



## **Written Scheme of Investigation**

for

Land to the East of Hillview Liney Road

Westonzoyland

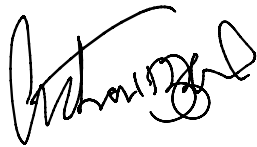
Somerset

TA7 0EU (nearest)

**PROJECT INFORMATION:**

Client Name: Ian Collier Architects  
Client Ref:  
Project Title: Land to the East of Hillview Liney Road, Westonzoyland  
Document Type: Written Scheme of Investigation  
Planning Ref: 53/17/00025  
Site Ref: AS/AO/18/07/02  
Grid Ref: ST 35701 35361  
HER No.: 39194  
Museum Accession No.: TTNCM 64/2018  
Issue: v.2  
Date: July 2018  
Prepared By: Andrew Tizzard MCI fA  
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Signature:



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## 1 Introduction

AS Archaeology & Heritage Services (ASAHS) has been commissioned by Ian Collier Architects, Taunton to undertake an Archaeological Observation and Investigation during preparatory groundworks prior to development on Land to the East of Hillview, Liney Road, Westonzoyland. The work is being undertaken as a condition of Planning Permission (Planning Ref: 53/17/00025) (Fig. 1). A brief has been set by Steve Membery, Senior Historic Environment Officer, Somerset County Council (SHEO), detailing the requirements for work necessary to discharge the planning condition; this document outlines how ASAHS will satisfy those requirements.

The proposed development lies within the geographic area of the Battle of Sedgemoor 1685 which is registered within the 'Register of Historic Battlefields' by English Heritage (EH) for its special historic interest (Listed entry Number: 1000032). Part of the battlefield is within a Special Landscape Area, in addition it is an Area of High Archaeological Potential.

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been compiled by Andrew Tizzard MCI(A) as a methodology for the programme of work.



*Plate 1: View W of development site*

## 2 Location, Topography & Geology

The site lies to approximately 780m NE of St. Mary's Church, Westonzoyland at Liney Road (NGR: ST 35701 35361).

The area proposed for development consists of an enclosed field which was included until recently by an agriculture barn with concrete standing which has been recently demolished to ground level.

The geology of the Somerset Levels is underlain by Triassic mudstones about 240 million years old. Overlain by extensive alluvial deposits laid down during frequent flooding events of the inter-glacial and

post-glacial periods of the Quaternary which resulted in deposition of marine clays and peats and includes the Burtle Beds.

The development area varies slightly in height with the W side of the site at c. 9.52m AOD and E side at c. 9.79m AOD. The development area is slightly raised above the road which passes the site to the N and has an AOD of c. 9.05m.



Fig. 1: Proposed development plan

### 3 Site Specific Archaeological & Historical Background

#### Introduction

The proposed development site is situated to the NE of the village of Westonzoyland. The parish is located on an area of slightly higher ground on the Somerset Levels between the River Parrett and River Cary. The parish of Westonzoyland was created in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century when the parish of Sowey was divided.

During the medieval period the land around the village was agricultural and owned by Glastonbury Abbey, large areas of which were reclaimed from the marsh fen during the 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century. Following dissolution of the Abbey in 1539 the land fell under the control of the Crown. Schemes to drain the land around Westonzoyland continued throughout the early post-medieval period, however following

extensive flooding in 1607 it was not until the late 17<sup>th</sup> – early 18<sup>th</sup> century Acts of Parliament authorised the construction of drainage schemes on the Somerset Levels and moors.

The penultimate battle on English soil, the Battle of Sedgemoor, was fought to the north of the village on 6 July 1685, near an area known as Bussex.

Near to Westonzoyland is the location of Somerset's earliest steam-powered pumping station which was built in 1830.

Bordering the village to the east is the site of the former RAF Weston Zoyland airfield which was operational from 1926 – 1968.

### Prehistoric

The earliest indication of human activity was a Palaeolithic flint tool found in West Sedgemoor, although within the vicinity of the site the earliest recorded finds are of Neolithic date.

