ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT:

GROUND INVESTIGATION WORKS AT HINDERWELL COMMUNITY SCHOOL, SCARBOROUGH, NORTH YORKSHIRE

Planning Reference: Pre-planning NGR: TA 0316 8684 Site Code: HICS 09 OASIS Reference: allenarc1-62765



Report prepared for

Jacobs Engineering UK Limited

On behalf of North Yorkshire County Council

By Allen Archaeology Limited Report Number 2009036

August 2009

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Contents

	Summary	1		
1.0	Introduction	2		
2.0	Site Location and Description	2		
3.0	Planning Background	2		
4.0	Archaeological and Historical Background	2		
5.0	Methodology	3		
6.0	Results6.1Test Pits6.2Boreholes	3 3 4		
7.0	Discussion and Conclusions	5		
8.0	Effectiveness of Methodology	5		
9.0	Acknowledgements	5		
10.0	References	6		
11.0	Site Archive	6		
List of Appendices				

Appendix 1: Colour Plates	7
Appendix 2: Pottery Assessment	8
Appendix 3: Context Summary List	9
Appendix 4: Archive Summary	10
Appendix 4: Watching Brief Specification	11

List of Figures

Figure 1:	Location map with the school grounds outlined in red at scale 1:25,000
Figure 2:	Site location at scale 1:2500, with the school grounds outlined in red
Figure 3:	Site plan, showing location of Test Pits (TP) and Boreholes (BH) at scale 1:1000
Figure 4:	Test Pit sections at scale 1:20. Test Pits located on Figure 3
Figure 5:	Borehole sections at scale 1:20. Boreholes located on Figure 3

List of Plates

- Plate 1: General view of the school grounds, looking north-west
- Plate 2: Test Pit 1, south facing section, looking north, showing natural clay layer 100 directly below the tarmac surface.
- **Plate 3:** Borehole 2, south facing section, looking north, showing possible levelling layer 20 over the natural clay 21.

Document Control

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Draft report submitted to Jacobs:		03/08/2009
Draft report approved by Jacobs:	Jonathan Dempsey	19/08/2009
Final report produced by:	AAL 2009036	20/08/2009

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Summary

Allen Archaeology Limited was commissioned by Jacobs Engineering UK Limited, on behalf of North Yorkshire County Council to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during the excavation of trial pits and geotechnical boreholes at Hinderwell Community Primary School, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

The site is located close to numerous Bronze Age round barrows, and there is limited evidence for Romano-British and medieval activity in the vicinity of the site.

The watching brief exposed a sequence of ground raising deposits in the central and eastern parts of the site that are likely to be associated with the construction of the existing school buildings. Boreholes and test pits at the west side of the site exposed only the natural geology, suggesting that this area of the site had been levelled in advance of the construction of the school. Only a single residual sherd of $15^{th}/16^{th}$ century pottery was recovered from a topsoil deposit.

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Allen Archaeology Limited (hereafter AAL) was commissioned by Jacobs Engineering UK Limited, on behalf of their client, North Yorkshire County Council, to carry out an archaeological watching brief during geotechnical works at Hinderwell Community Primary School in Scarborough, North Yorkshire.
- 1.2 The site monitoring, recording and reporting conforms to current national guidelines, as set out in the Institute for Archaeologists '*Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs*' (IfA 1999), and a specification prepared by Jacobs Engineering UK Limited (see Appendix 5).
- 1.3 The archive will be submitted to the Yorkshire Museum within six months of the completion of the project.

2.0 Site Location and Description (Figures 1 – 3)

- 2.1 Scarborough is situated in the county of North Yorkshire, approximately 55km north-east of York. The proposed development area is to the south of the historic core of the town, south of Barry's Lane and west of Seamer Road. The site centres on NGR TA 0316 8684 and lies at a height of approximately 45m above Ordnance Datum.
- 2.2 The local geology comprises drift deposits of glacial till, overlying a solid geology of Scalby mudstone and sandstone (British Geological Survey 1998).

