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**Lady's Walk, Hutton Conyers  
Ripon  
North Yorkshire**

*Archaeological Watching Brief*

*April 2009*

*Report No. 1947*

CLIENT  
N C Construction

**Lady's Walk, Hutton Conyers,  
Ripon  
North Yorkshire**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

*Summary*

*An archaeological watching brief on a plot of land adjoining Lady's Walk, in the village of Hutton Conyers, during the excavation of footing trenches for the construction of a new house, revealed only natural deposits underneath a modern made ground. No archaeological remains were identified.*



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**Report Information**

Client: Mr Nigel Cawthorne, NC Construction  
Address: Hill Top Farm, Bilton Lane, Harrogate HG1 4DH  
Report Type: Watching Brief  
Location: Lady's Walk, Hutton Conyers, Ripon  
County: North Yorkshire  
Grid Reference: SE 324 734  
Period(s) of activity represented: Modern  
Report Number: 1947  
Project Number: 3424  
Site Code: LWR  
Planning Application No.: 08/01691/FUL  
Museum Accession No.: Not provided yet  
Date of fieldwork: 20th April 2009  
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## **1 Introduction**

Archaeological Services WYAS were commissioned by Mr Nigel Cawthorne of NC Construction to carry out an archaeological watching brief during ground works for the construction of a detached five-bedroom house in the village of Hutton Conyers, near Ripon, North Yorkshire (Planning Application Ref: 08/01691/FUL).

### **Site location and topography**

The development site is situated between Arran House and Lady's Walk in the village and civil Parish of Hutton Conyers (SE 324 734, Fig. 1), near the river Ure, about one mile to the northeast of Ripon. The area is on gently undulating ground, between 36m and 41m AOD.

### **Soils, geology and land-use**

The soils are classified in the Escrick 2 Association and consist of deep, well drained, often reddish course loamy soils, some fine loamy soils with slowly permeable subsoils and slight seasonal waterlogging (Soil Survey 1983, Soils of Northern England (Sheet 1), 571q). The underlying drift geology is glaciofluvial drift over Permian and Triassic sandstones including Bunter and Keuper (British Geological Survey 1992). The development area lies on the site of a former vegetable garden containing brick pathways and brick sheds (mostly kennels).

## **2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

The majority of the following is taken from 'Parishes: Hutton Conyers', A History of the County of York North Riding: Volume 1 (1914), pp. 403-405. (URL: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=64776>. Date accessed: 24 April 2009).

The village of Hutton Conyers stands on rising ground a quarter of a mile to the east of the River Ure. Despite having long been under cultivation there are archaeological remains covering all periods in the area. There are many tumuli located over the eastern part of the parish and some may be the remains of Bronze Age barrows. Linear crop marks have also been identified from aerial photographs in the area and are thought to be the remains of Iron Age track ways or field systems. There is a deserted medieval village at Nunwick to the north of the site, and there are ridge and furrow earthworks in some of the fields around the village.

Much mutilated earthworks on Hutton Moor mark the site of Hutton Conyers castle, built c. 1136 by the Earl of Richmond for the sole purpose of extracting tribute from the inhabitants of Ripon (I'Anson 1913). The castle was demolished and the earthworks destroyed by Henry II (1154-1189).

At a point north of the village a small stream flows into the river above a location known as Hutton Mill Deep. Medieval records describe two mills at this junction, of which no evidence survives above ground.

Also north of the village is the site of the original Hutton Hall, the old moated manor house of the Conyers, and subsequently of the Mallorys. There is no discernible evidence of the park that once surrounded it. In 1869 a farmhouse dating from the 16th century occupied the site. A ceiling ornamented with the arms of the Mallorys remained to show that this house also had been at times the residence of the lords of the manor. According to tradition it was attacked during the civil wars by Parliamentary forces. The Hutton Hall of the present day stands a short distance to the northeast.

### **The manor of Hutton Conyers**

The Bishop of Durham held twelve carucates in Hutton Conyers before 1086, along with with two carucates in Howgrave as one 'manor'. (A carucate was a measurement of land for tax purposes of approximately 120 acres). The tenant of the bishop in 1086 is recorded as Robert. Between 1099 and 1133, however, the Bishop of Durham gifted Hutton and other places to his councillor, Roger de Conyers.

