

SPRINGBOTTOM FARM, WILSFORD CUM LAKE, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE

(NGR SU 12261 40088)

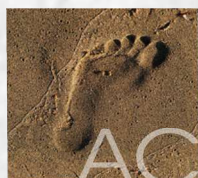
Project Design for archaeological monitoring and
recording

Wiltshire Council planning reference PL/2025/06133
(Condition 4)

Prepared by:
Laurence Vinnels

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archaeology

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This document sets out proposals for undertaking archaeological monitoring and recording associated with the demolition of two modern extensions, whilst retaining the historic core of the building, and the erection of a new wing and car port at Springbottom Farm, Wilsford cum Lake, Salisbury, Wiltshire (NGR SU 12261 40088). It represents the Written Scheme of Investigation required by Wiltshire Council as condition 4 of planning permission PL/2025/06133, following consultation with the Wiltshire Council Assistant County Archaeologist (hereafter WCACA).
- 1.2** The archaeological work will be carried out by AC archaeology and has been commissioned by ML Architecture on behalf of the private owners.
- 1.3** Springbottom Farm is located to the west of Wilsford cum Lake and north of Salisbury and comprises a farmhouse, garden, courtyard of historic farm building and cluster of agricultural buildings. It is situated on generally level ground at the bottom of a valley at an elevation of 71m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying solid geology comprises Cretaceous chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation, which is beneath Quaternary head deposits (British Geology Society online viewer 2025).
- 1.4** The proposed scheme will comprise the demolition of two modern extensions, whilst retaining the historic core of the building, and the erection of a new wing and car port. The advice of the WCACA provided to Wiltshire Council for planning reference PL/2025/06133 is as follows:

Springbottom Farm originates from at least the 19th-century and can be considered an historic farmstead. The Farm lies within the Stonehenge World Heritage Site and there are several significant archaeological monuments in the vicinity. These include the impressive Wilsford Barrow Group to the south of the Farm, which is protected as a nationally important Scheduled Monument. There are traces of an ancient field system on the downland to the north of the Farm and a linear earthwork, possibly of later prehistoric date, a little to the west.

Intriguingly, Wiltshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) also notes a 'bowl barrow' a little to the south of the Farm. This is noted in the Victoria County History for Wiltshire, although the great recorder of barrows, Leslie Grinsell, was unable to locate the barrow in the 1960s(?). The HER also notes a barrow within the Farm complex itself. This barrow is recorded on a map of Salisbury Plain prepared by the famous archaeologist, O G S Crawford, in the early 20th-century. A search for evidence of this barrow by the Ordnance Survey in 1970 failed to locate it, although it may have been lost below the buildings of Springbottom Farm.

There is therefore an archaeological interest in Springbottom Farm. This application proposes the renovation, alteration and extension of the existing farmhouse and the construction of an adjacent carport and garage/store. As there will be below ground impacts outside of the footprint of the existing buildings

and given the archaeological interest of this location, it would be appropriate as a precaution to provide for archaeological monitoring and recording during construction should this application be permitted. This can be secured by an appropriately worded condition.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Springbottom Farm is located within the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site (National Heritage List for England ref. 1000097). The history and significance of the World Heritage Site is summarised in the listing as:

The Stonehenge, Avebury, and Associated Sites World Heritage property is internationally important for its complexes of outstanding prehistoric monuments.

It comprises two areas of chalkland in Southern Britain within which complexes of Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary monuments and associated sites were built. Each area contains a focal stone circle and henge and many other major monuments. At Stonehenge these include the Avenue, the Cursuses, Durrington Walls, Woodhenge, and the densest concentration of burial mounds in Britain. At Avebury, they include Windmill Hill, the West Kennet Long Barrow, the Sanctuary, Silbury Hill, the West Kennet and Beckhampton Avenues, the West Kennet Palisaded Enclosures, and important barrows.

