

**MAP
ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRACTICE LTD**

**Thirkleby Wold Farm
Croome Road
Sledmere
SE 493091 467721**

MAP 10.13.2016

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Date: 24/08/2016	Date: 24/08/2016

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16/00293/FUL

Archaeological Watching Brief

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Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

An Archaeological Watching Brief was carried out by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. on land at Thirkleby Wold Farm, Croome Road, Sledmere (SE 493091 467721) between the 4th-6th July 2016. The work involved monitoring the groundworks associated with the erection of an agricultural building for the housing of pigs (16/00293/FUL; revised details to refusal 15/00577/FUL).

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the Watching Brief.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the results of an Archaeological Watching Brief that was carried out on the 4th-6th July 2016 during the groundworks associated with the erection of an agricultural building for the housing of pigs on land at Thirkleby Wold Farm, Croome Road, Sledmere (SE 493091 467721; Fig. 1). The Watching Brief was undertaken to fulfil an archaeological condition attached to the Planning Application Consent (16/00293/FUL). This was a revised application following the refusal of a previous application (15/00577/FUL).

 - 1.2 The work was carried out in accordance with the recommendations of the National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012) on 'Archaeology and Planning' and according to a Written Scheme of Investigation that was prepared by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd. at the request of Harrison Farms (Kilham) Ltd. and agreed by the Heritage Unit at North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC).
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- 1.3 MAP adhered to the general principles of both the ClfA (2014) '*Code of Conduct*' and '*Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*' throughout the work.
- 1.4 The site code for the project was MAP 10.13.2016.
- 1.5 All work was funded by Harrison Farms (Kilham) Ltd.
- 1.6 All maps within this report have been produced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Crown Copyright, Licence No. AL 50453A.

2. Site Description (SE 493091 467721)

- 2.1 The site lies within a predominantly agricultural landscape c. 2.5km north of Sledmere, on the western side of an unclassified farm track which can be accessed off Croome Road. Kirby Grindalythe is approximately 2.2km north-west of the site and West Lutton around 1.2km north-east (Fig. 1).
 - 2.2 Thirkleby Wold is a 430 acre arable farm, with the proposed agricultural unit extending to approximately 0.20 hectares. The setting of the proposed agricultural unit lies in an area of grassland to the north of the existing agricultural buildings associated with Thirkleby Wold Farm and is surrounded on all sides by mature tree belts (Fig. 2; Pls. 1 & 2).
 - 2.3 The site lies on soils of the Andover 1 Association, which consist of "shallow well drained calcareous silty soils over chalk on slopes and crests. Deep calcareous and non-calcareous fine silty soils in valley bottoms" (Mackney *et al* 1983). The site stands at an elevation of around 154m AOD on land that rises sharply from south to north.
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3. Historical and Archaeological Background

3.1 The development lies within a sensitive archaeological landscape containing heritage assets dating from the prehistoric to medieval periods. Evidence for these are predominantly derived from aerial photographs in the form of cropmarks, plotted as part of the English Heritage National Mapping Programme for the Yorkshire Wolds. This survey shows an extensive system of ditch features immediately east, west and south of the application site. Interestingly, three sweeping parallel ditches run through at least three fields just south of Thirkleby Wold farm and appear to show a change in alignment adjacent to the farm complex. Other cropmarks within the immediate vicinity include a possible Iron Age double ditched trackway immediately north of Thirkleby Wold farm, as well as Iron Age square barrows and associated ring ditches along the edge of the field just west of the farm complex.

3.2 Although there is extensive cropmark evidence within the vicinity of application site, there has been little archaeological investigation undertaken. A programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording was undertaken by Humber Field Archaeology in 2007 at Croome House Farm. The work predominantly focused on the architectural significance of the farm buildings, the limited external groundwork investigation did not reveal any archaeological features and no finds were recovered. Excavation over 2km north-west of the site within Kirby Grindalythe during evaluation for residential development at Low Farm revealed a series of ditches, associated structural features and two burials, suggesting that the site had been used for settlement and funerary activity over several centuries with the highest concentration of features dated to the Romano-British and Anglian periods (MAP 2003).

