



A Site-Specific Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation

**Land at Bucks Copse,
Barkham Road,
Wokingham,
RG41 2RD**

**Wokingham Borough Council
Planning Reference: 221890**

**National Grid Reference:
480363, 168315**

Christopher Cole for
Aldington & Romney
Archaeology

Station Bungalow, Station
Road, Dymchurch, Romney
Marsh, Kent TN29 0PJ
Tel: 07789600542

1. Introduction and planning background

In October 2025 Aldington & Romney Archaeology was instructed by Mr Mark Leedale, on behalf his clients, to prepare this document. This WSI has been prepared prior to the proposed erection of two dwellings and garage, following demolition of existing garages (Planning Reference 221890).

Condition 6 of the planning consent states:

Archaeological Works – No development shall take place until the applicant or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work (which may comprise more than one phase of works) in accordance with a written scheme of investigation, which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the planning authority. The development shall only take place in accordance with the detailed scheme approved pursuant to this condition.

Reason: The site lies in an area of archaeological potential. The potential impacts on the buried archaeological heritage can be mitigated by a programme of archaeological work so as to record and advance understanding of any heritage assets in accordance with national and local planning policy. Relevant policy: National Planning Policy Framework Section 16 (Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment) and Managing Development Delivery Local Plan policy TB25.

2. Site location and description

The development site (Figures 1 & 2) is centred on National Grid Reference SU803683. The site is a roughly square plot of land located immediately adjacent to the west of Bucks Copse, approximately 66m south of Barkham Road and 0.65 miles southwest of Wokingham town centre. The site does not lie within a Conservation Area.