3.0 Planning Background

3.1 As part of the government's Primary Capital Programme, North Yorkshire County Council is proposing to undertake improvements to a number of primary schools, including the present site. Jacobs Engineering UK Limited is currently preparing environmental reports to support a planning application in respect of the redevelopment of Hinderwell School. It was agreed with Lucie Hawkins, Development Control Archaeologist for North Yorkshire County Council, that an archaeological watching brief should be undertaken during the site investigation works. The results of this work are to be submitted as part of the environmental reports supporting a future planning application.

4.0 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 4.1 There is significant evidence for prehistoric activity in the vicinity of the site. The North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (hereafter NYHER) lists a large number of unprovenanced finds from the parish of Scarborough, including several Neolithic axeheads and maceheads, Bronze Age axes, knives and spears, as well as a Roman bowl and ring (NYHER Reference 9601). Excavations at Scarborough Castle, c.2.9km to the north-east, exposed pits containing large numbers of pot-boilers, along with pottery, metal tools and debris from metal and shale working dating to the 8th century BC (Manby et.al. 2003).
- 4.2 There are also a large number of Bronze Age barrows in the vicinity of the site, including a discrete group of six barrows located in the area of Moor House Farm, c.1km to the south-west of the school (NYHER Reference 9506). A further possible round barrow is recorded at Oliver's Mount, c.1km to the south-east (NHYER Reference 9533).
- 4.3 Romano-British activity is represented by the discovery of a number of 2nd and 3rd century AD coins in a garden c.750m north of the site (National Monuments Record Reference 79924).

Aerial photography has also identified a double ditched trackway of later prehistoric or Romano-British date running broadly north – south with further linears running east and west from the track, c.1km to the west-south-west of the school (NMR Reference 1382891). Further afield, a late Roman signal station has been excavated at Scarborough Castle (Ottaway 2003).

- 4.4 The site lies at some distance to the south of the medieval castle and settlement of Scarborough. Medieval remains in the form of a building and kiln have been excavated in the suburb of Falsgrave (NMR Reference 1172763), although the location of the site is vague, being limited to 1km grid square TA 03 87. A medieval conduit, possibly associated with the Fransiscan House at St. Sepulchre Street has also been exposed, within grid square TA 03 87 (NMR Reference 636145).
- 4.5 Immediately to the south of the site is the football stadium of Scarborough Town Football Club, which was built in 1898 (NMR Reference 1301707). Historic map evidence suggests that during the later 19th and early 20th centuries the school site was part of an industrial area, with quarrying taking place to the west of the site and a brick and tile works in the area of the school playing fields. The site of the school buildings themselves were occupied by 'Barry's Cottages' on the map of 1914, and the existing school buildings are first shown on a map of 1938.

5.0 Methodology

- 5.1 The groundworks were carried out on Wednesday 22^{nd} and Tuesday 23^{rd} July 2009 and were monitored at all times by AAL Project Officer Kevin Trott. The location of all test pits was provided to the sub-contractors by Jacobs Engineering UK Limited. The groundworks comprised a series of six test pits excavated abutting the walls of the existing school buildings to investigate the depth and nature of the foundations. These test pits measured approximately 0.50m x 0.50m, and were excavated to an average depth of *c*.1.2m. Four boreholes were also excavated to recover samples for environmental testing and examine the geological profile of the site. In each borehole, a 0.30m x 0.30m pit was hand excavated to a depth of *c*.1.2m. The borehole pits were subsequently investigated using a track mounted percussive sampler to a depth of *c*.6m to further determine the stratigraphic sequence below the limit of the hand excavated area.
- 5.2 During excavation, all exposed plan and section surfaces were examined and periodically cleaned (where possible); in order to determine the stratigraphic sequence and to determine if any archaeological features had been revealed. Spoil from the excavations was examined for finds recovery. Obviously modern finds were noted and discarded, with all other finds retained for specialist assessment. Each context was recorded on pro-forma AAL context record sheets, accompanied by section drawings at appropriate scales (1:20). A full photographic record was maintained in monochrome and colour slide formats, and selected prints have been included as an appendix to this report (Appendix 1).

