

**Leintwardine Sewage  
Pumping Station,  
Leintwardine, Herefordshire.  
An Archaeological Watching  
Brief. 2005**

**Project No. 1258**  
April 2005

**Leintwardine Sewage Pumping Station, Leintwardine, Herefordshire.**  
**An Archaeological Watching Brief. 2005**

by  
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*Proposed Groundworks at Leintwardine SPS.  
Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief  
at Leintwardine, Herefordshire.*

## **Leintwardine Sewage Pumping Station, Leintwardine, Herefordshire. An Archaeological Watching Brief. 2005**

### **SUMMARY**

*In advance of a programme of work required to upgrade the Leintwardine Sewage Pumping station at Leintwardine, Herefordshire (centred on NGR SO 408737) an archaeological watching brief was required. The watching brief was informed by a brief prepared by Julian Cotton Archaeological Advisor for Herefordshire County Council. This was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology during January and April 2005 for Carl Bro Group Ltd on behalf of Severn Trent. The watching brief was necessary due to the proximity of the proposed works to the Watling Street Roman road and the current river crossing. Human activity in the Leintwardine area can be traced back into prehistory but it is best known for its Roman vicus and later fort. It remains probable that surviving elements of these, as well as elements of the Saxon and medieval settlements that followed may be present on or around the this site.*

*All of the contractors groundworks including the excavation of service duct trenches and the footings for a kiosk were excavated under direct archaeological supervision. A maximum depth of 1.4m below the modern ground surface was attained during the course of these groundworks. The natural subsoil was not exposed, however, several levelling or made-up layers dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries were recorded. It is apparent that the level of the site had been deliberately raised in recent times possibly in order to alleviate periodic flooding in this part of the village. These results suggest that should any significant archaeological deposits be present in the immediate vicinity of the site then they are likely to be well protected.*

### **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks which were required to upgrade the Leintwardine Sewage Pumping Station at Leintwardine, Herefordshire (centred on NGR SO408737; Fig.1). The archaeological work was informed by a brief which had been prepared by Herefordshire County Council's Archaeological Advisor. It adhered to an agreed scheme of works detailed in a *Written Scheme of Investigation*, in order to meet a condition of planning consent in planning application DCNW2004/1663/F (Birmingham Archaeology 2005). The watching brief was necessary due to the proximity of the proposed works to the Watling Street Roman road and the current river crossing. It ensured that any surviving archaeology, which may have been threatened by the development, could be properly recorded and sample excavated should it have proved necessary. The watching brief was undertaken by Birmingham Archaeology during January and April 2005 for Carl Bro Group Ltd on behalf of Severn Trent.

## 2.0 SITE DESCRIPTION

The site is located at the heart of Leintwardine (centred on NGR SO408737), directly to the north of the River Clun, to the east of the current bridge crossing the river and to the southwest of Watling Street. (Fig. 1). It is located on a grassy hillock rising noticeably higher than the surrounding low-lying flood plains.

## 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Leintwardine has a long history stretching from pre-Roman times; its name indicates Saxon settlement and the term "wardine" is interesting as it occurs particularly in parts of Herefordshire.

The major Roman settlement of *Bravonium* underlies the present village of Leintwardine in Herefordshire, near the confluence of the river Clun with the river Teme, on the Roman road, Watling Street West. Occupation of the Leintwardine site was established *c.*AD70, and started as a civil settlement or *vicus* consisting of shops and dwellings arranged along either side of the road immediately north of the River Teme crossing. The settlement was commandeered by the Roman military in *c.*AD160, whereupon a large fort of 5.47ha was erected on the site to house troops removed from the Welsh garrisons. Civil occupation continued outside the ramparts of the fort to the south, and then within the defences after the fort was abandoned by the military in *c.*AD196. The Romano-British settlement was eventually demolished by fire in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century and probably not reinhabited for at least 200 years.

The first mention of the Roman fort and Romano-British settlement at Leintwardine is given in Ptolemy's Geography of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century, who calls the town *Brannogenium* and perhaps mistakenly, assigns the administration of the town to the *Ordovices* tribe of Mid-Wales. Modern research conducted on the defences of several local hillforts suggests that the Leintwardine complex was situated close to the borders between three native British tribes, in a sort of 'no man's land'. These were the *Dobunni* to the southeast, the *Ordovices* to the west and the *Cornovii* in the northeast. It is generally thought that the town came under the civil administration of the last-mentioned tribe.

