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**Norton Community Primary School
Grove Street
Norton
North Yorkshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

SE 7953 7123

Authorised by *NA. Curran*
Date: *23/07/08*

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July 2008

**Norton Community Primary School
Grove Street
Norton
North Yorkshire
SE 7953 7123**

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Archaeological Recording Brief Report

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Archaeological Recording Brief Report

Non Technical Summary

An Archaeological Recording Brief was conducted by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd at Norton Community Primary School, Grove Street, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire (SE 7953 7123) on the 22nd August and the 3rd and 4th October 2007, and the 15th to the 17th January and the 11th to the 13th February 2008. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the erection of a new classroom block, and the installation of associated services (Ref: NY/2007/0077/FUL).

1. Introduction

1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Recording Brief that was conducted on the 22nd August and the 3rd and 4th October 2007, and the 15th to the 17th January and the 11th to the 13th February 2008 by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd. at Norton Community Primary School, Grove Street, Norton, Malton, North Yorkshire, (SE 7953 7123, Figs.1 - 3). The Recording Brief was undertaken to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to a Planning Application Consent (Ref: NY/2007/0077/FUL) for the erection of a new classroom.

1.2 The Recording Brief was designed to provide the appropriate level of recording for archaeological remains, deposits or finds that might be affected by the development, following the archaeology policy issued by the Secretary of State for the Environment contained in *Planning Policy Guidance 16 'Archaeology and Planning' (PPG 16)*, and in accordance with Policy C13 of the Ryedale District Local Plan.

- 1.3 The site code for the project was MAP 02.08.07.
- 1.4 All work was funded by North Yorkshire County Council.
- 1.5 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description

- 2.1 The site lies in the centre of the town of Norton, at the southern end of Grove Street (Figs. 1 and 2). The site is bounded to the north and east by factory buildings, with the existing buildings and playground of Norton Community Primary School to the south and west.
- 2.2 The site lies on soils of the Landbeach Association, which consist of permeable calcareous and non-calcareous loamy soils, overlying a solid geology of chalky glaciofluvial and river terrace drift (Mackney, 1984, 194).
- 2.3 At the time of the Recording Brief the former 'temporary' classroom had been demolished and the resulting debris cleared (Pl.1).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The Roman fort and *vicus* (civilian settlement) at Malton lies c. 600m north of the site, across the river Derwent. Additional Roman settlement spread southwards across the river to cover a substantial area of what is now the modern town of Norton.
- 3.2 From its origins as a medieval village, modern Norton greatly expanded in the mid-19th and 20th centuries to form a large residential and industrial area. Successive building works associated with the growth of the town lead to the uncovering of substantial Roman remains (Wenham, 1974).

- 3.3 Roman buildings were identified in 1946 during the construction of the Eastfield estate (Hayes, 1988). The remains of 3rd century pottery kilns and associated buildings were recorded in 1948 at the Howe Road estate (Hayes and Whitley, 1950).
- 3.4 To the south of the site, Roman inhumation and cremation burials were found during the building of St Peter's Church in 1891, and the Church Hall in 1937 (Robinson, nos. 306-309).
- 3.5 A scatter of Roman and medieval sherds were found during the construction of Brooklyn Youth Club to the south west of the site in 1967. A sewer trench that cut across the club car park revealed an infant burial beneath a pitched surface of stone roofing tiles (ibid. no. 312). Archaeological excavation associated with the creation of a new access road into Brooklyn in 2002 recorded a Roman road, and further pitched stone surfaces and human inhumation burials (MAP 2002).
- 3.6 A segment of the Roman road linking Malton and Settrington was recorded at Bright Steels, Wood Street, c. 75m northeast of the site (MAP 1994). Also on Wood Street, well-preserved Roman deposits consisting of surfacing, 'occupation' levels and a massive road-side ditch were recorded during an evaluation at Wood Street Garage (no. 27 Wood Street) in December 2007 (MAP 2008).

4. Aims and Objectives

- 4.1 The aims of the Archaeological Recording Brief were to record and recover any archaeological remains that were affected by the development, and to prepare a report summarising the results of the work (Appendix 6).

5. Methodology

- 5.1 The archaeological work involved the supervision of the excavation of footings for the new classroom block and the associated service trenches.

- 5.2 All excavations were undertaken by a 360⁰ 4.5 ton mechanical excavator, operating under close archaeological supervision.
- 5.3 All work was carried out in line with the Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (IFA 1998).
- 5.4 All deposits were recorded according to correct principles of stratigraphic excavation on MAP's *pro forma* context sheets, which are compatible with the MoLAS recording system.
- 5.5 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Recording Brief on a digital camera.

