LAND AT STRATHMORE, 57 POTTERS HILL, CROCKERTON, WILTSHIRE

(NGR ST 85946 42531)

Written Programme of Archaeological Investigation for archaeological mitigation and recording

Wiltshire Council planning reference PL/2023/05769 (Condition 4)

Prepared by:
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AC archaeology

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This document sets out proposals to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording in association with the erection of stables with solar PV array on land at Strathmore, 57 Potters Hill, Crockerton, Wiltshire (ST 85946 42531). It represents the Written Programme of Archaeological Investigations for archaeological work required by Wiltshire Council as condition 4 of planning consent reference PL/2023/05769, following consultation with the Wiltshire Council Assistant County Archaeologist (hereafter WCACA).

1.2 The archaeological work will be carried out by AC archaeology Ltd. and has been commissioned by the private owners through their agents Baxter Green Architects.

1.3 The site lies on the northwest side of Crockerton on part of wider pasture plot that is bounded by the garden of Strathmore House to the north and west, Broadmead Lane to the east and pasture plot to the south (**Fig. 1**). It is situated on land with a gentle slope down to the south between 143m and 140m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying solid geology consists of Cretaceous Sandstone of the Cann Sand Member; there are no superficial deposits recorded on the site (British Geological Survey 2023).

1.4 The proposed development will comprise the erection of stables with solar PV array. The advice of the WCACA provided to Wiltshire Council Planning for planning reference PL/2023/05769 is as follows:

No development shall commence until a written programme of archaeological investigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. This shall include details of onsite and offsite work, such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results.

The programme of archaeological work shall be carried out in accordance with the approved details and shall be conducted following the standards and conditions for such work as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA). The costs of this work are to be borne by the applicant.

REASON: the application site is located within the medieval core of Crockerton, and there is a good chance that groundworks associated with construction would impact upon as yet unrecorded archaeological features and/or deposits associated with these earlier phases of the settlement. This condition is required to enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.

2. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Crockerton is a settlement with medieval origins and has been suggested that its name is derived from its importance in the production of coarse earthen ware (Hoare 1822). The earliest reference is to 'Crokerton' in 1249 (Gover *et al* 1939) with John le Crocker and Stephen le Crokker named in the 1268 and 1289 assizes respectively.

2.2 The only record held by the Wiltshire and Somerset Historic Environment Record of a known medieval pottery kiln is located approximately 700m northeast of the site and was excavated during the construction of the driveway to Starrs Farm (Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record ST84SE463).

2.3 The majority of the archaeological evidence for pottery production in Crockerton is post-medieval in date. Excavation undertaken in 1967 located in the south of Crockerton, approximately 350m southeast of the site, exposed a 16th century pottery kiln comprising a single stoke-pit type with a raised oven floor and single flue (Algar and Saunders 2016). Associated finds included coarse green glazed wares and glazed ridge tiles (ST84SE525). Further evidence of post-medieval pottery production is located between approximately 700m and 750m northeast of the site and consists of a pottery kiln (ST84SE528) and an assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material (MWI78388). The pottery kiln comprised an oven and a single flue, with the associated earthen ware pottery recovered being more effectively fired that the kiln excavated in 1967 (Algar and Saunders 2016). The assemblage of pottery and ceramic building material likely represents a waster dump, and included stone and fired clay kiln structure, indicating the presence of a kiln in the immediate vicinity (MWI78388).

3. AIMS

3.1 The aims of the programme of archaeological monitoring and recording is to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the scheme. This is with particular reference to the potential for evidence relating to the medieval settlement and the medieval to post-medieval pottery production to be exposed by the proposed development.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 All works will be carried out in accordance with this Written Programme of Archaeological Investigation. Attendance by the site archaeologist undertaking the monitoring and recording will be undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for An Archaeological Watching Brief* (published 2020) i.e. present during all (relevant) groundworks.

4.2 The expected works to be monitored will comprise the bulk reduction for the concrete hardstanding, the foundations for the stable and the excavation of the manure store.

