site were not sufficient to warrant scheduling.
- 4.3.2 The moated site is potentially significant at a regional scale, and its importance could increase further if additional historical associations and archaeological evidence are identified.

### **4.4 Potential Development Impacts**

- 4.4.1 The Parish Council wishes to enhance the Site to encourage public use of the area, including the provision of a small multi-use games area (MUGA), footpaths around the Site with benches and heritage information boards, tree planting and a wildflower meadow.
- 4.4.2 Any level of disturbance to the ground surface within the Site has the potential to damage or destroy earthworks and buried archaeological remains. The likely nature and extent of the proposed works is summarised below.
- The construction of a MUGA pitch has the greatest potential impact. This would involve stripping turf and topsoil and levelling across an area of around 35m by 17m. The pitch would then be surfaced and enclosed by a fence, for which the posts may be driven or buried in excavated holes. No lighting or drainage is proposed.
  - Footpaths would be de-turfed, levelled if necessary, edged with wood or concrete blocks and surfaced, possibly with wood chippings.
  - Benches would require a level, stable surface, also likely to require stripping of turf and possibly topsoil, but over smaller, discrete areas.
  - Information boards would require stabilising and securing, similar to the benches.
  - Tree planting would be carried out by inserting a small spade into the ground and leaning it to one side to create a small hole for planting.

- Grass cutting is currently carried out two or three times a year with a tractor-drawn mower, leading to localised patches of ruts and potentially (although not evident) damage to the earthworks.

## **5 RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.1 Enhancement**

- 5.1.1 The heritage significance of the Site and the desire to promote public access and provide local facilities present a potential conflict which the Parish Council will need to reconcile.
- 5.1.2 Whilst some damage to the Site is inevitable, the proposals do offer opportunities positively to enhance the Site's heritage significance, improve its condition and secure its long term survival through increased public awareness and access.
- 5.1.3 There is currently no information at the Site about its heritage. The proposal to provide footpaths and information boards at the Site would encourage visitors and enhance understanding of the Site. The provision of footpaths potentially reduces erosion of the upstanding earthworks by encouraging people to keep to defined, surfaced routes.

### **5.2 Mitigation**

- 5.2.1 Mitigation of development impacts should prioritise avoidance of areas of high archaeological potential and upstanding earthworks, which are sensitive to damage. Careful siting and selection of minimally intrusive construction techniques will be important in minimising damage to both upstanding features and buried archaeological remains.

#### ***MUGA pitch***

- The pitch should be located in the area of 'low' archaeological potential (**Figure 3**), avoiding the upstanding earthwork if possible.
- Construction of a level surface should be achieved if possible using a cut and fill method to minimise the amount of excavation required. This would utilise cut material to build up the remainder of the pitch area to form a level surface.
- Due to the high potential for archaeological remains to be exposed, an archaeologist should be on site during all groundworks (an archaeological 'watching brief').

#### ***Footpaths***

- Footpaths should as far as possible be routed through the areas of no, low and medium archaeological potential (see **Figure 3**).
- Where the paths cross into the area of high potential they should avoid known features (**Figure 2**) and/or utilise the edges of the Site where 20<sup>th</sup> century developments may already have caused some disturbance.

- Intrusive groundworks should be kept to a minimum. Where paths cross earthworks these should utilise existing gaps between ditches and banks wherever possible.
- Due to the high potential for archaeological remains to be exposed in some areas of the Site, an archaeologist should be on site during all groundworks except in the area of 'no' archaeological potential (an archaeological 'watching brief').

#### ***Benches and information boards***

- It is proposed that benches and information boards will be located in several positions along the footpath, including within the area of high archaeological potential. This is part of the strategy to enhance public appreciation of the remains.
- Where possible, benches and information boards should be sited away from archaeological features identified by previous surveys (**Figure 2**).
- Where possible, benches and information boards should be sited at the edges of the Site where adjacent development may have already disturbed the ground.
- Where possible, benches and information boards should be sited in areas of no archaeological potential (**Figure 3**).
- Due to the high potential for archaeological remains to be exposed in some areas of the Site, an archaeologist should be on site during all groundworks except in the area of 'no' archaeological potential (an archaeological 'watching brief').

#### ***Tree planting***

- Planting should be confined to the areas of no, low and medium potential.
- Excavation should be kept to a minimum.
- This work does not require planning permission and it is not considered necessary to have an archaeologist on site during planting if the above recommendations are followed. It is unlikely that any artefacts will be disturbed, but if this does occur they should be retrieved and reported to the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service.

#### ***Wildflower meadow***

- The most suitable areas for a wildflower meadow are the areas of high archaeological potential. The low maintenance requirements of the proposed meadow would remove the need for regular mowing and therefore reduce potential erosion or damage to upstanding earthworks.
- Selection of the area for sowing should ensure that the earthworks remain visible in order that the Site can be appreciated by visitors.

- It is recommended that the moat in the southeast corner of the Site (Feature 1 on **Figure 2**) is selected for sowing as this would both define the moated enclosure and protect its interior.

#### ***Maintenance***

- The Site is currently mown to keep the grass down. This has resulted in visible ruts in the surface of the central area of the Site and could potentially cause damage to the earthworks (although none is currently visible).
- It is recommended that mowing within the area of high archaeological potential is kept to a minimum and that mowing is avoided if the field is wet or boggy.