3.3 In the Domesday Book Thirkleby is recorded as *Turgislebi*. Thirkleby Wold is the only surviving farm complex.

4. Aims and Objectives

4.1 The main aims of the Archaeological Watching Brief were to record and recover any archaeological remains that were:

- a) affected by the proposed development, and;
- b) not available or susceptible to standard area excavation techniques, or of limited importance or potential. As well as:

- to principally undertake a programme of archaeological investigation in accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation in line with the National Planning Policy Framework in order to fulfil the archaeological condition issued under the decision notice 16/00293/FUL,
- to preserve by record the character, extent and nature of the any archaeological remains within the development area, and;
- to prepare a report on completion of the works for deposition within both the North Yorkshire Historic Environment and the Historic England Archive.

5. Methodology

5.1 The installation of the agricultural building involved the preliminary topsoil strip of an area c. 50.38m by 16.78m by a 360^o tracked excavator using a broad, toothless ditching bucket, operating under close archaeological supervision. Machining ceased at the top of archaeological or naturally-formed deposits, depending upon which was located soonest.

5.2 The work was undertaken between the 4th & 6th July 2016 during generally dry, bright sunny conditions with occasional light rainfall.

5.3 All work was carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists Code of Conduct (CIfA 2014).

5.4 A photographic record of the monitored groundworks was maintained throughout the Recording Brief on a high resolution digital camera.

6. Results

6.1 Natural deposits of chalk were encountered across the full extent of the agricultural unit. This in turn was sealed by an intermittent deposit of brown silty clay subsoil (002), subsequently overlain by a uniform deposit of greyish brown silty clay topsoil (001). The topsoil deposit had a maximum depth of 0.16m (Pls. 3 & 4).

6.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the Watching Brief.

7. Conclusion

7.1 Natural deposits were revealed throughout the full extent of the groundworks for the agricultural unit. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the Archaeological Watching Brief. The three parallel ditch cropmarks plotted as part of the English Heritage National Mapping Programme for the Yorkshire Wolds which run through at least three fields just south of Thirkleby Wold farm and appear to show a change in alignment adjacent to the farm complex were not present within the topsoil strip for the agricultural unit. It is possible that the cropmarks are perhaps much more undulating and continue to head east, beyond the farm complex or their change in alignment is much greater and they turn almost 90° and head north, just west of the tree belt which surrounds Thirkleby Wold Farm. The latter seems more likely, following a similar route and symmetrical pattern to the cropmarks mapped north-west of the farm complex.

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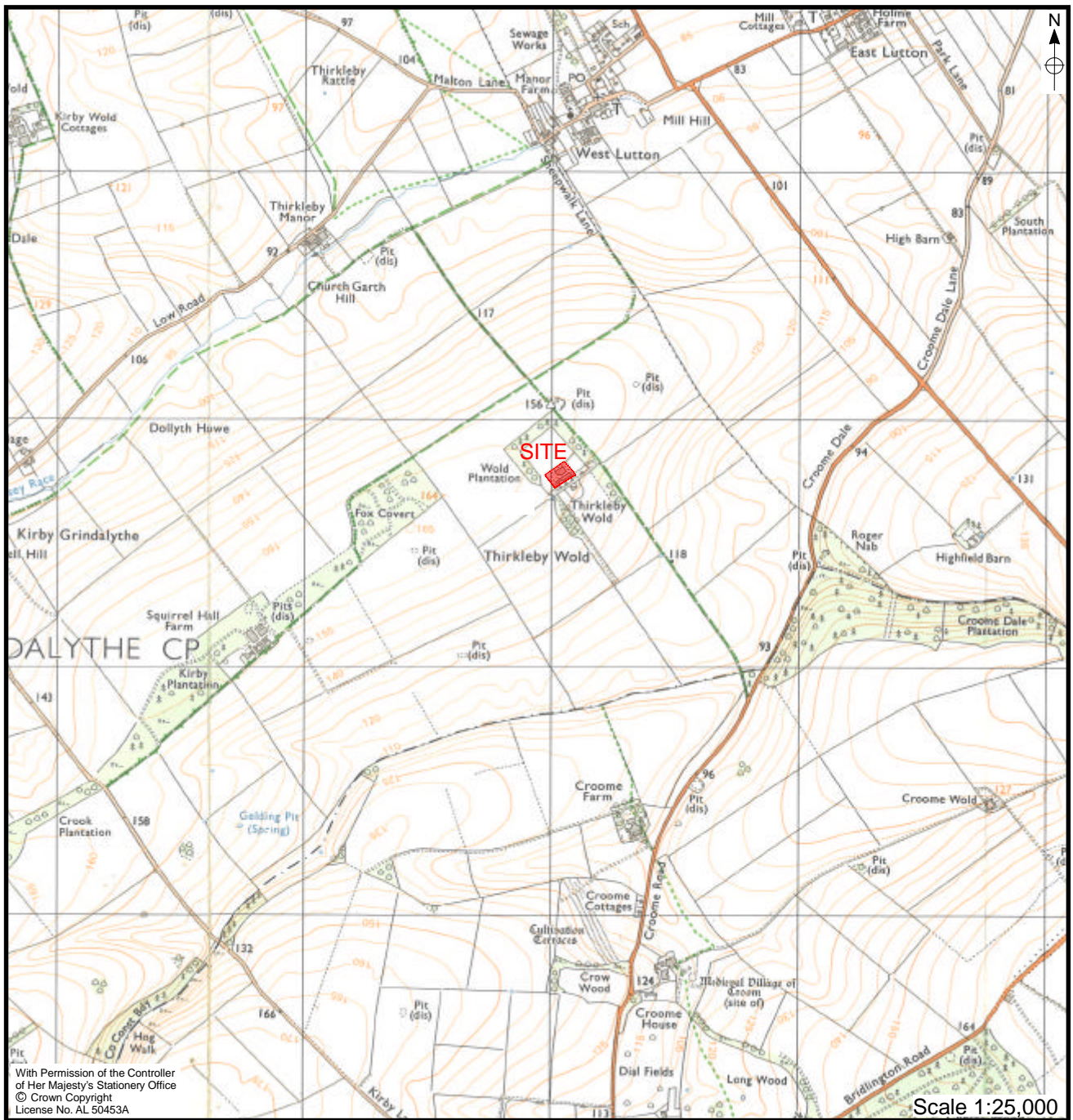


