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Archaeological Services

**Archaeological Attendance and
Observation during test-pitting at
St. Martin's Park, Barnack Road,
Stamford,
Lincolnshire,**

NGR: TF 03967 07056 (centre)

Andrew Hyam



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Archaeological Attendance and Observation

**During test-pitting at
St. Martin's Park, Barnack Road,
Stamford,
Lincolnshire**

NGR: TF03967 07056 (centre)

A R Hyam

For: Burghley Land Ltd

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	Monument Type/Period	None		
	Significant Finds/Period	None		
	Reason for Investigation	NPPF		
	Position in the Planning Process	Planning condition		
PROJECT LOCATION	Planning Ref.	Pre-planning		
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	Site Address/Postcode	St Martins Park, Barnack Rd, Lincolnshire, PE9 2NA		
	Study Area	6.2 ha		
	Site Coordinates	TF03967 07056		
PROJECT CREATORS	Height OD	22 - 24m aOD		
	Organisation	ULAS		
	Project Brief Originator	Lincolnshire County Council		
	Project Design Originator	ULAS		
	Project Manager	Vicki Score		
	Project Director/Supervisor	Andrew Hyam		
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Summary

An archaeological attendance and observation (watching brief) during test-pitting work was undertaken at St. Martin's Park, Barnack Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire between the 2nd and 3rd of December 2019 by University of Leicester Archaeological Services (ULAS). The work took place during initial ground investigations for geotechnical purposes.

There are a number of known archaeological sites within the vicinity of the development site. Most notable is an Iron Age site with later Roman industrial activity located immediately to the east of the proposed development site. The results of this earlier archaeological work suggested that there was potential for similar archaeological deposits to be revealed during any current groundworks.

Four geotechnical test pits were located within the roadways running around the still-standing industrial buildings. A fifth test pit was located within one of the buildings towards the eastern edge of the site. A layer of tarmac and reinforced concrete covered most of the external roads and car park which had been laid on a thick bedding layer of stone and made-ground. Reinforced concrete also formed the floor of the building. Beneath the surfaces and made ground was a layer of slightly clayish silty sand over sands and gravel. No topsoil or subsoil was observed in any of the pits suggesting that the entire site had been landscaped to create the factory complex.

A further three test pits were observed within the adjacent field to the east of the site. Topsoil and subsoil over sands and gravels were seen in these pits.

No archaeological features or deposits were seen during the exercise.

The report will be archived under accession number LCNCC:2019.246

Introduction

In accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) Section 16 *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment* this document forms the report for an archaeological attendance and observation (watching brief) at St. Martin's Park, Barnack Road, Stamford, Lincolnshire, NGR: TF03967 07056. It is intended to demolish the existing buildings on the site and redevelop the land for mixed use. The proposed development comprises of two sites. The western parcel of land is owned by South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) and currently contains multiple warehouses, offices, buildings and hardstanding and has not had any archaeological fieldwork undertaken on it. The land to the east is owned by Burghley Land Ltd (BLL) and already

has planning permission for B1 development. An evaluation has already been undertaken for this site in 2004 (Northamptonshire Archaeology 2004).

The intention is for SKDC and BLL to put in for a joint redevelopment covering both parcels of land. The archaeological evaluation on the eastern BLL site in 2004 found archaeological remains dating from the prehistoric to Roman periods. Therefore evaluation comprising trial trenching was originally specified by the archaeological advisor to determine the impact of the proposed scheme on any buried archaeology, and produce a mitigation strategy for the site. Changes to the development proposals mean that this requirement was changed to the observation of test pits. Therefore the Senior Historic Environment Officer at Heritage Lincolnshire recommended that the test pits should be monitored in order to fully record and archaeological features or deposits which may be present. This work would be followed, if necessary, by a further stage of archaeological work.

Background

Stamford lies approximately 40km east of Leicester and approximately 18km to the north-west of Peterborough. The River Welland which flows from east to west towards the southern edge of the town. The development site is known as St Martin's Park and is situated on the south-east edge of the town between the River Welland and the B1443 Barnack Road (Figs 1-2).

