



OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological monitoring and recording at No. 1 Myrtle Cottage, Stokeinteignhead, Devon



on behalf of
Mr Mike Mockford

Report No. 18-08

Project No. 1443

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OAKFORD ARCHAEOLOGY

Archaeological Groundworks and Historic Buildings

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Summary

An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Oakford Archaeology between October 2017 and March 2018 at No. 1 Myrtle Cottage, Stokeinteignhead, Devon (SX 9166 7053), during the removal of concrete floors within the grade II listed property.

The work uncovered the remains of a cobbled surface which is likely to be of late 18th or early 19th century date, at a time when the property served as an outbuilding to the adjacent property. No finds were recovered pre-dating the 19th century.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Background

This report has been prepared for Mr Mike Mockford on behalf of the current owner of the property and sets out the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken by Oakford Archaeology (OA) between October 2017 and March 2018 at No. 1 Myrtle Cottage, Stokeinteignhead, Devon (SX 9166 7053). The work was required by Teignbridge District Council (TDC), as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET), in relation to the removal of the existing concrete floor.

1.1 The site

No. 1 Myrtle Cottage (Fig. 1) is a Grade II Listed Building (1097634) located in the centre of the historic village of Stokeinteignhead. The site lies at a height of between c.103 and 105m AOD in a gentle valley. The underlying solid geology is described as Breccia belonging to the Oddicombe Breccia Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 298.9 to 252.2 million years ago during the Permian Period and gives rise to silty clay soils and gravels (Geological Maps of England and Wales 1980).

2. AIMS

The aims of the archaeological investigations were to determine the presence, extent, character and date of any archaeological deposits or features of historic importance that would be disturbed or removed by the works, and to disseminate the results of the investigation by appropriate reporting.

3. METHODOLOGY

The work was undertaken in accordance with a project design prepared by Oakford Archaeology (2017), submitted to and approved by the DCHET prior to commencement on site. This document is included as Appendix 1.

The standard OA recording system was employed. Stratigraphic information was recorded on *pro-forma* context record sheets, plans and sections for each trench were drawn at a scale of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50 as appropriate and a detailed colour (digital) photographic record was made. Registers were maintained for photographs, drawings and context sheets on *pro forma* sheets.

4. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 General background

Little is known of the development of the area around Abbotskerswell in the immediate post-Roman and early Saxon period. The manor of *Stoches* is recorded for the first time in the Domesday Book of 1086. It was held by *Ordric* prior to 1066 and during the Norman reorganisation of the land holdings following the Conquest, and the death of Harold at Hastings, the manor and its land became part of the estates of Nicholas the Bowman.¹

According to Gover the village derives its name from the Old English *stoc(c)* meaning hamlet or small settlement, and the corruption of the word 'ten hide', which was used to describe the surrounding district in the period after Domesday, i.e. 'ten hide hamlet/settlement'.²

¹ *Thorn and Thorn 1985, 48.3.*

² *Gover et al. 1932, 460.*

The village, variously known as *Stoches*, *Stokes in Tynhide*, *Stok in Tynhyd*, *Stokeyntynhede*, *Stoken Teynhed*, *Stokentynhedde*, *Stoke next Tynhedde* and *Stockinge Tynid*,³ grew up in a sheltered valley to the east of Newton Abbot. The pattern of the village is characterised by a number of large farmsteads with the prosperity of the village at this time largely based on farming and to a lesser extent cider making. The development lies on the eastern edge of the historic core of the village.

4.2 Mole End, Dean Cottage and Nos 1 and 2 Myrtle Cottages

Very little is known of the history and ownership of No. 1 Myrtle Cottage. Although detailed historic building recording of the properties was outside the remit of the project a brief analysis of the exterior of the buildings and their setting within the village was undertaken. It is likely that Mole End and Dean Cottage were originally a single property (pl. 1). These date, on stylistic grounds, to the 18th century although it is likely that earlier fabric survives within both buildings. Nos 1 and 2 Myrtle Cottages probably served as outbuildings prior to their conversion. Perhaps due to changing agricultural practices or land ownership in the area, and the loss of independence by cottagers and smallholders, the population of the village centre appears to have increased and the surviving house was subdivided into smaller properties.