Figure 1. Site Location.

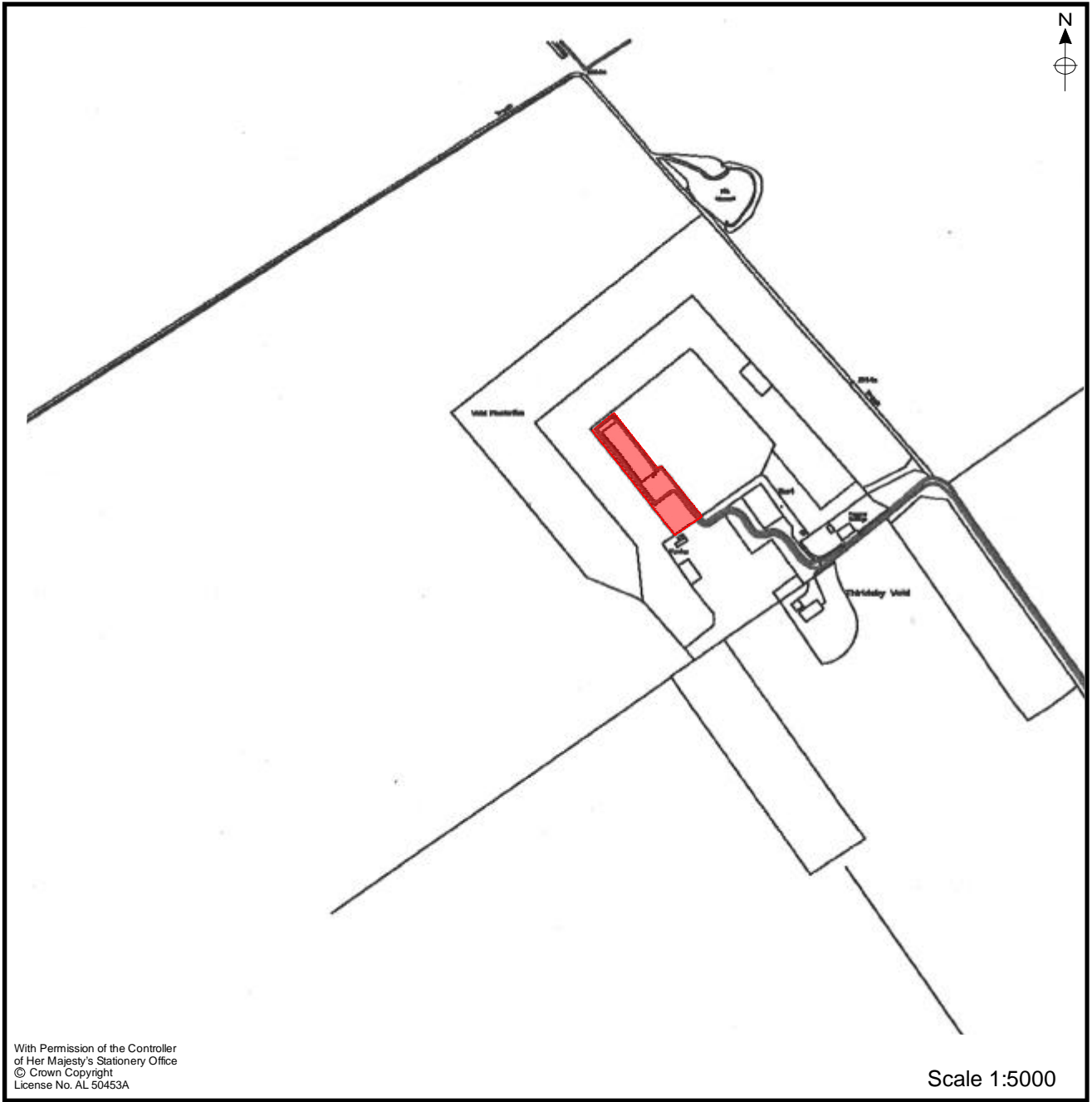


Figure 2. Archaeological Watching Brief Area.



Plate 1. General View of Site. Facing North-west.



Plate 2. General View of Site. Facing North.



Plate 3. General View of Stripped Area. Facing North-west.



Plate 4. General View of Stripped Area. Facing South.

APPENDIX 1

Thirkleby Wold Farm, Croome Road, Sledmere

Context Listing

Context	Description
001	Deposit Greyish Brown, Sandy Clay; Topsoil
002	Deposit Brown Silty Clay; Subsoil

APPENDIX 2

Photographic Archive Listing

Frame	Description	Scale	Facing
Digital Camera			
1	General View of Site	N/A	NW
2	General View of Site	N/A	N
3	North-east Facing Section through Agricultural Unit	N/A	SW
4	North-east Facing Section through Agricultural Unit	N/A	NW
5	Agricultural Unit during Topsoil Strip	N/A	N
6	General View of Agricultural Unit	N/A	NE
7	South-east Facing Section through Agricultural Unit	N/A	NW
8	General View of Stripped Area	N/A	SE
9	South-west Facing Section through Agricultural Unit	N/A	NE
10	General View of Stripped Area	N/A	NW
11	General View of Stripped Area	N/A	S

APPENDIX 3

Project Team Details

Fieldwork

Zara Burn & Mark Stephens

Post-excavation

Zara Burn *Report*

Zara Burn *Figures*

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION (WSI) FOR LIMITED ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING (“WATCHING BRIEF”)

**Thirkleby Wold Farm, Croome Road, Sledmere
Application No. 16/00293/FUL**

Summary

This Written Scheme of Investigation has been produced by MAP Archaeological Practice Ltd acting on behalf on Mr J Harrison. An Archaeological Watching Brief to be carried out during groundwork's associated with the erection of an agricultural building for the housing of pigs. All groundworks will be undertaken under the supervision of an Archaeologist.

Archaeological and Historical Background

The proposed development lies within an area of high potential. The HER contains many records of prehistoric monuments close to the application site, these include barrow cemeteries and linear dykes. Evidence from aerial photography in the form of cropmarks have been plotted as part of the English Heritage National Mapping Programme for the Yorkshire Wolds. This survey shows an extensive system of parallel linear ditch features thought to be prehistoric land divisions, to the east and west of Thirkleby Wold Farm. Therefore, there is potential for any ground works for the proposed agricultural building to encounter buried archaeological deposits from the prehistoric period.

The purpose of the work is to record and recover archaeological remains, which are:

- a)** affected by proposed development only to a limited and clearly defined extent,
- b)** not available or susceptible to standard area excavation techniques, or of limited importance or potential.

The work should not require any groundworks to be held up while archaeological investigation takes place, although adequate time should be allowed for any archaeological features to be excavated, sampled and recorded.

