Manor Farm, Avebury Trusloe: Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Record and Watching Brief, October/November 2022



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September 2022

Contents

1. Introduction 3
2. Description of developments proposed 4
3. Archaeological background 5
    3.1. General statement 5
    3.2. Recorded archaeology within vicinity of the development area 6
4. Schedule 7
5. Aims and objectives 8
6. Methodology 8
7. Site personnel 9
8. Finds processing and specialist reporting 9
9. Human remains 9
10. Treasure 10
11. Monitoring of Archaeological Fieldwork 10
12. Health and Safety 10
13. Reporting 10
14. References 10
15. Contacts 11
Appendix 1: Archaeological sites and find spots within a 0.5km radius 12

1. Introduction

This document outlines the Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological investigation in advance of groundworks associated with the demolition of farm buildings and the construction of four holiday lodges at Manor Farm, Avebury Trusloe, Wiltshire, SN8 1QY (Figure 1: application no. PL/2022/02319). This will be the third phase of work: the first comprising a watching brief undertaken in June 2022 during the digging of water percolation test pits in the southern part of the development area; and the second the excavation of a 12 x 7m trench (corresponding to the location of Lodge 3) within one of the up-standing farm buildings. An early phase (Romano-British?) of ploughing, a length of Medieval ditch and wall footings and other features associated with a series of 17th-early 20th century farm buildings were recorded. A small quantity of residual prehistoric worked flint was also recovered.