The site was used until recently by Cummins as its generator manufacturing base. Following its closure it was bought by the Council. It currently contains warehouses, offices, buildings and car parking. A mix of concrete and tarmac roadways run around the site. There is a pumping station on the northern part of the site and two pylons to the north and east connecting to further pylons on the BLL land immediately to the east.

The railway line between Syston and Peterborough runs along the northern boundary of the site. The B1443 Barnack Road forms the site boundary to the south. There are eight residential properties (Park View) facing onto Barnack Road on the southern boundary. The BLL land lies to the east and the eastern boundary adjoins a strip of bare land between the site and a housing development. Access onto the Cummins/SKDC site is from Barnack Road.

The SKDC site covers an area of approximately 6.2ha. The British Geological Survey identifies the bedrock geology of the area as Lower Lincolnshire Limestone overlain by River terrace deposits of sand and gravel. The site lies at a height of approximately 23m aOD although levels vary across and within the site.

The ULAS *Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Archaeological Observation of test pits. St Martin's Park, north of Barnack Road, Stamford* discusses the range of archaeological sites and findspots around the site. The document notes that there is a significant potential for prehistoric and Roman archaeology within the vicinity based on the evidence of the evaluation on the BLL site.

A lower potential for medieval archaeology was noted although Stamford was an important location for traffic flowing along the Great North Road.



Figure 1 Site location

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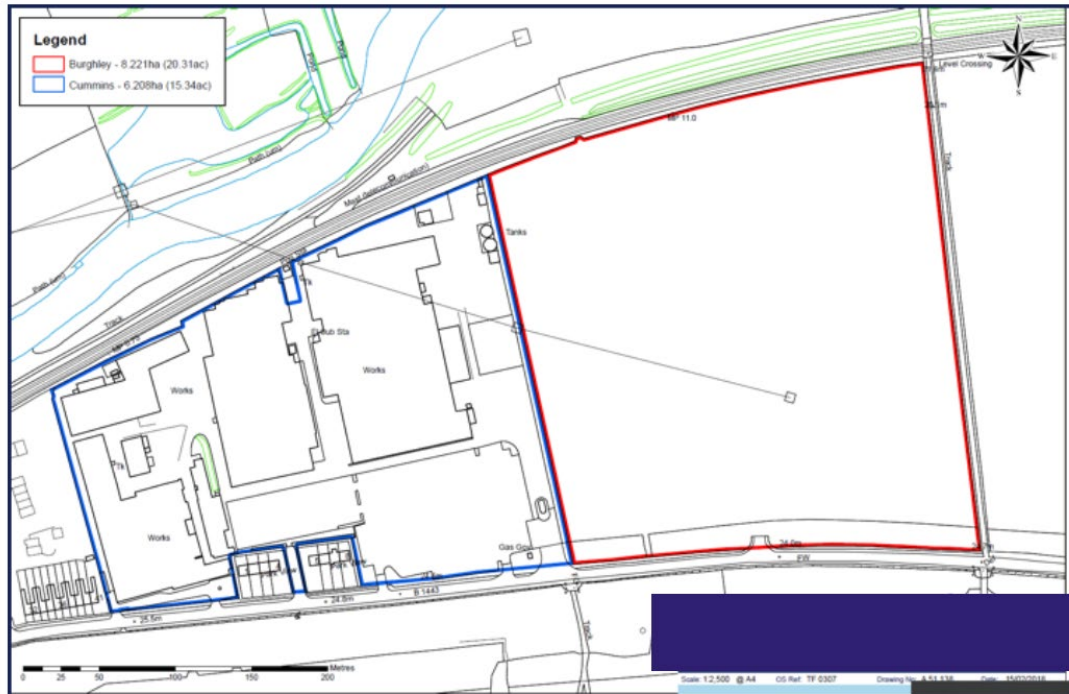


Figure 2 Site location

Red outline = BLL SITE, Blue outline = SKDC Site Plan provided by client.

Objectives

The overall objectives and research agenda are detailed in the ULAS Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) *for Archaeological Observation of test pits. St Martin's Park, north of Barnack Road, Stamford* (ULAS 2019).

The specific objectives for this programme of work were:

- 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 record any archaeological deposits to be affected by the ground works.
- To establish the relationship of any remains found to the surrounding contemporary landscape.
- To recover artefacts and ecofacts to compare with other assemblages and results.
- To assess and sample any potential palaeoenvironmental remains.
- To produce an archive and report of the results.