6.0 **Results** (Figures 4 and 5)

6.1 Test Pits (Figure 4)

- 6.1.1 Test Pit 1 was located against the west facing wall of the main school block. Underlying a 0.20m thick layer of tarmac and bedding material was a brown natural clay, 100, which extended below the limit of excavation.
- 6.1.2 Test Pit 2 was located against the south facing wall of the western garden courtyard. The uppermost deposit in this test pit was a 0.20m thick topsoil horizon, 200, comprising very dark

grey silty sand. It sealed a layer of moderately loose dark brown silty sand approximately 0.30m thick, 201. This layer in turn sealed the brown natural clay, 202, at the base of the sequence.

- 6.1.3 Test Pit 3 was located against a north facing wall towards the north-east corner of the main school block. The uppermost deposit was a 0.20m thick topsoil horizon, 300, comprising very dark grey silty sandy clay. It sealed a layer of dark brown compact silty sandy clay, 301, which was approximately 0.48m thick. Below 301 was the brown natural clay, 302.
- 6.1.4 Test Pit 4 was located against the south facing wall of the main school block, to the north of the nursery. Underlying a 0.20m thick layer of concrete paving was a c.0.55m thick limestone hardcore bedding material, 400. This sealed a 0.25m thick layer of very dark grey sandy silt, 401, with inclusions of coal, flint and slate representing a layer of ground raising material associated with the construction of the school. This layer overlay the brown natural clay, 402.
- 6.1.5 Test Pit 5 was located against the south facing wall of the main school block. The uppermost deposit was a 0.20m thick topsoil horizon, 500, comprising very dark grey sandy silt. It sealed a layer of moderately loose very dark grey sandy silt, 501, containing occasional slate fragments. This layer was 0.70m thick and was interpreted as reflecting the same levelling layer as identified in Test Pit 4. This layer in turn sealed the brown natural clay, 502, at the base of the sequence.
- 6.1.6 Test Pit 6 was located against the south facing wall of the main school block. The uppermost deposit was a 0.25m thick topsoil horizon, 600, comprising dark brown silty sandy clay that produced a single sherd of 15th/16th century pottery. It sealed a layer of brown silty clay, 601, representing a possible ground raising deposit 0.65m thick. Below 601 was the brown natural clay 602.

6.2 Boreholes (Figure 5)

- 6.2.1 Borehole 1 was located to the west of the main school block and north-north-west of Test Pit 1. Removal of the modern tarmac surface exposed the natural geology of brown clay, 10.
- 6.2.2 Borehole 2 was located to the north of the north-eastern corner of the main school block. Sealed by a 0.15m thick layer of tarmac and bedding material, was a very dark grey sandy silt, 20, interpreted as a ground raising/levelling layer, 0.55m thick. Below 20, the brown natural clay, 21 extended below the extent of the hand excavated pit.
- 6.2.3 Borehole 3 was located to the east of the main school block. Underlying the 0.15m thick layer of block paving and bedding material was a very dark grey sandy silt, 30, representing a thin (0.15m) layer of ground raising material that was also recorded within Borehole 2. This layer overlay the brown natural clay, 31.
- 6.2.4 Borehole 4 was located to the south of the main school block, south of Test Pit 5. It exposed a 0.20m thick topsoil horizon, 40, comprising dark brown silty sandy clay. This layer sealed a 0.85m thick very dark grey sandy silt with occasional fragments of slate, 41, representing a probable ground raising/levelling layer. The brown natural clay, 42 was recorded below this layer extending beyond the depth of the hand excavated pit.

