

# *Marches Archaeology*

## **The Church of St John the Baptist Kinlet Shropshire**

**A report on a programme  
of archaeological works**

July 2004

*Marches Archaeology Series 347*

**This report is produced by**

## ***Marches Archaeology***

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**For:-**

**The Parochial Church Council  
The Church of St John the Baptist  
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**The Church of St John the Baptist  
Kinlet  
Shropshire**

**A report on a programme  
of archaeological works**

**NGR: SO 710 810**

**Report by  
Jo Wainwright**

**Contents**

*Summary*

1	Introduction	2
2	Scope and aims of the project	2
3	Methodology	3
4	Site description	4
5	Archaeological and historical background	4
6	The programme of works	4
7	Discussion	5
8	Acknowledgements	5
9	The archive	5

Figure

**List of illustrations**

Fig. 1	Location of the site
Fig. 2	Location of the areas of excavation

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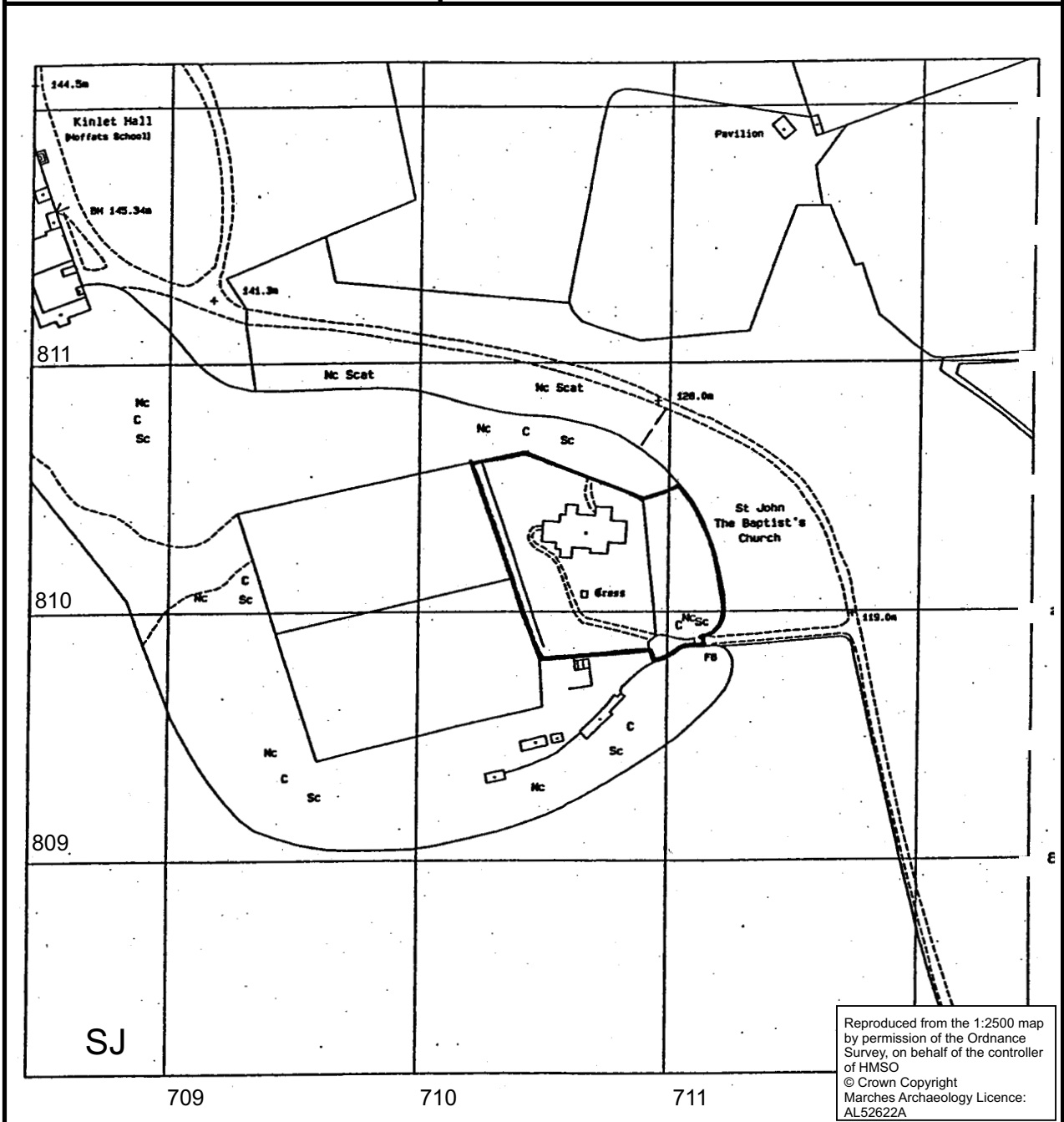
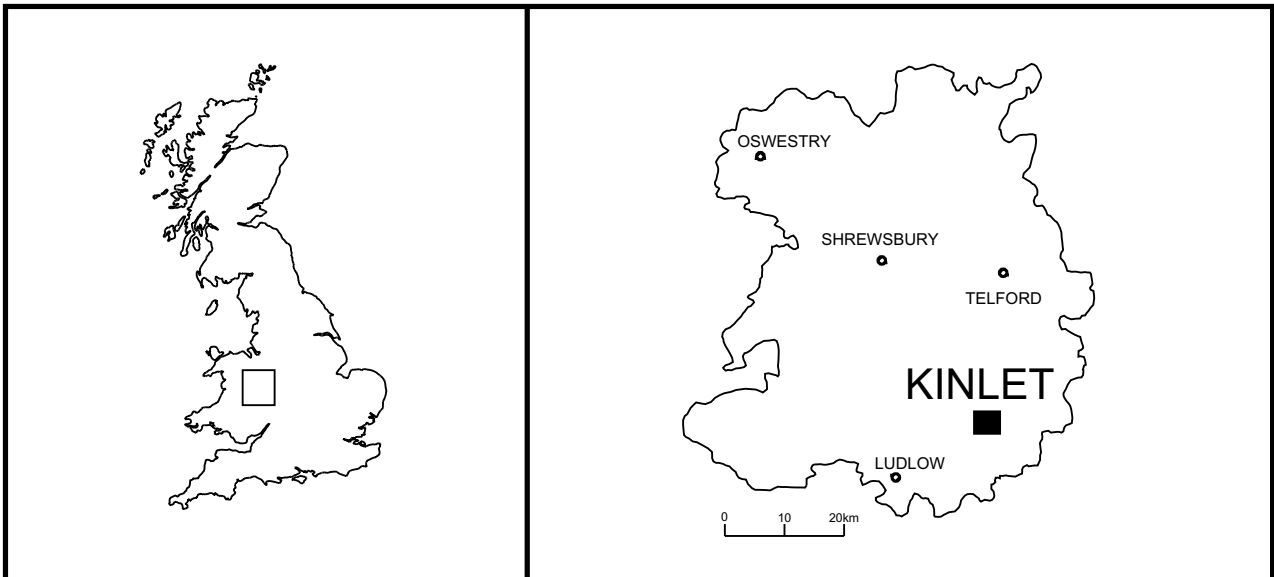