4.3 All bulk reduction will be carried out using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. Footings and service trenches will be excavated using a toothless bucket where possible. The groundwork excavations will be directly supervised by the attending archaeologist, who will

have the authority to request the main contractor to halt excavations in the case of archaeological features or deposits being exposed, to enable sufficient time for the area to be cleaned and investigated. The main site contractor will be expected to allow a reasonable time delay for the attending archaeologist to complete the recording of complex or important deposits. In the unlikely event that agreement cannot be reached between the developer and the archaeological contractor, or where a delay of more than 24 hours is requested, the archaeological contractor shall inform and seek the advice of the WCACA.

4.4 If human remains are encountered they will wherever possible be left *in situ*; where this is not possible, their excavation and removal will be undertaken on receipt of the appropriate licence from the Ministry of Justice. The local coroner will also be informed. Any consents or licenses required will be obtained on behalf of the client by AC archaeology.

4.5 Any object which falls under the definition of treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, will be reported to the local coroner within the notice period. The object or objects will be removed to a safe place (usually the nearest AC archaeology office) on the day of discovery or excavation. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect finds from theft.

5. RECORDING

5.1 All archaeological features and deposits exposed will be recorded and examined; excavation of deposits which will be left undamaged and in situ by the work will not normally be undertaken. Hand excavation will normally comprise:

- The full excavation of kilns or associated features;
- The full excavation of small discrete features;
- Half-sectioning (50% excavation) of larger discrete features;
- Long linear features will be excavated to sample their length – with hand investigations distributed along the exposed length of any such features, specifically targeting any intersections, terminals or overlaps.

Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts.

5.2 If, during the course of the monitoring and recording, particularly important archaeological remains are identified, then a site meeting will be arranged between AC archaeology, the Wiltshire Council Assistant County Archaeologist and the Client to determine the most appropriate mitigation.

5.3 All artefacts, structures or deposits revealed will be recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic, and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2*. Plans will be drawn at a scale of 1:20, or at 1:10 if more detail is needed, and sections of features and baulks at 1:20 or 1:10 and tied into an overall site plan that will be related to georeferenced Ordnance Survey base mapping. All site levels will be related to Ordnance Datum.

5.4 A comprehensive photographic record of all archaeological deposits will be made in both plan and section. This will comprise digital photographs (minimum of 16 mega pixels) only, illustrating in both detail and generally the principal features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. A photographic scale shall be included in the case of detailed photographs. Guidance as set out in Historic England (2015a) *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice* will be followed.

6. FINDS AND SAMPLES

6.1 All finds will initially be retained and examined by the AC archaeology Finds Manager in consultation with relevant specialists. Following this initial examination, later post-medieval and modern finds will not be retained except where they are items of intrinsic interest, or their further examination is considered necessary for the dating of specific features or deposits or for the interpretation of a site.

6.2 Necessary conservation work, including any on-site emergency conservation actions, will be undertaken by Wiltshire & Swindon Conservation Service, Chippenham, who regularly provide sub-contract services and conservation advice to AC archaeology.

6.3 All artefacts recovered are to be washed (where the condition of the material allows) and marked. Finds will be bagged, boxed, labelled and stored in accordance with current UKIC guidelines as set out in Guidelines for the treatment of finds from archaeological sites. Appropriate separation will be maintained of bulk finds from those small or delicate objects requiring special treatment or packaging.

6.4 Where deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential are encountered, including carbonised or waterlogged organic deposits, these will be sampled as appropriate in accordance with English Heritage guidelines Environmental Archaeology – *A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. The Historic England Science Advisor will be consulted as appropriate and may make a visit to discuss sampling on site.

6.5 The following techniques will be used:

- 40/60 litre bulk samples will be taken from any deposits relevant for environmental sampling (waterlogged deposits, peat deposits etc). Bulk samples will be fully processed. Peat or waterlogged contexts will require sequential sampling and discussion with the relevant specialist (see below);
- If it is felt appropriate by the relevant specialist, samples taken (both bulk samples and monolith tin samples) will be examined for pollen, diatoms, insect, plant macrofossils and molluscs.
- Bulk samples will be processed using the standard flotation/sieving methods, with the float collected on a mesh size of 250 microns. Residues will be sieved through mesh sizes of 5.6mm, 2mm and a minimum of 500 microns.
- Monolith tin samples, with tins measuring no more than 500mm in length, will be overlapped in the standard way to allow for a continuous sample of the entire sequence to be taken. Samples will be adequately recorded and labelled. A register of samples will be made and sampling record sheets (Using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system – see section **5.** above) will be completed for all samples taken and will include the following information: sample type, reason for sampling, sample size, context, sample number, spatial location, date, context description and the approximate

percentage of the context sampled. The samples will be recorded on the relevant site section drawing and photographs of the sample locations taken.