7.0 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The watching brief exposed a limited degree of variation in the stratigraphic sequence across the site. Towards the west side of the site, Test Pit 1 and Borehole 1 exposed only the natural geology below the existing ground surface, suggesting that this part of the site may have been levelled prior to the construction of the existing buildings.
- 7.2 The remaining test pits and boreholes in the central and eastern parts of the site exposed a series of layers likely to represent the raising and levelling of the site to form a flat surface in advance of the construction of the existing school buildings. It seems likely that a 'cut and fill' exercise was undertaken prior to the construction of the school, with the west part of the site being truncated and the remainder of the site being built up.
- 7.3 Other than obviously modern pottery sherds (including transfer printed wares and modern flower pots) and small fragments of roof slate (not retained), the only dateable find recovered was a single sherd of 15th/16th century Humberware pottery (see Appendix 2) from the topsoil in Test Pit 6, broadly indicative of late medieval activity in the wider area.
- 7.4 To conclude therefore, the excavated areas have identified natural deposits and deposits associated with the construction of the school that are of negligible importance.

8.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

8.1 The watching brief methodology was appropriate to the small scale of the site investigations. The monitoring and recording suggests a negligible archaeological potential for the proposed development area, although the limited extent of the investigated areas does not preclude the possibility of archaeological deposits being present elsewhere on the site.

9.0 Acknowledgements

9.1 Allen Archaeology Limited would like to thank Jacobs Engineering UK Limited for this commission. Thanks also go to the staff of Hinderwell School, and the site contractors from Ian Farmer Associates for their cooperation during the fieldwork.

10.0 References

British Geological Survey, 1998, Scarborough. England and Wales Sheet 54. Solid and Drift Geology. 1:50,000 Provisional Series, Keyworth, Nottingham: British Geological Survey

IfA., 1999, Standards and guidance for archaeological watching briefs. Reading, Institute for Archaeologists

Manby, T., Moorhouse S. and Ottaway P., 2003, 'The Archaeology of Yorkshire. An assessment at the beginning of the 21st century', *Yorkshire Archaeological Society. Occasional Paper no. 3*, Yorkshire Archaeological Society, Leeds

Manby T., King A. and Vyner B., 2003, 'The Neolithic and Bronze Ages: a time of early agriculture', in Manby, Moorhouse and Ottaway, pp. 35 - 113

Ottaway, P., 2003, 'The archaeology of the Roman period in the Yorkshire region: a rapid resource assessment', in Manby, Moorhouse and Ottaway, pp. 125 - 150

11.0 Site archive

11.1 The documentary and physical archive is currently in the possession of Allen Archaeology Limited. It will be submitted to The Yorkshire Museum within six months of the completion of the report. A summary of the contents of the archive is included in Appendix 4.

Appendix 1: Colour Plates



Plate 1: General view of the school grounds, looking north-west

Plate 2: Test Pit 1, south facing section, looking north, showing natural clay layer 100 directly below the tarmac surface.

Plate 3: Borehole 2, south facing section, looking north, showing possible levelling layer 20 over the natural clay 21.

Appendix 2: Pottery Assessment

By Chris Cumberpatch

A single sherd of pottery was recovered from the topsoil during investigations at Hinderwell Community School, Scarborough. The sherd, from test pit 6 (context 600) was examined by the author on 28th July 2009. It was a small unglazed body sherd weighing five grams with a wide reduced core and thin dark orange external and internal margins. The fabric was dense and homogeneous with few visible inclusions. Those which were visible were rare and poorly sorted. They were non-crystalline in nature and sub-angular in shape.

The pottery was not immediately identifiable as a particular type but its general characteristics suggest that it is probably of later medieval or early post-medieval date (15th to early 16th century) and should be considered to be part of the Humberware or Reduced Greenware industry that dominated pottery manufacture in East Yorkshire and north-east England between the later 13th and mid 16th century. It was not a typical Humberware and was almost certainly not a product of the best known potteries at Cowick and Holme-on-Spalding Moor. This is unsurprising as the numbers of potteries known is almost certainly far fewer than those which were in operation at this time.