At the end of the 12th century a division of the Conyers' estates was made between Roger son of Robert de Conyers, the right heir, and his uncle Roger. Hutton was allotted to the elder branch of the family, which resided there for several generations. Roger was succeeded by his son Robert, who died before 1259, and was succeeded by Roger his son. Another Robert followed and held Norton Conyers in 1284. It was either he or his heir of the same name who was returned as lord of Hutton in 1316.

In 1347 the lord of the manor died without a male heir and his daughter Joan married Sir Christopher Mallory. He seems to have been succeeded before 1398 by William Mallory, probably his son. A second Christopher Mallory followed. His widow Isabel married William Vincent, who claimed a third of the manor as dower against William Mallory, probably the son of Christopher. This dispute lasted for four years, and was finally settled in 1438 when William Vincent and Isabel transferred a third of the manor to William Mallory.

William married Denise, sister and heir of William Tempest, and thus became lord of the manor of Studley Royal. He died in 1475 and was succeeded by his grandson William, son and heir of John Mallory who had predeceased his father. The younger William married Joan Constable. On his death in 1499 he was succeeded by his son John Mallory who paid £4 0s. 4d. as subsidy for his land in Hutton Conyers in 1524. He settled some lands here on his son William who was his heir, and succeeded him at his death in 1527. William died in 1547 leaving a son and heir Christopher, who survived him only eight years. At his death Christopher had no children, and his lands were inherited, under a settlement by his brother William Mallory and his wife Ursula. A posthumous son John was subsequently born to Christopher, and in 1578 had a writ of *amoveas manus* for a third part of the manors of Studley and Nunwick, late of Christopher his father.

William Mallory, brother of Christopher, held Hutton Conyers until his death in March of 1602 or 1603. He was Member of Parliament and Sheriff of Yorkshire, and was very active in the suppression of Popery. His son John was succeeded in his turn by his son William. William died in 1645–6, and left to his son Sir John Mallory his land encumbered with considerable debts. He and his son had raised forces against the Parliament in the fight for Ripon, and had to pay a fine of £2,219. Sir John, whose wife was Mary Mosley, died in 1655. Their son William died ten years later, and was succeeded by his only surviving sister Mary wife of George Aislabie of York.

The manor was in the possession of George Aislabie in 1670, but four years later he was killed in a duel and his wife held his lands in trust for her children. Her eldest surviving son George succeeded her, and died in 1699. His brother John, who was Member of Parliament for Ripon inherited the estates. As Chancellor of the Exchequer during the financial crisis known as the South Sea Bubble he resigned his seat and retired to Studley. His son and heir William Aislabie succeeded him, and was member for the borough from 1721 to 1781. He had two sons who predeceased him, and his will passed the estates on his two daughters in succession. The elder, Elizabeth, wife of Charles Allanson, died childless. She was succeeded by Elizabeth, daughter of her younger sister Anna Sophia who had married William Lawrence.

On the death of Miss Elizabeth Lawrence in 1845 the estates reverted to the descendants of Mary Aislabie, daughter of George Aislabie and Mary Mallory. She had married Sir William Robinson of Newby, and her representative at this date was Thomas Philip Earl de Grey. On his death in 1859 his nephew, George Robinson, Earl of Ripon from 1859-1871, succeeded him. All titles became extinct in 1923.

An Enclosure Act was passed in 1810 and a large part of the parish remained under cultivation during the 19th century. At the turn of the 20th century the manufacture of bricks and tiles was a significant industry for the small population of 194.

### **The chapel**

In the early 13th century the chapter of Ripon granted to Roger de Conyers and his son Robert the right to have a chapel and serving chaplain in Hutton Conyers. The presentation was to be in the hands of the lords of the manor. Roger de Conyers made a grant of land in Hutton Conyers for the purpose of building the chapel, which was dedicated to St. John the Baptist. In 1322 Robert de Conyers, then lord of the manor, made an additional grant of land in Hutton Conyers and Howgrave to a chaplain to celebrate divine service daily in the chapel.

The lords of the manor of Hutton Conyers continued to present incumbents to this chapel down to the 16th century. The object for which it existed was stated in 1546 to be *'to have mass, divine service and sacraments ministered in the said church at such times as the inhabitants of the same town cannot come to the parish church for the influence of the water, when the water here is big'*.