A Neolithic polished adze (c 4000-2500 cal BC) was found approximately 550m ESE of the site, with a bog Oak find which was which ring sequence dated 4000 – 3839BC recovered slightly further to the E.

Around 150m to the SE of the site several prehistoric flint finds were recovered during ploughing, these included a Neolithic brown chert implement, possibly a scraper, a Neolithic black flint scraper? a Neolithic flint flake and two further prehistoric flint flakes. Slightly to the E a Bronze Age flint find with a further non-diagnostic a prehistoric flint flake was found 10m to the S were also found.

A possible large oval ditched enclosure with ditches 5 – 10m wide of prehistoric date was interpreted from Google Earth image to the N of Bussex Farm, and approximately 470m NW of the site. Aerial photographs also show several curvilinear and linear features which although undated may be prehistoric in date.

### Iron Age/Romano-British

Situated approximately 550m to the SSW of the site is the location of an Iron Age – Romano-British settlement which was identified at Southview Road during building works undertaken in the mid – late 1960's. In 1966 two human inhumations without grave goods were found in a sewer trench.

Features identified included several pits with Iron Age pottery of a locally produced fabric (Glastonbury ware). The late Iron Age settlement was estimated to extend over an area of approximately 100m x 50m, although finds suggested it probably extended over a greater area. Two NE – SW aligned ditches with Iron Age pottery, faunal remains and burnt clay were identified at 19 Southview Road although their overall length or intended purpose was not established.

Romano-British finds included a rubbish pit, a late human burial and undated post-holes which were interpreted as being of similar date. Ceramic dating evidence recovered was mainly 3<sup>rd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, with the settlement interpreted as being 'comparatively' deserted during the late 1<sup>st</sup> – 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD.

In 2010, a watching brief was undertaken during development work at 23 Southview Road, at its greatest depth this revealed a cultivated buried soil horizon which overlay features that cut the geology. Although not excavated artefactual evidence including pottery, stone and animal bone was observed in upper fills,

and from deposits overlying, the evidence was interpreted as possibly representing settlement of late Iron Age and being consistent with remains discovered during development of the housing estate in the 1960's.

Approximately 660m SE of the proposed development site during construction works for a sewer in 1938 a human skull, a quantity of RB pottery, and a metallic object of Trajan date were found.

### Medieval/post-medieval

Situated immediately to the S of the site is the location of the medieval hamlet of Liney which records show to have been established by the mid-13th century along with the neighbouring farmstead of Ferny.

Many of the features assigned to the medieval/post-medieval period of activity relate to probable changes in the landscape resultant from agricultural and land-reclamation activity.

A probable medieval/post-medieval sand quarry is visible as a cropmark on aerial photographs to the north of Liney, in addition field boundaries of possible medieval or post-medieval date, are visible on aerial photographs as cropmarks on Lang Moor to the NE. An area of fragmentary parallel and perpendicular banks and ditches forming possible strips or small sub-rectangular fields are visible extending over an area measuring approximately 385m x 287m (centred on ST 3576 3560) with a series of SW – NE parallel banks and ditches defining probable field boundaries. These include field boundaries at Lang Moor (ST 335800,135597). This area of banks and ditches was interpreted as being the extant remains of a field system, it is considered possible many features may no longer be visible.

A sand quarry (PRN 18909) overlying an earlier field system which includes banks with ditches were shown to be on a different alignment to the modern field boundaries, something which interpreted as indicating a possible medieval/post-medieval, or earlier date. It is possible many of these field systems may be associated with drove roads and settlements found to the N, W and S of Westonzoyland.

Further quarrying activity has been recorded at several sites within the immediate locality of the site, this was probably a result of local exploitation of the shelly sand and clay deposits of the Burtle Beds, possibly for building purposes. These quarries vary in size from 38m x 37m, to 150m x 125m, with activity being undertaken from at least the medieval to probable modern date.