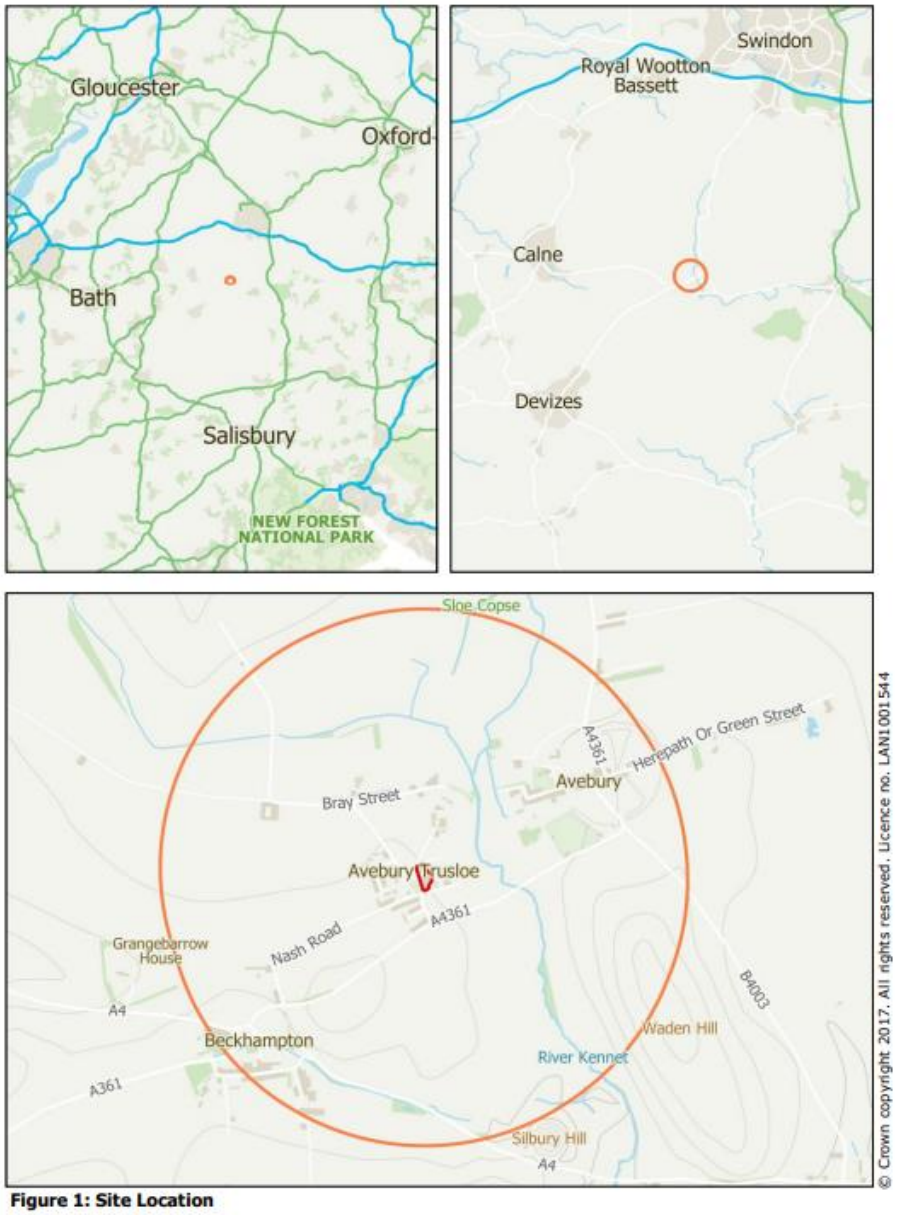

Figure 1 – site location

The third phase of work, outlined here, will involve a strip, map and record exercise on the footprints of Lodges 1, 2 and 4 (Figure 2), and a watching brief across areas of adjacent ground disturbance. The work is being undertaken on a non-commercial basis.

The site lies within the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site (WHS) and is in close proximity to several Neolithic and Early Bronze Age monuments that link directly to the expression of the WHS's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV), most notably the Avebury Henge. The geology here is chalk (of the Holywell Nodular Chalk Formation – BGS). The site is set on low-lying ground at c.160m OD, on a terrace above the Winterbourne stream.



Figure 2 – proposed development showing position of Lodges. (Incorporates data (c) Crown Copyright/database right 2007. An Ordnance Survey/(EDINA) supplied service).

2. Description of development

The work comprises archaeological investigation within areas of the proposed development site where ground disturbance will be concentrated, notably within the footprints of Lodges 1, 2 and 4 (that of Lodge 3 having already seen archaeological excavation). This will follow the demolition of several of the existing farm buildings and removal of areas of hard-

standing in advance of landscaping. A watching brief will be maintained during works that are likely to cause disturbance to levels below current farmyard surfaces, modern make-up and foundations. The work shall be undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IFA 2008).