Methodology

The project involved the observation of test pits primarily for geotechnical and soakaway purposes. Initial breaking through of the reinforced road surfaces required the use of a mechanical excavator fitted with a concrete breaker. Once this had been broken through and the exposed metalwork trimmed a toothless ditching bucket was used to remove level spits under archaeological supervision.

Any archaeological deposits encountered would be recorded and excavated using standard ULAS procedures. A photographic record of the investigations was also prepared. This record included photographs illustrating in both detail and general context the layers discovered. The photographic record included working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted.

Six test pits were specified within the SKDC area with a further three being located on the adjacent BLL field to the east (Fig. 3). The BLL pits were observed in order to compare these with the SKDC pit results. The test pit closest to the western boundary of the SKDC site could not be reached as the gates and fencing around it had been welded shut and so was abandoned (Pit 7 on figure 3). Initially a test pit had been specified within one of the buildings (Pit 6) but it had been thought that this would not be available and an alternative was specified (Pit 1 on Figure 3). In the event the building could be accessed quite easily and the alternative location was not needed. Locations of the test pits were adjusted as necessary to avoid services and utilities.

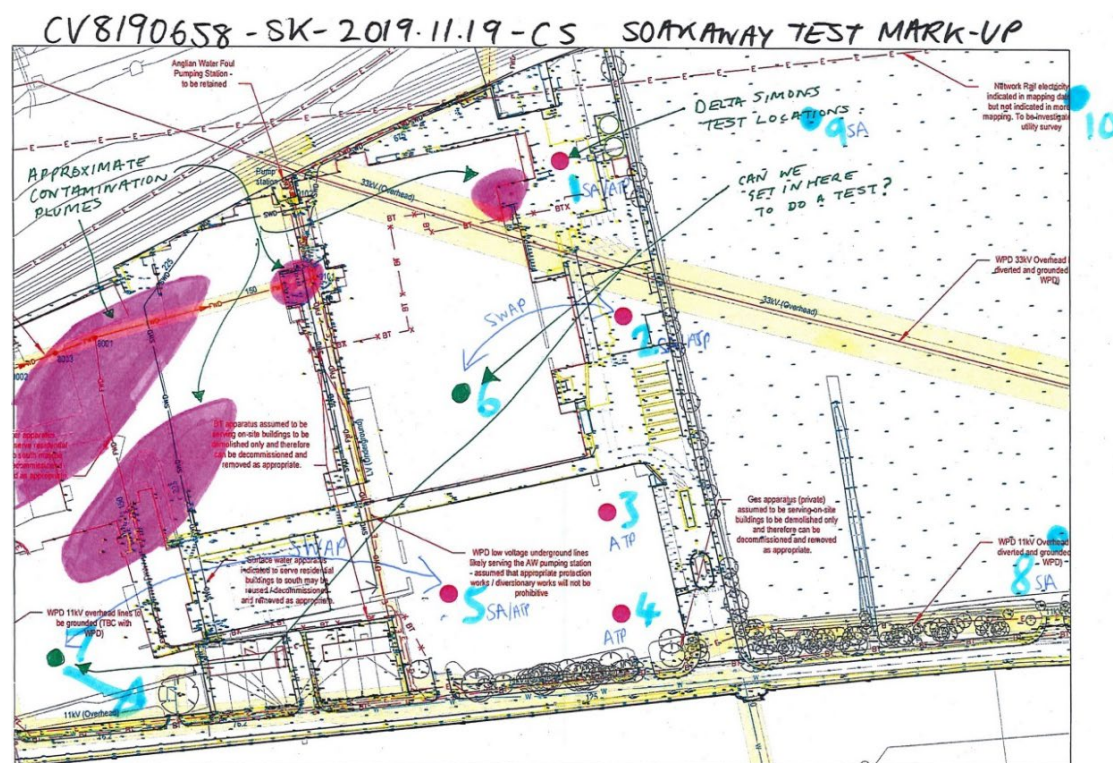


Figure 3 Provisional test pit plan
Plan provided by client

Results

The five test pits on the SKDC land were numbered TP101 to TP105 as per the geotechnical company reference codes (Figs 4 and 5). The three test pits in the BLL field were numbered TP106 to TP108 and do not follow the geotechnical company's numbering system.