### Battle of Sedgemoor 1685

The proposed development site lies within the geographic area of the Battle of Sedgemoor 1685 which is registered within the 'Register of Historic Battlefields' by English Heritage (EH) for its special historic interest (Listed entry Number: 1000032) (Fig. 2). Part of the battlefield site is also within a Special Landscape Area, in addition it is designated as an Area of High Archaeological Potential. The site lies approximately 250m E of the nearest recorded troop (Royalist) movements associated with the battle and circa 420m SE of the main battlefield.

The Monmouth Rebellion of June – July 1685 was an attempt by James Scott, Duke of Monmouth to seize the crown of England from Catholic King James II.

On the night of 5/6 July, the Rebel army under the command of Monmouth advanced S from the direction of Chedzoy toward Westonzoyland and the location of the Royalist army. When the Rebel army

they reached Bussex Rhyne (approximately 480m W of the site), they exchanged musket and cannon fire with the Royalist army. The exchange continued until daybreak at which point the King's army advanced and forced the rebels to flee, killing and capturing many in the process.

The proximity of the site to the battlefield makes it possible that 'stray' musket and cannon ball may be recovered from the site.



*Fig. 2: 1947 Aerial photograph showing site in red and extent of registered battlefield site Shaded in brown*

## Modern

The site lies to the NW of former RAF Weston Zoyland airfield which was operational from 1926 – 1968. Westonzoyland airfield which is currently used as a small airfield catering for leisure activity.

## 4 Research Aims and Objectives

The aims of the phased investigations are to:

- Explain the presence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development;
- Identify, within the constraints of the archaeological programme of work, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;
- Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;
- Allow for the preservation in situ or preservation by record of archaeological remains impacted by the proposed development;



- Produce a report of the results of the archaeological programme of work which will enable assessment of any additional archaeological investigations which may form a mitigation for further archaeological work (Phase 2):
- Analyse and interpret the results of the Phase 2 investigations; and
- Produce a subsequent report which will present the results of the Phase 2 works.

## 5 Methodology

All archaeological site works will be undertaken in accordance with the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide* (Lee 2015), *Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014) and *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014). ASAAHS adheres to the CIfA Code of conduct (2014).

### **CIfA (2014) defines an archaeological watching brief as follows:**

*"An archaeological watching brief will record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices. These will satisfy the stated aims of the project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant regulations of CIfA."*

### **Definition of an archaeological watching brief:**

*"The definition of an archaeological watching brief is a formal programme of observation and investigation conducted during any operation carried out for non-archaeological reasons. This will be within a specified area or site on land, inter-tidal zone or underwater, where there is a possibility that archaeological deposits may be disturbed or destroyed. The programme will result in the preparation of a report and ordered archive."*

*This definition and Standard do not cover chance observations, which should lead to an appropriate archaeological project being designed and implemented, nor do they apply to monitoring for preservation of remains in situ."*

### **Purpose of a watching brief**

*"The purpose of a watching brief is*

- a. to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works*
- b. to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.*

*A watching brief is not intended to reduce the requirement for excavation or preservation of known or inferred deposits, and it is intended to guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.*

*The objective of a watching brief is to establish and make available information about the archaeological resource existing on a site.”*

### 5.1 Treasure Act 1996

ASAAHS is fully cognisant of the requirements of the Treasure Act 1996 with which it complies.

### 5.2 Community engagement & outreach

Wherever practicable and within constraints of site specific health & safety and public liability insurance restrictions ASAAHS encourages community and volunteer participation.

### 5.3 Site Specific

The total site area is approximately 957 sq. m which includes the concrete base of a recently removed agricultural building situated toward the rear of the site.

Undifferentiated topsoil and made-ground will be removed by machine equipped with a toothless bucket/blade under archaeological supervision. Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately at a nominated location within the site. Machine-use will cease when a clear archaeological or geological horizon has been reached. All features of archaeological significance will be identified, planned at a suitable scale, accurately located and investigated in accordance with established criteria for the excavation of archaeological remains (CifA 2014).