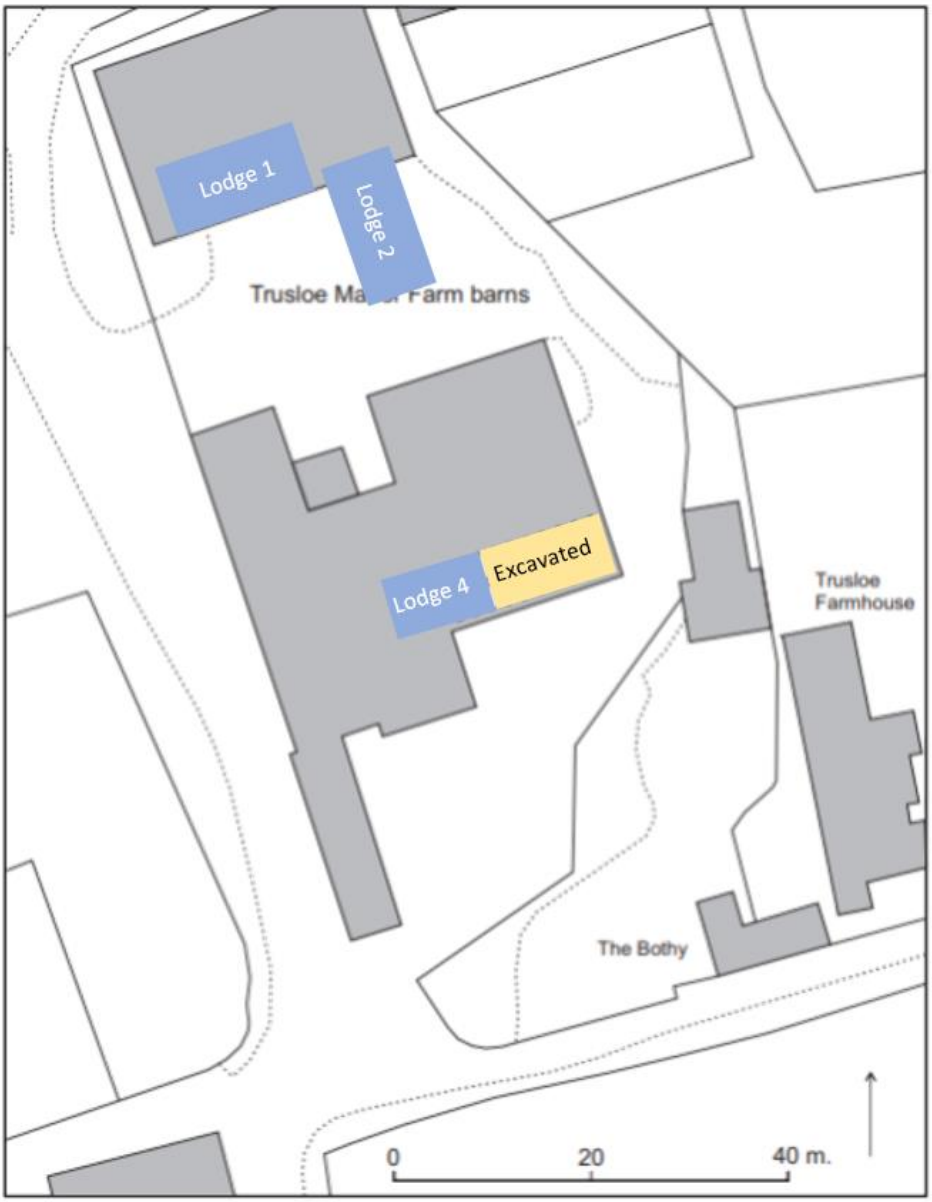

Figure 3 – location of strip, map and record areas (Incorporates data (c) Crown Copyright/database right 2007. An Ordnance Survey/(EDINA) supplied service).

3. Archaeological background

3.1. General statement

The Avebury landscape is internationally recognised as containing the remains of a complex of outstanding Neolithic and Early Bronze Age (c.3900-1500BC) ceremonial and funerary monuments (see Pollard & Reynolds 2002; Whittle 1993; Whittle *et al.* 2011; Leivers & Powell 2016). Individual monuments or components of the complex – such as the Avebury henge, its megalithic avenues, the timber and stone settings of the Sanctuary; Silbury Hill, the West Kennet palisades, Windmill Hill and the West Kennet long barrow – are

remarkable, even un-matched, because of their scale and architectural complexity, and the wealth of evidence relating to prehistoric human lifeways and beliefs that they contain. Taken as a whole, they are testimony to the paramount significance ascribed to this landscape by early farming and pastoralist communities; a significance that likely drew in people from a wide geographical range.