### **5.3 Further Consultation**

- 5.3.1 It is recommended that this report is submitted to the West Yorkshire Archaeology Advisory Service as the basis for discussions with the Parish Council regarding the siting and construction of each element of the proposed development, prior to the submission of a planning application.

## 6 REFERENCES

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### 6.2 Cartographic Sources

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1906 Ordnance Survey Sheet 204SW, 1:10,560

1938 Ordnance Survey Sheet 204SW, 1:10,560

1938 Ordnance Survey Sheet 204, 1:2500

1956 Ordnance Survey Sheet 204, 1:10560



### 6.3 Archive Sources

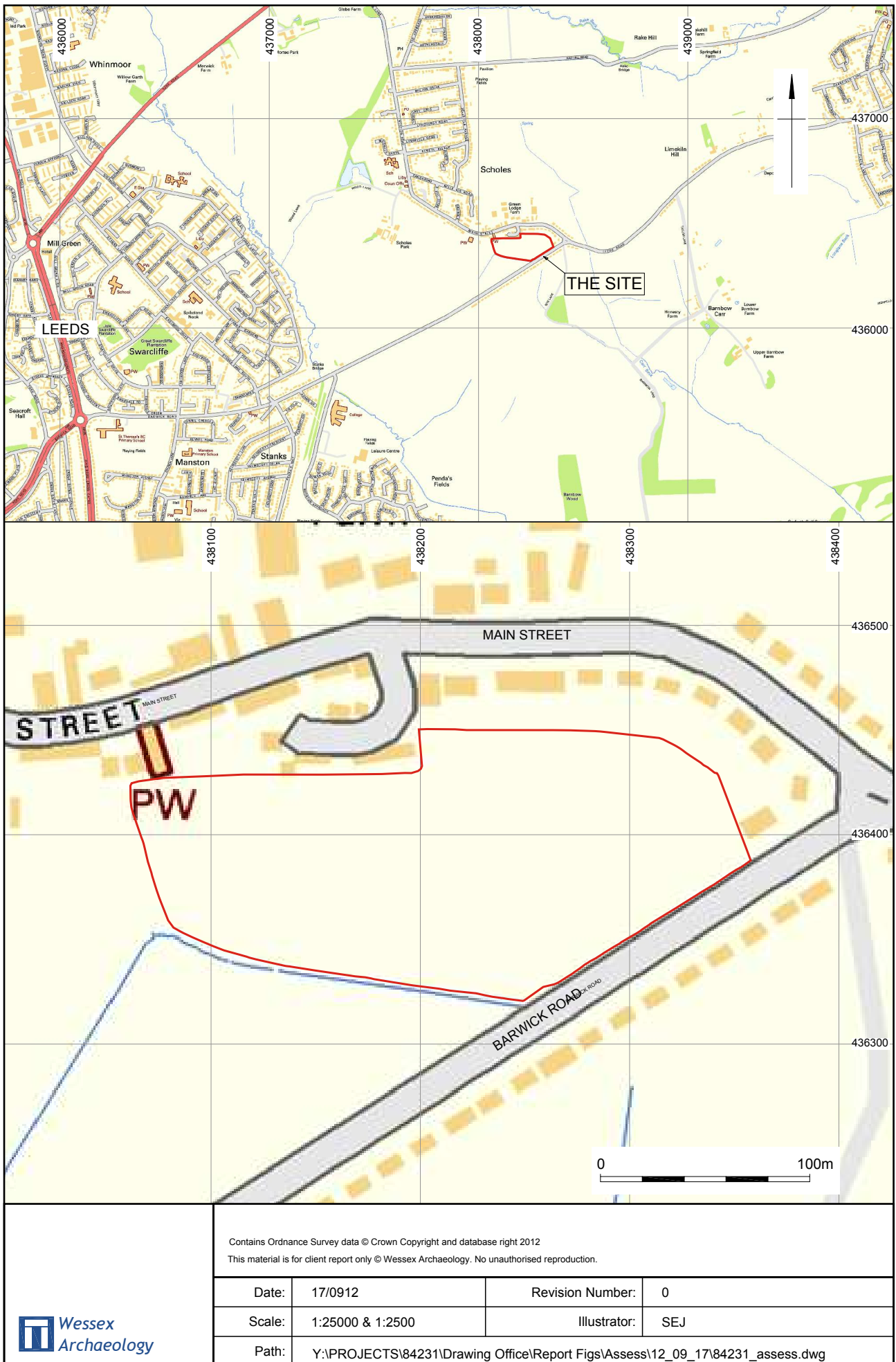
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*Survey of manors in the Honour of Pontefract, 1628 (photocopy),* **West Yorkshire Archive Service (Leeds Office) ref. ACC 1874**

*A Plan of the Manor of Barwick belonging to Sir T. Gascoigne Baronet by John Flintoff, surveyor, 1772,* **West Yorkshire Archive Service (Leeds Office) ref. WYL115/MA11**

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Site location and detailed survey extents

Figure 1



Composite Plan of Archaeological and Historic Features

Figure 2



Areas of Archaeological Potential

Figure 3



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