Fig. 1: Location of the site

**The Church of St John the Baptist  
Kinlet  
Shropshire**

**NGR: SO 710 810**

**A report on a programme  
of archaeological works**

*Summary*

*Alterations to drainage at the Church of St John the Baptist, Kinlet, Shropshire necessitated the need for a programme of archaeological works. A burial soil, a series of drain runs and a levelling deposit were excavated. Two brick vaults were recorded, as was a grave slab. In places the offset footings of the church were exposed. These were built of rough hewn sandstone.*

## **1 Introduction**

Alterations to drainage were proposed at the church of St John the Baptist, Kinlet, Shropshire. It is understood that a faculty for this work was obtained. The site is situated at NGR: SO 710 810 (Fig. 1).

Elements of the church date to the Norman period. In order that the archaeological resource was adequately protected an archaeological programme of works were carried out during ground works associated with the proposed drainage. No Brief for the works was prepared.

Wheatley and Lloyd, acting as agents for the Parochial Church Council (the client), commissioned Marches Archaeology to provide the archaeological services required for the project.

## **2 Scope and aims of the project**

The scope of the project was:

- sufficient documentary research was to be carried out to place the any significant results in an appropriate archaeological and historical context.
- observation of all topsoil stripping, other earthmoving and trench excavation until natural subsoil was reached
- recording of the sequence of soil deposits present and all archaeological deposits and features

if significant archaeology were to be identified the archaeologist on site would have inform the client and other appropriate parties in order that appropriate action could be taken to minimise the damage to such deposits and to record them appropriately  
the full processing of archaeological materials and the production of an appropriate report

The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

‘to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’

and:

‘to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard’.