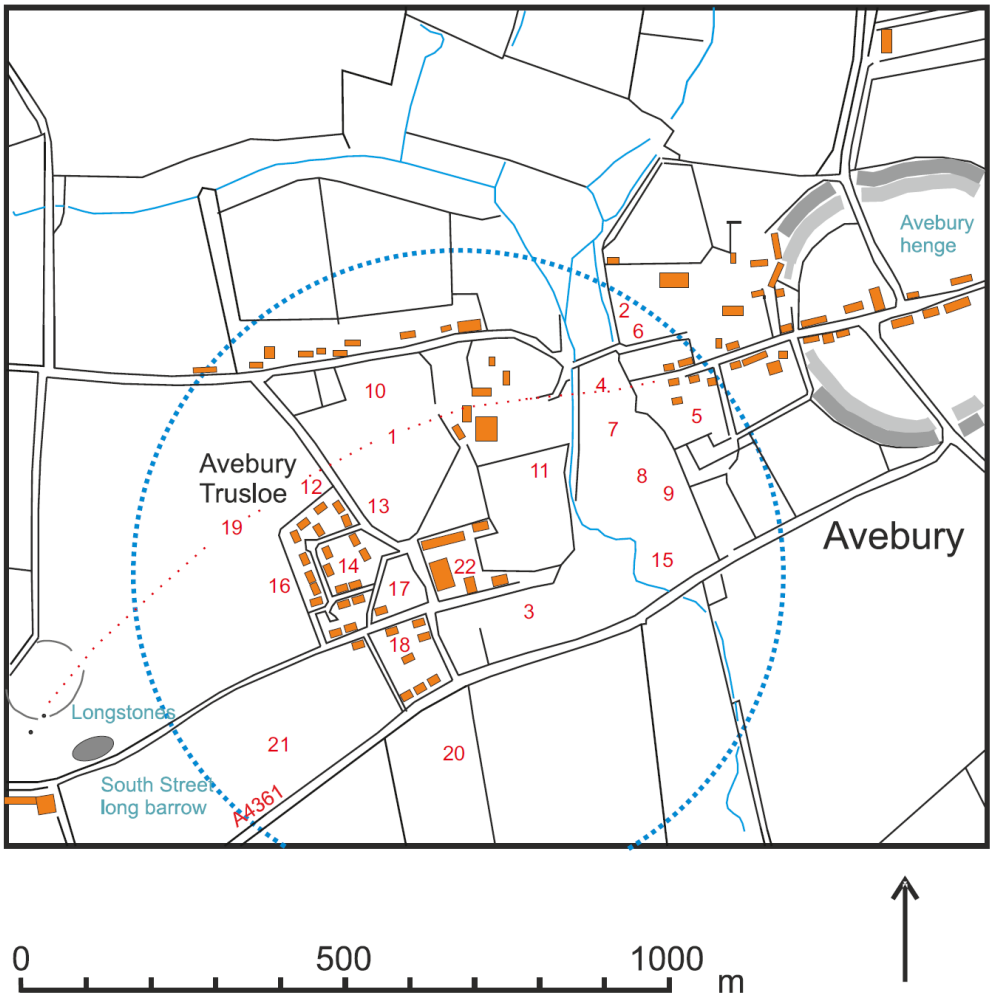

Figure 4. Identified archaeological sites and find spots within a 0.5km radius. See Appendix 1 and section 3.2 for details (Incorporates data (c) Crown Copyright/database right 2007. An Ordnance Survey/(EDINA) supplied service).

A range of archaeological monuments, structures and find-spots are known within 0.5km of the development site, spanning the Mesolithic through to Post-Medieval periods (Figure 4 – see also Appendix 1). For summaries and synthetic discussions of Avebury's archaeology and landscape see Pollard & Reynolds (2002), Gillings & Pollard (2004) and Leivers & Powell (2016).

3.2. Recorded archaeology within the immediate vicinity of the development area

Prehistoric

To north, the postulated line of Beckhampton Avenue (no. 1) – a core component of the Avebury Late Neolithic monument complex – runs within 200m of the development area.

Excavations along its western-most course within Longstones Field between 1999-2003 encountered stone-holes within which large sarsen megaliths had been set, along with medieval and early post-medieval stone burial and burning/breaking pits (Gillings et al. 2008). Evidence of other prehistoric activity is strong. The Wiltshire and Swindon HER records isolated Neolithic stone tools, including flint axes, from within a 500m radius of the area (nos. 12 & 13, 20 & 21); and a single pit of likely Neolithic dated was excavated in 2003 in an adjacent area of Longstones Field (no. 19). Test-pitting and excavation by John G. Evans within the Winterbourne floodplain/Butler's Field to the east during the 1980s revealed further traces of prehistoric activity sealed by alluvium, including a scatter of late Mesolithic and Early Neolithic flintwork (Evans et al. 1993). Further work in Bulter's Field undertaken as part of the Living with Monuments Project during 2018 recovered further Mesolithic and Neolithic flintwork and identified a single Mesolithic pit (Gillings *et al.* 2019).