1. The WSI represents a summary of the broad archaeological requirements needed to comply with an archaeological planning condition or obligation. This is in accordance with National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012). The work on site should commence with the implementation of the agreed WSI and Method Statement and subject to the Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct and standards and guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs.
2. The Archaeologist should notify by letter or e-mail the Historic Environment Team of the County Council at least 10 working days in advance of the start of work on site.
3. The removal of overburden (that is vegetation, turf, loose stones, rubble, made ground, Tarmac, concrete, hardcore, building debris and topsoil) should be supervised by the Archaeologist contracted to carry out the WSI. The Archaeologist should be informed of the correct timing and schedule of overburden removal.
4. Removal of overburden by machine should be undertaken using a back-acting excavator fitted with toothless or ditching bucket only. Where materials are exceptionally difficult to lift, a toothed bucket may be used temporarily. Subsoils (B horizons) or deep, uniform fills of features may also be removed by back-acting excavator but only in areas specified by the Archaeologist on site, and only with archaeological supervision. Bulldozers or

wheeled scraper buckets should not be used to remove overburden above archaeological deposits. Where reinstatement is required, topsoil should be kept separate from other soil materials.

5. Metal detecting within the development area, including the scanning of topsoil and spoil heaps, should only be permitted subject to archaeological supervision and recording such that metal finds are properly located, identified, and conserved. All metal detection should be carried out following the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (DCMS 2008).
6. Where structures, finds, soil features and layers of archaeological interest are exposed or disturbed by construction works, the Archaeologist should be provided with the opportunity to observe, clean, assess, excavate by hand where appropriate, sample and record these features and finds. If the contractors or plant operators notice archaeological remains, they should immediately tell the Archaeologist. The sampling of deposits for palaeo-environmental evidence should be a standard consideration, and arrangements should be made to ensure that specialist advice and analysis are available if appropriate. The Historic England Science Advisor will be contacted at Tanner Row, York if appropriate.
7. Heavy plant should not be operated in the near vicinity of archaeological remains until they have been recorded, and the Archaeologist on site has allowed operations to recommence at that location. Sterile subsoils (C horizons) and parent materials below archaeological deposits may be removed without archaeological supervision. Where reinstatement is required, subsoils should be backfilled first and topsoil last.
8. Upon completion of fieldwork, samples should be processed and evaluated, and all finds identified, assessed, spot-dated, properly stored, and subject to investigative conservation as needed. A field archive should be compiled consisting of all primary written documents, plans, sections, and photographs. The Archaeologist should arrange for either the Historic Environment Team of the County Council at the discretion of the District Council or an independent post-excavation specialist to inspect the archive before making arrangements for the transfer of the archive to an appropriate museum or records office.
9. A summary report will be produced following the Council's guidelines on reporting. The report will contain planning or administrative details of the project, a summary of works carried out, a description and interpretation of the findings, an assessment of the importance of the archaeology including its historical context where appropriate, and catalogues of finds, features, and primary records. All excavated areas will be accurately mapped with respect to nearby buildings, roads and field boundaries. All significant features will be illustrated with conventionally-scaled plans, sections, and photographs. Where few or no finds are made, it may be acceptable to provide the report in the form of a letter with plans attached.
10. Copies of the summary report will be provided to the client(s), The Historic Environment Team of the County Council (HER), to the museum accepting the archive, and if the works are on or adjacent to a Scheduled Ancient Monument, to English Heritage. A licence should be granted to the accepting museum and the County Council to use the documentation arising from the work for its statutory functions and to give to third parties as an incidental to those functions.
11. Upon completion of the work, the Archaeologist will make their work accessible to the wider research community by submitting digital data and copies of reports online to OASIS (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/>). Submission of data to OASIS does not discharge the planning requirements for the Archaeologist to notify the Historic Environment Team of the County Council of the details of the work and to provide the Historic Environment Record (HER) with a summary report on the work.
12. Under the Environmental Information Regulations 2005 (EIR) information submitted to the HER becomes publicly accessible, except where disclosure might lead to environmental

damage, and reports cannot be embargoed as 'confidential' or 'commercially sensitive'. Requests for sensitive information are subject to a public interest test, and if this is met, then the information has to be disclosed. The Archaeologist should inform the client of EIR requirements, and ensure that any information disclosure issues are resolved before completion of the work. Intellectual property rights are not affected by the EIR.

13. At the discretion of the District Council, the Historic Environment Team of the County Council will be informed as soon as possible of the discovery of any unexpected archaeological remains, or changes in the programme of ground works on site. Any significant changes in the archaeological work should be specified in a variation to the WSI to be approved by the planning authority. If there is a need to remove human remains, an exhumation license will be obtained from the Ministry of Justice Exhumation License, or a faculty obtained where the remains are buried in land consecrated according to the rites of the Church of England.

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