All of the test pits on the SKDC land were beneath concrete surfaces with all but TP104 in the north-eastern corner of the site having a thick layer of reinforced concrete. All test pits measured 0.9m in width by 2.5m long.

TP101

TP101 was placed in the north-east corner of the main car park. A total thickness of 0.6m of tarmac, reinforced concrete and made bedding was removed. Beneath this a mid-orange brown clayish silty sand layer of natural substratum was exposed which extended to 1m below current ground level. Below this was a similar layer but with increasing amounts of small limestone fragments and sandy gravel. The test pit was excavated down to 2m below current ground level by which time the natural substratum consisted almost entirely of sand and gravel (Fig. 6).

No topsoil or subsoil was seen in this pit nor were any archaeological features or deposits seen.

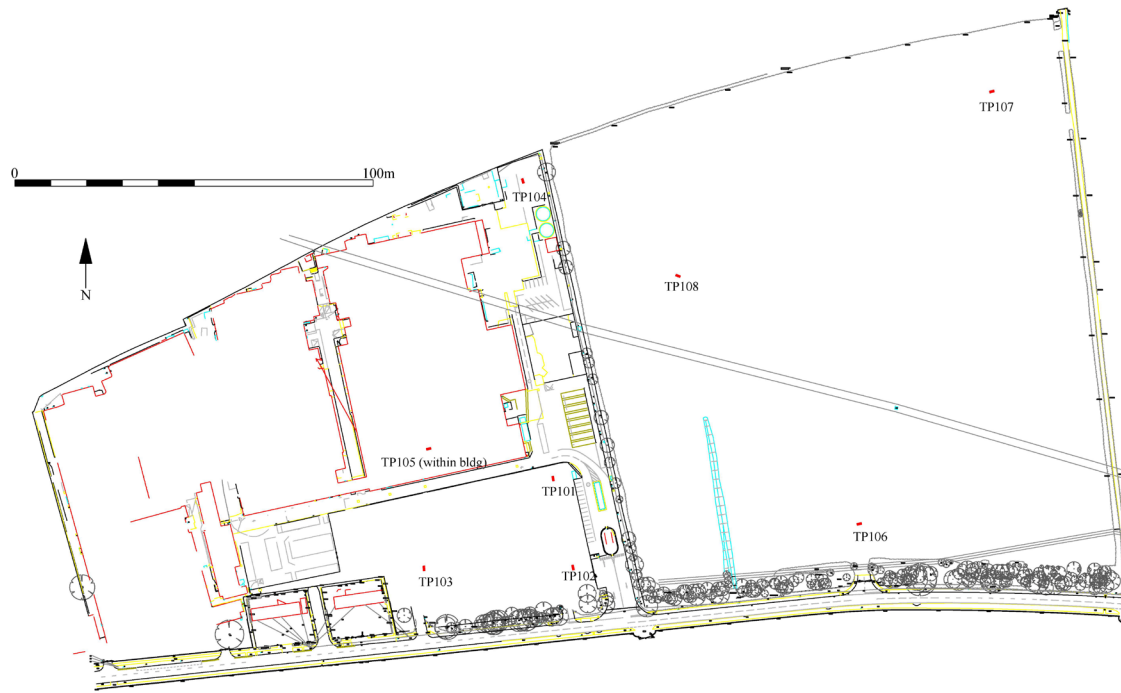


Figure 4 Location of all test pits
TP101 to 105 on SKDC land, TP106 to 108 on BLL land