6. Results

- 6.1 The new building measured approximately 28m north to south and 12m east to west (Pl. 1). The foundations consisted of conventional strip footings (Pls. 2 and 3). The external foundations were 0.90m wide with a maximum depth of 0.90m, whilst those inside the building were of a similar depth but only 0.50m wide.
- 6.2 Because of the relative shallowness of the foundations natural deposits were only revealed, and intermittently so, in the southern half of the building footprint. A uniform deposit of greyish brown sandy silt (1002) lay directly above the natural, and was at its deepest (0.80m) to the south. Context 1002 contained quantities of Roman and medieval pottery (including large parts of an amphora), and was probably a former cultivation soil. Context 1002 achieved its maximum depth of 0.80m at the north of the site and was overlain by a layer of mixed rubble and topsoil (1001) that was capped by asphalt.
- 6.3 The two service runs, water to the north of the playground (Pl. 4), and electricity to the south, were around 0.90m wide and 0.80m deep. The stratigraphy was similar to that in the foundation trenches, but natural deposits were not reached and finds were markedly fewer.

7. Conclusions

- 7.1. The Recording Brief at Norton Community Primary School was in many ways inconclusive because natural deposits - the point at which archaeological features might be expected – were not generally seen.
- 7.2 The presence of large Roman pottery sherds is a hint that significant deposits or features lie at a depth greater than that affected by the development. Alternatively, the sherds might simply represent rubbish dumping away from the major Roman route that passes to the north of the site.

8. Bibliography

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et al. Survey of England and Wales.
- MAP 1994 Bright Steels, Wood Street, Norton, North Yorkshire.
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Evaluation.
- Robinson, J.F. 1978 The Archaeology of Malton and Norton.
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Figure 1. Site Location