Romano-British, Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval

Romano-British pottery was recovered during excavations in Butler's Field (4). An early Anglo-Saxon presence is indicated by sunken-featured buildings set on the terrace overlooking the Winterbourne in the area of the current National Trust carpark (5: Last 2002). Notable are a number of finds from the area of Truslow Cottages, indicative of Anglo-Saxon activity here. These include a short length of ditch and pit excavated in 2003 (no. 19), and two brooches and pottery from casual discoveries and recent archaeological monitoring (nos. 14 & 16). However, it is really the Medieval and early post-medieval archaeology which dominates the environs of the development area (or at least has the greatest visibility), being associated with the shrunken village of Trusloe, the western end of Avebury village, and the Manors of Avebury and Trusloe. Earthworks run up the length of the west terrace overlooking the Winterbourne from the A4361 to north of Trusloe Manor (Figure 3). They comprise plot and field boundaries, house platforms and hollow-ways, while on the Winterbourne floodplain there are visible earthworks of water meadow systems (McOmish et al. 2005).

A series of small-scale excavations and watching briefs have taken place in Butler's Field in the Winterbourne Valley the 1980s and in 2018 (9). These have revealed dense Medieval settlement traces, predominantly 10th to 15th-century date, and including enclosure ditches, pits, building foundation gullies and a possible cellar (Evans *et al*. 1993; Powell *et al*. 1996, Gillings *et al*. 2019). A watching brief undertaken in 2017 at Trusloe Farmhouse, Frog Lane, to the immediate south-east of the development area (22) revealed shallow gullies, post-holes and a pit of 12th-14th-century date associated with pottery and animal bone (Pollard *et al*. 2018). Given the 'backspace' location of this site, the density of features was notable.

Historic documentation suggests the roads, field boundaries and trackways still extant within the immediate area are of at least late 17th-century origin (e.g. 1702 map of the estate of William Norris held by the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (WCRO 473/274); William Stukeley's field drawings made during the early 1720s (Bodl. MS Eng. Misc b 65 f63 and MS Eng. Misc b 65 f58r: cf. Gillings *et al*. 2008, 365-77)). The 1880 OS 10" shows the same basic pattern of buildings and property boundaries as found today and ranges of agricultural buildings running along the southern and western edges of the proposed development area.

4. Schedule

The work will be undertaken during October/November 2022.

5. Aims and Objectives
The aims and objectives of the work are:

- to determine the presence of any archaeological features, deposits and finds within the development area;
- to evaluate through excavation the potential such features, deposits and finds have to inform on histories of occupancy and activity within this locale, with especial reference to the extensive traces of Medieval settlement within the immediate vicinity;
- and to obtain, where present, samples for environmental analysis that may inform of past patterns of vegetational change and landuse.

6. Methodology
The principal work will involve a strip, map and record exercise across an area of c.240m^2 corresponding to the footprints of Lodges 1, 2 and 4 (dashed areas in Figure 3). Each excavation area will be machine-stripped under archaeological supervision. On completion of machine stripping, where appropriate the surface will be hand-cleaned to allow the identification and planning of archaeological features. Archaeological deposits and features will be hand-excavated and recorded. A sufficient quantity of features shall be hand-excavated to allow their nature, extent and age to be determined. In the case of linears this will comprise a minimum 20% sample; with pits, post-holes and allied features a minimum 50% sample. In addition, a watching brief shall be maintained during other groundworks (e.g. demolition of deeper foundations of existing buildings and digging of service trenches).