Appendix 3: Context Summary List

Context No.	Туре	Description	Interpretation
Test Pit 1			
100	Layer	Brown clay	Natural geology
Test Pit 2	1		
200	Layer	Very dark grey slity sand	Modern topsol
201	Layer	Dark brown slity sand	Ground raising/levelling layer
ZUZ Toot Dit 2	Layer	Brown clay	Natural geology
200	Lover	Vany dark grov ailty apply alow	Modora tanaail
201	Layer	Derk brown silty sandy clay	Cround raising/lovalling lover
301	Layer	Brown clay	Natural geology
Test Pit 4	Layer	brown day	Natural geology
400	Laver	Crushed limestone hardcore	Bedding laver for concrete
100	Layer		surface
401	Laver	Very dark grey sandy silt, occ coal and slate	Ground raising/levelling laver
402	Laver	Brown clay	Natural geology
Test Pit 5	- 3 -		
500	Layer	Very dark grey sandy silt	Modern topsoil
501	Layer	Very dark grey sandy silt, occ slate fragments	Ground raising/levelling layer
502	Layer	Brown clay	Natural geology
Test Pit 6			
600	Layer	Dark brown silty sandy clay	Modern topsoil
601	Layer	Brown silty clay	Ground raising/levelling layer
602	Layer	Brown clay	Natural geology
Borehole 1			
10	Layer	Brown clay	Natural geology
Borehole 2			
20	Layer	Very dark grey sandy silt	Ground raising/levelling layer
21	Layer	Brown clay	Natural geology
Borenole 3	Lover	Van dark grov oondy oilt	Cround reising/lovalling lover
30	Layer	Prown clov	Netural goology
3 I Borehole 4	Layer	BIOWITCIdy	Natural geology
40	Laver	Dark brown silty sandy clay	Modern tonsoil
	Laver	Very dark grev sandy silt	Ground raising/levelling laver
42	Laver	Brown clay	Natural geology
-T -	Layor	Brown ouy	i tatarai geology

Appendix 4: Archive Summary

The archive includes the following drawn and written records and photographs:

Drawing sheets: 1 x A3 permatrace sheet Photographic record sheets: 1 x A4 sheet Daily record sheets: 2 x A4 sheets Context summary lists: 1 x A4 sheet Watching brief record sheets: 12 x A4 sheets Black and white film: 1 x 36 exposure film Colour film: 1 x 36 exposure film Miscellaneous material: 1 x AAL Risk Assessment

The table below presents a summary of the finds by area and by context:

Area	Context number	Pottery	Finds total
TP6	600	1	1
		1	1

APPENDIX 5:

WATCHING BRIEF SPECIFICATION





North Yorkshire County Council

Primary Capital Programme

Archaeological Watching Brief on Ground Investigation Works

Specification

July 2009



Document control sheet

Client: North Yorkshire County Council Project: North Yorkshire County Council Primary Capital Programme

Job No: BAE08604, BAE08605, BAE08607

Title: Archaeological Watching Brief on Geotechnical Investigations - Specification

- -

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Document status: Final for issue					

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DATE	SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE	SIGNATURE	
Document status					

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Contents

1.	Introduction	.1-2
1.1	Background to the works	1-2
1.2	General Requirements	1-2
2.	Methodology for Watching Brief	.2-3
2.1	Archaeological Watching Brief	2-3
2.2	Site Archive	2-3
2.3	Reporting	2-5
3.	Standards and Guidance	6

Figures

- Figure 1 Location of Barrowcliff Community Primary School
- Figure 2 Location of Hinderwell Community Primary School
- Figure 3 Location of Norton Community Primary School