The following archaeological sampling strategy will be adhered to:

- Linear features 20% - Investigation to comprise slots of c.2m located at appropriate intervals along the exposed extent of the feature consistent with the sampling ratio. Termini and intersections to be excavated as a matter of course.
- Settlement features 33% (minimum), rising to include full investigation, if features are found to contain substantial quantities of settlement evidence.
- Pits 50-100% depending upon date and quantity of material culture present.
- Structural remains 100%

Prior to removal of topsoil a metal detector survey will be undertaken following guidance issued by English Heritage (Our Portable Past 2013), SW Heritage Trust (Somerset Archaeological Handbook 2017- (SAH, 2017)) and the Portable Antiquities Scheme (2006). The position of ferrous objects will be recorded *pro form* recording sheet prior to removal. In addition, once topsoil/sub-soil has been removed it will be re-scanned with a metal detector.

### 5.4 Archaeological Science Contingency (ASC)

ASAAHS is cognisant of the requirement within SAH, 2017 which states the following:

*“In addition to normal contingency provisions allocated by the contracting archaeological unit, HES requires a compulsory archaeological science contingency (ASC) to be included in all projects. A standard level of 15% of the total tender for archaeological work (with a minimum level equivalent to the cost of obtaining one radiocarbon date) will normally be specified (or included in the PD or WSI). This level may be varied in response to the specific potential of the project and must only be used for full analysis not assessment. The ASC must be clearly identified as a separate cost in tender documents. The ASC may be used for:*

- *Scientific dating (not including artefact typology);*
- *Geoarchaeological analysis;*
- *Biological analysis;*
- *Artefactual conservation and investigative analysis;*
- *Analysis of technological residues; or,*
- *Other science-based methods of investigation, which are considered appropriate.*

*The ASC may only be spent by the contractor after the HES has received and approved an assessment of potential and a proposal for analysis.”*

## 6 Recording

Records will include:

- All exposed archaeological deposits will be recorded using a *pro-forma* context recording system for each stratigraphic unit examined
- A full graphic record of all excavated areas will be made with the primary record consisting of hand-drawn plans and sections (produced on gridded, archive-stable polyester film) to show the extent of the area, the extent of all stratigraphic units and appropriate detail within stratigraphic units, at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or appropriate scale and referenced to the site grid which is further referenced to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all drawn features and levels will be calculated with plans/sections annotated with adjusted OD heights.
- All site drawings will be produced on archive-stable polyester film. These will be numbered and listed in a drawing register, with drawing numbers being cross-referenced to written site records
- A detailed photographic record of all stratigraphic units and representative photographs showing the progress of archaeological work. The record will be made using a high-resolution digital camera (not less than 20 megapixels) and comprise photographs of archaeological features and appropriate groups of features and structures. The photograph of each recorded feature will include a board showing context information, N arrows and scales.
- All records will be indexed and cross-referenced. Details concerning subject and direction of view will be maintained in a photographic register, indexed by frame number.
- Temporary Benchmarks (TBMs) will be established as required.

## 7 Human Remains

In the event of discovery of any human remains (articulated or disarticulated, cremated or unburnt), a Ministry of Justice Licence will be obtained prior to any further disturbance (including where remains are to be left *in situ*).

Initially the remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected, pending discussions between the Client, ASAAHS, osteology specialist and the SHEO regarding the need for and appropriateness of excavation or sampling as part of the works. Where deemed appropriate, the human remains will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the Site in compliance with the Ministry of Justice Licence.

Should human remains require removal, all excavation and post-excavation will be undertaken in accordance with current guidance documents (e.g. McKinley 2013) and the standards & guidelines set out in ClfA Technical Paper 13 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains*. Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken if required.

Final deposition of human remains will only be made after the appropriate level of osteological analysis and other specialist sampling/examinations will be undertaken in accordance with requirements set out in the Ministry of Justice Licence

## 8 Recovery, processing and curation of artefactual data

Samples will be collected according to guidance set out by English Heritage (Historic England) in *Environmental Archaeology: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (2nd edition) (Campbell, Moffet & Straker 2011).

