

# Land adjacent to Seaton Cemetery, Colyford Road, Seaton, Devon.

An archaeological desk-based appraisal, field evaluation and monitoring and recording of groundworks.



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for

East Devon District Council

by



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February 2011

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Front cover image: Excavation of prehistoric ditch [103] in Trench 1. © Context One Archaeological Services 2011

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## Non-Technical Summary

*Context One Archaeological Services carried out an archaeological desk-based appraisal, field evaluation and archaeological monitoring and recording relating to land adjacent to Seaton Cemetery, Colyford Road, Seaton, Devon (centred on NGR SY 25181 91963) in January 2011. The works formed part of a staged programme of archaeological investigation that commenced with a geophysical survey. The project was commissioned and funded by East Devon District Council and managed by Mr Doug Rudge (Countryside Contracts Officer).*

*The requirement for the archaeological works was made by the Local Planning Authority (East Devon District Council) on the advice of Ms Cressida Whitton (Archaeological Officer, Devon County Historic Environment Service) as a condition of granting planning permission for the change of use from agricultural land to cemetery and nature reserve.*

*The Site is recorded in close proximity to a number of recorded archaeological events, most notably a purported deserted medieval village to the north and 18<sup>th</sup> century saltworks to the south.*

*The field evaluation revealed two intercutting ditches, a post hole, a probable buried soil horizon and possible stake holes in two trenches at the northern end of the proposed cemetery extension. The ditches were the only features to be positively dated and these are ascribed to the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age periods.*

*Notwithstanding the discovery of isolated finds in the vicinity of the Site, the evaluation has demonstrated the first real evidence of prehistoric settlement activity in this particular area, and as such, represents a new discovery. No evidence of the purported deserted medieval village or the 18<sup>th</sup> century saltworks surrounding the Site was found.*

## 1. Introduction

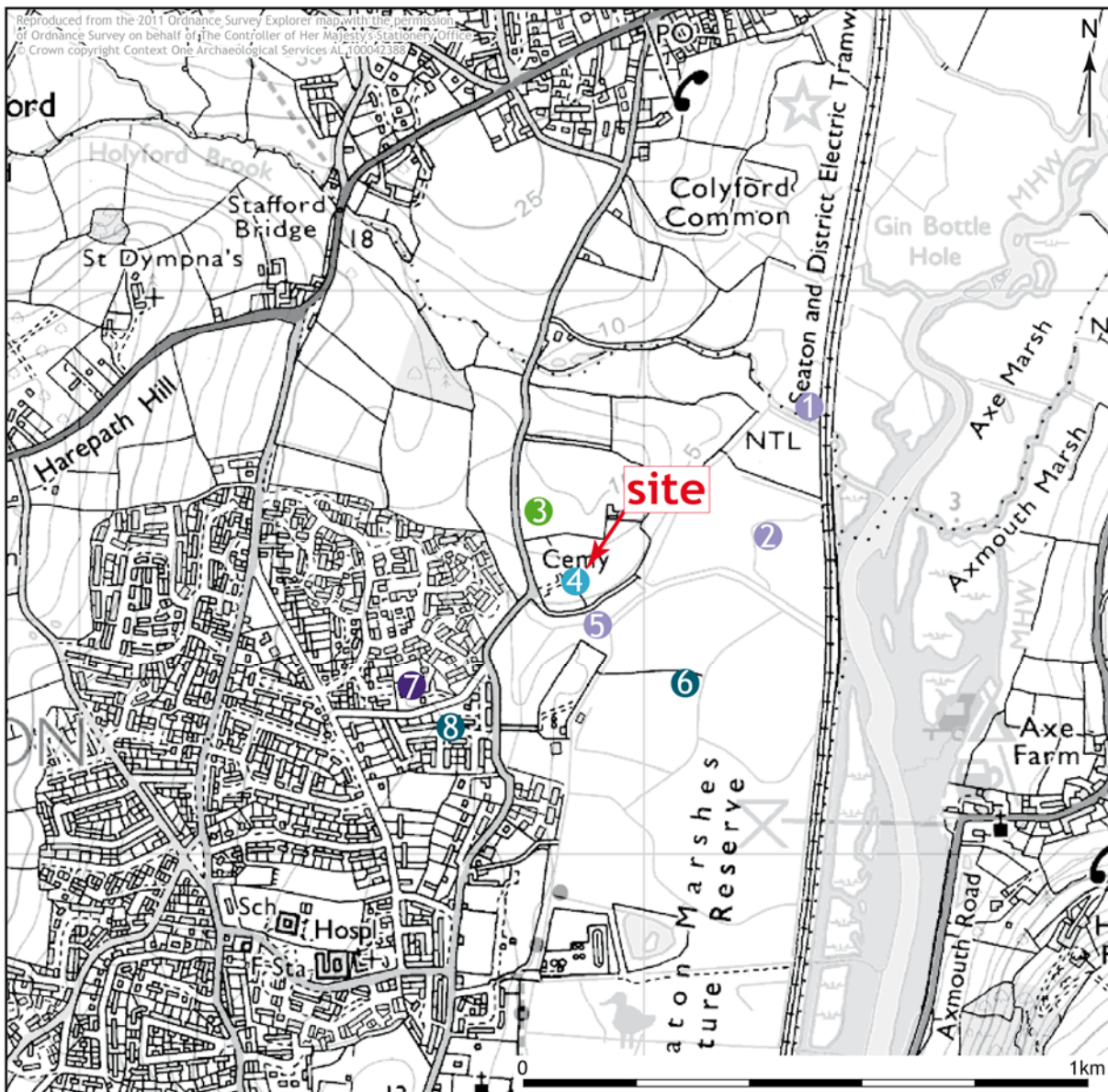
- 1.1 Context One Archaeological Services Ltd (COAS) carried out an archaeological desk-based appraisal, field evaluation and archaeological monitoring and recording relating to land adjacent to Seaton Cemetery, Colyford Road, Seaton, Devon (centred on NGR SY 25181 91963) (hereafter referred to as the Site) in January 2011. The works formed part of a staged programme of archaeological investigation that commenced with a geophysical survey (ARCA 2010). The project was commissioned and funded by East Devon District Council and managed by Mr Doug Rudge (Countryside Contracts Officer).
- 1.2 The requirement for the archaeological works was made by the Local Planning Authority (East Devon District Council) on the advice of Ms Cressida Whitton (Archaeological Officer, Devon County Historic Environment Service (HES)) as a condition of granting planning permission for the change of use from agricultural land to cemetery and nature reserve (Planning application ref. 10/0461/FUL).
- 1.3 In a *Brief for a 'Staged Programme of Archaeological Investigation/Mitigation and Monitoring and Recording of Groundworks'*, dated 17 December 2010, Ms Whitton stated:
- "The cemetery extension/nature reserve & car park (including access) development (Phase 2), lies in an area of high archaeological potential demonstrated by the presence of earthworks - identified through aerial photography - that may indicate a deserted settlement (medieval) in the area. In addition the two hides and excavation area of reed bed and pond to create hedgebanks on the floodplain of Colyford Common (Phase 1 - completed), also lie within an area of high palaeoenvironmental and archaeological potential, demonstrated by a recent coring project. Groundworks for the proposed developments may expose and destroy archaeological, palaeoenvironmental or artefactual evidence associated with archaeological activity in the Axe Estuary."*
- 1.4 Prior to the commencement of the works, COAS submitted a *Written Scheme of Investigation for a Staged Programme of Archaeological Works: Land adjacent to Seaton Cemetery, Colyford Road, Seaton, Devon* (Milby 2011), which provided a strategy for the investigation. This was submitted to and approved by Ms Whitton prior to the commencement of the works.
- 1.5 The request for the archaeological work follows advice given by Central Government as set out in Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 5: Planning for the Historic Environment (2010); and the Local Development Framework Policy on Archaeology.
- 1.6 This report summarises the topographical, geological and archaeological/historical setting of the Site, and presents the results of this stage of the programme of works.

