



**University of
Leicester**

Archaeological Services

**An Archaeological Evaluation at
Land North of Thorpeholm,
14 Wrights Lane, Wymondham,
Leicestershire
NGR: SK853186**

Dr. Roger Kipling



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**An Archaeological Evaluation at land North of Thorpeholm,
4 Wrights Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire
(NGR SK 583 186)**

Dr. Roger Kipling

For: Mrs. P. Elsome

Approved by:

Signed:  Date: 18/1/2011

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An Archaeological Evaluation at land north of Thorpeholm, 4 Wrights Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire

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Dr. Roger Kipling

Summary

An archaeological evaluation by trial trenching was undertaken in January 2011 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services on behalf of Mrs. P. Elsome in response to the submission of a planning application for construction of a dwelling house and garage on land at 4 Wrights Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire.

The fieldwork did not reveal any archaeological deposits or features. The site archive will be deposited with the Leicestershire County Council Heritage Services under the accession number X.A3.2011.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land to the north of Thorpeholm, 4 Wrights Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire. The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland indicates that the application site lies within an area of archaeological interest. It is also situated within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Wymondham (MLE9203) and historic mapping shows that it appears to have been little disturbed since the post-medieval period. It is also close to the recorded location of the medieval manor house (MLE 4228) and to earthworks relating to the medieval village (MLE 4226).

In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the Senior Planning Archaeologist of Leicestershire County Council recommended a programme of trial trenching of the site prior to determination of a planning application for the construction of a dwelling and garage in order that the potential impact of the proposals on buried archaeological remains might be assessed. The strategy is detailed in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Work at Land North of Thorpeholm, 4 Wrights Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire* (Appendix One)

Fieldwork was carried out on 12th January 2011 and involved the machine excavation of two trial trenches targeting the footprint of the new house in order to assess the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The archaeological work was undertaken in accordance with Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5, Planning and the Historic Environment), and designed in

accordance with Appendix 2 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) All archaeological work was in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologist's (IfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological excavations*.

Site Description, Topography and Geology

The site is located on land adjacent to 4 Wrights lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire (NGR SK 853 186) and covers an area of c.0.08 ha. currently in use as a garden associated with the dwelling to the south (Thorpeholm).

The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain (Geological Survey of England and Wales, Bourne, Solid and Drift Geology, Sheet 143) indicates that the underlying geology of this area is most likely to consist of early Jurassic ferruginous limestone of the Marlstone Rock formation

The proposed development area lies on the northern edge of the village of Wymondham with land rising gradually to the north and north-east at an approximate height of 165m above Ordnance Datum.