Following the confiscation of its endowment the chapel seems to have fallen into disuse, and since the 16th century the inhabitants of Hutton Conyers have had no nearer church than Ripon. In 1863 the village was included in the new ecclesiastical district of Sharow.

### **3 Aims and Objectives**

The aim of the watching brief was to identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, character and date as far as circumstances permit of any archaeological features and deposits which are disturbed or exposed as a result of groundwork within the development area.

### **4 Methodology**

The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation for limited archaeological recording prepared by North Yorkshire County Council (2006, Appendix 2) and approved by North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (NYHER). The work involved the monitored mechanical excavation of topsoil using a small back-acting 360 mechanical excavator, fitted with a toothless ditching bucket for the stripping and a toothed ditching bucket for the excavation of the footing. An archaeologist was present throughout and the resulting spoil, surfaces and sections were inspected for archaeological remains.

The area of ground disturbance was recorded on a development plan provided by the client. The stratigraphic sequence and nature of the excavation were also recorded in accordance with ASWYAS and IFA watching brief guidelines and standard methodology (ASWYAS 2006a, 2006b, IFA 2008). The site archive contains all the information gathered during the investigation and is listed in Appendix 1. The archive is currently held at ASWYAS headquarters but will be deposited in due course following the requirements of the recipient museum.

### **5 Results**

The development area was first stripped of the topsoil (a dark brown silty clay deposit with frequent ceramic building material fragments, stone fragments and domestic waste, 0.20m deep), showing natural deposits in the northern side of the area (Fig. 2, Pl. 2), and structural remains of modern brick pathways in the southern side of the area (Fig. 2, Pl. 3 and 4). The foundation trenches were excavated to a maximum width of 0.75m and with a depth of 0.50m below the ground surface (Fig. 2, Pl. 5 and 6)

Immediately below the topsoil, a dark orangey brown sandy silt subsoil deposit, 0.20m deep, was identified. The natural drift geology, a mid-reddish sandy clay, was removed to a maximum depth of 0.15m. On inspection, no archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified.

## **6 Conclusions**

Although the development sites was situated in the centre of Hutton Conyers, less than a mile south of some possible earthworks, the excavation revealed only natural deposits underlying made ground and modern structural remains. This does not mean that significant archaeological remains do not exist in the surrounding area.