Site-specific considerations and potential reflect research themes and priorities set out in the SWARF and local research agendas. They include potential for the following:

- Faunal remains in large assemblages providing better datasets for analysis. Additionally, recovery of small mammal bones may indicate niche habitats
- Retrieval of charred plant remains to further understanding of crop-selection and dating of species introduction, in addition to assessment of site status (consumer or producer)
- Cremations: Wood identification may elucidate species selection for pyres
- Enclosures: Spatial sampling highlighting differentiation in palaeoenvironmental remains may indicate layout of activity areas within a settlement or suggest areas of vegetation
- Industrial activity: Recognition of hammerscale and other micro-indicators of industrial activity may assist analysis of the macro-assemblages
- Identification of chronology of palaeoenvironmental signatures to assist phasing

Samples of at least 40ℓ will be taken wherever possible and practicable using numbered sample buckets of 10ℓ capacity. Bulk environmental soil sample sizes will be as per the EH guidelines, with the option to review this following on site discussion / preliminary processing of samples. Samples will be taken from well-sealed and dated or datable archaeological features for plant macrofossils (charred and/or waterlogged and wood charcoal), small animal bones and small artefacts.

Where appropriate monolith and/or contiguous column samples will be taken will be taken from key and representative sequences on the Site. These will be examined in laboratory conditions by a geoarchaeologist to further elucidate the depositional history of the Site and enable sub-sampling for microfossils and radiocarbon samples as appropriate. Attention will be paid to stabilisation horizons and buried land surfaces, with soil micromorphology considered.

Bulk environmental soil samples will be processed by flotation and scanned to assess the environmental potential of deposits but will not be fully analysed. The residues and sieved fractions will be recorded and retained with the project archive. Any monoliths will be subject to detailed description by a geoarchaeologist and sub-samples taken as appropriate for microfossils and radiocarbon dating, should suitable material exist. Samples may include those for pollen, diatoms, foraminifera, ostracods as deemed appropriate by the geoarchaeologist.

## 8.1 Finds

Finds are herein defined in accordance with ClfA *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (2014) as ‘all artefacts, building materials, industrial residues, environmental material, biological remains (including human remains) and decay products’ (2014, 3).

In accordance with *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014) and *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001), all such materials will be labelled with the site code and context number before being removed off-site. All such materials will be stored in accordance with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson & Neal 2001) and with Historic England technical standards and other relevant sources of information, including standards for data-gathering set out by Brown (2011, 18-20). Each retained assemblage will be examined according to typological or chronological criteria and conservation needs identified.

The process of selection and retention will also be informed by principles set out by Brown (2011, 23), which specify that this process should be sufficient ‘to produce a project archive that allows a full re-examination and interpretation of all the results of the project whilst avoiding replication, repetition or the retention of materials not germane to future analysis’, decisions regarding retention generally being made at the pre-analysis stage of the project.

All conservation work, including cleaning sensitive finds, will be carried out by York Archaeological Trust (YAT) nominated specialist. X-ray photographs of archaeological metalwork will be produced off-site by YAT.

## 9 Archive Review, Compilation & Deposition

The Archive will be assembled in accordance with the guidelines published in *Standard and Guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives* (ClfA 2014), *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (Walker 1990), *Standards in the museum care of archaeological collections* (Museums & Galleries Commission 1992) and *Archaeological Archives: A guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2011).

All records created during fieldwork will be checked for consistency and accuracy and will form part of the Site Archive (Brown 2011, 3, par. 1.2.1). The archive will contain all data collected, including records, ecofacts, artefacts and other specialist materials and will be ordered, indexed, adequately documented, internally consistent, secure, quantified, conforming to standards required by the archive repository and signposted appropriately to ensure future use in research, as detailed in the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) methodology (Lee 2015).

ASAHS undertakes that the following issues will be addressed and concluded to the satisfaction of SHEO within a reasonably defined timescale:

- The written, drawn and photographic records will be of sufficient quality to facilitate publication in an appropriate specialist journal

- Data concerning complete identifiable and itemized objects will be transferred to specified object record sheets
- A post excavation archive review will be undertaken following fieldwork to quantify the fieldwork data and to identify materials suitable for submission to nominated specialists for Assessment.