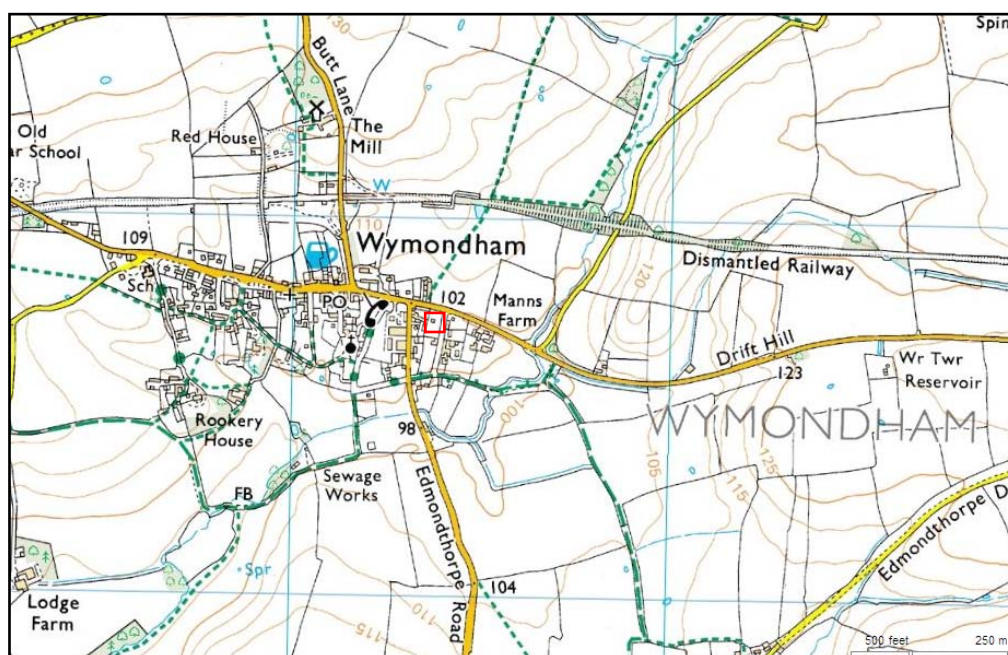


Figure 1: Site Location (Scale 1:50 000)

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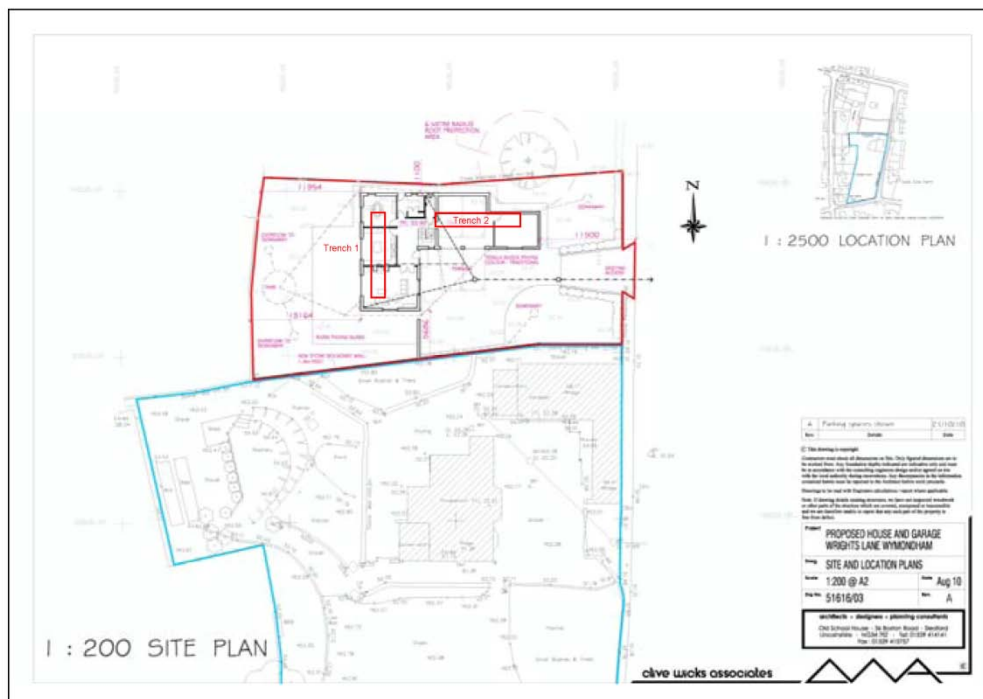


Figure 2: Plan of development area with site boundary shown in red and blue and trenches in red; scale 1:200

Aims and Methods

The main objectives of the archaeological evaluation were as follows:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation was to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

All work was recorded in accordance with the University of Leicester's Health and Safety policy was adhered to.

The programme of archaeological work consisted of the machine excavation of two trial trenches, positioned in order to provide a representative sample of the site and so as to target the footprints of the proposed building.

Excavation was undertaken using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.6m wide toothless ditching bucket prior to recording of the resultant trenches.

Results

Neither of the trenches revealed any indications of archaeological activity, either in terms of artefacts or features.