## 2. Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 2.1 The Site is situated just beyond the north-eastern edge of Seaton to the east of Colyford Road and to the north of Marsh Lane (Figure 1). The western boundary of the Site is defined by the eastern extent of Seaton Cemetery with open fields to the north and east. The Site falls from c.9m-3m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) from north to south and c.8m-6m aOD from west to east.
- 2.2 According to the British Geological Survey (2011), there is no superficial (drift) geology. The underlying solid geology comprises the Branscombe Mudstone Formation.

### 3. Desk-based appraisal

- 3.1 An archaeological desk-based appraisal was first carried out to place the Site into its historic and archaeological context and to assist the positioning of field evaluation trenches. The appraisal principally involved a trawl of the Devon Historic Environment Record (HER) for archaeological events within a 500m radius of the Site; a study of historic maps including the Tithe Map and Apportionment from the 1830s/40s and Ordnance Survey maps from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century; and aerial photographs held by the Devon County HES.
- 3.2 In this instance, several grey literature reports relating to previous archaeological work in the immediate environs were also consulted including extracts from a recent report on a geophysical survey of the Site that formed the first stage of works (ARCA 2010).
- 3.3 The HER comprises 8 entries for archaeological events within 500m of the Site and span the prehistoric to Modern periods. A summary of these records and the location of each event are represented in **Figure 1**. There is only one record for the Site itself and this relates to an isolated discovery of a prehistoric fishtail-shaped flint scraper (**item 4, Figure 1**). However, two sites just outside the development area are of particular note, and relate to a purported deserted medieval village to the north and post-medieval saltworks to the south. The earthwork remains relating to the disappeared medieval village in 'Flete Meadow' (**item 3, Figure 1**) show on RAF aerial photographs from the late 1940s in the adjacent field to the north but more prominently in the next field northwards. Certainly, evidence of tracks and field/plot boundaries are distinguishable. The saltworks to the south (**item 5, Figure 1**) are referred to as 'upper' or 'Whitecross' saltworks and were first documented in 1733 but went out of use in 1756. The works survive today as a series of embanked areas.
- 3.4 Map regression of historic maps from the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century showed that the Site formed part of agricultural field system as it still does today. The Historic Landscape Characterisation for the area defines this system as probably deriving from fields first enclosed during the medieval period. Up until the development of the cemetery, the Site formed part of a single field extending to Colyford Road. Both the northern field boundary and the southern boundary alongside Marsh Lane have been in existence since at least the 1830s. A field boundary shown as defining the eastern side of the field until at least 1936 has since been removed to create a larger unit.