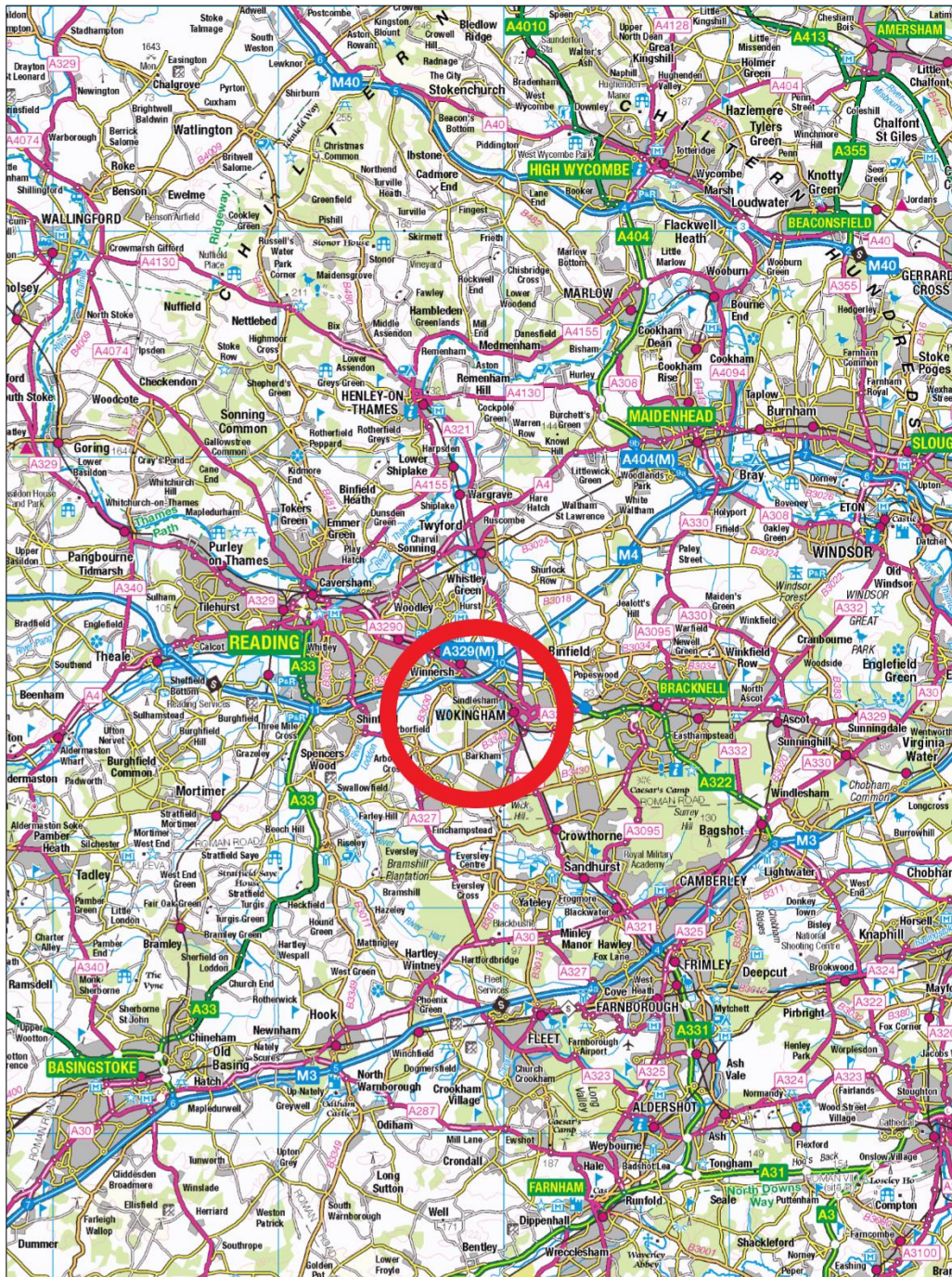


Figure 1. Site location.