Further evidence may be found in the Antonine Itinerary, a collection of Roman road routes throughout the empire compiled during the late 2<sup>nd</sup> Century. Towards the end of the Twelfth British Itinerary, entitled "The route from *Moridunum* (Carmarthen, Dyfed) to *Viroconium* (Wroxeter, Shropshire)", there appears a road-station named *Bravonio* or *Bravonium*. This station is listed 24 miles from Magnis (Kenchester, Herefordshire) and 27 miles from Viroconium, which places it squarely at Leintwardine.

The final classical reference for Leintwardine's Roman name is the 7<sup>th</sup> Century Ravenna Cosmology (R&C#58) which reverts to the earlier spelling of Ptolemy, again naming the town *Brano.Genium*. The entry is listed between *Magnis* (Kenchester) and the

settlements *Epocessa* and *Ypocessa*, both of which are unidentified but may have been in the neighbourhood of *Bravonium*.

The name *Bravonium*, as it appears in the Antonine Itinerary (*Iter XII*), is derived from the Celtic word for quern. This suggests that there was either a hill or rock formation here that looked like a quern, or that there were quern quarries nearby. In the Upper Silurian series, the Leintwardine beds outcrop in the area and these consist of a calcareous sandstone which would have been suitable for making querns of a finer grade than could be obtained from Millstone grit, which was commonly used. Querns of this calcareous sandstone have been found at *Viroconium* (Webster 1975).

Leintwardine is listed in the *Domesday Book* of 1086 as *Lenteurde*, and is apparently derived from the Celtic name for the River Teme - formerly known as the *Lent* which means simply 'torrent, stream' - coupled with the Old English *worth* 'enclosure', later replaced by *worthign* 'enclosed settlement.' The modern name therefore, means 'The Enclosed Settlement on the River *Lent*.'

#### **4.0 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY**

The aim of this watching brief was to preserve by record any archaeological deposits which may have been disturbed during the course of groundworks. This included an investigation in order to understand the extent, age, character, condition and significance of any surviving archaeology such that the results might contribute toward an understanding of the history and significance of the archaeology of the site as a whole. This information will be used to update the local SMR.

In order to achieve these stated aims all groundworks were monitored by a professional, qualified archaeologist. All stratigraphy revealed was recorded on pro-forma record cards supplemented by scale plans and sections and a photographic record. Artefactual finds were retained by context.

#### **5.0 RESULTS**

The groundworks comprised a series of trenches for cable ducts which were 0.45m wide and excavated to a depth of between 0.5m and 0.8m below the present ground surface. In addition, the footings for a kiosk were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.4m (Fig. 2).

The natural subsoil was not encountered in the course of these groundworks. The earliest deposit encountered (1006) was a mixed layer which consisted of grey silt and clay and was not excavated. One re-deposited tegula fragment and 19<sup>th</sup> century white glazed porcelain was recovered from this layer. Sealing this was a layer of reddish-brown clay (1003) 0.25m deep. Seemingly cut into this layer was a linear ditch (1004) which was aligned approximately north-south and was 1.8m wide. This was filled with a homogenous grey silt (1005). The ditch and the layer into which it was cut was sealed by

a layer of dark-grey silt (1002) rich in broken glass and porcelain which was 0.25m deep. This layer was sealed by a light-brown silt and clay layer (1001), which was rich in calcareous sandstone and may represent masonry rubble. This layer varied in depth. It measured a maximum of 0.7m deep although at the western end of the groundworks it was certainly deeper than this whilst at the northeastern extent it was 0.1m deep. Overlying this was a layer of light-brown silty topsoil from which one samian sherd was recovered (1000).

## 6.0 DISCUSSION

No deposit encountered during the course of these groundworks could be dated earlier than the 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, the sherd of Roman samian pottery and the fragment of tegula taken in the context of the history of Leintwardine and the location of the site is not surprising. It is probable that the excavations undertaken during the course of this development were not deep enough to disturb any *in situ* archaeology. The exposed stratigraphy could suggest that perhaps the earliest deposits 1003 and 1006 might represent alluvial deposits derived from flooding events associated with the River Clun to the south of the site. The layer above these, 1002 resembles a rich garden soil associated with a history of rubbish dumping. The layer above this, present over the whole site seems to represent a single dumping episode, which probably occurred during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is possible this was a measure to offer some sort of flood protection to this part of the village. Although there is little indication of where this material came from it is quite probable that this was obtained locally.