1. HER No. 42604 Sluice Gate, constructed c. 1660, probably a hatch and groove sluice
2. HER No. 42609 Reclamation Banks, enclosing part of Seaton Marshes, C18th
3. HER No. 14046 Deserted medieval village in Flete Meadow to NE of Seaton
4. HER No. 14985 Prehistoric tool found near Seaton. Triangular petit tranchet derivative, a fishtail shaped scraper
5. HER No. 42587 Saltworks - site of C18th upper or Whitecross saltworks
6. HER No. 42588 Sea Wall - Willoughby embankment c.1660
7. HER No. 42592 Extension work to embankment in 1669-72
8. HER No. 39420 World War II pillbox on Seaton Marshes on Taunton Stop Line. Type 29, visible on RAF 1947 aerial photo
9. HER No. 28722 Prehistoric chert implements including Levallois flake and Palaeolithic handaxe found in a gravel pit in Seaton
10. HER No. 29691 Gravel pit shown on OS 6" 1903 (rev. 1933 & 1938), gravel pit (disused) shown on OS 6" 1963 beside Gravel Lane



- Prehistoric
- Mesolithic
- Medieval
- Post-Medieval
- Modern

PROJECT TITLE

Land adjacent to Seaton Cemetery,  
Colyford Road, Seaton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE

Site setting

SCALE

as shown

PROJECT CODE

C1/EVA/11/SCS

FIGURE NO.

1

## 4. Methodology

4.1 The field evaluation was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for archaeological evaluation* published by the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) in 1995 (revised 1999). Archaeological monitoring and recording was carried out in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* published by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IfA) in 1995 (revised 1999). COAS adhered to the *Code of Conduct* issued by the IfA in 1985 (revised 2000), and *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (1990, revised September 2000), at all times during the course of the investigation. Current Health and Safety legislation and guidelines were followed on Site.

4.2 Ms Whitton carried out a monitoring visit to the Site on 26 January 2011.

### Field Evaluation

4.3 The field evaluation was carried out over two days between 26 and 27 January 2011 and consisted of four machine and hand excavated trenches in the positions suggested in the Written Scheme of Investigation. Given the lack of clear geophysical anomalies to target, the trenches were located to provide an even spread across the Site. Each trench measured 10m long x 1.5m wide and was laid out using a TopCon GRS-1 GPS unit pre-configured with co-ordinates to mark the corners of each trench (**Figure 2**). In order to fully characterise two intercutting ditches discovered during the evaluation itself, Trench 1 was extended at the eastern end encompassing an area measuring 4.40m x 1.50m.

4.4 A tracked 360<sup>0</sup> machine equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless (grading) bucket was used to remove topsoil and subsoil under the supervision of COAS archaeological staff. Machine excavation continued to the top of archaeological features, or natural geology in sterile trenches. All trenches were cleaned using hand tools in order to understand the site stratigraphy and aid the identification of archaeological features.

4.5 All deposits were recorded using standard COAS pro-forma recording sheets and a “Harris-Winchester matrix” diagram. Soil colours were recorded using a Munsell soil colour chart. A representative profile of the general deposit sequence in each trench was recorded using standard COAS evaluation trench sheets. Archaeological features were recorded on COAS *pro forma* context sheets with plans drawn at a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10. A photographic record of the work was prepared and involved the sole use of digital images. This included photographs of each trench in plan, representative trench sections, archaeological features, and general working shots to illustrate the nature of the archaeological investigation.

4.6 Following completion of the evaluation and prior to backfilling, the trenches were re-surveyed with a TopCon GRS-1 GPS unit to record the location and altitude of the trenches and archaeological features relative to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum.

### Archaeological monitoring and recording

4.7 Machine excavation was carried out over the area of the proposed car park and access road (635m<sup>2</sup>) over two days between 24 and 25 January 2011. A tracked 360<sup>0</sup> machine equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless (grading) bucket was used to remove topsoil and subsoil to a maximum depth of 0.20m under the supervision of COAS archaeological staff.





## 5. Results

5.1 In the text, context numbers for cuts appear in square brackets, e.g. [1004]; layer and fill numbers appear in standard brackets, e.g. (1002).

### 5.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

Excavation revealed a horizontal sequence of dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4) topsoil (100) and sub-soil (101) of a similar hue (2.5YR 3/3) overlying natural, yellowish red (5YR 4/6) silty clay (102) that was reached at 0.38m below the ground surface. All these deposits had varying quantities (up to 30%) of small to medium flint nodules. A 3.00m long section of ditch [103] running roughly north to south was exposed cutting the natural (102) at the eastern end of the trench. A 0.80m wide section excavated against the northern baulk showed this to be 1.57m wide and 0.31m deep (maximum) with sloping sides and an undulating base. The ditch was filled with a single dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/3) silty clay deposit with flint nodules (104) that included several worked flint pieces and pottery sherds. A further section of the ditch [107], this time measuring 1.28m wide and up to 0.60m deep was excavated against the southern baulk and included similar material in the fill (108). The ditch section here cut a separate ?curvilinear ditch [105] running north-east to south-west. A 0.68m wide section excavation showed this to have a sharply sloping profile on its eastern edge and an undulating base that was 0.25m deep (maximum). The western edge of the ditch had been removed by ditch [107]. The ditch was filled with a single deposit (106) similar to context (104) that also included several worked flint pieces and pottery sherds. A rectangular post hole [109] was cut into the base of ditch [103] on its eastern side. This measured 0.20m x 0.12m and 0.20m deep with a large stone set in the bottom and was filled with a single, dark reddish brown (2.5YR 3/4) silty clay (110) that included a piece of wood. Possible stake holes were also located immediately east of [109] and along the eastern edge of ditch section [107].

### 5.3 Trench 2

Excavation revealed a horizontal sequence of topsoil (200) and sub-soil (201) deposits, similar in character to those encountered in Trench 1, overlying a possible palaeosol (203), 0.20m thick. This deposit was composed of a dusky red (2.5YR 3/2) silty clay matrix with 20% small/medium flint nodules, incorporating patches of charcoal flecking and two flint blades. Natural geology (202) was reached at 0.47m below the ground surface.