The property is shown for the first time on the 1843 tithe survey of Stokeinteignhead parish. The map (Fig. 2) clearly shows the main range fronting onto the road. The main range seems to have been divided into at least two properties, while a large outbuilding is shown to the east of No. 1 Myrtle Cottage. No 2 Myrtle Cottage owned by the Drew family and leased to John Codner, although it wasn't possible in the short time available to trace the ownership history of the main property.

The area was mapped by the Ordnance Survey in 1888, when the property was shown in the greatest detail thus far (Fig. 3). The main range was divided into four properties, while the outbuilding had been demolished, with the space seemingly amalgamated with the gardens of No. 2 Myrtle Cottage. No further owners are listed in the directories and it is unclear what happens to the property.

The property remained remarkably unaltered throughout the early 20th century (Fig. 4). By the 1960's No 1 Myrtle Cottage was subject to extensive alterations. A brief assessment of the property shows that the south and east elevations were partly rebuilt, resulting in the loss of historic fabric. Extensive additional work was carried out internally while the eastern lean-to extension was built at this time obscuring the eastern vista.

5. RESULTS

5.1 The ground-floor

The removal of approximately 0.1-0.2m of concrete and sub-base exposed the remains of an earlier cobbled surface (101) within the ground-floor of No. 1 Myrtle Cottage (Fig. 5, pls 2-3).

The cobbled surface consisted of small to medium size sub-angular waterworn stones. Heavily disturbed by later activity no evidence was found for a drainage gully and the flooring is likely to be part of the late 18th or early 19th century phase, when the building

³ Gover et al. 1932, 460.

served as an outbuilding to the adjacent property. A fine layer of coal covered the majority of the cobbled surface, suggesting it may have served as a coal shed at one time.

Four irregular shale rubble blocks, located immediately in front of the entrance, are likely to be the remains of the original east wall of the property prior to its extension in the 1960's. The wall for this building wasn't continuous and it is therefore likely to have been open-fronted. However, due to later activity the exact layout was not clear.

Finally, the removal of the cobbled floor revealed no evidence of earlier flooring or features.

6. PROJECT ARCHIVE

A project archive will not be produced. A summary of the archaeological investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (oakforda1-327082).

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

This work was commissioned by Mr Mike Mockford on behalf of the current owner. The project was managed for Oakford Archaeology by Marc Steinmetzer. The fieldwork was carried out by Marc Steinmetzer who also prepared the illustrations for the report. Thanks are hereby recorded to Graham Passey (Silver Fox Building Maintenance) and Stephen Reed (DCHET).

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Fig. 1 Location of site.



Fig. 3 Detail from the 1st edition 1888 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet CX.14.



Fig. 4 Detail from the 2nd edition 1904 Ordnance Survey map Devonshire Sheet CX.14.