1. Introduction

1.1 Background to the works

- 1.1.1 As part of the government's Primary Capital Programme, North Yorkshire County Council is proposing the improvement of a number of primary schools in the County, with a total of £12 million to be spent by April 2010. Jacobs is preparing environmental reports to support planning applications at four schools, notably Hinderwell, Barrowcliff and Friarage Primary Schools (all in Scarborough) and Norton Primary School in Norton.
- 1.1.2 It has been agreed with Lucie Hawkins, Development Control Archaeologist, North Yorkshire County Council (the Curator) that an archaeological watching brief is required during Site Investigation (SI) works at the following schools:

Barrowcliff Community Primary School; Hinderwell Community Primary School; and, Norton Community Primary School.

- 1.1.3 The locations of these schools are shown on Figures 1 to 3.
- 1.1.4 The Hinderwell SI will take place on the 22nd and 23rd of July 2009
- 1.1.5 Information on the design of the SI works at this stage is very limited. However, it is understood that the SI will comprise a mixture of boreholes and test pits. The test pits are likely to be hand-dug, and will be positioned against existing walls to allow inspection of foundations. It is not likely that any pits would exceed a depth of 1.2m.

1.2 General Requirements

- 1.2.1 The contractor inform North Yorkshire County Council's Historic Environment Team at least prior to the start of works on site.
- 1.2.2 The work shall be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of:

the Institute for Archaeologists, 1994, Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (Revised 2001 and 2008)

English Heritage, 2002, Centre for Archaeology Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology; and

English Heritage, 2004, Geoarchaeology: using earth sciences for understanding the Archaeological record.

- 1.2.3 This Specification is supplementary to these standards and guidance and all requirements of the standards and guidance shall apply.
- 1.2.4 The Contractor will be appointed by North Yorkshire County Council under the terms of the NYCC Framework Contract for Archaeological Services 2009-2013.



2. Methodology for Watching Brief

2.1 Archaeological Watching Brief

- 2.1.1 The archaeological watching brief shall be undertaken on all trial pits.
- 2.1.2 Stripping overburden and any associated excavations shall be carried out by the Geotechnical Contractor either by hand or using mechanical excavators fitted with toothless ditching buckets, and shall be continuously monitored by the watching brief archaeologist.
- 2.1.3 Where any remains are identified in the course of monitoring work, the watching brief archaeologist shall notify the Geotechnical Contractor, the Engineer's Representative in charge of the geotechnical investigations and shall investigate and record the remains by the methodology set out below:

Archaeological investigation and recording shall be undertaken in such a manner as to minimise the delay and disruption to the GI investigation; however, if necessary the archaeologist may instruct short suspensions of test-pit excavation, and may ask for backfilling to be delayed, to allow recording work to be undertaken;

Where archaeological deposits of minor or unclear significance are identified, the GI investigation may continue to the full intended depth;

Where the archaeological deposits are of greater significance, and in the judgement of the archaeologist, the completion of the investigation would cause an unacceptable impact, the archaeologist may instruct the abandonment of the trial pit, which may if necessary be re-sited and re-excavated subject to the approval of the Geotechnical Contractor, the Engineer's Representative and the relevant landowner;

Where available borehole logs will be examined and any relevant data included in the report.

- 2.1.4 Where structures, finds, features or deposits of archaeological interest are exposed, the watching brief archaeologist shall be afforded the opportunity to observe, clean assess, excavate by hand, sample and record them as appropriate.
- 2.1.5 Plans and sections of excavated features shall be produced at conventional scales.
- 2.1.6 All finds shall be retained and removed from the site and cleaned, catalogued and appropriately packaged.
- 2.1.7 If human remains are encountered and it is not possible for them to be left *in situ*, the appropriate procedures shall be adhered to, including notification of the Coroner and obtaining an appropriate Ministry of Justice license for their removal.