- Radiocarbon samples will be taken and dates obtained if required by Historic England and sufficient material from relevant deposits is located. AMS dating can be taken from monolith samples. If early peat deposits are encountered, the Historic England Science Advisor will be consulted to discuss the method of sampling for radiocarbon dating.
- Dr Mike Allen, Allen Environmental Archaeology can be made available to attend site as necessary, in order to assess the geoarchaeological potential of the site and to sample relevant material.
- If surviving animal bone is encountered then the English Heritage (2014) guidance *Animal Bones and Archaeology* will be used Animal Bones and Archaeology - Recovery to archive | Historic England.

7. THE PROJECT ARCHIVE

7.1 Depending on findings a fully integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to the English Heritage (2015b) document *Management of Archaeological Projects* (Appendix 3) and Brown, D. H., 2011, *Archaeological Archives A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*. A digital archive will be compiled, if required, in accordance with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) standards, guidelines and the *AC archaeology Data Management Plan for Digital Archives* (Coles 2018). It will consist of:

- All relevant born-digital data (images, survey data, digital correspondence, site data collected digitally etc.); and;

- Digital copies made of all other relevant written and drawn data produced and/or collected during fieldwork and as part of the subsequent post-excavation analysis phase.

7.2 The digital archive will be deposited with the ADS within three months of acceptance of the final report/publication.

7.3 The finds and paper archive will initially be stored at the offices of AC archaeology in Bradninch, under a temporary accession reference **SBYWM: 2023.46** issued by Salisbury Museum, Salisbury. On completion of all fieldwork the contents of the finds archive will be reviewed by the museum, and if they are considered worthy of retention then they will be transferred under an allocated accession number. As part of the overall commitment to archive costs, the client, through AC archaeology, will cover the costs of all museum storage boxes. Material not retained by the museum, or the landowner will be discarded three months from acceptance of the final report.

7.4 If the fieldwork does not expose deposits of archaeological interest and yield little or no artefactual material, then no archive will be prepared or deposited. The results of the fieldwork will be held by the Historic Environment Record in the form of the final report and the creation of an OASIS entry and uploading of the report.

8. REPORTING

8.1 The reporting requirements will be confirmed with the WCACA on completion of the site work, and an illustrated summary report will be prepared. The report will be produced within six

weeks of the completion on site and, if requested, wider publication will be undertaken (see section **8.6**). If the scheme proceeds in a staged manner, a summary report would need to be produced and submitted after a period of three months following the completion of the relevant phase of fieldwork.

8.2 The contents of the summary report will vary depending on the findings, but would normally contain:

- A non-technical summary;
- A description of the investigation methodology;
- Relevant historic maps;
- A description of results including an assessment of any artefact or palaeoenvironmental analysis undertaken;
- A plan showing location of areas investigated;
- Relevant trench plans, sections and photographs;
- A comment on the archaeological importance of the results, with reference to other published archaeological research from the area; and,
- An assessment of potential of the finds and archive for further analysis.

8.3 Should any finds or samples be recovered during the investigations then, the AC archaeology Finds Manager will make a decision, in consultation with the WCACA, on the level of reporting initially required (Levels 1-2), based on the Chartered Institute online guidance Toolkit for Specialist Reporting. The following specialists will contribute to the post-excavation assessment report as necessary and provide recommendations on what and whether further analysis will be undertaken:

- An assessment of any prehistoric ceramics will be provided by Imogen Wood PhD;
- an assessment of Roman pottery will be undertaken by Dr Naomi Payne BA MA PhD MCIfA, FSA, Finds Manager, AC archaeology;
- other ceramics will be assessed by Dr Naomi Payne BA MA PhD MCIfA, FSA, John Allan MA FSA and sub-consultants, or other regional specialists as required;
- Land snail analysis, environmental, geoarchaeological and radiocarbon sampling will be carried out by Mike Allen PhD MCIfA FLS FSA;
- Pollen analysis will be carried out by Rob Scaife BSc PhD FRGS;
- General plant macrofossils will be assessed by Wendy Carruthers BSc MSc MCIfA;
- An assessment of worked flint will be carried out by Julian Richards BA FSA MCIfA;
- An assessment of any human remains will be carried out by Charlotte Coles BSc MSc MCIfA;
- An assessment of animal bone will be reported on by Charlotte Coles BSc MSc MCIfA;
- An assessment of metal objects including coins will be undertaken by Naomi Payne BA MA PhD MCIfA, FSA; and,
- An assessment of archaeometallurgy finds will be undertaken by Dr Eleanor Blakelock.