### 5.4 Trench 3

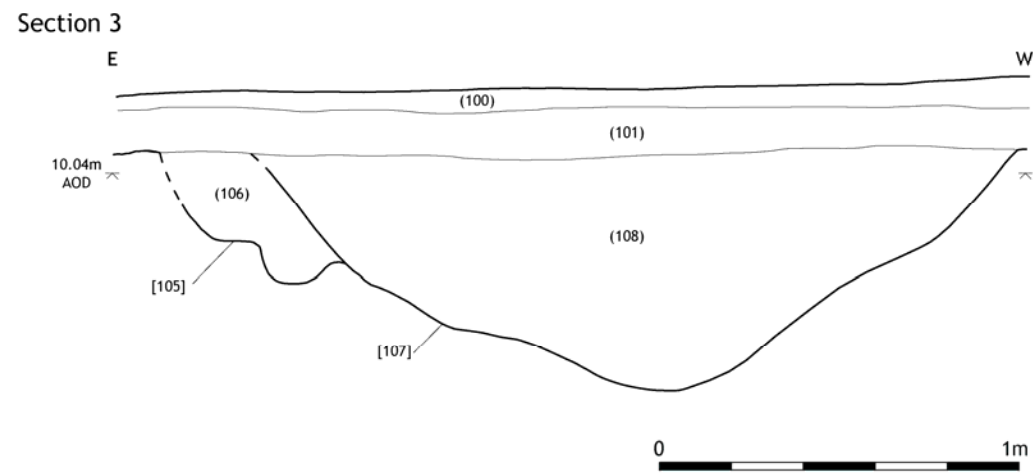
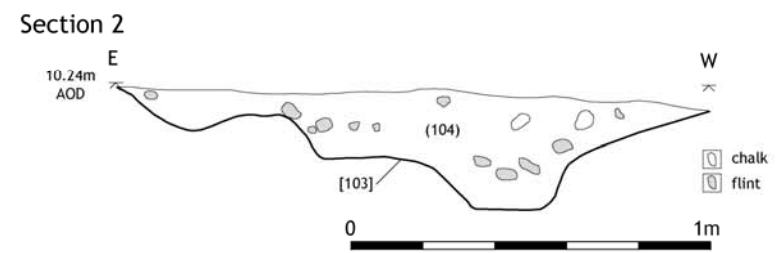
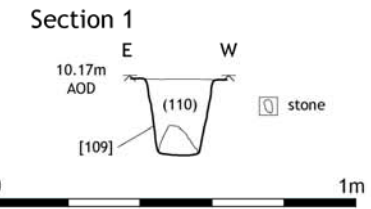
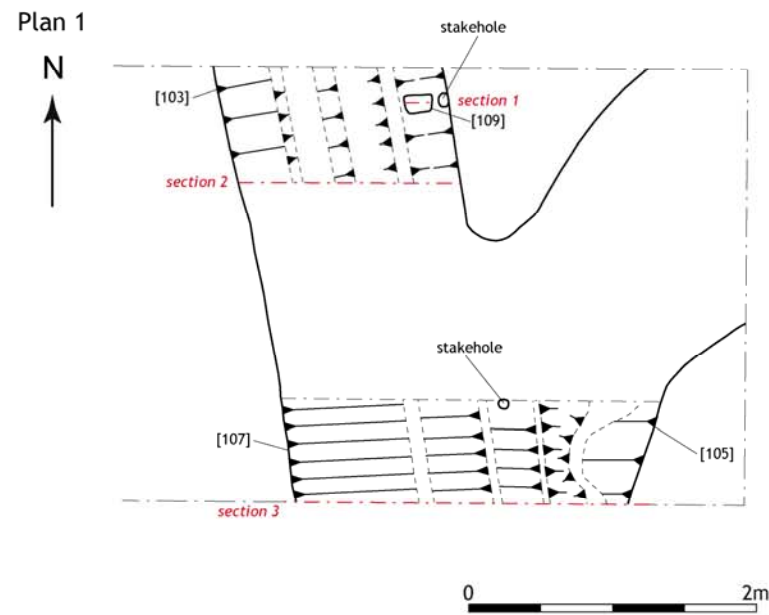
Excavation revealed a horizontal sequence of topsoil (400) and sub-soil (401) deposits overlying natural geology (402) at 0.62m below the ground surface. The deposit sequence was similar in character to those in Trench 1. No archaeological features were exposed and no finds were recovered.

### 5.5 Trench 4

Excavation revealed a horizontal sequence of topsoil (300) and sub-soil (301) deposits overlying alluvial (302) and gravel (303) above natural geology (304) at 0.38m below the ground surface. The deposit sequence was similar in character to those in Trench 1. No archaeological features were exposed and no finds were recovered.

### 5.6 Car park and access road monitoring

Machine excavation revealed a horizontal sequence of topsoil, 0.10m thick, overlying sub-soil that was excavated to a depth of 0.10m deep before formation level was reached. The character of both deposits was similar to those encountered in the evaluation trenches. No archaeological features were exposed and no finds were recovered.



(000) deposit/fill number  
 [000] cut number  
 XX.Xm AOD height above ordnance datum (AOD)

PROJECT TITLE  
 Land adjacent to Seaton Cemetery,  
 Colyford Road, Seaton, Devon

FIGURE TITLE  
 Plan 1 and sections 1, 2 and 3

SCALE	PROJECT CODE	FIGURE NO.
as shown	C1/EVA/11/SCS	3

## 6. The Finds

- 6.1 The evaluation produced a modest assemblage of pottery fragments and worked flint pieces, the majority of which were confined to the ditch sections in Trench 1.