### **3 Methodology**

#### *Documentary research*

The results of the fieldwork were not significant enough to warrant any documentary research.

#### *Fieldwork*

Observations and appropriate recording were undertaken of all ground breaking activity in association with the drainage works. Excavation was by hand and mini excavator with a toothed bucket. An archaeologist was on site on the 14<sup>th</sup> June, 16<sup>th</sup> June, 17<sup>th</sup> June and 28<sup>th</sup> June 2004.

The recording system included written, drawn and photographic data. The primary written record was by means of site notes, accompanied by sketches. Context numbers were allocated and context record sheets completed. A multi-context plan of data was made. The photographic record was made using black and white negative and colour transparency film. After an initial assessment all artefacts were discarded. Disarticulated human bone was collected and reburied by the contractor when the groundworks were finished.

#### *Office work*

On completion of fieldwork a site archive was prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data was catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced.

## 4 Site description

The church of St John the Baptist lies on the side of a valley about one kilometre to the west of the present village of Kinlet (Fig. 1). The graveyard that surrounds the church is bounded by a wall to the west and south. To the north and east a fence forms the boundary. The eastern part of the graveyard has only recently been consecrated. The land slopes down from the west to the east.

## 5 Archaeological and historical background

The fabric of the present church is of Norman origin with additions in the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. A churchyard cross, to the south of the church, dates from the late 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that the earlier settlement of Kinlet could be situated around the church.

## 6 The programme of works (Fig. 2)

The excavations for the drainage were within old drainage trenches and new ground. Initially three test trenches were excavated by hand to establish what the soil sequence was. It was decided by the contractor to start on the main drain runs as soon as the test trenches were excavated. The depths of the trenches varied but were no deeper than about 800mm. The natural subsoil was not reached in any of the trenches. In the far east of the site, in the area of recently consecrated ground, a layer of beige brown clay loam with frequent sandstone fragments, mortar, brick and occasional tile was excavated [8]. This became more silty and wetter towards the east. Pottery and vessel glass recovered from [8] dated from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

To the west of [8] and seen in many of the drain runs was a layer of beige brown clay loam [1]. Inclusions within [1] were frequent sandstone fragments, tile and occasional brick and disarticulated human bone. Layer [1] also contained clay pipe from the 19<sup>th</sup> century, one fragment of medieval floor tile and one fragment of medieval roof tile. The floor and roof tile was residual.

The 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century drain runs [3] cut through [1] and were a mixture of ceramic pipe encased in brick, plain ceramic pipe and brick lined culverts. The backfill above the drains was a beige brown clay with very frequent sandstone fragments, tile and brick [2]. Pottery recovered from [2] dates from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. One fragment of residual medieval roof tile was also seen.

Three grave monuments were seen in the excavations. A corner of a sandstone grave slab with a chamfered edge [5] was seen in an old drain run to the north of the chancel. This was seen 220mm below the present ground surface and was 200mm thick. The earlier ceramic pipe had been inserted underneath [5]. The on site contractor decided that a similar course of action could be taken with the replacement drain and the grave slab would not be disturbed. The corner of a brick lined vault [7], to the east of the chancel, was partially removed by the excavation but the vault had a double skin of bricks so no human remains were encountered. The brick vault was visible in plan as a parch mark. The base of the vault was not reached but it was at least 700mm deep. To the south of the nave another brick lined vault [6] was seen. This was also visible in plan as a parch mark. The vault was a minimum 400mm deep

and 2.5 metres long. Within the graveyard soil [1] around [6] was a quantity of disarticulated human bone, a coffin handle and three other fragments of coffin furniture. Presumably skeletons were uncovered when the tomb was excavated and the bone was thrown back around the vault when it was built.

A small amount of landscaping of the slope around the tower took place as spoil had fallen down the slope covering up the original above ground masonry. Here the old drain run was exposed as was the above ground masonry. The footings [4] of the church were also exposed in several places. In the main these tended to be slightly stepped out and constructed of rough hewn sandstone blocks. The base of the footings was not reached in any of the trenches.