Other finds or environmental reports will be prepared by appropriate specialists or in-house staff as required.

8.4 The report will be submitted in digital (.pdf) format to Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment record.

8.5 Details of the project will be submitted to the OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological investigationS) database, under the reference **521094** along with a digital version of the completed report.

8.6 In the event that significant remains are recorded then the WCACA may require more detailed analysis and publication of the results. If such remains are encountered, the publication requirements, including any further analysis that may be necessary, will be confirmed by the WCACA. A final draft, together with confirmation that it has been accepted by the editor of an appropriate journal or publisher, will be submitted to the WCACA within 12 months of the date of the completion of the fieldwork.

9. HEALTH & SAFETY

9.1 Archaeological staff will operate under AC archaeology's Health and Safety Policy and any other additional requirements set out by main site contractor. All works will also be carried out in accordance with current Health and Safety legislation, to include (but not exclusively rely upon) the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974, the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1992 and the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015.

9.2 In accordance with the provisions of the AC archaeology Health and Safety Policy, the AC archaeology site representative will be responsible for ensuring that operations under their control are carried out in accordance with the procedures outlined in **9.1** and in the site-specific risk assessment.

9.3 Archaeological staff will not work in unsafe or unhealthy conditions, even where not to do so will result in the possible under-recording of the archaeological resource. Safety helmets, high visibility vests and boots are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. Archaeological staff must not enter any area where there is a considered to be a health and safety risk that has not or is not being appropriately mitigated against.

9.4 All site staff carry *Construction Skills Certification Scheme* (CSCS) cards and senior members have up to date first aid qualifications. AC archaeology is registered as an approved contractor under the Worksafe Health and Safety Scheme (SMAS), as recognised by SSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement).

10. PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMME

10.1 The project will be coordinated by Laurence Vinnels BSc MRes ACIfA, Project Manager for AC archaeology. Other personnel will be permanent and contract staff members of AC archaeology, all with suitable experience of this type of investigation and adhering to the CIfA Code of Conduct. The attending archaeologist will familiarise themselves with the content of this method statement prior to commencing the work.

10.2 A date for commencement has not yet been established. The WCACA will be given a two-week notice period of the start date and be kept updated on progress as well as the completion of the works.

10.3 The project will be monitored by the Wiltshire Council Assistant County Archaeologist. Any variations to this document shall be agreed with them before they are carried out.

11. INSURANCE

11.1 AC archaeology carries Public Liability Insurance cover to £5,000,000, Employers Liability to £10,000,000 and Professional Indemnity cover to £5,000,000.

12. COPYRIGHT

12.1 AC archaeology Ltd shall retain full copyright of any 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. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be freely copied for planning, development control, education and research purposes without recourse to the Copyright owner subject to all due and appropriate acknowledgements being provided.