### Ceramics

- 6.2 Six sherds (12g) of Early Bronze Age grog-tempered pottery were recovered from context (106), with an additional sherd (12g) possibly deriving from a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age collared urn (Mepham, pers comm.). Two similar sherds (2g) of Early Bronze Age pottery were collected from context (104), along with a fragment of Brick (18g) which is considered intrusive. All the pottery sherds were small and heavily abraded.

### Flint by Kayt McConnell

- 6.3 Twelve pieces of flint were collected, deriving from four contexts. The majority (eight fragments) are chronologically indistinct heavily abraded/damaged pieces, two from context (104) and four from context (106). However, one of the fragments from (106) can be identified as a recorticated scraper of unidentifiable date. Two further artefacts, a heavily abraded linear blade (203) with multidirectional ridges to the dorsal face and a single piece of flint (108) with a small amount of retouch to one lateral edge, cannot be ascribed to a particular period of manufacture or use.
- 6.4 Of the four remaining artefacts, three can be ascribed to periods of manufacture/use. Context (106) contained three artefacts of Beer flint, all with cortex evident (30%, 40% and 5% respectively). Two of these are large primary flakes, the first having two scraping edges/wide notches, one to a lateral edge and one to the ventral end. There is also evidence that this may have been used as a hammer. The second has three notches and partial ridges to the dorsal surface. Both are combination tools of the Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. The third artefact in this context is a straight edged secondary flake, with a small amount of cortex on the platform. With no retouch visible this can be identified as a small fragment of manufacturing debitage. Context (203) contained a portion of snapped blade with the proximal end intact. With multidirectional ridges to the dorsal face and partial retouch to one lateral edge, this is most likely to be of Mesolithic date.

### Wood

- 6.5 A small piece of 'fresh' wood was found in the base of post hole [109] and is likely to be modern.

## 7. Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1 The archaeological field evaluation revealed two intercutting ditches, a post hole, a probable buried soil horizon and possible stake holes in two trenches at the northern end of the proposed cemetery extension. The ditch fills, where they were sectioned, incorporated a small assemblage of Early Bronze Age pottery and worked flint with one sherd of pottery possibly from a Late Neolithic collared urn. The ditches clearly relate to successive phases of construction and probably served as boundaries but whether they formed settlement enclosures or field boundaries, it is not possible to say at this stage. However, the presence of artefactual material in the ditch sections, albeit in modest numbers, perhaps suggests that these features lay close to a focus of activity and therefore relate to settlement boundaries rather than defining field units. It is tempting to speculate that the post holes and possible stake holes further represent prehistoric activity although the discovery of a piece of 'fresh' wood in the post hole might suggest a more modern, and coincidental explanation. The exposure of a possible buried soil, despite lacking corroborative dating, could also be of prehistoric date given its stratigraphic position and suggest in certain areas at least, later agricultural activity has not removed a potentially rich 'seam' of archaeological interest.

- 7.2 Notwithstanding the discovery of isolated finds in the vicinity of the proposed cemetery extension, the evaluation has demonstrated the first real evidence of prehistoric settlement activity in this particular area, and as such, represents a new discovery. The chronology of finds compares well with the discovery of 34 pieces of worked flint found on alluvial deposits during an archaeological evaluation approximately 1km to the north of the Site (HER 74317) and appears to attest to wider zone of activity during this phase of the prehistoric period. No evidence of the purported deserted medieval village or the 18<sup>th</sup> century saltworks surrounding the Site was found.
- 7.3 Clearly, there is a high potential to encounter further, and perhaps more intensive, prehistoric activity around trenches 1 and 2, and given the depths of excavation required for interments, such work will undoubtedly destroy the archaeological remains that have now been confirmed. A suitable mitigation strategy will therefore need to be formulated that will reflect a re-design of the extension in that area of the Site to allow preservation *in situ* or where this is not possible, preservation by record through controlled archaeological excavation. As the excavation of trenches 3 and 4 showed these to be archaeologically sterile, it is perhaps reasonable to suggest that this is representative of the southern half of the site at least, and as such, would be of no further interest.

## 8. Archive

- 8.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of Context One Archaeological Services Ltd and consists of 49 digital images in .jpg format, 2 section drawings and 1 plan on stable drawing media, and the written paper record - including 4 evaluation trench sheets, 10 context sheets, graphics register, photographic register, levels register, 2 groundwork methodology sheets and a day record. The archive will be prepared to comply with guidelines set out in *Standards in the Museums Care of Archaeological Collections* (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992) / *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991). Arrangements will be made to deposit the archive with Somerset County Museums Service within 12 months following the submission of this report.
- 8.2 Copies of this report will be deposited in paper and electronic format with:

**East Devon District Council**  
Council Offices  
Knowle  
Sidmouth  
Devon  
EX10 8HL

**Historic Environment Service**  
Devon County Council  
Environment, Economy and Culture  
Directorate  
Matford Offices  
County Hall  
Exeter  
EX2 4QW

## 9. Acknowledgements

Context One Archaeological Services Ltd would like to thank Doug Rudge (Countryside Contracts Officer, East Devon District Council) for his kind assistance throughout the course of this investigation, and Ms Cressida Whitton (Archaeological Officer, Historic Environment Service, Devon County Council) for curatorial advice.