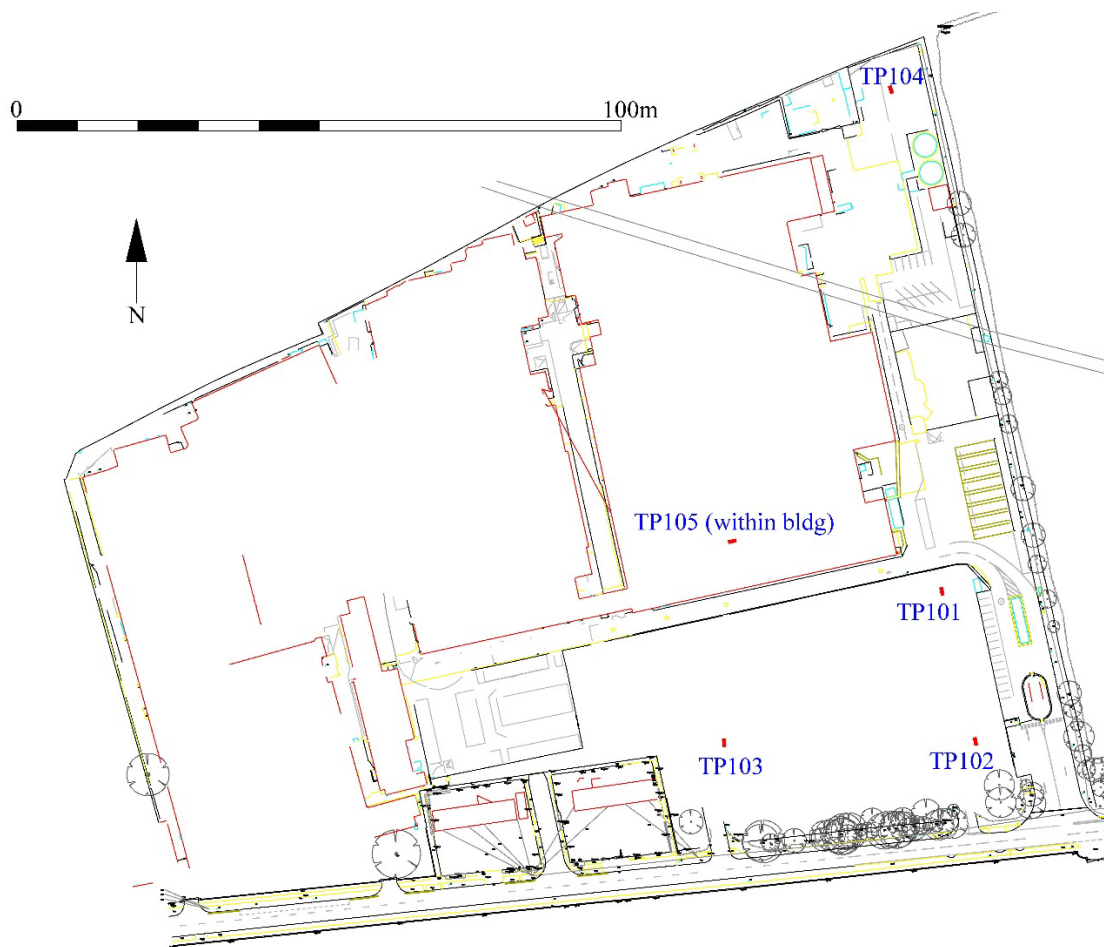


Figure 5 Test pits on SKDC land

TP102

TP102 was placed in the south-eastern corner of the main car park. As with TP101 0.6m of tarmac, reinforced concrete and bedding material was removed to expose the natural substratum. The natural consisted of the same mid-orange brown clayish silty sand as seen in TP101. However, at a depth of 0.9m below current ground level the natural had changed to a brighter orange-brown sandy gravel deposit. Excavation stopped at 1.25m below ground level with sandy gravel being seen down to the base of the pit (Fig. 7).

No topsoil or subsoil was seen in this pit nor were any archaeological features or deposits seen.

TP103

TP103 was located on the western side of the main car park close to the row of houses near the centre of the site on Barnack Road. Only 0.45m of tarmac, reinforced concrete and bedding material were observed in this pit. Beneath this was a 0.15m layer of silty clay which might be alluvial material and which covered a mid-orange brown silty sand and gravel natural substratum which extended to the base of the pit at 1.9m below current ground level (Fig. 8).

No topsoil or subsoil was seen in this pit nor were any archaeological features or deposits seen.