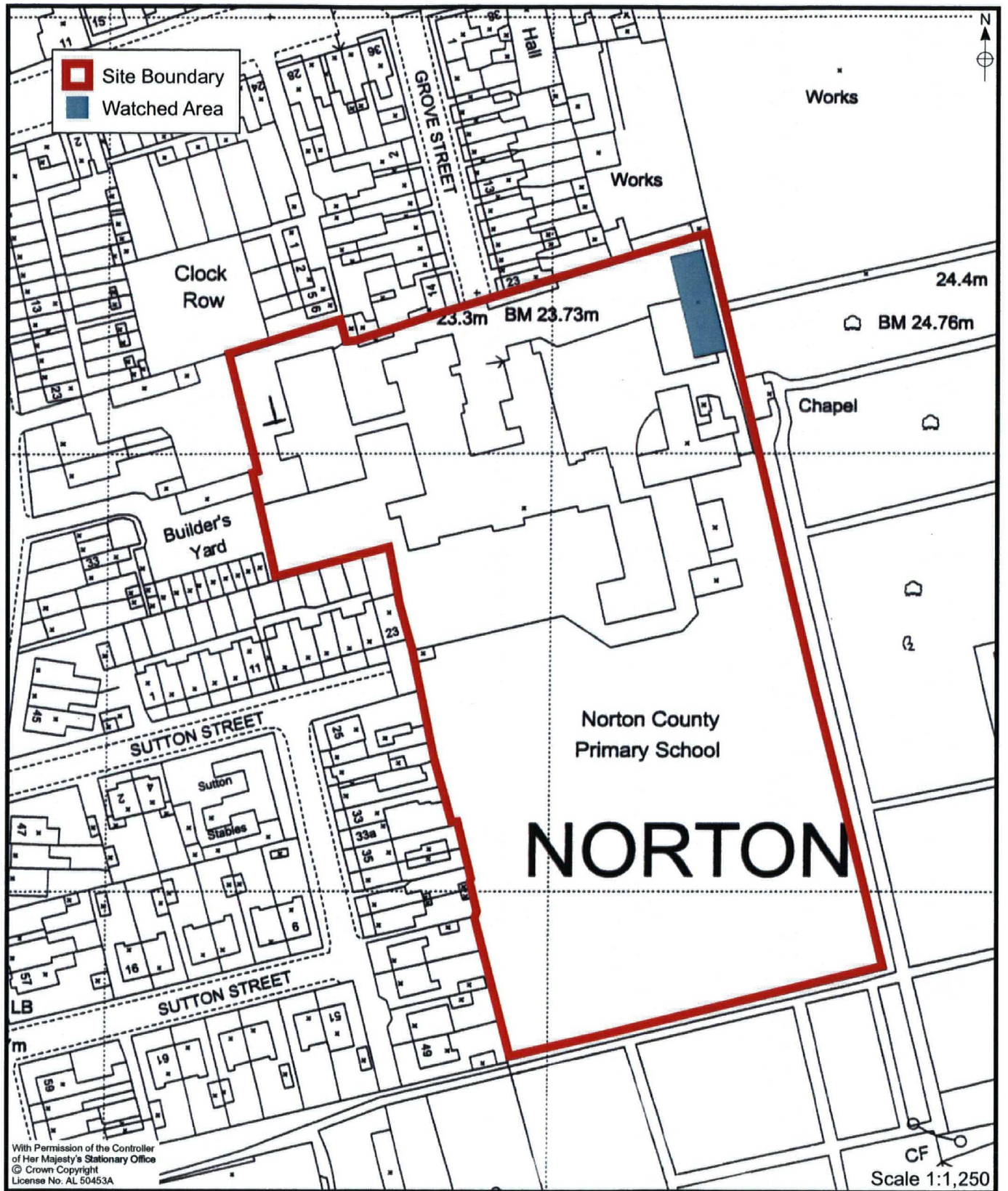


Figure 2. Watching Brief Area

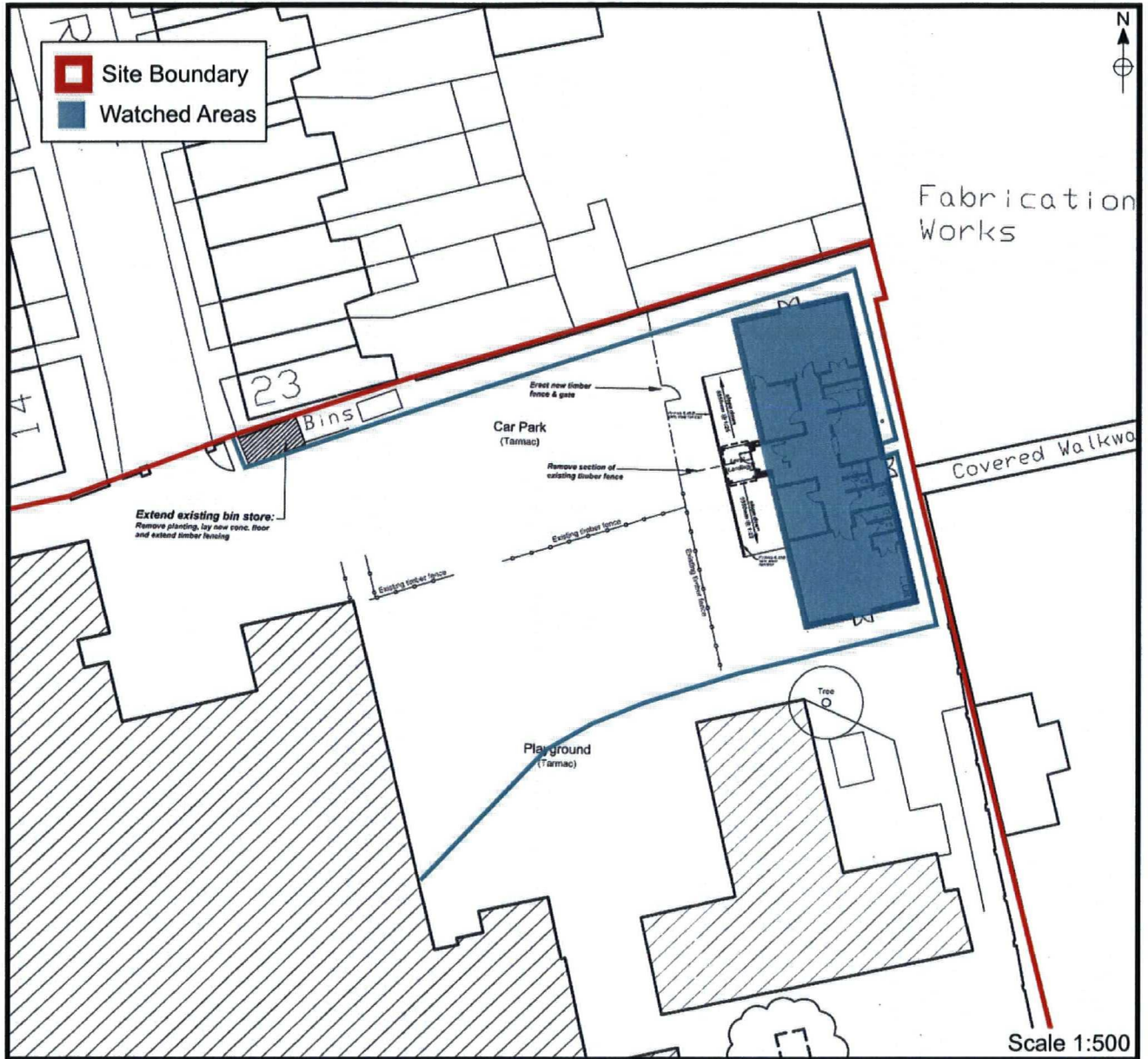


Figure 3. Area of Watching Brief



Plate 1. General View of Site. Facing North



Plate 2. Foundation Detail. Facing North West



Plate 3: Eastern Foundation. Facing North.