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## Appendix 1: Brief for Staged Programme of Archaeological Investigation/Mitigation and Monitoring/Recording of Groundworks

Devon County Council Historic Environment Service: Brief for a Staged Programme of Archaeological Investigation and Mitigation

### BRIEF FOR A STAGED PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION/ MITIGATION AND MONITORING/ RECORDING OF GROUNDWORKS

**Location:** Colyford Common, Colyford Road, Seaton

**Parish:** Axmouth

**District:** East Devon

**County:** Devon

**NGR:** SY2518191963

**Planning Application no:** 10/0461/FUL

**Proposal:** Change of use from agricultural land to cemetery and nature reserve, construction of car park (*Phase 2*) and construction 2 hides and excavation of reed bed/pond for hedgebanks (*Phase 1*): **Archaeology**

**Historic Environment Service ref:** ARCH/DM/ED 15981

#### 1. INTRODUCTION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

1.1 This brief has been prepared by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Service (HES) with regard to the archaeological works required as a condition of planning consent for **Phase 2** of the above work (**cemetery extension/nature reserve & carpark construction**). This brief has been produced specifically for the above planning application and may require alteration if this application is revised, amended or resubmitted. This document is not transferable to any other scheme or planning application.

1.2 In accordance with PPS5 *Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment* (2010), and the Local Development Framework Policy on archaeology, consent has been granted, conditional upon a programme of archaeological work being undertaken. This condition requires that:

*'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the East Devon District Planning Authority.' The development shall be carried out at all times in strict accordance with the approved scheme, or such other details as may be subsequently agreed in writing by the East Devon District Planning Authority.*

1.3 The principal objective of the programme shall be to evaluate the survival of below-ground archaeological deposits across the proposed development site. The results will allow the nature, extent, and date of any surviving archaeological deposits within the application area to be understood, these investigations therefore represent the *first stage* of a programme of archaeological mitigation. The information gained will enable the requirement for any further investigations to be determined and - if required - the scope of any subsequent programme of archaeological work undertaken in mitigation for the impact of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource, see section 3.3 below.

1.4 **The cemetery extension/nature reserve & carpark (including access) development (Phase 2)**, lies in an area of high archaeological potential demonstrated by the presence of earthworks - identified through aerial photography - that may indicate a deserted settlement (medieval) in the area. In addition the two hides and excavation area of reed bed and pond to create hedgebanks on the floodplain of Colyford Common (Phase 1- completed), also lie within an area of high palaeoenvironmental and archaeological potential, demonstrated by a recent coring project. Groundworks for the proposed developments may expose and destroy archaeological, palaeoenvironmental or artefactual evidence associated with archaeological activity in the Axe Estuary.

1.5 This Brief covers the application area as defined in the plans submitted in support of this application and specifically Phase 2 of the development (Cemetery extension/nature reserve & car park construction)

## 2. WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION

2.1 This document sets out the scope of the works required to record the extent and character of any surviving archaeological deposits within the application area and will form the basis of the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) to be prepared by the archaeological consultant.

2.2 The Written Scheme of Investigation must be submitted by the applicant or on their behalf by their agent or archaeological consultant and approved by the HES and the East Devon District Planning Authority *prior* to any development commencing on site.

## 3. CONTENT OF PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK

### 3.1 Desk-based assessment

The programme of work shall include an element of desk-based research to place the development site into its historic and archaeological context. This work will consist of map regression based on the Ordnance Survey maps and the Tithe Map(s) and Apportionments. An examination will also be made of records and aerial photographs held by the HER. In addition, it will involve the examination of other *known* relevant cartographic, documentary and photographic sources held by the Devon Record Office, West Country Studies Library and the County Historic Environment Service (HES). **A number of relevant archaeological grey literature reports are held by the County HES, including a recent geophysical survey of the development area, which will need to be consulted in advance of fieldwork.** The reporting requirements for the desk-based work will be confirmed in consultation with the HES.

If a full report is prepared then this information will be presented as part of the final report along with the results of the fieldwork.

### 3.2 Fieldwork: Informative work: Cemetery Extension Area only

3.2.1 A series of trenches will be excavated across the **cemetery extension** area. The location of these excavations will be determined in consideration of the results of the desk-based assessment, the below-ground impact of the proposed development and the site topography. These excavations should investigate features recently identified by Geophysical Survey (in discussion with the County HES), within the area affected by the cemetery extension part of the development.

3.2.2 Details of the strategy for positioning trenches must be agreed with the HES. Trenches should be excavated by a 360° tracked or JCB-type machine - fitted with a toothless grading bucket - to the surface of archaeological deposits or *in situ* natural ground - whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Exposed archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned and excavated by hand and fully recorded by context as per the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (1994 - revised 2008). All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation.

3.2.3 All archaeological features should be investigated and as a minimum:

- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
- ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated); and
- iii) long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features.
- iv) one long face of each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow the site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features.



Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts

Any variation of the above will be undertaken in agreement with the HES.

3.2.4 The full depth of archaeological deposits must be assessed. This need not require excavation to natural deposits if it is clear that complex and deep stratigraphy will be encountered.

3.2.5 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling and post-excavation analysis strategies will be initiated. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage's guidance in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation 2002*.

3.2.6 An adequate photographic record of the excavation will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating the principal features and finds discovered, in detail and in context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All photographs of archaeological detail will feature an appropriately-sized scale. The photographic record should be made in B/W print supplemented by digital or colour transparency. However, if digital imagery is to be the sole photographic record then suitably archivable prints must be made of the digital images by a photographic laboratory. Laser or inkjet prints of digital images, while acceptable for inclusion in the report, are not an acceptable medium for archives. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium.