2.2 Site Archive

2.2.1 The site archive shall be transferred to the Yorkshire Museum.



- 2.2.2 Adequate resources shall be provided during fieldwork to ensure that all records are checked and internally consistent.
- 2.2.3 The Site Archive shall be prepared in accordance with the standards set out in Appendix 3 of MAP2 and the Yorkshire Museum's "Draft Deposition Strategy for Archaeological Excavation Archives".
- 2.2.4 The Site Archive shall contain all the data collected during the investigation, including all primary written documents, plans sections and photographs. It shall be quantified, ordered, indexed and internally consistent.
- 2.2.5 Archive consolidation shall be undertaken immediately following the conclusion of fieldwork.
- 2.2.6 The site record shall be checked, cross-referenced and indexed as necessary.
- 2.2.7 All retained finds shall be cleaned, conserved, marked and packaged as necessary to maintain the archive prior to transfer.
- 2.2.8 All retained finds shall be assessed and recorded using pro-forma recording sheets, by suitably qualified and experienced staff. Initial artefact dating shall be integrated with the site matrix.
- 2.2.9 The archive shall be assembled in accordance with the guidelines set out in English Heritage's Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (MAP2; paragraphs 4.9, 6.8 and 6.10 and Appendix 3) and Yorkshire Museum's "Draft Deposition Strategy for Archaeological Excavation Archives". In addition to the site records, artefacts, ecofacts and other sample residues, the archive shall contain:

site matrices where appropriate;

- a summary report synthesising the context records;
- a summary of the artefact record; and
- a summary of any other records or materials recovered.
- 2.2.10 The integrity of the primary field records shall be preserved and the Contractor shall create security copies in digital, fiche or microfilm format of all primary field records.



2.3 Reporting

2.3.1 The report shall prepared in line with the requirements set out in North Yorkshire County Council's "Standard Written Scheme of Investigation for Limited Archaeological Recording ("Watching Brief")" (2006), and shall include as a minimum:

planning or administrative details of the project;

a summary of the works carried out;

a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate;

General and detailed plans at appropriate scales, showing the location of each trial pit accurately positioned on an up-to-date Ordnance Survey base;

Sections of trial pit and at appropriate scales, with keys;

Detailed plans and sections of individual features where necessary, all scales used on any drawings should be standard scales such as would appear on a normal scale rule;

And catalogues of finds, features and primary records.

- 2.3.2 A draft report shall be completed within two weeks of the completion of fieldwork. One copy of a complete draft report will be submitted in the first instance for review/checking by the Engineer who will also consult the Curator and EHRSA during the review period. In finalising the report, the Contractor will take into account any comments and remedy any faults identified by the Engineer. The Contractor should note that 5 bound copies, one unbound copy and a digital copy (including drawings) of the final report will be required. The finalised report will be submitted to the Engineer within five working days of receipt of the Engineer's comments on the draft report.
- 2.3.3 In addition, one bound copy and a digital copy in PDF format of the final report will be deposited with the Curator. Digital data derived from the report will be provided in a format suitable for inclusion into the County HER for record enhancement purposes, and the Contractor shall liaise with the Curator to discuss the nature and format of the material required.
- 2.3.4 North Yorkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) supports the Online Access to Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) Project. The overall aim of the OASIS project is to provide an online index to the mass of archaeological grey literature that has been produced as a result of the advent of large scale developer funded fieldwork. On completion of the report, the contractor will make a copy accessible to the wider research community by submitting it to the OASIS Project.

3. Standards and Guidance

- Brown, Duncan H, 2007, Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation, Archaeological Archives Forum
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Figure 1: Location map with the school grounds outlined in red at scale 1:25,000 Crown Copyright 2005. All rights reserved. Licence Number 100047330



Figure 2: Site location at scale 1:2500, with the school grounds outlined in red



Figure 3: Site plan, showing location of Test Pits (TP) and Boreholes (BH) at scale 1:1000



Figure 4: Test Pit sections at scale 1:20. Test Pits located on Figure 3



Figure 5: Borehole sections at scale 1:20. Boreholes located on Figure 3