The World Heritage property is of Outstanding Universal Value for the following qualities:

Stonehenge is one of the most impressive prehistoric megalithic monuments in the world on account of the sheer size of its megaliths, the sophistication of its concentric plan and architectural design, the shaping of the stones, uniquely using both Wiltshire Sarsen sandstone and Pembroke Bluestone, and the precision with which it was built.

At Avebury, the massive Henge, containing the largest prehistoric stone circle in the world, and Silbury Hill, the largest prehistoric mound in Europe, demonstrate the outstanding engineering skills which were used to create masterpieces of earthen and megalithic architecture.

There is an exceptional survival of prehistoric monuments and sites within the World Heritage site including settlements, burial grounds, and large constructions of earth and stone. Today, together with their settings, they form landscapes without parallel. These complexes would have been of major significance to those who created them, as is apparent by the huge investment of time and effort they represent. They provide an insight into the mortuary and ceremonial practices of the period, and are evidence of prehistoric technology, architecture, and astronomy. The careful siting of monuments in relation to the landscape helps us to further understand the Neolithic and Bronze Age.

Criterion (i): The monuments of the Stonehenge, Avebury, and Associated Sites World Heritage Site demonstrate outstanding creative and technological achievements in prehistoric times.

Stonehenge is the most architecturally sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the world. It is unrivalled in its design and unique engineering, featuring huge horizontal stone lintels capping the outer circle and the trilithons, locked together by carefully shaped joints. It is distinguished by the unique use of two different kinds of stones (Bluestones and Sarsens), their size (the largest weighing over 40t), and the distance they were transported (up to 240km). The sheer scale of some of the surrounding monuments is also remarkable: the Stonehenge Cursus and the Avenue are both about 3km long, while Durrington Walls is the largest known henge in Britain, around 500m in diameter, demonstrating the ability of prehistoric peoples to conceive, design and construct features of great size and complexity.

Avebury prehistoric stone circle is the largest in the world. The encircling henge consists of a huge bank and ditch 1.3km in circumference, within which 180 local, unshaped standing stones formed the large outer and two smaller inner circles. Leading from two of its four entrances, the West Kennet and Beckhampton Avenues of parallel standing stones still connect it with other monuments in the landscape. Another outstanding monument, Silbury Hill, is the largest prehistoric mound in Europe. Built around 2400 BC, it stands 39.5m high and comprises half a million tonnes of chalk. The purpose of this imposing, skilfully engineered monument remains obscure.

Criterion (ii): The World Heritage Site provides an outstanding illustration of the evolution of monument construction and of the continual use and shaping of the landscape over more than 2000 years, from the early Neolithic to the Bronze Age. The monuments and landscape have had an unwavering influence on architects, artists, historians, and archaeologists, and still retain a huge potential for future research.

The megalithic and earthen monuments of the World Heritage Site demonstrate the shaping of the landscape through monument building for around 2000 years from c 3700 BC, reflecting the importance and wide influence of both areas.

Since the 12th century when Stonehenge was considered one of the wonders of the world by the chroniclers Henry de Huntingdon and Geoffrey de Monmouth, the Stonehenge and Avebury sites have excited curiosity and been the subject of study and speculation. Since early investigations by John Aubrey, Inigo Jones, and William Stukeley, they have had an unwavering influence on architects, archaeologists, artists, and historians. The two parts of the World Heritage Site provide an excellent opportunity for further research.

Today, the Site has spiritual associations for some.

Criterion (iii): The complexes of monuments at Stonehenge and Avebury provide an exceptional insight into the funerary and ceremonial practices in Britain in the Neolithic and Bronze Age. Together with their settings and associated sites, they form landscapes without parallel.

The design, position, and inter-relationship of the monuments and sites are evidence of a wealthy and highly organised prehistoric society able to impose its concepts on the environment. An outstanding example is the alignment of the Stonehenge Avenue (probably a processional route) and Stonehenge stone circle on the axis of the midsummer sunrise and midwinter sunset, indicating their ceremonial and astronomical character. At Avebury the length and size of some of the features such as the West Kennet Avenue, which connects the Henge to the Sanctuary over 2km away, are further evidence of this.