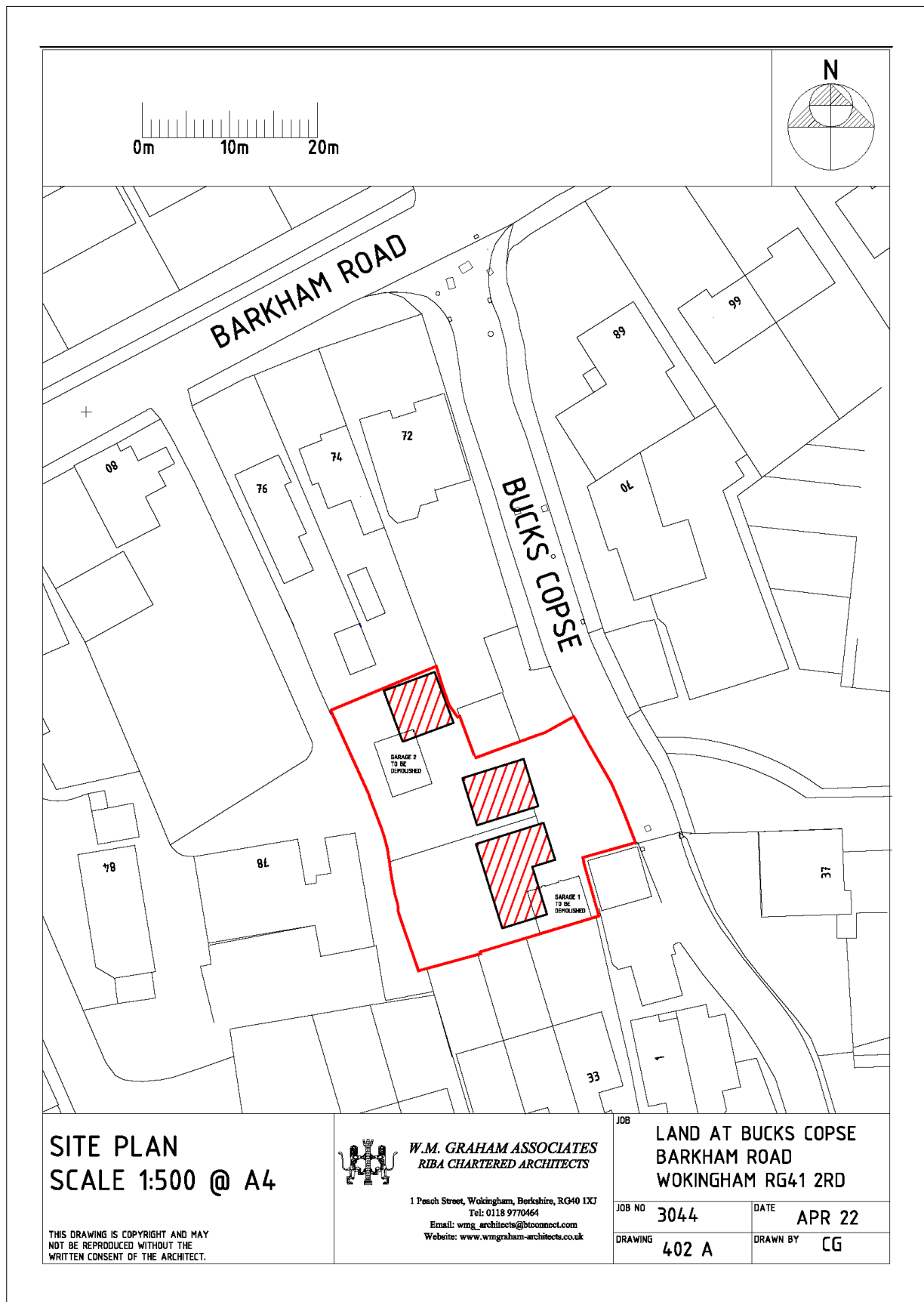


Figure 2. The site boundary.

3. Geology

The British Geological Survey shows a superficial geology of Head; clay, silt, sand and gravel, sat upon a bedrock of London Clay Formation (BGS 2024).

4. Archaeological and Historical Background

The name Wokingham means 'Wocca's people's home'. Wocca was apparently a Saxon chieftain who may also have owned lands at Wokefield in Berkshire and Woking in Surrey. During the Victorian period, the name was altered to Oakingham, and consequently the acorn with oak leaves became the town's heraldic charge, granted in the 19th century.

The courts of Windsor Forest were held at Wokingham and the town was granted the right to hold a market from 1219. The Bishop of Salisbury was largely responsible for the growth of the town during this period.

From the 14th to the 16th centuries, Wokingham was well known for its bell foundry which supplied many churches across the South of England. During the Tudor period, Wokingham was well known as a producer of silk.

In the years 1643–44 Wokingham was regularly raided by both sides in the Civil War. These raids would involve the looting of livestock and trading goods, and over thirty buildings were burnt down, accounting for nearly 20% of buildings in the town at that time. It was not until the early 18th century that Wokingham had fully recovered.

4.1 Berkshire Historic Environment Record

A search of the Berkshire Historic Environment Record (HER) was undertaken within a 500m radius around the site centre. This search returned 3 results for archaeological sites and finds and 13 records of Listed Buildings.

Prehistoric

The HER holds two records of this period; Mesolithic flints - A hand axe ploughed out of Lynch Hill terrace gravel in the former nursery gardens which slope towards the Emm Brook, opposite the hospital on Barkham Road. The pointed hand axe is rolled and stained (HER 00349) and Cordate hand axe found in the Wokingham workhouse garden (HER 00361).

Roman

The HER holds no records of this period within 500m of the study area.

Medieval

The HER holds one record of possible medieval origin; An undated ditch feature, gully and posthole were revealed during an archaeological evaluation at Wokingham Cricket and Tennis Club, Wellington Road, Wokingham. (HER MRM16594).

Post Medieval

The HER produced twenty-four records pertaining to this period. Mostly Listed Buildings or related sites.

Listed Buildings

There are 13 Listed Buildings within 500m of the site. They are all Grade II.

Parish Rooms (NHLE 1118011)

Burcott House (NHLE 1118014)

41 The Terrace (NHLE 1118015)

Astwood House (NHLE 1118016)

39 The Terrace (NHLE 1155844)

Hope and Anchor Public House (NHLE 130220)

The Old Cottage (NHLE 1319136)

The Old House (NHLE 1319181)

Footbridge immediately south of Wokingham station (NHLE 1268457)

37 The Terrace (NHLE 1319182)

West Lodge (NHLE 1155921)

29 and 31 The Terrace (NHLE 1303179)

35 The Terrace (NHLE 1155824)

5. Methodology

5.1. The Evaluation Trenching

In advance of any groundworks taking place associated with this development a series of evaluation trenches will be excavated in order to determine the nature, extent and date of any archaeological remains that may exist on the site. The trenches will cover an area of 20m² or approximately 4% of the total site and will be positioned as indicated on the plan below (Figure 3). They will all be 1m wide and 5m long, with the machine excavation of the evaluation trenches to be carried out under constant archaeological direction by a suitably experienced archaeologist familiar with the ground conditions anticipated on the investigation site.