Trench 1, located at the western end of the site and aligned north-west, measured 10m by 1.6m and between 0.76m and 1.0m deep. Machine removal of 0.16m-0.29m of dark grey-brown silty clay loam topsoil revealed a 0.33m-0.44m deep deposit of grey-brown silty clay subsoil. The latter had been redeposited as a result of garden landscaping (Mrs. Elsome, pers. comm.) and itself overlay a thin, 0.08m-0.17m dark grey silty clay subsoil. The dull orange ironstone and heavy silty clay natural was revealed at the base of the sequence.



Figure 3: Machining of Trench 1 in progress; view south-east

Trench Two, positioned adjacent to and aligned east-west at right angles to its companion, measured 10m by 1.6m and was between 0.68m and 1.01m deep. 0.20m-0.30m of topsoil overlay 0.26m and 0.53m of subsoil. The same dull orange ironstone and clay natural was exposed beneath the subsoil. No archaeological features or finds were recovered.



Figure 4: Representative (west-facing) section of Trench 1



Figure 5: Trenches 1 & 2; general view north-east

Conclusions

The archaeological evaluation at Wrights Lane, Wymondham, revealed no evidence for archaeological finds or features within the development area, which was characterised by garden soil and an absence of modern disturbance. Hence it would appear likely that the absence of archaeological evidence, both in terms of artefacts or structures, may be explained by its location some distance from the road (Wright's Lane) frontage.

Archive and Publications

The site archive, consisting of paper and photographic records, will be housed with Leicestershire County Council, Heritage Services under the Accession Number X.A3.2011.

The archive consists of:

- Two trench recording sheets
- 8 digital photographs
- 4 monochrome (film) photographs
- 4 colour slide photographs
- 1 x A4 photographic record sheet
- A risk assessment form

Publication

A version of the excavation summary (see above) will appear in due course in the *Transactions of the Leicestershire Archaeological and Historical Society*.

Acknowledgements

Dr. Roger Kipling and Steve Baker of ULAS undertook the archaeological evaluation on behalf of Mrs. P. Elsome. The project was managed by Richard Buckley.

Bibliography

ULAS 2010 *Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Work at Land north of Thorpeholm, 4 Wrights Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire*

Oasis Information

Project Name	Thorpeholme, 2 Wrights Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire
Project Type	Archaeological assessment
Project Manager	Richard Buckley
Project Supervisor	Roger Kipling
Previous/Future work	Construction
Current Land Use	Gardens
Development Type	Residential housing
Reason for Investigation	PPG16
Position in Planning Process	Pre-determination
Site Co ordinates	NGR SK 853 186
Start/end dates of field work	12th January 2011
Archive Recipient	Leicestershire County Council
Study Area	c.0.08 ha.

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Appendix 1: Written Scheme of Investigation

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICES

Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI)

for archaeological work

Land north of Thorpeholm, 4 Wrights Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire

NGR SK 853 186

WSI for trial trench evaluation

For: Mrs. P. Elsome

Planning Authority: Melton Borough Council

Planning application No. 10/00822/FUL

1 Introduction

1.1 Definition and scope of the specification

This document is a Written Scheme of Investigation for an initial phase of archaeological field evaluation (AFE) at the above site, in accordance with PPS 5: Planning for the Historic Environment. The fieldwork specified below is intended to provide preliminary indications of character and extent of any buried archaeological remains in order that the potential impact of the development on such remains may be assessed by the Planning Authority.

1.2 The definition of archaeological field evaluation, taken from the Institute of Field Archaeologists Standards and Guidance: for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2008) is a limited programme of non-intrusive and/ or intrusive fieldwork which determines the presence or absence of archaeological features, structures, deposits, artefacts or ecofacts within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater. If such archaeological remains are present field evaluation defines their character, extent, quality and preservation, and enables an assessment of their worth in a local, regional, national or international context as appropriate.

1.3 The requirements for this work are presented in the 'Brief for Archaeological Evaluation' (hereinafter the Brief) issued by the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council.