A profound insight into the changing mortuary culture of the periods is provided by the use of Stonehenge as a cremation cemetery, by the West Kennet Long Barrow, the largest known Neolithic stone-chambered collective tomb in southern England, and by the hundreds of other burial sites illustrating evolving funerary rites.

- 2.3** Springbottom Farm is a partially extant 19th century farmstead, which formed an L-shaped courtyard. Three sides of this courtyard were formed by agricultural buildings with additional detached elements to the main plan, with the Farmhouse set away from the yard (Wiltshire Historic Environment Record ref. MWI70825). The farm is located within an area with a high density of prehistoric remains. Within the western part of the site is the location of a possible barrow, which is depicted on the Crawford 6inch map, however, no trace of this is now visible (SU14SW934). To the southwest of the farm is the recorded location of a bowl barrow, although this was not observed during subsequent surveys (SU14SW933). To the northwest a fragment of the cutting edge of a Group 1 Neolithic axe was found (SU14SW139) and an area of probable medieval ridge and furrow is visible on aerial photographs (MWI76669). Within the wider area are a number of Scheduled Monuments, most of which are prehistoric in date. The closest of these is located approximately 200m southwest of the site and comprises 18 round barrows, consisting of ten bowl barrows, five disc barrows, a bell barrow, a pond barrow, and a saucer barrow (NHLfE ref. 1010874).

3. AIMS

- 3.1** The overall aim of the 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 to expose remains associated with the 19th century farmstead and known prehistoric remains within the vicinity of the site.

3.2 Further aims of the project could also address the following research questions set out in *A Research Framework for the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site: Research Agenda and Strategy*:

- C.20. What impact did monument construction have on the physical landscape: the removal of material for monument construction (soils, stone, timber); erosion and the long-term impact on soils; and the creation of areas of land perceived as off limits/taboo?
- J.1. Establish the chronology of individual barrows, and the phasing of their structure.
- J.4. What was the nature of the local environment, contemporary land-uses and other activity in the landscape?
- K.8. Can episodes of colluviation and alluviation be dated, and if so can they be linked to changes in land use?
- P.3. The history and development of the farms within the WHS and their associated built heritage is largely uninvestigated, the *Victoria County History* study remaining in large part the most recent. This is particularly of interest where farms are closely associated with the monuments of the WHS, such as Avebury, where the manor threshing barn impinges on the henge to the extent that part of the bank was dug away to accommodate it.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** All works will be carried out in accordance with this Project Design and the AC archaeology *General Site Recording Manual Version 2*. Attendance by the site archaeologist undertaking the monitoring and recording will be undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' 2023 documents *Standards for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* i.e. present during all (relevant) groundworks.
- 4.2** All machine excavation will be carried out using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. 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.
- 4.3** Should human remains be encountered the WCACA will be informed. Their excavation and removal will be undertaken in accordance with a licence obtained from the Ministry of Justice. A licence has been obtained on behalf of the client by AC archaeology.
- 4.4** Any object which falls under the definition of treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996 and the 2023 Explanatory Memorandum to the Treasure Act 1996: Code of Practice (3rd Revision), will be reported to the local coroner within the notice period and the WCACA notified immediately. 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 artefacts 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 of the monitored areas will be drawn at a scale of 1:50 or at 1:20 if more detail is needed and sections of features and baulk sections at 1:10 or 1:20. An overall plan of the monitored electricity cable trench will be prepared at a scale of 1:1,000 or 1:2,000 and related to published property boundaries.
- 5.2** All site levels will be related to Ordnance Datum.
- 5.3** All metal finds and other typologically distinct or closely dateable artefacts will be recorded three-dimensionally.
- 5.4** A comprehensive photographic record of all archaeological deposits will be made in both plan and section. This will comprise colour digital format only (minimum 16 megapixels), illustrating in both detail and generally the main features and finds discovered. The photographic record will also include working views 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 the site.
- 6.2** Necessary conservation work, including any on-site emergency conservation actions, will be undertaken by the Exeter Museum Conservation Laboratory, 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 (now Historic England) guidelines (English Heritage 2011). Sampling will be undertaken, as appropriate, in consultation with the South West Historic England Scientific Adviser.
- 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 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.
- If surviving animal bone is encountered then the English Heritage (2014) guidance *Animal Bones and Archaeology* will be used (<https://historicengland.org.uk/advice/technical-advice/archaeological-science/environmental-archaeology/>).