## **7 Discussion**

No features or deposits of archaeological significance were excavated. Layer [1] can be interpreted as a burial soil. Layer [8] seen in the recently consecrated area to the east of the church contained much brick rubble so it is possible that brick buildings or a wall existed here at one time. However, it is more likely that this area has been levelled at some stage.

The two brick vaults are probably 19<sup>th</sup> century in date as they were seen in plan close to the present ground surface. The grave slab is probably earlier as it had been buried at some point in the past. The exposed offset or stepped footings of the church are normal in a building of this size.

## **8 Acknowledgements**

The author would like to thank the on site contractors Splitlath Ltd for their co-operation on the project.

## **9 The archive**

The site code is KC04A. The archive consists of:

- 8 context sheets
- 1 context index sheet
- 1 drawing index sheet
- 1 field drawing on 1 sheet
- 3 sheets of site diary and notes
- 2 photographic record sheets
- 1 film of black and white photographic negatives
- 1 film of colour photographic transparencies

The archive is currently held by Marches Archaeology awaiting transfer to Shropshire Museum Service.



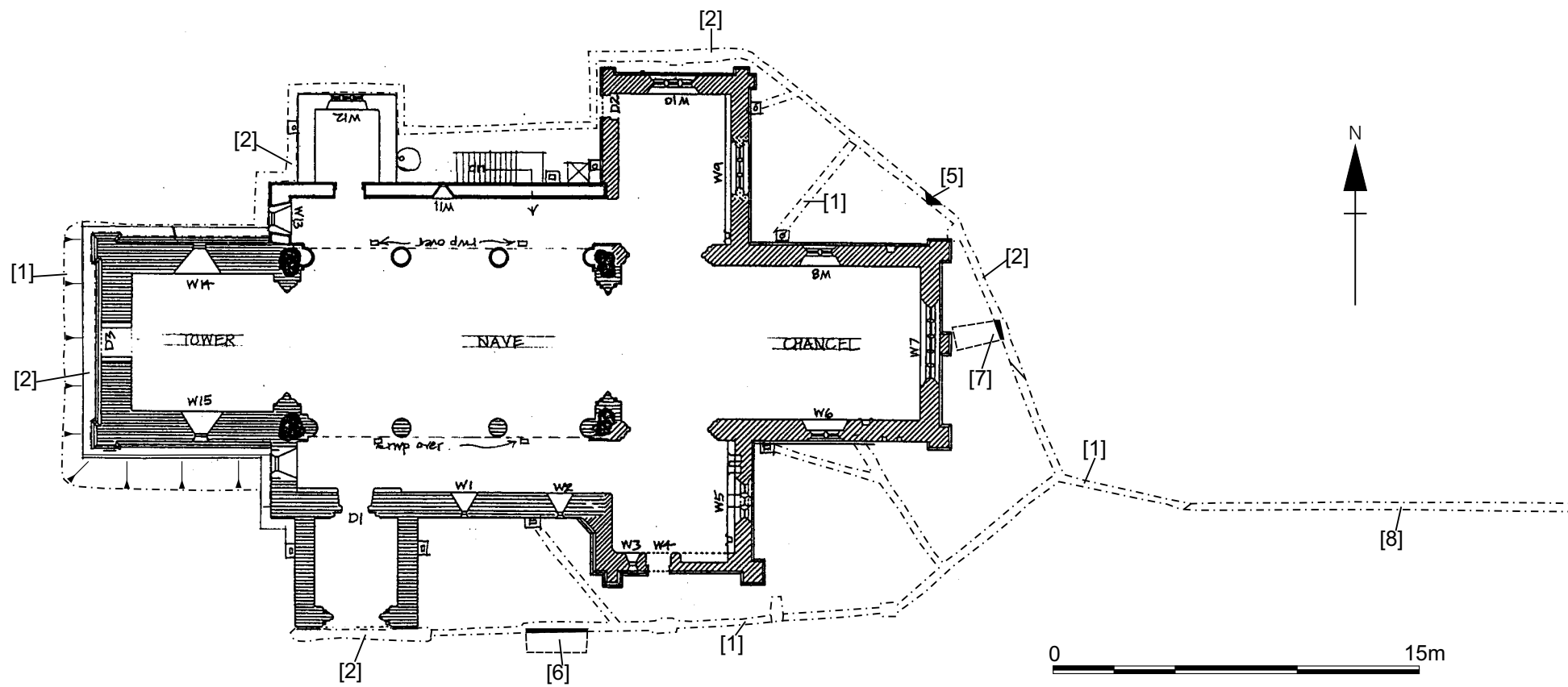


Fig. 2 Location of the areas of excavation

# *Marches Archaeology*

## The Church of St John the Baptist, Kinlet

### Project Proposal for a watching brief

#### **Introduction**

Alterations to the drainage are proposed at the church of St John the Baptist, Kinlet. It is understood that a faculty for this work has been obtained. The site is situated at NGR: SO 711 810.

