



Ministry of
JUSTICE

Coroners & Burials Division

Ministry of Justice

102 Petty France

London

SW1H 9AJ

T 0203 334 6389

F 0203 334 2233

E rupert.clayton@justice.gsi.gov.uk

www.justice.gov.uk

Mr M Fletcher
HAD Office, PO Box 3533
Whichford
Shipston on Sour
Warwickshire
CV36 5YB

Our ref: OPR/077/002/38

28 February 2011

DEAR MR. FLETCHER,

Thank you for your letter of 10 February to Jonathan Djanogly about the archaeological excavation, study and retention of human remains. I have been asked to reply.

As you say, there are arguments against such work as well as those in favour. We recognise and respect the fact that some people have strongly-held views about the disturbance of buried human remains. However, there are also compelling reasons for the scientific study of the primary evidence of mankind's past. Reconciliation of these conflicting standpoints will not be easy. That is why it has been decided that each application for an exhumation licence to remove human remains of potential archaeological value should be considered on its merits, in the light of the specific facts of each case.

Yours sincerely

Rupert Clayton