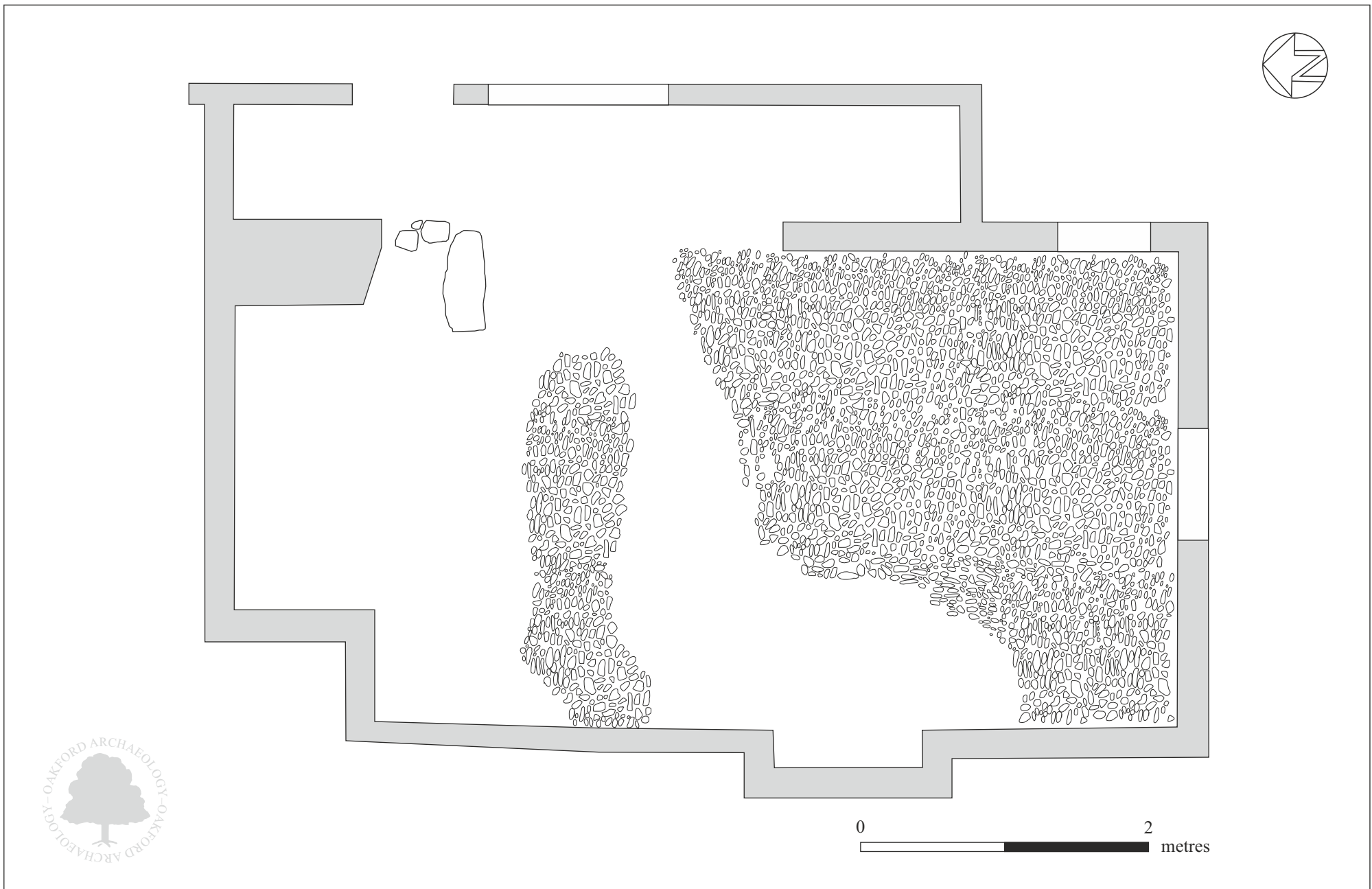


Fig. 5 Plan showing location of observations.



Pl. 1 General view of Mole End, Dean Cottage and No. 1 Myrtle Cottage. Looking northwest.



Pl. 2 General view of ground-floor showing heavily disturbed cobbled floor. 1m scales. Looking south.



Pl. 3 General view of ground-floor showing heavily disturbed cobbled floor. 1m scales. Looking north.

Appendix 1:
Method Statement

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document has been prepared by Oakford Archaeology (OA) for Mr Mike Mockford to describe the methodology to be used during an archaeological watching brief at No. 1 Myrtle Cottages, Stokeinteignhead, Devon (SX 9166 7053). This document represents the 'Written Scheme of Investigation' for archaeological work required under the grant of Listed Building Consent (17/01652/LBC) for internal alterations, the creation of a car parking space and associated works. The work is required by the Teignbridge District Council (TDC) as advised by the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET).
- 1.2 The remains of a small building to the east of 1 Myrtle Cottage are shown on the 1843 Stokeinteignhead tithe map and the 1st edition 1888 Ordnance Survey map. Demolished sometime in the late 19th or early 20th centuries, it is possible that the building may have been contemporary with Myrtle Cottages. These date to the 18th century, or earlier according to its listing description, and groundworks associated with the development therefore have the potential to expose and destroy archaeological and artefactual deposits associated with archaeological activity in the area.