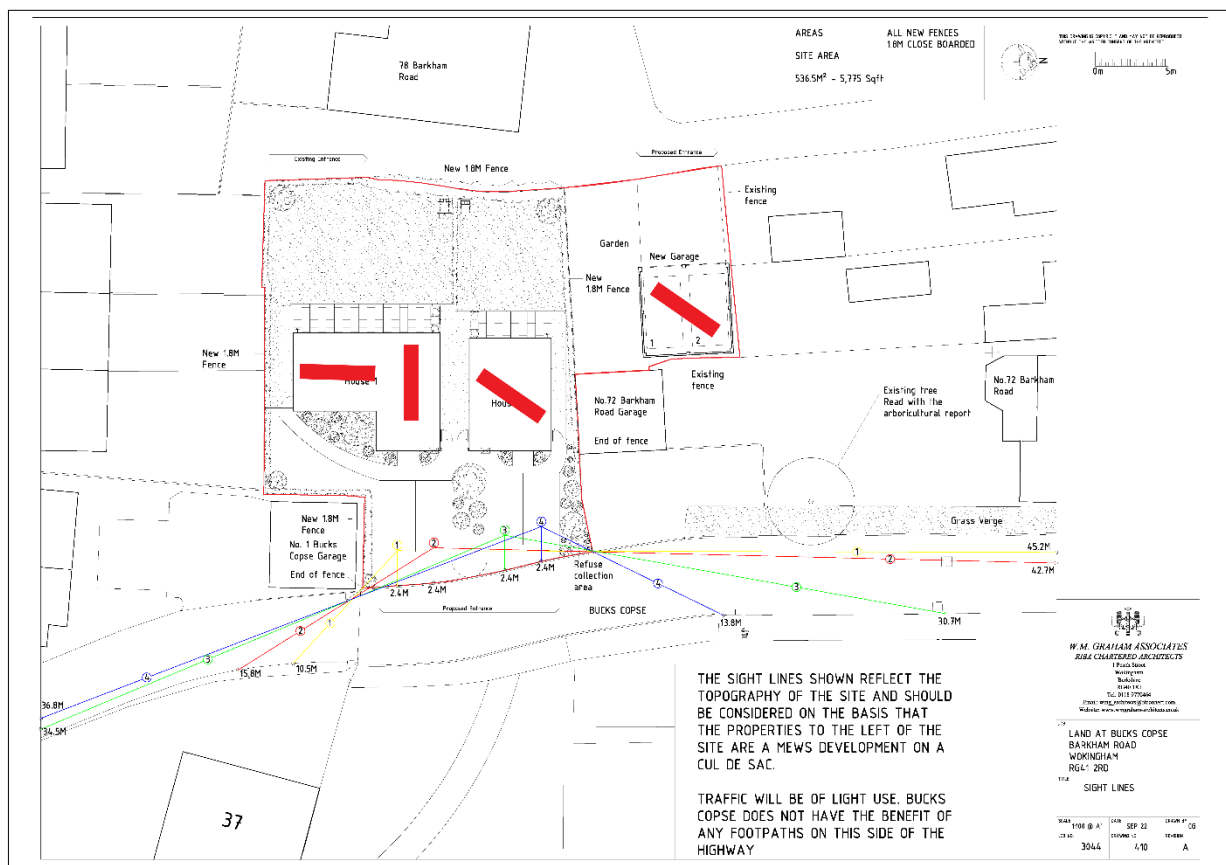


Figure 3. Indicative trench plan (please note that the trench positions may change if ecological conservation areas, deep-set hard-standing or live services are encountered)

5.1.2. All trenches will be excavated, using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless bucket, to a depth equal to the top of the undisturbed geology, or until the surface of any archaeological deposits. Excavation of any archaeological deposits revealed will then be undertaken by hand by staff of Aldington & Romney Archaeology.

5.1.3. All exposed archaeological features within the trenches will be planned and recorded. A proportion of these features will then be partially excavated (a minimum of 50% of the total unless it is agreed in consultation with the Berkshire County Council Senior Archaeologist that a lesser percentage would be appropriate). Unless otherwise agreed with the Berkshire County Council Senior Archaeologist, "partial" excavation will normally be defined as: excavation of 1m to 2m-wide sections through linear cut features, at 10-metre intervals or totaling 10% of the length of the linear cut feature (whichever is the greater); half-sections of other discrete datable and ancient cut features.