## 7.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thanks are due to John France of Carl Bro Consultants on behalf of Severn Trent Water for commissioning Birmingham Archaeology to undertake the watching brief, and for his help during the course of the project. Julian Cotton monitored the project for Herefordshire County Council. Mary Duncan and Helen Martin-Bacon undertook the watching brief. Mary Duncan wrote the report and Bryony Ryder produced the illustrations. Mark Hewson managed the project for Birmingham Archaeology and edited the report.

## 8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

Birmingham Archaeology, 2004. *Proposed Groundworks at Leintwardine SPS. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief Leintwardine, Herefordshire.*

Webster, G. 1975. *The Cornovii (Peoples of Roman Britain)*, Duckworth, London.

<http://www.roman-britain.org/places/bravonium.htm>. Accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2004.

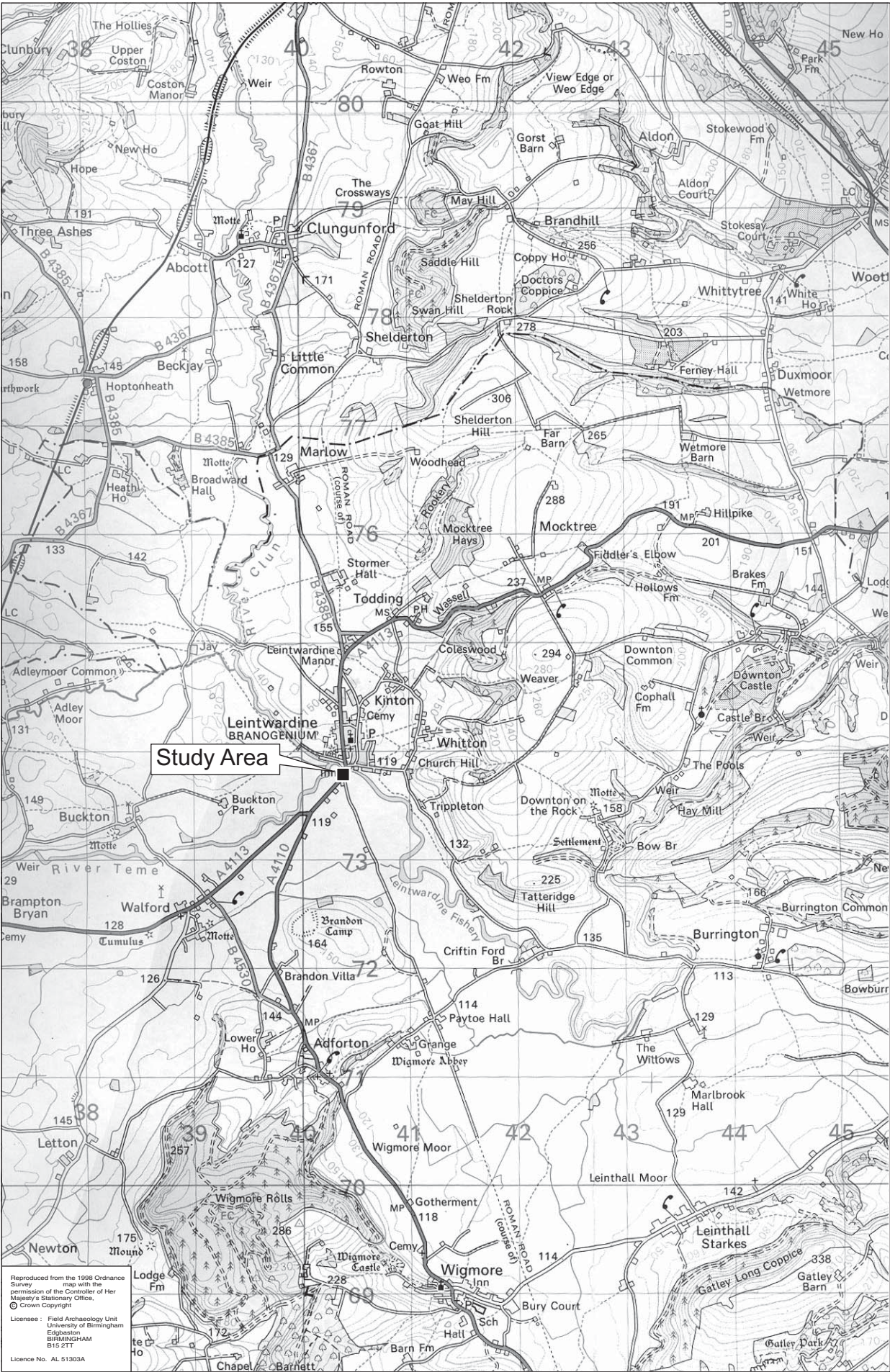


Fig.1





NOTES

0	FIRST ISSUE	CCI			
REV	AMENDMENTS	BY	CHKD	APRD	DATE

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CLIENT  
**SEVERN TRENT WATER LIMITED**

PROJECT  
**SEWAGE P.S. BATCH LEINTWARDINE P.S.**

TITLE  
**PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT**

DRAWING STATUS  
**PLANNING ISSUE**

DESIGNED C. IRELAND	CHECKED	APPROVED
DATE 19.12.02	DATE	DATE
SCALE 1:100	ORIGINAL DRAWING SIZE 594 x 841 - A1	
DRAWING No 110195_022	REV	2

Watching Brief

Fig.2 (After Carl Bro, Intelligent Solutions)



Plate 1



Plate 2



Plate 3

**Proposed Groundworks at Leintwardine SPS  
Written Scheme of Investigation  
for Archaeological Watching Brief  
Leintwardine, Herefordshire.  
Client: Carl Bro Group Ltd  
Application code DCNW2004/1663/F  
Archaeological Contractor: Birmingham Archaeology**

THE UNIVERSITY  
OF BIRMINGHAM



Birmingham Archaeology

## **1.0 Introduction**

This document outlines the programme of work required to undertake a watching brief at the above site. It forms a written scheme of investigation as requested by J. Cotton, Archaeological Advisor for Herefordshire County Council and is required as part of the planning permission (Application code DCNW2004/1663/F), granted by Herefordshire County Council to the client. The development concerns the excavation of trial holes to locate existing services, trenching for cable ducts and footings for a kiosk. Any variation in the scope of work would be agreed with the Archaeological Advisor prior to implementation.