Throughout, the work will be carried out to a high professional standard, in accordance with agreed national standards as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA 2014). Visible archaeological features/deposits will be cleaned by hand, and sampled or completely excavated dependent upon their status. A full written, drawn and photographic record will be maintained of any archaeological features and deposits encountered during the work. Recording will follow a modified version of the Museum of London (MoLAS) single context system; though adherence to single context *planning* is not deemed necessary for this particular work. Excavated stratigraphic entities (e.g. a cut, layer or fill) are to be recorded as individual contexts, numbered sequentially ([001] onwards). Interrelated stratigraphic units (e.g. a pit and its fill) are to be assigned feature numbers (F.1 onwards). Drawn sections will be made at 1:10, base plans (pre- and post-excavation) and feature plans at 1:20. Sections will display cardinal points and aOD levels. A full photographic record will be maintained using a high-resolution digital format.

Spoil derived from excavation will be visually scanned and where appropriate metal detected.

All finds are to be bagged according to context, with details of feature, context and finds number (sequentially numbered <001> onwards) recorded on the bag. The same procedure will apply to environmental samples. A register of finds and samples will be retained. All deposits, features, and closed groups of finds will be related to the Ordnance Survey and referenced as twelve figure grid co-ordinates.

On-site sampling methods will follow the *English Heritage Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology* (2011). Within pre-modern features, where sufficient deposit is present, standard 40 litre samples will be taken for flotation, with 100% sampling of small features such as post-holes and smaller pits. Smaller bagged soil samples for MS/P, molluscan and pollen analyses will be taken where it is deemed deposits appropriate for sampling exist.

The site grid will be geo-referenced using survey grade DGPS. Where deemed appropriate, the locations of special finds (and finds groups) will be 3D recorded.

7. Site personnel

The work will be undertaken by Profs Joshua Pollard (University of Southampton) and Mark Gillings (Bournemouth University), with the assistance of trained volunteers and post-graduate students from the Universities of Southampton and Bournemouth.

8. Finds processing and specialist reporting

All artefactual material of pre-modern date will be retained. The exception is provided by non-worked burnt flint, which will be recorded according to context, and counted and weighed on-site prior to disposal within the trench backfill. Mass-produced materials such as pressed tin plate, plastics, and 'universal' building materials such brick and metamorphic roof slate, will not be retained, but the presence of these materials will be recorded in writing, noting their quantity and frequency of occurrence. Retained artefacts will be cleaned, marked, catalogued and bagged / boxed in accordance with the Conditions of Acceptance of the Alexander Keiller Museum. After cataloguing and quantification, the finds assemblages will be examined by appropriate specialists.

All artefactual material will be processed in the Department of Archaeology at the University of Southampton. As part of this, and prior to specialist reporting, a full catalogue of recovered artefactual material will be produced.

Conservation, if required, will be undertaken by approved conservators. The Institute of Conservation (ICon) guidelines will apply. As a guiding principle, only artefacts of displayable quality would warrant full conservation, and conservation costs will be included as a contingency.

The following will undertake, or co-ordinate where necessary, specialist reporting on artefactual and environmental material recovered during the work:

Excavation	Mark Gillings & Joshua Pollard
Geomatics and GIS	Mark Gillings
Ceramics	Rosamund Cleal and Lorraine Mepham
Lithics	Joshua Pollard
Faunal remains	Jaco Weinstock
Human remains	Sonia Zakrzewski
Molluscan analysis	Mike Allen
Charcoal and plant macrofossils	Danielle de Carle
Soil micromorphology and chemical analysis	Charly French

9. Human remains

If human remains are encountered, the property owners and WCAS will be notified immediately. Should a decision be made to excavate and lift any remains, a licence will be sought from the Ministry of Justice prior to the commencement of such work. Excavation and post-excavation storage and analysis will follow the BABAO Code of Ethics and IFA Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Human Remains (Brickley & McKinley 2004).