13. REFERENCES

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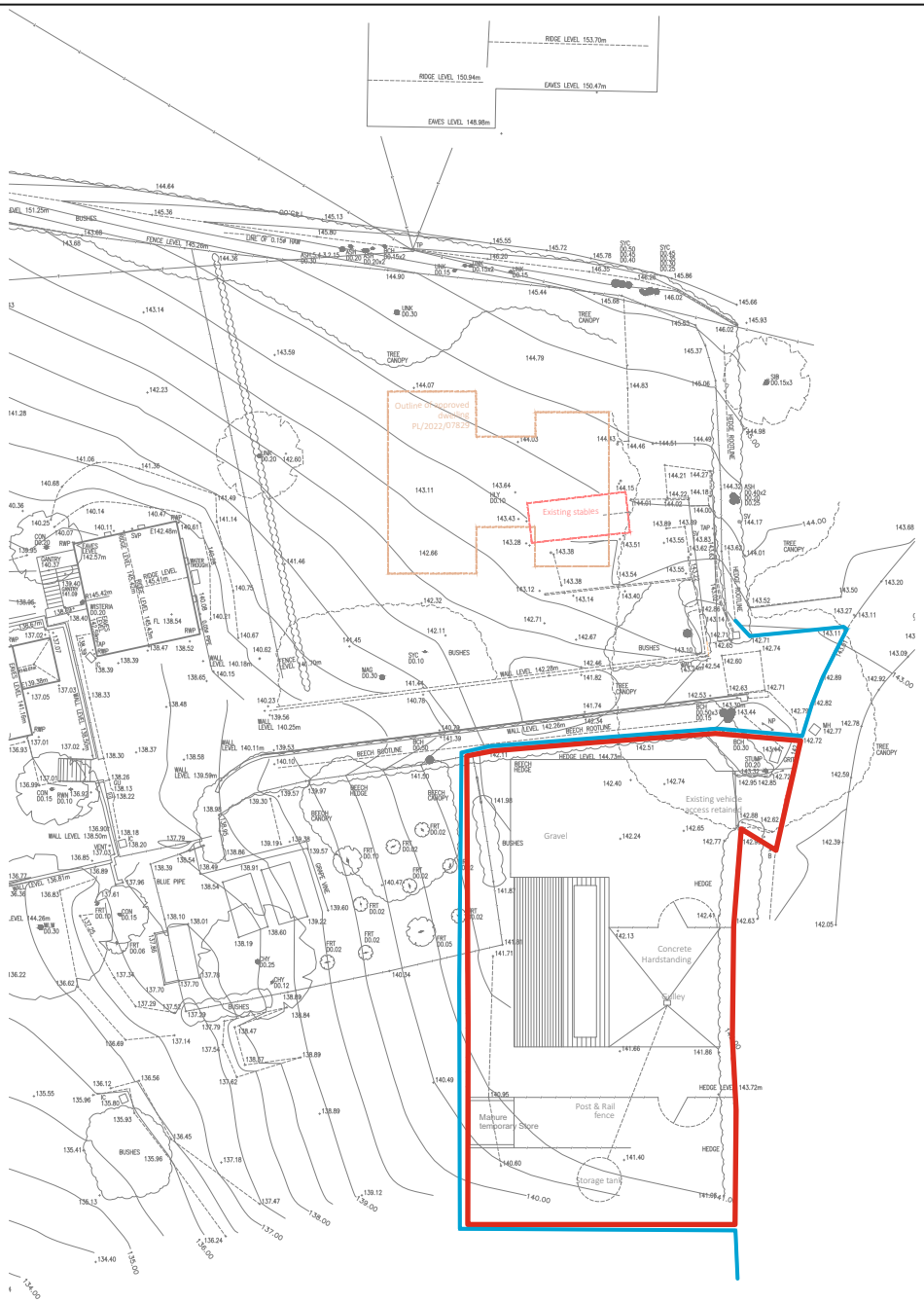
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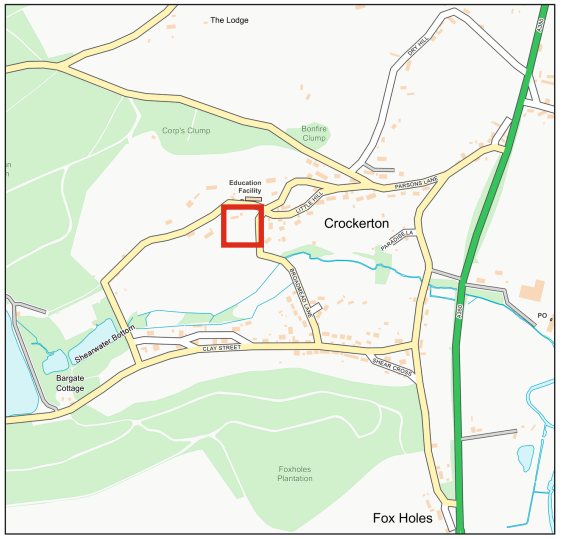
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Version 2
Laurence Vinnels BSc MRes ACIfA
Project Manager
AC archaeology
04 November 2023







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N

0 25m

Scale 1:500@A4

Based on plan prepared by Baxter Green Architects

PROJECT

Strathmore, 57 Potters Hill, Crockerton, Wiltshire

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site and proposed development

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