

PARTNERSHIP GOVERNANCE – REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY**1. NAME OF PARTNER ORGANISATION:**

Joint Committee for South Yorkshire Archaeology

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANISATION

The South Yorkshire Archaeology Service was established by the former South Yorkshire County Council in 1974. Since 1986 it has been maintained by the four districts of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield and is administered by Sheffield City Council. South Yorkshire Archaeology works to safeguard the archaeology of South Yorkshire.

It is a committee formed of archaeological advisors to the Councils of Barnsley, Doncaster, Rotherham and Sheffield, and it also offers advice to a wide range of other land managers and developers. When archaeological remains are to be affected by development, South Yorkshire Archaeology will advise on what steps need to be taken to protect them.

South Yorkshire Archaeology's recommendations reflect the importance of the archaeological resource. Where important remains exist, the service will seek preservation - leaving the archaeology intact for future generations to enjoy.

Where less significant remains are present, the service will advise on recording strategies – to gain an understanding of the remains before they are lost.

When recording works are carried out, the service monitors this to ensure they are done to a high standard. The service also promotes understanding and appreciation of the historic environment. It runs a popular annual Archaeology Day.

The service publishes the Archaeology in South Yorkshire annual report. It is keen to forge links with local individuals, groups and societies with an interest in the archaeology and history of South Yorkshire.

The service also holds records of all known archaeological sites in the area in the Sites and Monuments Record, which will eventually become a Historic Environment Record.

3. NAME OF THE COUNCIL'S REPRESENTATIVE(S) APPOINTED TO THE ORGANISATION AND THE CAPACITY IN WHICH THEY SERVE:

Malcolm Thomas, Design and Conservation Officer.

Peter Robinson, Assistant Manager, Heritage Doncaster.

4. NAME OF COUNCIL'S LEAD OFFICER:

Richard Purcell, Head of Planning;

Nick Stopforth, Head of Libraries and Culture.

5. KEY ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN DURING THE PERIOD April 1st 2017 – March 31st 2018

In 2017 for Doncaster the Service commented on:

14 Environmental Stewardship applications

20 Planning/pre-application consultations

3 statutory undertaker (utilities) consultations

Within Doncaster, in 2017, there were:

6 evaluations of development sites

6 mitigation excavations on development sites

For Doncaster, in 2017, the Service:

Created 20 new monument records in our archaeological database

Updated 100 existing records

The Service has also secured funding of £34,560 from Historic England for completion of a Research Framework for South Yorkshire.

Previous activity from the Service can also be viewed at:

<https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/sheffield/home/planning-development/south-yorkshire-archaeology-service/archaeology-recent-projects.html>

6. KEY ACTIVITIES EXPECTED TO BE UNDERTAKEN DURING THE PERIOD April 1st 2018 – March 31st 2019

Activity for the next year is determined by planning and urban developments during this period. As the Service comments:

Archaeological works usually happen in stages, each stage informing the next. An assessment establishes what the likely archaeological potential of a development site is. Using a variety of archive sources, archaeologists will piece together what is known about a site and prepare a report outlining the results. In all cases where archaeological remains are possible, it is likely the Service will recommend that at least a desk-based assessment is prepared by a professional archaeological contractor.

To clarify the nature and significance of any expected archaeological remains, the Service may recommend a field evaluation. This involves limited site investigation using techniques such as geophysical survey or trial trenching. If the site contains a standing building of potential interest, the Service will also recommend its detailed appraisal. Both the assessment and evaluation stages are likely to be required in advance of a planning decision.

7. DETAILS OF ANY SIGNIFICANT GOVERNANCE ISSUES

To note that the statutory requirement for Joint Committees to have an annual review of the annual return was no longer required under the new Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014, and therefore the Joint Committee for South Yorkshire Archaeology Service took the decision from Q1 2016 to no longer publish an annual report.

8. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

To recommend that in 2018-19 South Yorkshire Archaeology Service is asked to continue to demonstrate value for money to Doncaster Council, by confirming how the Doncaster grant led to a direct return on activity in the borough. Also, to ask that the service's website is kept up to date with current event information from across the South Yorkshire region, and to confirm on the website the Service's position regarding its cessation of annual reporting from 2016.

9. PLEASE STATE NAME OF RELEVANT DIRECTOR OR ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

**Peter Dale, Director of Regeneration and Environment,
Damian Allen, Director of People**

10. DATE:

17th April 2018

11. DATE OF NEXT SCHEDULED REPORT

April 2019