2. Background

Context of the Project

1.1 A planning application has been submitted for the construction of a dwelling house and garage on land of about 0.08ha in area to the north of Thorpeholm, 4 Wrights Lane, Wymondham, Leicestershire (NGR SK 853 186)

1.2 The Historic Environment Record (HER) for Leicestershire and Rutland shows that the site lies in an area of archaeological interest. It is within the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement core of Wymondham (MLE9203) and historic mapping shows that it appears to have been little disturbed since the post-medieval period. It is also close to the recorded location of the medieval manor house (MLE 4228) and to earthworks relating to the medieval village (MLE 4226).

1.3 In view of the archaeological potential of the site, the Senior Planning Archaeologist, Leicestershire County Council, has recommended trial trenching of the site prior to determination of the planning application in order that the potential impact of the proposals on buried archaeological remains may be assessed.

2. Geology and topography

2.1 The Ordnance Survey Geological Survey of Great Britain indicates that the underlying geology of this area is most likely to consist of early Jurassic ferruginous limestone of the marlstone rock formation (Geological Survey of England and Wales, Bourne, Solid and Drift Geology, Sheet 143). The site is currently in use as a garden associated with the dwelling to the south (Thorpeholm).

3. Archaeological Objectives

3.1 The main objectives of the evaluation will be:

- To identify the presence/absence of any archaeological deposits.
- To establish the character, extent and date range for any archaeological deposits to be affected by the proposed ground works.
- To produce an archive and report of any results.

3.2 Within the stated project objectives, the principal aim of the evaluation is to establish the nature, extent, date, depth, significance and state of preservation of archaeological deposits on the site in order to determine the potential impact upon them from the proposed development.

3.3 Trial trenching is an intrusive form of evaluation that will demonstrate the existence of earth-fast archaeological features that may exist within the area.

4. Methodology

General Methodology and Standards

4.1 All work will follow the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (2008) and adhere to their Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2008).

4.2 Staffing, recording systems, health and safety provisions and insurance details are included below.

4.3 Internal monitoring procedures will be undertaken including visits to the site by the project manager. These will ensure that project targets are met and professional standards are maintained. Provision will be made for external monitoring meetings with the Planning Authority and the Client, if required.

Trial Trenching Methodology

4.4 Prior to any machining of trial trenches general photographs of the site areas may be taken.

4.5 It is proposed to excavate two 10m x 1.6m trenches. The provisional trench plan (Fig. 1) shows the proposed locations of the trenches. The size and position of the trenches indicated on the provisional trench plan may vary due to unforeseen site constraints or archaeology.

4.6 Topsoil and overburden will be removed carefully in level spits, under continuous archaeological supervision using a mechanical excavator using a toothless bucket. Trenches will be excavated down to the top of archaeological deposits or natural undisturbed ground, whichever is reached first.

4.7 Trenches will be examined by hand cleaning and any archaeological deposits located will be planned at an appropriate scale. Archaeological deposits will be sample-excavated by hand as appropriate to establish the stratigraphic and chronological sequence, recognising and excavating structural evidence and recovering economic, artefactual and environmental evidence. Particular attention will be paid to the potential for buried palaeosols and waterlogged deposits in consultation with ULAS's environmental officer.

4.8 Measured drawings of all archaeological features will be prepared at a scale of 1:20 and tied into an overall site plan. All plans will be tied into the Ordnance Survey National Grid. Relative spot heights will be taken as appropriate.

4.9 Sections of any excavated archaeological features will be drawn at an appropriate scale. At least one longitudinal face of each trench will be recorded. All sections will be levelled and tied to the Ordnance Survey Datum, or a permanent fixed benchmark.

4.10 Trench locations will be recorded by an appropriate method. These will then be tied in to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

4.11 Any human remains encountered will initially be left in situ and will only be removed if necessary for their protection, under Ministry of Justice guidelines and in compliance with relevant environmental health regulations.

4.12 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project a contingency may be required to clarify the character or extent of additional features. The contingency will only be initiated after consultation with the Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

4.13 The trenches will be backfilled and levelled at the end of the evaluation.

Recording Systems

4.14 Any archaeological deposits encountered will be recorded and excavated using standard procedures as outlined in the ULAS recording manual. Sufficient of any archaeological features or deposits will be hand excavated in order to provide the information required.