Elements of the church date to the Norman period. In order that the archaeological resource is adequately protected an archaeological watching brief is to be carried out during ground works associated with the proposed development.

Wheatley Lloyd, acting as agents for the Parochial Church Council (the client), have requested Marches Archaeology to quote for providing the archaeological services required for the project.

No Brief for the works has been prepared. This project proposal forms a written scheme of investigation for the archaeological works and is based on standard practice and draws on Briefs produced by archaeological advisors to various Local Planning Authorities. Any subsequent alterations to the Project Proposal will be agreed in writing between Marches Archaeology and the client.

#### **Archaeological and Historical Background**

The fabric of the present church is of Norman origin. However, the present settlement of Kinlet lies to the south. It is possible that evidence of the earlier settlement may be found around the church remains of which may be disturbed by the proposed works. It is likely that the work will also encounter human remains which, if articulated, would be worthy of recording.

Further documentary study will be carried out in order to place the results of the watching brief in an appropriate context.

#### **Scope and aims of the project**

The scope of the project is:

- ◆ sufficient documentary research will be carried out to place the results in an appropriate archaeological and historical context.
- ◆ observation of all topsoil stripping, other earthmoving and trench excavation until natural subsoil is reached
- ◆ the sequence of soil deposits present and all archaeological deposits and features shall be recorded
- ◆ all artefacts shall be collected, identified and catalogued

- ◆ if significant archaeology is identified the archaeologist on site should inform the client and other appropriate parties in order that appropriate action may be taken to minimise the damage to such deposits and to record them appropriately
- ◆ Full processing of archaeological materials and the production of an appropriate report

The purpose of an archaeological watching brief is defined by the Institute of Field Archaeologists as:

‘to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works’

and:

‘to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard’.

## **Methodology**

### *Documentary research*

Primary and secondary sources will be consulted in order to inform the fieldwork phase. Initially a site visit will be made and the appropriate local Sites and Monuments Record consulted. The following sources will also be considered, as appropriate and subject to availability:

Ordnance Survey maps; Tithe maps; Estate maps and other historical maps;  
 Previous published and unpublished archaeological reports and archive work;  
 Written non-archaeological sources; Air photographs; Geological maps;  
 Borehole and other engineering data.

### *Fieldwork*

Before the project commences two full sets of any existing relevant drawings (plans, elevations, sections etc.) including the development site and any building(s) as existing and as proposed will be provided to Marches Archaeology by the client. Two copies of any amendments or revisions to such drawings and of any additional drawings will be provided as the project continues. Copies will also be provided to Marches Archaeology of any additional relevant historical, archaeological, structural or other information is held by the client.

Observations and appropriate recording will be undertaken of all ground breaking activity in association with this proposed development will be made, unless otherwise prior agreement is made between Marches Archaeology, the client and any other interested parties.

The archaeologist(s) shall have the power to suspend work on the excavation of material for short periods of time, normally less than fifteen minutes, for the purpose of investigating

areas of potential archaeological interest. If an area is deemed to require more detailed recording the archaeologist(s) shall have the power to suspend work in that area for the purpose of small scale excavation and recording of archaeological data in order to fulfil the requirements of the project.

The recording system will include written, drawn and photographic data. The primary written record will be by means of site notes, accompanied by sketches. Context numbers will be allocated and context record sheets completed as appropriate. A running matrix will be maintained as appropriate. Plans (normally 1:20), sections (normally 1:10) and other appropriate drawings of significant data will be made. Plans will normally be multi-context, but certain features may require single context planning. The photographic record will be made using black and white negative and colour transparency film. Samples will be taken of deposits considered to have environmental, technological or scientific dating potential.

