

**Methodist Chapel
St Hildas Street
Sherburn
North Yorkshire
SE 95837680**

Archaeological Watching Brief

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1. Foundation trench showing services 3, 4 and 6. Facing West

**Methodist Chapel
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Archaeological Watching Brief

Non-technical Summary

An Archaeological Watching brief was undertaken by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd during works for alterations and an extension to the Methodist Chapel, St Hildas Street, Sherburn, North Yorkshire. The work was carried out on the 14th of July 2009. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were identified or recovered during the works.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 An Archaeological Watching Brief was undertaken on the 14th of July 2009 by MAP Archaeological Consultancy Ltd, at The Methodist Chapel, St Hildas Street, Sherburn, North Yorkshire (NGR SE 95837680).
- 1.2 The work was undertaken in order to fulfil a condition attached to a Planning Application Consent (Ref No: 08/00228/FUL) and was designed to mitigate the archaeological impact of the proposed redevelopment of the site.
- 1.3 All work was funded by Liz Aconley.
- 1.4 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 is located centrally to the village, bounded by adjacent properties, to the west of St Hildas Street and just to the north of the junction with the A 64 Malton to Scarborough road.
- 2.2 The Watching Brief area was located in a small yard to the north of the existing chapel where foundation trenches were to be excavated forming an extension to the chapel as part of refurbishment work to the building.
- 2.3 The site lies on soils of the Newport 1 Association, deep well drained sandy and coarse loamy soils. Some sandy soils affected by groundwater. Risk of wind and water erosion (Mackney *et al.*).

3. Historical and Archaeological Background

- 3.1 The sandy soils on which the site is situated, attracted large-scale occupation in the Prehistoric period, with a ‘ribbon’ of settlements following the 30m contour along the southern edge of the Vale of Pickering. This ‘ladder settlement’ stretches from Sherburn, westwards to Heslerton and beyond. Excavation took place in 1985-6 on an area of this prehistoric settlement c. 1km west of Sherburn (Powlesland 1987). The importance of the area as a focus for settlement continued into the Roman period, with Roman coins and sherds being found at an area immediately north of the primary school (c. 200m northwest of the development area). Recent enhanced geophysical survey work in the vicinity by the Landscape Research Trust, has identified a wealth of sites of all periods. In particular a trackway, bounded by two ditches 50m apart, has been recognised on an alignment that runs directly through the proposed development area (Dominic Powlesland, *pers. comm.*). A pit-alignment of probable prehistoric date is believed to pre-date the trackway.
- 3.2 The present village of Sherburn existed as a settlement before the Norman Conquest, the name being recorded as *Scirebur*’, *Sciresburne* and *Schiresburne* in the Domesday Survey; the name means ‘bright, clear stream’

(Smith ed. 1937). The parish church of St. Hilda doubtless formed a focus of the medieval settlement, which extended southwards towards the present A64 York to Scarborough road. Hayfield has suggested that the regular appearance of the properties in the southern half of the settlement (of which the site forms a part) reflects deliberate periods of expansion in the medieval period (Hayfield 1994). T. C. M. Brewster excavated a major series of medieval stone buildings and yards on the west side of St Hilda Street (c. 400m north-west of the development area – *ibid.*). Brewster also observed three 13th century “kilns” at the front of a property on the west side of the street, almost opposite the entrance to Atlas Ward’s; however, whether these were associated with pottery manufacture remains unclear.

- 3.3 An evaluation and subsequent Watching Brief carried out at 18-22 St Hilda Street (immediately north of the proposed development area) revealed medieval pits and boundary features, and undated (presumably prehistoric or Romano-British) linear features. Finds included a small assemblage of pottery and animal bone, and a background scatter of earlier material, including pottery and flint artefacts (MAP 1995).
- 3.4 An Archaeological evaluation was carried out in February 2006 in the grounds of the former Pigeon Pie Hotel c. 200m west of the proposed development site. A small circular feature of probable prehistoric date was recorded, covered by c. 0.30m of windblown sand, which was cut by several medieval and post-medieval features (AOC 2006).
- 3.5 In the post-medieval period, the focus of settlement in Sherburn shifted south to the York to Scarborough turnpike road, reflected by the construction of the former Pigeon Pie Hotel and industry such as James Kirk’s East Riding Brewery along the Scarborough Road. Manor Farm, south of the site across the A64, has a date-stone of 1856.

4. Methodology

- 4.1 The foundation trenches for the Chapel extension were mechanically excavated under direct archaeological supervision. A photographic record was made of all deposits encountered.