TP104

TP104 was placed in the north-eastern corner of the SKDC site. A 0.45m thick layer of block paving and partially concreted bedding layer were removed to expose a thin layer of disturbed clayish sand down to 0.55m below current ground level. This disturbed layer covered a 0.3m layer of stoned made-ground down to 0.85m below ground level. Beneath this was the same mid-orange brown clayish silty sand as seen in TP101 and TP102 which continued down to 1.75m below ground level below which was sand and gravel. Excavation stopped at 2.05 below ground level with sand and gravel still being encountered all the way to the base of the pit (Fig. 9).

No topsoil or subsoil was seen in this pit nor were any archaeological features or deposits seen.

TP105

TP105 was placed within Building 5. 0.45m of reinforced concrete floor and bedding were removed to expose a mid-brown silty sand with some gravel within it. An unglazed ceramic drain ran through this layer which extended to 0.55m below current ground level. It was not clear if this layer was a remnant of disturbed subsoil or a trampled deposit created when the building was erected. Beneath this was clean sand and gravel extending down to the base of the pit at 1.5m below current ground level.

No topsoil or subsoil was seen in this pit nor were any archaeological features or deposits seen. A number of large machine pits were observed across this building indicating that, once the buildings are demolished, some areas will have been badly disturbed.

The three test pits on the BLL land are discussed after the SKDC pit photographs.



Figure 6 Test pit TP101 fully excavated
Looking east. 1m scale



Figure 7 TP102 fully excavated
Looking east. 1m scale



Figure 8 TP103 fully excavated
Looking east. 1m scale



Figure 9 TP104 fully excavated
Looking north. 1m scale



Figure 10 TP105 fully excavated
Looking south. 1m scale

Test pits of BLL land

TP106

TP106 was located close to the gateway onto Barnack Road along the southern edge of the BLL field. The topsoil and subsoil consisted of a mid-grey brown silty clay and sand with a combined depth of 0.4m. Beneath this was the mid-orange brown clayish silty sand natural substratum seen in the SKDC test pits which extended down to 0.75m below current ground level. Sand and gravel was seen from this level down to the base of the pit at 1.3m below ground level (Fig. 11).

TP107

TP107 was placed close to the north-eastern corner of the BLL field. 0.4m of topsoil and subsoil were removed to expose a red-brown clayish silty sand natural substratum which was slightly darker in hue than previous test pits. This layer extended down to the base of the pit at 1.1m below current ground level (Fig. 12).

TP108

TP108 was located on the western side of the BLL field. Topsoil and subsoil with a combined thickness of 0.35m were removed to expose the mid-orange brown clayish silty sand natural substratum. This continued down to the base of the pit at 0.8m below current ground level.



Figure 11 TP106 fully excavated
Looking south



Figure 12 TP107 fully excavated
Looking south



Figure 13 TP108 fully excavated
 Looking south-west

Table 1 test pit depths

	TP101	TP102	TP103	TP104	TP105	TP106	TP107	TP108
Ground level	23.3m	24.3m	24.0m	21.8m	not known	23.2m	20.3m	22.2m
Base of concrete/bedding/top of natural	22.7	23.7	23.5	20.95		n/a	n/a	n/a
Base of topsoil/subsoil	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22.8	19.9	21.9
Base of clayish silty sand	22.3	23.4	23.4	20.1		22.5	n/a	n/a
Base of pit	21.3	23.04	22.1	19.8		21.9	19.2	21.4

Discussion

Despite the potential for exposing archaeological features and deposits during this work none were observed, nor was any topsoil or subsoil observed in the SKDC land. The former Cummins site appears to have removed all of the topsoil, subsoil and an unknown depth of natural ground prior to construction and the laying down of the concrete roadways. Although the archaeological features identified in the BLL field to

the east may well have extended into the Cummins factory site, the results of the watching brief suggest that much of the original ground has been truncated. Any such archaeological features are likely to have been disturbed by the construction of the factory.

Archive

The archive consists of:

This report,

8 A4 pro-forma test pit recording sheets,

2 A4 photographic contact sheets containing 36 photographs,

1 DVD with 36 photographs,

1 A4 photo record sheet.

Publication

A summary of the work will be submitted for publication in the appropriate local archaeological and historical journal in due course. A record of the project will also be submitted to the OASIS project. OASIS is an online index to archaeological grey literature.

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05.12.2019



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