4.15. Individual descriptions of all archaeological strata and features excavated or exposed will be entered onto prepared pro-forma recording sheets.

4.16 A record of the full extent in plan of all archaeological deposits encountered will be made on drawing film, related to the OS grid and at a scale of 1:10 or 1:20. Elevations and sections of individual layers of features should be drawn where possible. The OD height of all principal strata and features will be calculated and indicated on the appropriate plans.

4.17 An adequate photographic record of the investigations will be prepared illustrating in both detail and general context the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include 'working shots' to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

4.18 This record will be compiled and fully checked during the course of the project.

6. Finds

6.1 The IfA *Guidelines for Finds Work* will be adhered to.

6.2 Before commencing work on the site, a Site code/Accession number will be agreed with the Planning Archaeologist that will be used to identify all records and finds from the site.

6.3 All antiquities, valuables, objects or remains of archaeological interest, other than articles declared by Coroner's Inquest to be subject to the Treasure Act, discovered in or under the Site during the carrying out of the project by ULAS or during works carried out on the Site by the Client shall be deemed to be the property of ULAS provided that ULAS after due examination of the said Archaeological Discoveries shall transfer ownership of all Archaeological Discoveries unconditionally to the appropriate authority for storage in perpetuity.

6.4 All identified finds and artefacts are to be retained, although certain classes of building material will, in some circumstances, be discarded after recording with the approval of the Planning Archaeologist.

6.5 All finds and samples will be treated in a proper manner. Where appropriate they will be cleaned, marked and receive remedial conservation in accordance with recognised best-practice. This will include the site code number, finds number and context number. Bulk finds will be bagged in clear self sealing plastic bags, again marked with site code, finds and context numbers and boxed by material in standard storage boxes. All materials will be fully labelled, catalogued and stored in appropriate containers.

7. Environmental Sampling

7.1. If features are appropriate for environmental sampling a strategy and methodology will be developed on site following advice from ULAS's Environmental Specialist. Preparation, taking,

processing and assessment of environmental samples will be in accordance with current best practice. The sampling strategy is likely to include the following:

- A range of features to represent all feature types, areas and phases will be selected on a judgmental basis. The criteria for selection will be that deposits are datable, well sealed and with little intrusive or residual material.
- Any buried soils or well-sealed deposits with concentrations of carbonised material present will be intensively sampled taking a known proportion of the deposit.
- Spot samples will be taken where concentrations of environmental remains are located.
- Waterlogged remains, if present, will be sampled for pollen, plant macrofossils, insect remains and radiocarbon dating provided that they are uncontaminated.

7.2 All collected samples will be labelled with context and sequential sample numbers.

7.3 Appropriate contexts will be bulk sampled (15 litre or the whole context depending on size) for the recovery of carbonised plant remains and insects.

7.4 Recovery of small animal bones, bird bone and large molluscs will normally be achieved through processing other bulk samples or 30 litre samples may be taken specifically to sample particularly rich deposits.

7.5 Wet sieving with flotation will be carried out using a York Archaeological Trust sieving tank with a 0.5mm mesh and a 0.3mm flotation sieve. The small size mesh will be used initially as flotation of plant remains may be incomplete and some may remain in the residue. The residue > 0.5mm from the tank will be separated into coarse fractions of over 4mm and fine fractions of > 0.5-4mm. The coarse fractions will be sorted for finds. The fine fractions and flots will be evaluated and prioritised; only those with remains apparent will be sorted. The prioritised flots will not be sorted until the analysis stage when phasing information is available. Flots will be scanned and plant remains from selected contexts will be identified and further sampling, sieving and sorting targeted towards higher potential deposits.