5. Results

- 5.1 Two foundation trenches were excavated forming an L-shape, one aligned east to west measured 8.15m long, the other north to south trench measuring 3m long, both trenches were excavated to a depth of 1m and width of 0.7m. No archaeological features, deposits, or finds were identified during the excavation of the foundation trenches. The only deposits recorded were the existing brick yard surface (context 1), 0.06m deep, a hardcore make up (context 2) 0.5m deep, that overlay a mixed sandy clay deposit (context 7).
- 5.2 Much of the foundation trenches had been previously disturbed by services, including ceramic drains (contexts 3, 4 and 5) and a water pipe (Context 6) located at the base of the trench (Pl. 1).

6. Conclusions

- 6.1 The area covered by the Watching Brief had been disturbed by service trenches made up of three drains and a water pipe. No finds were recorded either which may indicate that no features of archaeological interest had been disturbed at any time in the past.

6. References

Mackney, D *et al* 1983 Soils of England and Wales.

MAP 2007, Corner House Farm, Sherburn, Archaeological Evaluation Report

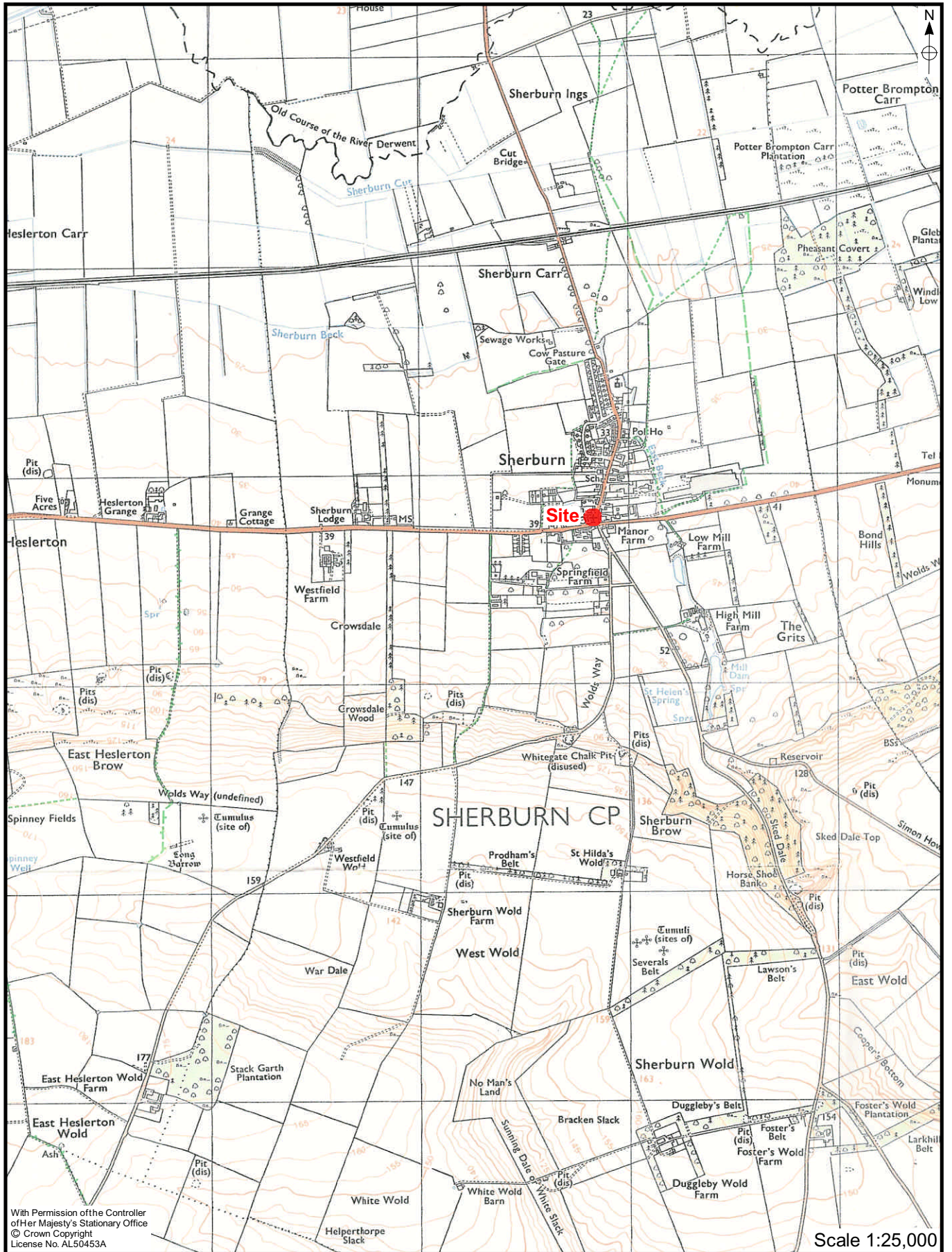
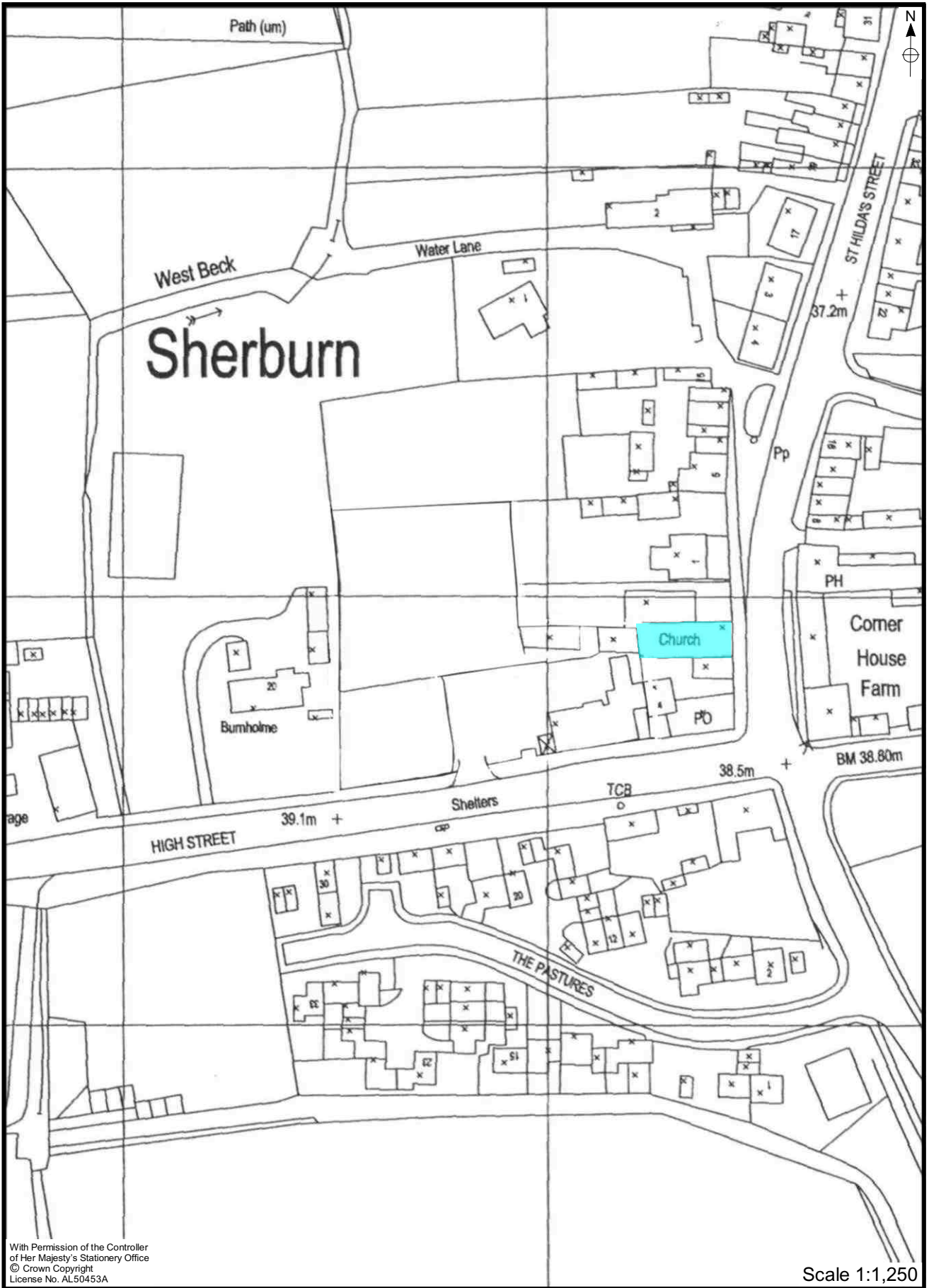


Figure 1. Site Location



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Scale 1:1,250

Figure 2. Area of Development



Plate 1. Services 3, 4 and 6 Within Foundation Trench. Facing West

APPENDIX 1

61 Heworth village York 2009

Context Listing

Context	Description
1	Deposit Brick yard surface
2	Deposit Hardcore
3	Drain Ceramic drain pipe
4	Drain Ceramic drain pipe
5	Drain Ceramic drain pipe
6	Water pipe Steel water pipe
7	sandy clay 10 YR 5/3 Sandy clay deposit

APPENDIX 2

Photographic Archive Listing

Digital Photography

Frame	Description	Scale	Facing
1	Foundation Trench and water pipe 6	N/A	East
2	Foundation Trench and water pipe 6	N/A	East
3	Foundation Trench showing services 3, 4 and 6	1x1m	East
4	Foundation Trench showing services 4 and 6	N/A	East
5	Detail of foundation trench	1x1m	North
6	Drain 5	1x1m	North

APPENDIX 3

Project Team Details

Fieldwork

Charlie Morris

Post-excavation

Charlie Morris *report*

Kelly Hunter CAD and illustrations

**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) 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), or a faculty obtained where the remains are buried in land consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England.