5.1.4. Should no significant archaeological deposits be revealed within the excavated trenches, then no further on-site archaeological work will be undertaken in connection with this planning permission and upgrading works can proceed. However, should significant remains be encountered then additional trenching may be undertaken in those areas where they have been demonstrated to exist, upon agreement with the local planning authority. The area containing such significant archaeological remains will then be securely fenced off from the remainder of the site. Once the limits of such significant remains have been established then a supplementary WSI will be needed to set out further mitigation methods required relating to those remains, including potentially full excavation and recording where essential owing to unavoidable adverse impacts from the main development works. Where the limits of any significant archaeological deposits have been defined, upgrading works may proceed, with the agreement of the planning authority, providing the area of the deposits has been fenced off pending further mitigation measures.

5.2. Recording

5.2.1. Details of the nature, extent and date (where possible) of archaeological contexts will be recorded upon context sheets provided by Aldington & Romney Archaeology.

5.2.2. Measured drawings (plans normally at 1:20, sections normally at 1:10) will be made ensuring that each context recorded is shown in at least one section and/or plan, include at least one section of each individual feature excavated. All drawings will be accurately related to the Ordnance Survey National Grid.

5.2.3. Levels will be taken ensuring that each context recorded can be related to Ordnance Datum.

5.2.4. Digital photographs will be taken, showing a suitable scale, ensuring that each context recorded is shown in at least one image.

5.3. Artefact Sampling

5.3.1. Artefacts will be retained where considered necessary in the light of their context and/or importance. Where artefacts are discarded a record will be kept of their quantity and nature.

5.3.2. All artefacts recovered during the excavation will be processed according to current UKIC/Rescue guidelines as set out in First Aid for Finds, 1998, and to the standards of the museum with which they will be deposited.

5.3.3. All retained artefacts will be quantified by number and where appropriate by weight.

5.3.4. All retained artefacts, except those excluded on the grounds of size/material, will be marked with the site code.

5.3.5. All retained artefacts will be bagged and boxed in containers approved by the museum and sympathetic to their condition.

5.3.6. In cases where a more detailed analysis and/or conservation of finds is required for the understanding of individual contexts and the site as a whole, this will be carried out by qualified specialist Dr Barbara McNee.

5.4. Environmental Sampling

5.4.1. The project archive will be prepared according to the standards set out in the following documents:

- English Heritage's MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation. Appendix 1.
- Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.

5.4.2. The project archive, subject to the landowner's permission, shall be deposited with a publicly accessible repository suitable to its nature and size. If relevant, an accession number will be obtained from that repository. Should the archive consist solely of paperwork, then it will be deposited with the Berkshire Record Office.

5.5. Reporting

5.5.1. Within six weeks of the completion of the evaluation, a summary report will be produced and submitted to Berkshire County Council.

5.5.2. At the conclusion of all the archaeological work associated with this project a full and final report will be written on the excavations detailing what was found, with appropriate illustrations, and analysing the remains in relation to the stated aims of the project, according to the standards set out in the following documents:

- English Heritage's MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Archaeological Excavation.

- Institute of Field Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation.
- Adopted Development Policy DP14 (2010, Revised 2014)

5.5.3. Copies of this report will be given to the client and Berkshire County Council's Historic Environment Record and County Archaeologist. Also, an OASIS entry into the HER will be completed, as well as the digital archive being made available through The Archaeology Data Service.

5.5.4. Should the results merit wider dissemination then contact will be made with local archaeological groups to inform them of any findings of local, regional or national significance, and if feasible to also enable a site visit to view the archaeological deposits within the excavated trenches.

5.5.5. Should any remains discovered as part of this project be of local, regional or national importance then further dissemination may be necessary, with the presumption that the findings will be fully reported and published, the recommended medium being Berkshire Archaeological Collections.

5.6. Monitoring

5.6.1. The project will be monitored by the Berkshire County Archaeologist, who will ensure that the aims and methodology laid out in this document are met.

Appendix I

List of Archaeologists and Specialists

Evaluation Fieldwork & Project Management: Dr Christopher Cole; BSc Archaeology (Hons), MSc Human Osteology, PhD Human Osteology.

Pottery specialist: Dr Barbara McNee; MA ceramics, PhD Archaeology

If further fieldwork is required:

Steven Tomlinson; BA Archaeology, MA Archaeology

Theresa Peters; BSc Archaeology, MSc Human Osteology

Further specialists may be required based upon the findings of the evaluation. If so, additional information will be added to this list.