Plate 4: Water Pipe Trench. Facing West.

APPENDIX 1

Context Listing

Norton Community Primary School, Wood Street, Norton 02.08.07

Context	Description
1001	Deposit Modern levelling, rubble and asphalt
1002	Deposit 10 YR 4/2, sandy silt; ?cultivation layer

APPENDIX 2

Finds Catalogue

Context	Type	Total	Description	Weight (g)	Spot date
1002	Pottery	12	7 Greyware (2 rim) 1 Ebor-type base 1 Calcite-gritted 1 mortarium 1 Humber ware 1 Hambleton ware base	302	2nd -3rd 15/16th
1002	Amphora	27	25 body sherds 1 neck sherd	8346	2nd - mid 3rd

APPENDIX 3

Photographic Archive Listing

Digital

Frame	Description	Scale	Facing
1	Eastern foundation	N/A	North
2	Northern foundation	N/A	West
3	Western foundation	N/A	North
4	Detail of foundation trench at NE corner of building	N/A	North-east
5	General view of foundation trenches	N/A	North
6	Service trench on east side of building	N/A	North
7	Service trench on north side of playground	N/A	South
8	Service trench on north side of playground	N/A	West

APPENDIX 4

Project Team Details

Fieldwork

Mark Stephens
Charles Rickaby
Kelly Hunter

Post-excavation

Report - Mark Stephens
Finds processing - Charles Rickaby
Figures - Dave Knight, Kelly Hunter
Editing - Nigel Cavanagh

STANDARD WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING (“RECORDING BRIEF”)

Norton Community Primary School, Norton

Planning Ref: NY/2007/0077/FUL

An Archaeological Recording Brief will be undertaken on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council, during the erection a new classroom block, and the installation of associated services at Norton Community Primary School (Ref: NY/2007/0077/FUL).

The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains, which could be affected by proposed development. The area is to be stripped under archaeological supervision and any features/deposits exposed excavated and recorded to correct archaeological standards

1. The work should not require the construction programme or development to be held up while archaeological investigation takes place, although some developers may give such a facility.
2. The WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements needed to comply with an archaeological planning condition. The scheme does not comprise a full specification, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. The details of implementation must be specified in a contract between the developer and the selected archaeological contractor.
3. The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) should be supervised by the Archaeologist contracted to carry out the WSI. The Archaeologist should be informed of the correct timing and schedule of overburden removal.
4. Removal of overburden by machine should be undertaken using a back-acting excavator fitted with toothless or ditching bucket only. Where materials are exceptionally difficult to lift, a toothed bucket may be used temporarily. Subsoils (B horizons) or deep, uniform fills of features may also be removed by back-acting excavator but only in areas specified by the Archaeologist on site, and only with archaeological supervision. Bulldozers or wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits. Where reinstatement is required, topsoil should be kept separate from other soil materials.
5. Metal detecting within the development area, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording such that metal finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice.
6. Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the Archaeologist should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they

should immediately tell the Archaeologist. The sampling of deposits for palaeo-environmental evidence should be a standard consideration, and arrangements should be made to ensure that specialist advice and analysis are available if appropriate.

7. Heavy plant should not be operated in the near vicinity of archaeological remains until they have been recorded, and the Archaeologist on site has allowed operations to recommence at that location. Sterile subsoils (C horizons) and parent materials below archaeological deposits may be removed without archaeological supervision. Where reinstatement is required, subsoils should be backfilled first and topsoil last.

8. Upon completion of fieldwork, samples will be processed and evaluated, and all finds cleaned, identified, assessed, spot-dated, and properly stored. A field archive will be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist will arrange for either the County Archaeologist or an independent post-excavation specialist to inspect the archive before making arrangements for the transfer of the archive to an appropriate museum or records office.

9. A report will be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report will contain planning or administrative details of the project, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate, and catalogues of finds, features, and primary records. All excavated areas will be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features will be illustrated with conventionally scaled plans, sections, or photographs. Where few or no finds are made, a summary report the form of a letter with plans will be submitted.

10. Copies of the summary report will be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Unit (SMR), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage.

11. The County Archaeologist will be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work will be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If human remains are encountered, they will be exhumed subject to the conditions of a Home Office licence.