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, DH, 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 and guidelines, as well as 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 the unique project code **ACA0439** and a temporary accession reference **pending (requested)** issued by Salisbury Museum, Salisbury. On completion of all fieldwork the content 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 yields 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 final report.

8. REPORTING

8.1 Following the completion of the fieldwork an illustrated summary report on the results of the test pit evaluation and archaeological monitoring and recording will be prepared within 12 weeks of completion on site. The contents of the report will vary depending on the findings, but as a minimum will contain:

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

8.2 Should any finds or samples be recovered during the investigations then, following an initial assessment by the AC archaeology Finds Manager, the following specialists will contribute to the report as necessary:

- An assessment of any prehistoric ceramics will be provided by Imogen Wood PhD;
- Other ceramics will be assessed by Naomi Payne BA MA PhD MCIfA, Finds Manager, AC archaeology, or other regional specialist 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 John Georgi MSc;
- An assessment of worked flint will be carried out by Julian Richards BA FSA MCIfA;
- Metalworking residues will be assessed by Dr Tim Young;
- 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 will be undertaken by Naomi Payne BA MA PhD MCIfA; and,
- Coins will be identified by Naomi Payne BA MA PhD MCIfA.

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

8.3 The report will be submitted in digital (.pdf) format to the WCACA. Digital copies of the report will be produced for distribution to the Client and the Local Planning Authority.

8.4 Details of the project will be submitted to the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations). The OASIS number for this project is **537818**.

8.5 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 and set out in a post-excavation assessment report, which will be prepared within six months of the completion of the fieldwork. 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 18 months of the date of the completion of the fieldwork.

9. HEALTH & SAFETY AND INSURANCE

- 9.1** Archaeological staff will operate under AC archaeology's Health and Safety Policy. 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 1999* and the *Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2007*.
- 9.2** The Project Manager responsible for Health and Safety for AC archaeology is Laurence Vinnels. Laurence is accredited under the *Site Manager's Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS)*.
- 9.3** 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.
- 9.4** 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.
- 9.5** All senior members of staff hold up to date Cat and Genny, banksman, first aid, and asbestos awareness qualifications. AC archaeology is registered as an approved contractor under the Worksafe Health and Safety Scheme (SMAS), Contractor's Health and Safety Assessment Scheme (CHAS) and CQMS Safety Scheme, as recognised by SSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement).
- 9.6** 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.

10. PERSONNEL, PROGRAMME AND MONITORING

- 10.1** The project will be managed by Laurence Vinnels BSc MRes, Project Manager for AC archaeology Ltd. 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 ClfA Code of Conduct. The attending archaeologists will familiarise themselves with the content of this document prior to commencing the work.
- 10.2** A date for commencement has not yet been established. The WCACA will be provided at least 2 weeks notice prior to commencement and will be kept up to date on progress as well as the completion of the work.
- 10.3** The project will be monitored by the WCACA who will be informed of the completion of the fieldwork. Any variations to this document shall be agreed with the WCACA before they are carried out. A date of completion of archaeological site work will be confirmed with the WCACA at the time, and the timescale for reporting and archiving will run from that date.

11. COPYRIGHT

- 11.1 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.