3.2.7 Human remains must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. Removal can only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.

3.2.8 Should any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

### 3.3 Archaeological Mitigation

3.3.1 In the light of the results of the initial stage of archaeological investigation it will be possible to identify what further work, (e.g. further investigative work to clarify the site stratigraphy, area excavation, watching brief, etc), if any, is needed as mitigation for the impact of the proposed development on the archaeological resource.

*The broad scope of any further work(s) that may be required will be set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

3.3.2 Upon completion of the initial stage of investigative fieldwork and in the event of mitigation work following directly on from these investigations the archaeological contractor will supply the HES with a *statement of impact* of the proposed development upon the archaeological resource. This will be produced in a format agreed with the HES and must contain sufficient detail to allow the HES to determine the scope of further archaeological work that may be required.

3.3.3 The *statement of impact* shall demonstrate the archaeological potential of the site and the impact upon it of the proposed development and may make suggestions as to appropriate mitigation of the archaeological impact of the proposal, but these will be subject to review by the HES, who will make final recommendations to the East Devon District Planning Authority

3.3.4 Should the site be demonstrated to be archaeologically sterile then there would be no requirement for further archaeological fieldwork.

3.3.5 The results of the desk-based work and a copy of the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation must be made available to the site director/supervisor to enable the adequate interpretation of exposed features/deposits during fieldwork and that the agreed programme of works is understood and undertaken.

### **3.4 Fieldwork: Monitoring and Recording of Groundworks: Construction of car park/nature reserve (including access) works only**

*Intermittent monitoring and recording.* (as and when seems appropriate and may involve viewing the trenches after machining)

Topsail stripping and groundworks will be monitored and recorded by the site archaeologist at agreed and appropriate intervals throughout the groundworks phase of the construction programme. The intervals will be determined by the archaeological consultant in consultation with the applicant, the ground-workers and the HES and set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

3.4.1 Archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned and excavated by hand and will be fully recorded by context as per the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (1994 - revised 2008). All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation.

As a minimum:

- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
- ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated); and
- iii) long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature.

Any variation of the above will be undertaken in agreement with the HES.

3.4.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts.

3.4.3 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling and post-excavation analysis strategies will be initiated. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage's guidance in *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation 2002*.

3.4.4 Human remains must initially be left in-situ, covered and protected. Removal can only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal must be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.

3.4.5 Should any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

3.4.6 An adequate photographic record of the excavations will be prepared. This will include photographs of archaeological features and deposits exposed, in detail and in context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All photographs of archaeological detail will feature an appropriately-sized scale. The photographic record should be made in B/W print supplemented by

digital or colour transparency. However, if digital imagery is to be the sole photographic record then suitably archivable prints must be made of the digital images by a photographic laboratory. Laser or inkjet prints of digital images, while acceptable for inclusion in the report, are not an acceptable medium for archives. The drawn and written record will be on an appropriately archivable medium.

3.4.6 The results of the desk-based work and a copy of the agreed Written Scheme of Investigation must be made available to the site director/supervisor to enable the adequate interpretation of exposed features/deposits during fieldwork and that the agreed programme of works is understood and undertaken.

## 4. MONITORING

4.1 The archaeological consultant shall agree monitoring arrangements with the County Historic Environment Service and give two weeks notice, unless a shorter period is agreed with the HES, of commencement of the fieldwork. Details will be agreed of any monitoring points where decisions on options within the programme are to be made.

4.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report - see 5.6 below.

4.3 The archaeological contractor undertaking the fieldwork will notify the HES upon completion of the fieldwork stage of these works.

## 5. REPORTING

5.1 This report will collate the written, graphic, visible and recorded information outlined in Section 3 above.

The report will include:

- (i) a summary of the project's background;
- (ii) description and illustration of the site location;
- (iii) a methodology of the works undertaken;
- (iv) include plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;
- (v) a description of the project's results;
- (vi) an interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
- (vii) a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
- (viii) a site location plan at an appropriate scale on an Ordnance Survey, or equivalent, base-map;
- (ix) a plan showing the location of the trenches in relation to the site boundaries;
- (x) plans of each trench, or part of trench, in which archaeological features are recognised along with adequate OD spot height information. These should be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features exposed to be shown and understood. Plans must show the orientation of trenches in relation to north. Section drawing locations will be shown on these plans. Archaeologically sterile areas need not be illustrated unless this can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- (xi) section drawings of trenches and features, with OD heights, at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail to be shown and must show the orientation of the drawing in relation to north/south/east/west. Archaeologically sterile trenches need not be illustrated unless they can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- (xii) site matrices where appropriate;
- (xiii) photographs showing the general site layout and exposed significant features and deposits that are referred to in the text. All photographs should contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the illustration's caption;
- (xiv) a consideration of evidence within its wider context;
- (xv) a summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts recovered and soil profiles with interpretation;
- (xvi) specialist assessment or analysis reports where undertaken;

(xvii) an evaluation of the methodology employed and the results obtained (i.e. a confidence rating).

5.2 If the archaeological mitigation follows on directly from the initial investigations (Section 3.2 only), an overarching report will be required that collates the results of all of the archaeological works undertaken i.e. the results of the initial investigations and the subsequent archaeological mitigation and post-excavation analysis and dating undertaken. (The scope of the mitigation works undertaken will be based on a consideration of the *Statement of Impact* supplied by the archaeological contractor after the excavation of the investigative trenches - see 3.3.2 - 3.3.3 above.)