8 Report and Archive

8.1 A draft version of the report will normally be presented within four weeks of completion of site works. The full report in A4 format will usually follow within eight weeks. Copies will be provided for the client and the Local Planning Authority and deposited with the Historic Environment Record.

8.2 The report will include consideration of:

- The aims and methods adopted in the course of the evaluation.
- The nature, location and extent of any structural, artefactual and environmental material uncovered.
- The anticipated degree of survival of archaeological deposits.
- The anticipated archaeological impact of the current proposals.
- Appropriate illustrative material including maps, plans, sections, drawings and photographs.
- Summary.
- The location and size of the archive.
- A quantitative and qualitative assessment of the potential of the archive for further analysis leading to full publication, following guidelines laid down in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage).

8.3 A full copy of the archive as defined in the IfA Standard and Guidance for archaeological archives (Brown 2008) will normally be presented to Leicestershire County Council within six months of the completion of fieldwork. This archive will include all written, drawn and photographic records relating directly to the investigations undertaken.

8.4 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

9 Publication and Dissemination of Results

9.1 A summary report will be submitted to a suitable regional archaeological journal following completion of the fieldwork. A full report will be submitted to a national or period journal if the results are of significance.

9.2 University of Leicester Archaeological Services supports the Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) project. The online OASIS form at <http://www.oasis.ac.uk> will be completed detailing the results of the project. ULAS will contact the HER prior to completion of the form. Once a report has become a public document following its incorporation into the HER it may be placed on the web-site.

10 Acknowledgement and Publicity

10.1 ULAS shall acknowledge the contribution of the Client in any displays, broadcasts or publications relating to the site or in which the report may be included.

10.2 ULAS and the Client shall each ensure that a senior employee shall be responsible for dealing with any enquiries received from press, television and any other broadcasting media and members of the public. All enquiries made to ULAS shall be directed to the Client for comment.

11 Copyright

11.1 The copyright of all original finished documents shall remain vested in ULAS and ULAS will be entitled as of right to publish any material in any form produced as a result of its investigations.

12 Monitoring arrangements

12.1 Unlimited access to monitor the project will be available to both the Client and his representatives and Planning Archaeologist subject to the health and safety requirements of the site.

12.2 All monitoring shall be carried out in accordance with the IfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluations (2008)

12.3 Internal monitoring will be carried out by the ULAS project manager.

13 Timetable and Staffing

13.1 A start date during week-commencing 10th January 2011 is proposed. The work is likely to take up to two days to complete and two experienced archaeologists are likely to be present during the work.

13.2 The on-site director/supervisor will carry out the post-excavation work, with time allocated within the costing of the project for analysis of any artefacts found on the site by the relevant in-house specialists at ULAS.

14 Health and Safety

14.1 ULAS is covered by and adheres to the University of Leicester Statement of Safety Policy and uses the FAME Health and Safety Manual (revised 2005) with appropriate risks assessments for all archaeological work. A draft Health and Safety statement for this project is in the Appendix. The relevant Health and Safety Executive guidelines will be adhered to as appropriate.

15. Insurance

15.1 All ULAS work is covered by the University of Leicester's Public Liability and Professional Indemnity Insurance. The Public Liability Insurance is with St Pauls Travellers Policy No. UCPOP3651237 while the Professional Indemnity Insurance is with Lloyds Underwriters (50%) and Brit Insurances (50%) Policy No. FUNK3605.

16. Contingencies and unforeseen circumstances

16.1 In the event that unforeseen archaeological discoveries are made during the project, ULAS shall inform the site agent/project manager, Client and the Planning Archaeologist and Planning Authority and prepare a short written statement with plan detailing the archaeological evidence. Following assessment of the archaeological remains by the Planning Archaeologist, ULAS shall, if required, implement an amended scheme of investigation on behalf of the client as appropriate.

17. Bibliography

Brown, D., 2008 *Standard and guidance for the preparation of Archaeological Archives* (Institute for Archaeologists)

IfA, 2008 *Codes of Conduct and Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation*.

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Written Scheme of Investigation 11-145

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4/1/2011

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