2. AIMS

- 2.1 The aim of the project is to investigate and record any buried archaeological deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development, and to report on the results of the project, as appropriate.

3. METHOD

DCHET has required that a watching brief be undertaken during groundworks, and monitoring will take place on all excavations that are likely to expose archaeological deposits.

Groundworks

- 3.1 Liaison will be established with the client and their contractor prior to the works commencing, in order to obtain details of the works programme and to advise on OA requirements. If a good working relationship is established at the outset, any delays resulting from archaeological recording can be kept to a minimum. However, localised delays to site operations may be caused and time should be allowed within the main contractor's programme for the adequate investigation and recording of archaeological deposits.
- 3.2 All machining will be carried out under direct archaeological control, using a mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. Machining will proceed in spits, and will cease if archaeological deposits are exposed in order to allow those deposits to be investigated, excavated and recorded. This may cause localised delays to the groundworks programme, although every effort will be made to keep any such delays to a minimum. If no such deposits are present then, once natural subsoil has been confirmed, or formation/invert

level reached, across the whole of the development area, archaeological monitoring will be terminated. Similarly, if it can be demonstrated that there has been significant modern truncation, then archaeological monitoring will be terminated in these areas.

- 3.3 If archaeological features are present, then hand-excavation will normally comprise:
- The full excavation of all features and structures to formation level;
 - Spoil will also be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeo-environmental samples and the recovery of artefacts.

General project methods

- 3.4 Environmental deposits will be assessed on site, on site by a suitably qualified archaeologist, with advice as necessary from Allen Environmental Archaeology with input from the Historic England Regional Science Advisor, to determine the possible yield (if any) of environmental or microfaunal evidence, and its potential for radiocarbon dating. If deposits potential survives, these would be processed by Allen Environmental Archaeology (AEA) using the HE Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (HE CfA Guidelines 2002/1), and outside specialists (AEA) organised to undertake further assessment and analysis as appropriate.
- 3.5 Initial cleaning, conservation, packaging and any stabilisation or longer-term conservation measures will be undertaken in accordance with relevant professional guidance (including *Conservation guidelines No 1* (UKIC, 2001); *First Aid for Finds* (UKIC & RESCUE, 1997) and on advice provided by A Hopper-Bishop, Specialist Services Officer, RAM Museum, Exeter.
- 3.6 Should artefacts be exposed that fall within the scope of the Treasure Act 1996, then these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Act. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.
- 3.7 Should any articulated human remains be exposed; these will initially be left *in situ*. If removal at either this or a later stage in the archaeological works is deemed necessary, these will then be fully excavated and removed from the site subject to the compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence, which will be obtained by OA on behalf of the client. Any remains will be excavated in accordance with Institute of Field Archaeologist Technical Paper No. 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Where appropriate bulk samples will be collected.
- 3.8 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve artefacts or report on other aspects of the investigations can be called upon (see below).

3.9 Health and Safety requirements will be observed at all times by archaeological staff working on site, particularly when machinery is operating nearby. Personal protective equipment (safety boots, helmets and high visibility vests) will be worn by staff when plant is operating on site. A risk assessment will be prepared prior to work commencing.

3.10 DCHET will be informed of the start of the project, and will monitor progress throughout on behalf of the planning authority. A date of completion of all archaeological site work will be confirmed with DCHET, and the timescale of the completion of items under section 5 will run from that date.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

4.1 The standard OA recording system will be employed, consisting of:

(i) standardised single context record sheets; survey drawings, plans and sections at scales 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 as appropriate;

(ii) colour digital photography;

(iii) survey and location of finds, deposits or archaeological features, using EDM surveying equipment and software where appropriate;

(iv) labelling and bagging of finds on site from all excavated levels, post-1800 unstratified pottery may be discarded on site with a small sample retained for dating evidence as required.