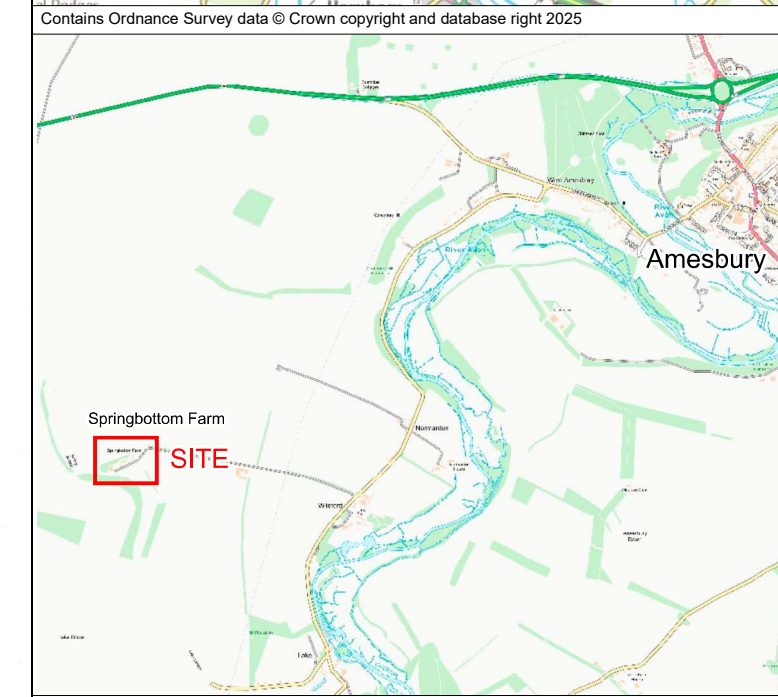
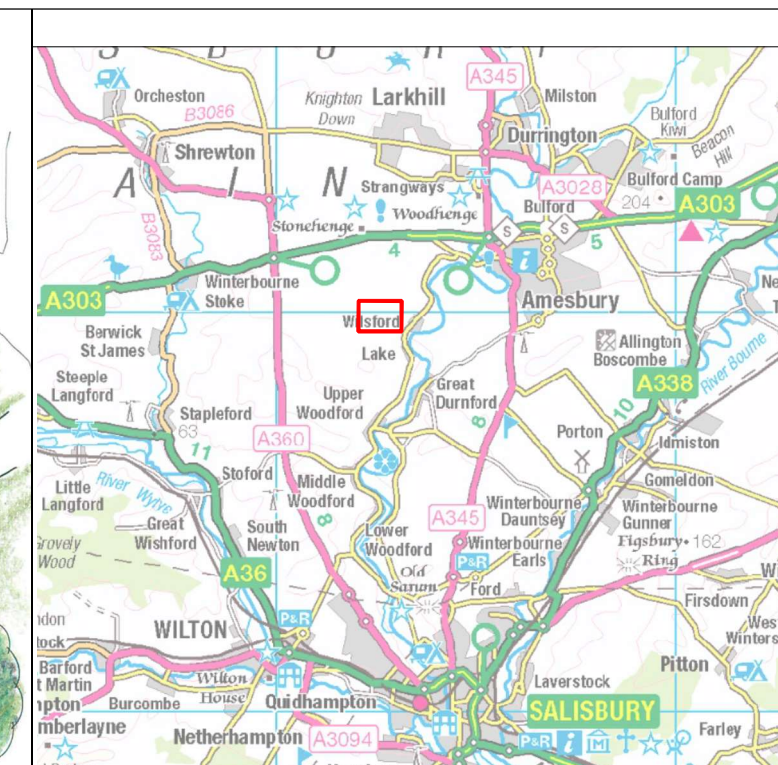
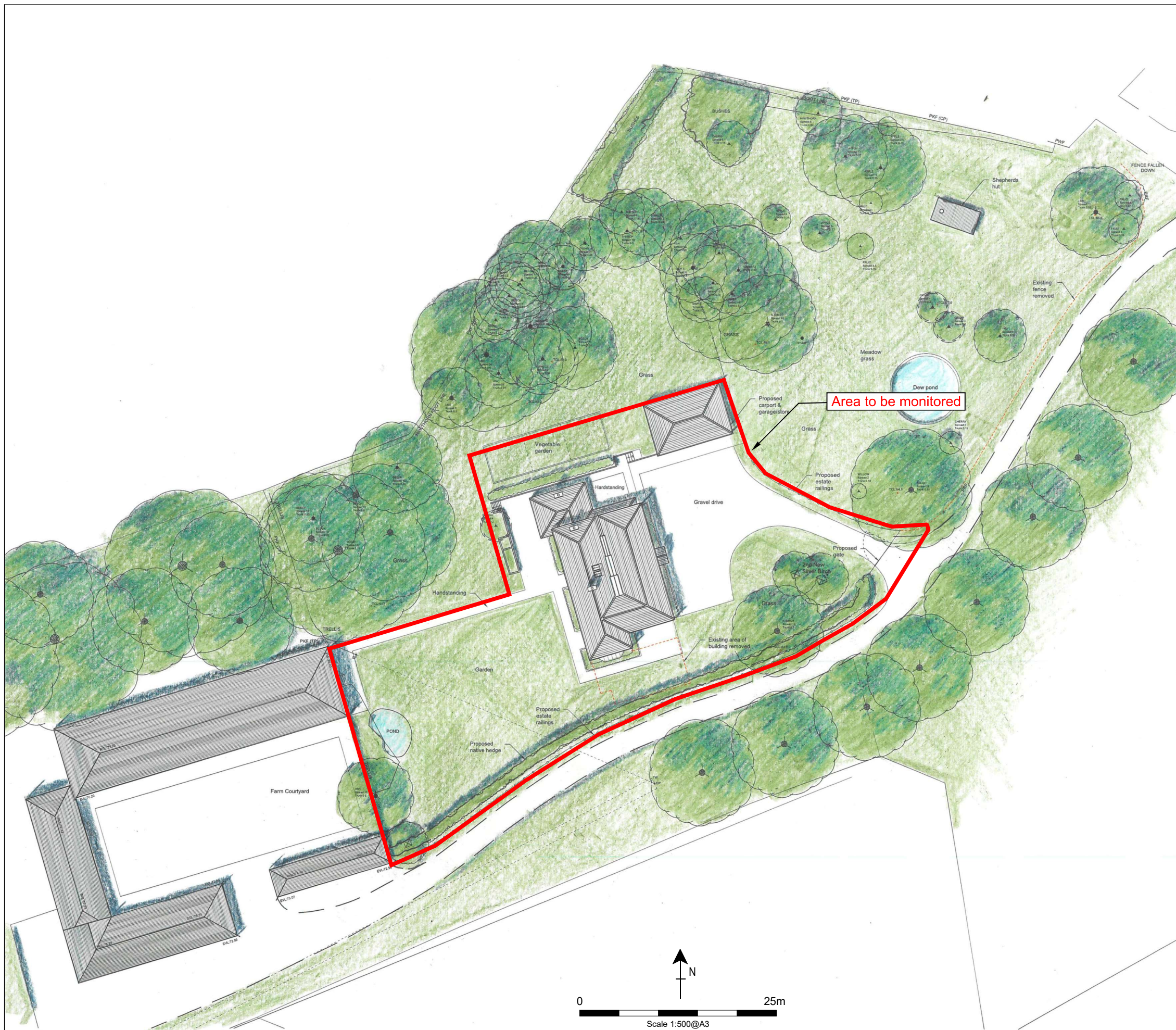
12. INSURANCE

- 12.1 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.

13. SOURCES CONSULTED

AC archaeology, 2014, *General site recording manual version 2*.
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Version 1
Laurence Vinnels
Project Manager
AC archaeology
23 October 2025



PROJECT
Springbottom Farm, Wilsford Cum Lake, Salisbury, Wiltshire

TITLE
Fig. 1: Location of site and area to be monitored

Based on plan prepared by ML Architecture

AC archaeology Ltd
2-4 Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone: 01392 882410

www.acarchaeology.co.uk