If deposits or features are encountered for which the resources allocated to the watching brief are not sufficient to support a treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard the client and any other relevant parties will be informed in order to discuss, agree and implement an appropriate response, either within a previously agreed contingency arrangement or supplemental thereto.

If articulated human remains are encountered discussions will be held as to the possibility of leaving them *in situ* by design changes. If this is not practicable they will be excavated, cleaned and stored by Marches Archaeology for study and eventual reburial by the client. The study of articulated remains may warrant specialist involvement. Disarticulated remains will be quantified on site and replaced in the trench after excavation.

#### *Office work*

On completion of fieldwork a site archive will be prepared. The written, drawn and photographic data will be catalogued and cross-referenced and a summary produced. The artefactual and ecofactual data will be processed, catalogued and cross-referenced and summaries produced. After an initial assessment any unstratified non-diagnostic artefacts and ecofacts and non-diagnostic samples will be discarded. Further dispersal of artefacts and ecofacts will be in line with the collection policy of the recipient repository and will be documented in the archive. The checked site matrix will be produced if appropriate.

The freeholder(s) of the land to which this document relates has title to all objects (unless within the jurisdiction of the Treasure Act 1996) recovered from the land. The freeholder(s) shall agree to donate in perpetuity the archive, together with any artefacts and ecofacts recovered during the fieldwork, to an appropriate repository. Marches Archaeology will arrange for such deposition.

Assessment will be based on the site archive. Any artefacts and ecofacts which require specialist assessment will be submitted for such work.

An illustrated client report will be produced which will detail the aims, methods, and results of the project. A non-technical summary and details of the location and size of the archive will be included. Copyright of any reports is vested in Marches Archaeology.

The client will be provided with two copies of the report. Further copies will be deposited with the local Sites and Monuments Record, the Local Authority's archaeological service and the National Archaeological Record (one copy each).

If the project reveals that the quality and potential of the information resulting from the fieldwork is such that further analysis and/or formal publication is required the level of such work will be determined in discussions between the client, Marches Archaeology and the Local Planning Authority's Archaeological Advisor. Such works would be subject to a further Project Proposal which would be separately costed.

### **Management of the Project**

Marches Archaeology recognises the Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology, By-Laws, Standards and other documents produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists. The project will be managed by a Member of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

The Safety Policy and General Risk Assessment operated by Marches Archaeology will be implemented. Copies of these documents are available on request. A risk assessment specific to this project will be carried out before commencement of fieldwork to identify any risks not noted in the General Risk Assessment. If another body is responsible for Health and Safety on the site Marches Archaeology will conform to any policy which may be in force. If costs accrue due to Health and Safety issues not made apparent to Marches Archaeology by the time of submission of this Project Proposal these costs will be additional to any costs identified in the estimate. The requirements of Health and Safety legislation are deemed to take precedence over archaeological requirements.

Appropriate insurance cover will be held throughout the project.

Any archaeologist with curatorial jurisdiction over the area or the project shall at any reasonable time be granted access to the site, with prior notice, for the purpose of monitoring the fieldwork.

### **Timetable**

The timetable has not yet been finalised. The results of the fieldwork will be reported to the local Sites and Monuments Record within one month of completion of all fieldwork. A summary report will be submitted for publication in an appropriate medium within one year of completion of all fieldwork.

### **Resources**

The project will be managed by either Richard Stone or Nic Appleton-Fox, both of whom are Members of the Institute of Field Archaeologists with a registered Area of Competence in Archaeological Field Practice. Other field and post-excavation staff will be appropriately experienced. Where trainees are used they will be closely supervised by senior members of the project team. Normal working hours are Mon-Thurs 8.30-4.30 and Fri 8.30-4.00. Additional hours constitute overtime.

Specialist sub-contractors will be used as appropriate. Specialists will normally be people approved by English Heritage Ancient Monuments Laboratory. Those who might be expected to be called upon (dependent upon availability) include:

Jeremy Evans (Rátkai and Evans PX Partners)	Roman ceramics
Stephanie Rátkai (Rátkai and Evans PX Partners)	medieval ceramics
David Barker (Stoke on Trent Museum)	post-medieval ceramics
Liz Pearson (Worcestershire Archaeological Service)	environmental remains
Ian Baxter (Freelance)	animal bone
Megan Brickley (Birmingham Univ Field Archaeology Unit)	human bone

9th June 2004