5. REPORTING AND ARCHIVING

5.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with DCHET on completion of the site work. If little or no significant archaeology is exposed then reporting will consist of a completed County HER entry, including a plan showing location of groundworks and of any significant features found. The text entry and plan will be produced in an appropriate electronic format suitable for easy incorporation into the HER, and sent to the DCHET within 3 months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork.

5.2 Should significant deposits be exposed the results of the archaeological work will be presented within one summary report within six months of the date of completion of all archaeological fieldwork. Any summary report will contain the following elements as appropriate:

- location plan and overall site plans showing the positions of the groundworks and the distribution of archaeological features;
- a written description of the exposed features and deposits and a discussion and interpretation of their character and significance in the context of the known history of the site;
- plans and sections at appropriate scales showing the exact location and character of significant archaeological deposits and features;

- a selection of photographs illustrating the principal features and deposits found;
 - specialist assessments and reports as appropriate.
- 5.3 A .pdf version of the report will be produced and distributed to the Client and DCHET on completion of sitework. A copy of the report and .pdf version will also be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).
- 5.4 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to *The Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991 2nd edition) upon completion of the project.

The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital - the latter comprising all born-digital (data images, survey data, digital correspondence, site data collected digitally etc.) and digital copies of the primary site records and images.

The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) within 6 months of the completion of site work, while the artefactual element will be deposited with Royal Albert Memorial Museum (*ref. number pending*). The hardcopy of the archive will be offered to the RAMM and if not required will be disposed of by OA

OA will notify DCHET upon the deposition of the digital archive with the ADS, and the deposition of the material (finds) archive with the RAMM Museum.

- 5.5 A .pdf copy of the updated summary report will be submitted, together with the site details, to the national OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological investigations) database within three months of the completion of site work.
- 5.6 A short report summarising the results of the project will be prepared for inclusion within the “round up” section of an appropriate national journal, if merited, within 12 months of the completion of site work.
- 5.7 Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, owing to their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with DCHET, in consultation with the Client. OA, on behalf of the Client, will then implement publication in accordance with a timescale agreed with the Client and DCHET. This will be within 12 months of the completion of all phases of archaeological site work unless otherwise agreed in writing.

6. CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORILY PROTECTED SPECIES

- 6.1 If topsoil stripping or groundworks are being undertaken under the direct control and supervision of the archaeological contractor then it is the archaeological contractor's responsibility - in consultation with the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

7. COPYRIGHT

- 7.1 OA shall retain full copyright of any commissioned reports, tender documents or other project documents, under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in this document.

8. PROJECT ORGANISATION

- 8.1 The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced archaeologists, in accordance with the Code of Conduct and relevant standards and guidance of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (*Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, 1994, revised 2008), plus *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* 1994, revised 2008). The project will be managed by Marc Steinmetzer. Oakford Archaeology is managed by a Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Health & Safety

- 8.2 All monitoring works within this scheme will be carried out in accordance with current *Safe Working Practices (The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974)*.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Specialists contributors and advisors

The expertise of the following specialists can be called upon if required:

Bone artefact analysis: Ian Riddler;

Dating techniques: University of Waikato Radiocarbon Laboratory, NZ;

Building specialist: Richard Parker;

Illustrator: Sarnia Blackmore;

Charcoal identification: Dana Challinor;

Diatom analysis: Nigel Cameron (UCL);
Environmental data: Hayley McParland (Historic England);
Faunal remains: Lorraine Higbee (Wessex);
Finds conservation: Alison Hopper-Bishop (Exeter Museums);
Human remains: Louise Loe (Oxford Archaeology), Charlotte Coles;
Lithic analysis: Dr. Linda Hurcombe (Exeter University);
Medieval and post-medieval finds: John Allan;
Metallurgy: Gill Juleff (Exeter University);
Numismatics: Norman Shiel (Exeter);
Petrology/geology: Roger Taylor (RAM Museum), Imogen Morris;
Plant remains: Julie Jones (Bristol);
Prehistoric pottery: Henrietta Quinnell (Exeter);
Roman finds: Paul Bidwell & associates (Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields);
Others: Wessex Archaeology Specialist Services Team

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