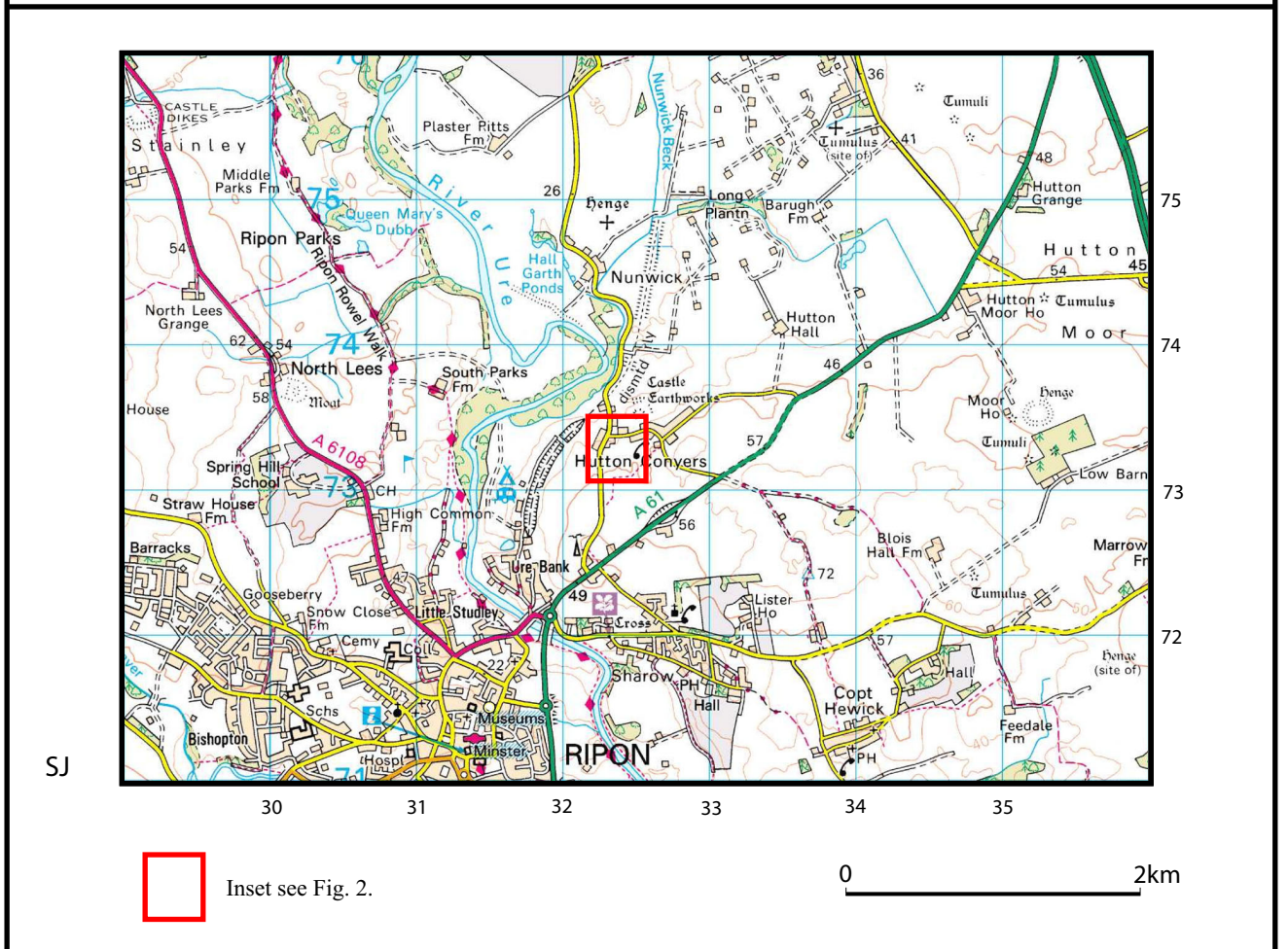
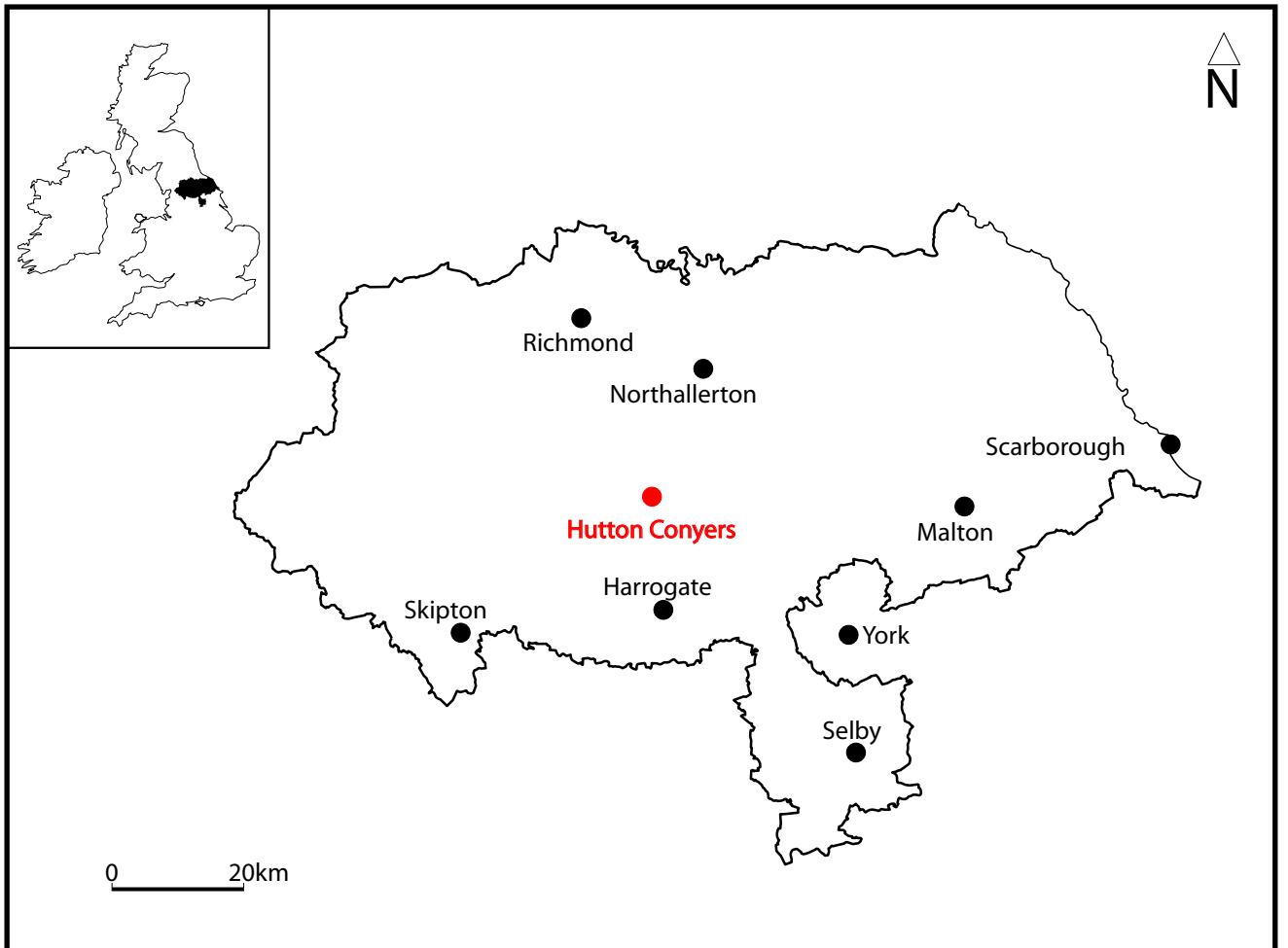