## **2.0 Aims**

The archaeological watching brief is intended to preserve and provide a record of any archaeological deposits or features which might be revealed during the excavation of all trenches and trial holes. The chief aim being to contribute to an understanding of the history and the significance of the archaeology of the site as a whole. The aims will be achieved through a programme of archaeological monitoring on site during all groundworks. The watching brief will be maintained on all such excavations, including any service/waste water management trenches that may be required.

## **3.0 Archaeological Background**

The site is centred on NGR SO408737 at Leintwardine Sewage Pumping Station, Rosemary Lane, Leintwardine, Herefordshire.

Leintwardine has a long history stretching from pre-Roman times; its name indicates Saxon settlement and the term "wardine" is interesting as it occurs particularly in parts of Herefordshire.

The major Roman settlement of *Bravonium* underlies the present village of Leintwardine in Herefordshire, near the confluence of the river Clun with the river Teme, on the Roman road, Watling Street West. Occupation of the Leintwardine site was established c.AD70, and started as a civil settlement or *vicus* consisting of shops and dwellings arranged along either side of the road immediately north of the River Teme crossing. The settlement was commandeered by the Roman military in c.AD160, whereupon a large fort of 5.47 hectares was erected on the site to house troops removed from the Welsh garrisons. Civil occupation continued outside the ramparts of the fort to the south, and then within the defences after the fort was abandoned by the military in c.AD196. The Romano-British settlement was eventually demolished by fire in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century and probably not reinhabited for at least a couple of hundred years.