The overarching final report will include:

- (i) a summary of the project's background;
- (ii) description and illustration of the site location;
- (iii) a methodology of the works undertaken;
- (iv) include plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;
- (v) a description of the project's results;
- (vi) an interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
- (vii) a summary of the contents of the project archive and its location (including summary catalogues of finds and samples);
- (viii) a site location plan at an appropriate scale on an Ordnance Survey, or equivalent, base-map showing the location of the areas subject to archaeological investigation in relation to the site boundaries;
- (ix) adequately detailed plans of archaeological features and deposits along with adequate OD spot height information. These should be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features exposed to be shown and understood. Plans must show the direction of north. Section drawing locations will be shown on these plans;
- (x) section drawings of archaeological features and deposits, as well as natural deposits that show how that site stratigraphy has developed or been influence or contain palaeoenvironmental deposits, with OD heights, at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail to be shown and must show the orientation of features and deposits in relation to north/south/east/west. Archaeologically sterile area need not be illustrated unless they can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeoenvironmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- (xi) the results of the initial investigative works undertaken and any specialist analysis undertaken that is not covered by subsequent archaeological mitigation works;
- (xii) site matrices where appropriate;
- (xiii) photographs showing the general site layout and exposed significant features and deposits that are referred to in the text. All photographs should contain appropriate scales, the size of which will be noted in the illustration's caption;
- (xiv) a consideration of evidence within its wider context;
- (xv) a summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts recovered and soil profiles with interpretation;
- (xvi) specialist assessment or analysis reports were undertaken;
- (xvii) an evaluation of the methodology employed and the results obtained (i.e. a confidence rating).

5.3 The timetable for the production of the report must be set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation. The HES would normally expect to receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork - dependant upon the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then the HES must be informed of this and a revised date for the production of the full report agreed between the HES and the archaeological contractor. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced within three months of the completion of the fieldwork.

5.4 Should the development proceed in a staged manner, with each stage requiring archaeological fieldwork, and where a period of more than three months between each stage is anticipated or occurs, then the archaeological contractor shall prepare an interim illustrated summary report at the end of each stage. The report will set out the results of that phase of archaeological works, including the results of any specialist assessment or analysis undertaken. The report will be produced within three months of completion of each phase of fieldwork. At the completion of the final stage of the fieldwork an overarching report setting out the results of all stages of work will be prepared. HES would normally expect to receive the report within three months of completion of

fieldwork - dependant upon the provision of specialist reports, radiocarbon dating results etc the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then the HES must be informed of this, an interim report will be produced within three months of the completion of the final stage of fieldwork, and a revised date for the production of the full report agreed between the HES and the archaeological contractor.

5.5 On completion of the final report, in addition to copies required by the Client, hard copies of the report shall be supplied to the HES on the understanding that one of these copies will be deposited for public reference in the HER. In addition to the hard copies of the report, one copy shall be provided to the County Historic Environment Service in digital format - in a format to be agreed in advance with the HES - on the understanding that it may in future be made available to researchers via a web-based version of the Historic Environment Record.

5.6 The archaeological consultant shall complete an online OASIS (*Online AccesS to the Index of archaeological investigationS*) form in respect of the archaeological work. This will include a digital version of the report. The report or short entry to the Historic Environment Record will also include the OASIS ID number.

#### 5.7 *Publication*

Should particularly significant remains, finds and/or deposits be encountered, then these, because of their importance, are likely to merit wider publication in line with government planning guidance. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements – including any further analysis that may be necessary – will be confirmed with the HES. If further archaeological works are undertaken, then the results of these initial investigations will be incorporated into the publication text resulting from further works.

## 6. PERSONNEL

6.1 The work shall be carried out by a recognised archaeological consultant, agreed with the DCHES. Staff must be suitably qualified and experienced for their project roles. All work should be carried out under the control of a specified Member of the Institute for Archaeologists (MIFA), or by a specified person of equivalent standing and expertise. The Written Scheme of Investigation will contain details of key project staff and specialists who may contribute during the course of the works - excavation and post-excavation.

6.2 Health and Safety matters, including site security, are matters for the consultant. However, adherence to all relevant regulations will be required.

6.3 The work shall be carried out in accordance with IfA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (1994)*, as amended (2008).

## 7. CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORILY PROTECTED SPECIES

It is the archaeological contractor's responsibility - in consultation with the applicant or agent - to ensure that the undertaking of the required archaeological works does not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSI's, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.

## 8. PUBLIC OUTREACH

Should these excavations expose significant archaeological or artefactual deposits then the archaeological contractor should consider, with the developer or their agent, whether a programme of public outreach should be implemented. This may take a variety of forms, from the provision of notice

boards on the site boundary with information on the site and the ongoing results of the archaeological excavations, the preparation of press releases, through to public open day(s) and talks to local interested organisations. While the cost for undertaking such outreach is borne by the applicant/agent, in certain circumstances the HES may be able to offer assistance in any outreach undertaken.

## 9. DEPOSITION OF ARCHIVE AND FINDS

9.1 The archaeological consultant shall contact the museum that will receive the site archive to obtain an accession number and agree conditions for deposition. *The accession number will be quoted in the Written Scheme of Investigation.*

9.2 The artefact discard policy must be set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation.

9.3 Archaeological finds resulting from the investigation (which are the property of the landowner), should be deposited with the appropriate museum - in a format to be agreed with the museum, and within a timetable to be agreed with the HES. The museum's guidelines for the deposition of archives for long-term storage should be adhered to. If ownership of all or any of the finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists.

## 10. CONTACT NAME AND ADDRESS

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