Fig. 1. Site location



Plate 1. General view of the development site previous groundworks, looking northeast



Plate 2. Stripping of the topsoil, looking south



Plate 3. Modern structural remains, looking north



Plate 4. Modern structural remains, looking south



Plate 5. Excavation of the wall footings, looking north



Plate 6. General view of the wall footings, looking south

**Appendix 1: Inventory of primary archive**

Phase	File/Box No	Description	Quantity
Watching Brief	File no.1	Daily site recording forms	1
		Watching brief forms	1
		Levels sheets	1
		Drawing register	1
		Small drawing sheet	1
		Digital photo register sheets	2
		Site Risk Assessment	1
		Written scheme of investigation	1
		Location map	1

## **Appendix 2: Written scheme of investigation**





**STANDARD WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI)  
FOR LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING ("WATCHING BRIEF")**

- 1 The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains which are:
  - a) affected by proposed development only to a limited and clearly defined extent,
  - b) not available or susceptible to standard area excavation techniques, or
  - c) of limited importance or potential.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 or obligation. The scheme does **not** comprise a full specification or Bill of Quantities, and the County Council makes no warranty that the works are fully or exactly described. No work on site should commence until the implementation of the scheme is the subject of a standard ICE Conditions of Contract for Archaeological Investigation or similar agreement between the Developer and the Archaeologist.
- 3 The Archaeologist should notify by letter or e-mail the County Archaeology Service ([archaeology@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology@northyorks.gov.uk)) at least 10 working days in advance of the start of work on site.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 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.
- 7 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.

- 8 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.
- 9 Upon completion of fieldwork, samples should be processed and evaluated, and all finds identified, assessed, spot-dated, properly stored, and subject to investigative conservation as needed. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist should 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.
- 10 A summary report should be produced following NYCC guidelines on reporting. The report should 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 should be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features should be illustrated with conventionally-scaled plans, sections, and photographs. Where few or no finds are made, it may be acceptable to provide the report in the form of a letter with plans attached.
- 11 Copies of the summary report should be provided to the client(s), the County Heritage Section (HER), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage. A licence should be granted to the accepting museum and the County Council to use the documentation arising from the work for its statutory functions and to give to third parties as an incidental to those functions.
- 12 Upon completion of the work, the Archaeologist should make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). Submission of data to OASIS does not discharge the planning requirements for the Archaeologist to notify the County Archaeology Service of the details of the work and to provide the Historic Environment Record (HER) with a summary report on the work.
- 13 Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR) information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'. Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. The Archaeologist should inform the client of EIR requirements, and ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.
- 14 The County Archaeologist should 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 should be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If there is a need to remove human remains, an exhumation licence should be obtained from the Department for Constitutional Affairs ([coroners@dca.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:coroners@dca.gsi.gov.uk)), or a faculty obtained where the remains are buried in land consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England.

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