The first mention of the Roman fort and Romano-British settlement at Leintwardine is given in Ptolemy's Geography of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century, who calls the town *Brannogenium* and perhaps mistakenly, assigns the administration of the town to the Ordovices tribe of Mid Wales. Modern research conducted on the defenses of several local hillforts suggests that the Leintwardine complex was situated close to the borders between three native British tribes, in a sort of 'no man's land'. These were the Dobunni to the southeast, the Ordovices to the west and the Cornovii in the northeast. It is generally thought that the town came under the civil administration of the last-mentioned tribe.

Further evidence may be found in the Antonine Itinerary, a collection of Roman road routes throughout the empire compiled during the late 2<sup>nd</sup> Century. Towards the end of the Twelfth British Itinerary, entitled "The route from *Moridunum* (Carmarthen, Dyfed) to *Viroconium* (Wroxeter, Shropshire)", there appears a road-station named *Bravonio* or *Bravonium*. This station is listed 24 miles from Magnis (Kenchester, Herefordshire) and 27 miles from Viroconium, which places it squarely at Leintwardine.

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replaced by *worthign* 'enclosed settlement.' The modern name therefore, means 'The Enclosed Settlement on the River *Lent*.'

#### **4.0 Aims**

- to monitor all groundworks, including the excavation of foundation and service trenches and trial holes.
- to record the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains affected by the development works.
- to identify all previously unrecorded sites in order to update the SMR.
- to preserve all archaeological deposits 'by record', and conserve for long term conservation and future analysis all artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site.

#### **4.2 Method**

All groundworks will be monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. This will be complemented by salvage recording of any archaeological deposits and features revealed by contractors' groundworks. All artefacts and faunal remains will be recovered and recorded and a programme of post-excavation analysis will be undertaken following the fieldwork.

#### **5.0 Staffing**

The fieldwork will be monitored for Birmingham Archaeology by Dr. Mark Hewson (Project Manager) and will be undertaken by an appropriately experienced professional archaeologist.

Specialist staff will be, where appropriate:

- Dr. Wendy Smith- charred plant remains.
- Emma Hancox - animal bone.
- Dr James Greig - pollen and plant macro-fossils.
- Dr David Smith - micro-fauna.
- Dr Susan Limbrey - soils.
- Dr Ann Woodward - Prehistoric ceramics.
- Jane Evans - Romano-British ceramics.
- Stephanie Ratkai - Medieval and Post-Medieval ceramics.

#### **6.0 Report**

The results of the archaeological fieldwork will be described in an illustrated report, which will contain the following:

- (a) Description of the archaeological background.
- (b) Method.
- (c) A narrative description of the results and discussion of the evidence, set in their local and regional context, supported by appropriate plans and sections.

- (d) Summary of the finds and environmental evidence.
- (e) Specialist assessments of the finds and environmental evidence.

The written report will be made publicly accessible, as part of the Herefordshire Sites and Monuments Record within twelve months of completion. Copies, both hardcopy and digital if required will also be submitted to the Local Planning Authority, the H.C.C curatorial staff and, if merited by the results of the work, a summary report will be submitted for inclusion in an appropriate archaeological journal.

## **7.0 Archive**

The site archive will conform to the guidelines set down in Appendix 3 of the *Management of Archaeology Projects* (English Heritage 1991); the *Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long-term Storage* (UKIC, 1990) and *Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological collections* (Museum and Art Galleries Commission, 1992). The archive, together with recovered finds, will be placed with an appropriate repository within a reasonable time of completion of the evaluation.

## **8.0 Health and Safety**

All current legislation, regulations and guidance will be complied with.

## **9.0 Timetable**

An archaeological watching brief will be maintained throughout the groundworks described above in section 4.1. This is scheduled to begin on or soon after December 1<sup>st</sup> 2004.

## **10.0 General**

Birmingham Archaeology is a Registered Archaeological Organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists. All staff will adhere to the Code of Conduct of the Institute.

The project will follow the requirements set down in the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs (Institute of Field Archaeologists 2001).

In the event of human remains being encountered all relevant statutory and Home Officer requirements shall be fully complied with.

Any items suspected to be 'Treasure' will be reported in accordance with *The Treasure Act 1996*.

## 11.0 References

**Webster, G.** 1975. *The Cornovii (Peoples of Roman Britain)*, Duckworth, London.

<http://www.roman-britain.org/places/bravonium.htm>. Accessed 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2004.

*Birmingham Archaeology*  
November 2004