10. Treasure

Upon discovery of Treasure the project team will notify the respective landowners, the WCAS and the Wiltshire Finds Liaison Officer as soon as possible and will comply fully with the provisions of the Treasure Act 1996 and the Code of Practice referred to therein. Findings will be reported to the coroner within 14 days.

11. Monitoring of Archaeological Fieldwork

Officers of the WCAS will be afforded the opportunity to visit the site throughout the period of fieldwork in order that archaeological deposits can be assessed at any stage. We will notify the property owners and WCAS of any discoveries of archaeological significance, including well preserved archaeological remains, so that site visits and assessments can be made.

12. Health and Safety

Excavation-specific Risk Assessments will be prepared by the Universities of Southampton and Bournemouth prior to on-site works commencing. All those participating in the fieldwork will be issued with a copy of the Risk Assessment and asked to read and adhere to this. Copies will also be kept on site during the duration of the work and posted, along with copies of each University's Public Liability insurance.

13. Reporting

A full, illustrated report (hard-copy and digital) on the works will be deposited with the County Archaeologist within a year of the completion of the work. This will comprise a factual summary of the results, full description of archaeological contexts, a catalogue of finds, specialist reports on the finds and any environmental analyses, and interpretation of the results. Dependent on the significance of the results, either a summary statement of the archaeological monitoring or a full report will be submitted for publication in the *Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Magazine*.

Finds and archive will be deposited with the Alexander Keiller Museum, Avebury. Photographic images will be presented both as digital files (on the museum's storage medium of choice) and as printed hardcopies. An OASIS record will also be submitted.

14. References

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15. Contact

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Appendix 1: Archaeological sites and find spots within a 0.5km radius of the development

No.	HER No.	Name	Monument/find type	Period	Grid ref. (SU)
1	SU06NE117	Beckhampton Avenue	Megalithic avenue	Late Neolithic, Medieval, Post-medieval	08896930-09286950
2	SU07SE528	Avebury Manor	Monastic complex, manor and formal gardens	Medieval-Post-medieval	09806991
3	SU06NE451	Avebury Trusloe	Shrunken village and manor	Medieval	09796993
4	SU06NE324	Butler's Field	Pottery scatter	Romano-British	09796993
5	SU07SE451	Avebury	Settlement	Anglo-Saxon-Post-medieval	09826987
6	SU06NE407	Avebury	Possible burgh boundary	?Anglo-Saxon	09876986
7	SU06NE055	Butler's Field	Settlement	Mesolithic, Early Neolithic	09886986
8	SU06NE527	Butler's Field	Water meadow	Post-medieval	09746985
9	SU06NE457	Butler's Field	Settlement	Anglo-Saxon, Medieval	09796983
10	SU06NE844	Bray Street	Field system	Undated	09466979
11	SU06NE459	SE of Manor Farm	Pottery	Medieval	09766967
12	SU06NE134	11 Trusloe Cottages	Flint tools	Neolithic	09326963
13	SU06NE149	5 Trusloe Cottages	Flint tool, pottery	Neolithic, Medieval	09386962
14	SU06NE453	Avebury Trusloe	Brooch and pottery	Medieval	09306960
15	SU06NE055	Near Avebury Trusloe	Flint tools, pottery	Mesolithic, Neolithic	09886956
16	SU06NE404	14 Trusloe Cottages	Brooch, pottery	Anglo-Saxon	09346956
17	SU06NE461	N of South Street	Ditches and pits	Medieval, Post-medieval	09456954
18	SU06NE178	South Street	Flint tool, pottery	Bronze Age, Medieval, Post-medieval	09466949
19	-	Longstones Field E	Ditch and pits	Neolithic and undated	09246962
20	SU06NE100	S of Avebury Trusloe	Flint axes	Neolithic	09556925
21	SU06NE320	N of Folly Hill	Burial, flint tools	Romano-British, Neolithic, Bronze Age	09296930
22	-	Frog Lane, Trusloe	Settlement features	Medieval	09566953