## 10 Post-fieldwork Assessment and Reporting

Post-fieldwork Assessment Reports will be compiled in accordance with Section 3.4 of Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (ClfA 2014, 12-15). Discussion of the data will include:

- Appraisal of the extent to which the site archive might enable the data to meet the research aims of the project
- A statement of the potential of the data in developing new research aims, to contribute to other projects and to advance methodologies

Sufficient supporting data, tabulated or in appendices, will also be provided to permit interrogation of the stated conclusions.

### Publication: Full Technical Report (FTR)

The specific requirements of the report will necessarily vary according to the scope of works, the nature of the results or other factors (ClfA 2014, 13-14). However, the FTR will contain the following sections and illustrative components:

- Non-technical summary
- Introduction
- Site background
- Aims & Objectives
- Methodology
- Results & discussion
- Conclusions (considering, where appropriate, the results of archaeological projects undertaken in the wider area)
- Archive location
- Appendices providing detailed context records & the results of all specialist assessment and analysis undertaken
- Location plans based on the current Ordnance Survey at an appropriate scale (reproduced with the permission of the Controller of HMSO)
- Plans showing; the Ordnance Survey Grid; site survey stations; the location of the Ordnance Survey Benchmarks used during the fieldwork and the site Temporary Bench Marks
- Plans showing the extent of identified archaeology
- Illustrations including plans and sections of features recorded
- Photographs of principal finds and features

The primary physical archive material (notebooks, plans, survey drawings, photographic records etc.) will be deposited with the Archives & Record Service at the Somerset Heritage Centre.

Two copies of the report (only) will be submitted to the Somerset Historic Environment Record (HER): one paper copy and one digital copy in .pdf/a format following approval.

The actual compilation of the archive and its long-term preservation will be arranged in accordance with s.6.2 SAH 2017.

ASAAHS shall retain full copyright of the client report under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification.

A detailed submission will be also presented to the editors of Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society or appropriate journal within one year of completion of the works outlined in this document.

An OASIS form will be completed and submitted to the local Historic Environment Record.

## 11 Staff & Monitoring

The site will be subject to monitoring by SHEO or his representative. Issues of a technical nature should be addressed to Andrew Tizzard MCIfA who will be the site archaeologist.

ASAHS will inform the SHEO at least two days prior to commencement of fieldwork and in accordance with s.6.2 SAH, 2017, and the progress of the investigations on the Site.

Variations to the WSI will be agreed in advance with representatives of the Client and the SHEO.

## 12 Specialists

The following specialists have been appointed to provide, where required, sampling, consulting, analysis & reporting services.

1. Geoarchaeology: Dr Keith Wilkinson MCIfA ARCA Winchester
2. Prehistoric Pottery: Dr Alex Gibson MCIfA University of Bradford
3. Late Prehistoric & Roman Pottery: Rob Perrin BA M.Litt FSA MCIfA
4. Samian Ware: Dr Felicity Wild
5. Post-Roman, Medieval & Post-Medieval Pottery: Paul Blinkhorn BTech (Hons)
6. Coins: Dr Peter Guest University of Cardiff
7. Flint: Rebecca Devaney ACIfA
8. Glass: Nicola Powell MA MCIfA
9. Metal Objects: Nicola Powell MA MCIfA
10. Archaeometallurgy: Dr David Starley

11. Glass working: John Shepherd MCIfA
12. Artefact and materials conservation: Ian Panter York Archaeological Trust
13. Building Materials: Dr Ruth Shaffrey MCIfA
14. Faunal Remains: Jennifer Wood MA, ACIFA Osteoarchaeology & Faunal Services
16. Human Remains: Jennifer Wood MA, ACIFA Osteoarchaeology & Faunal Services
17. Palaeoenvironmental: Durham University
18. Charcoal & wood ID: John Carrott Paleoecology Research Services Hull
19. Additional and/or specialist archaeobotanical ID: John Carrott Paleoecology Research Services Hull
20. Leather: Quita Mould MA FSA

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