



Marlborough Mound Marlborough College Wiltshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for
Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
and Geoarchaeological Survey

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Marlborough Mound Marlborough College Wiltshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording and Geoarchaeological Survey

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project and planning background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology has been commissioned by Marlborough College ('the client') to produce a written scheme of investigation (WSI) for a proposed archaeological monitoring and recording (AMR) during the demolition of buildings adjacent to Castle Mound Scheduled Monument and geoarchaeological survey within the footprint of the buildings, once removed. The works to be monitored are centred on NGR 418325 168684, within the grounds of Marlborough College, Wiltshire, SN8 1PA (Fig. 1).

1.1.2 The development has been proposed to enhance the setting of the Mound by demolition of structures which partially cut into the West side of the Mound, to provide an opportunity for further archaeological research to be carried out as and when the structures are cleared and finally to put a new curved stone-faced revetment to support the Mound.

1.1.3 A planning application (PL/2025/01126) submitted to Wiltshire Council, was granted 11 November 2025, subject to conditions. The following conditions relate to archaeology:

Condition 3

No development shall commence within the area indicated by application PL/2025/01126 until:

- a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include onsite work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority; and*
- b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.*

REASON: To enable the recording of any matters of archaeological interest.

1.1.4 Due to the location of the works within the bounds of a scheduled monument, these works are subject to Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC), granted March 2025 (ref. S00246939; Appendix 1). All works detailed within this WSI will be undertaken in compliance with SMC.

1.1.5 This AMR and Geoarchaeological Survey is part of a programme of archaeological works, which has included a Historic Environment Desk-Based Assessment (Wessex Archaeology 2025).

1.2 Scope of document

1.2.1 This WSI sets out the aims and objectives of the AMR and geoarchaeological survey, and the methods and standards that will be employed. It conforms to current best practice, as well as the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' relevant standards and guidance (CIfA



2014a; 2023a–b) and the guidance in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE; Historic England 2015a)

- 1.2.2 This document will be submitted to the County Archaeologist, archaeological advisor to the Local Planning Authority (LPA), and the Inspector for Ancient Monuments at Historic England – South West, for approval prior to the fieldwork.
- 1.2.3 All works set out within this WSI will be undertaken in accordance with SMC (S00246939; Appendix 1).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

- 1.3.1 The Site is currently the location of a roughly north to south aligned range of three, small buildings. From north to south these are a carpentry workshop, a student toilet block (disused), and a plant room which was the original boiler house associated with a former water tank at the top of the Mound.
- 1.3.2 Marlborough Colleges lies on the inside of a meander of the River Kennet, immediately south-west of the historic centre of Marlborough, Wiltshire. The town is situated within the river valley, beyond which the topography rises steeply to form the Marlborough Downs. The Site lies at 129 m aOD, with the top of the adjacent Mound rising to 147 m aOD.
- 1.3.3 The bedrock geology across the Site is mapped by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation, formed between 94-86 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period (BGS, Geology of Britain Viewer).
- 1.3.4 Core sampling in the vicinity identified gravels beneath the Mound, presumed to be valley gravels (Leary et al 2013). Alluvium too was recorded within the Site during early excavations (Brentnall 1912) A single historic borehole is recorded within the Site, undertaken in 1931. The records suggest that 7.5 feet (2.28 m) of made ground were encountered during the survey, above natural layers (BGS Geoindex 2025). This material may represent the deliberate infilling of man-made waterways in this location.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was assessed in a prior historic environment desk-based assessment (HEDBA; Wessex Archaeology 2025), which considered the recorded historic environment resource within a 1 km study area of the development. A summary of the results is presented below, with relevant entry numbers from the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Castle Mound Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1005634)

- 2.2.1 Radiocarbon dates show the main body of the Marlborough Mound to be Late Neolithic in date (2400 BC), contemporaneous to Silbury Hill located 8.3km to the west, at West Kennett. The two monuments have similar physical appearances, though the Marlborough Mound is around half the height of Silbury Hill. Silbury Hill is part of a still-visible ancient landscape which includes the stone circle of Avebury, Kennet long barrows and other ancient monuments, and like the Marlborough Mound, lies close to the River Kennet. Similarities could be drawn from Silbury to provide an understanding of the original setting of the Marlborough Mound; the area surrounding the Mound may have been clear of occupation, and subject to seasonal flooding, as at Silbury Hill.

- 2.2.2 Shortly after the Norman Conquest, the Neolithic Mound was reused to make a motte-and-bailey castle, and Savernake Forest became a favourite royal hunting ground (Marlborough College 2023). Whilst the castle is first documented in 1139, it is thought to have been in existence some time previously.
- 2.2.3 The Castle grew in importance, favoured by Kings Henry I and II, and John. During the latter 12th and early 13th centuries, the Norman wooden castle was replaced with stone, and residential buildings within the bailey were expanded and improved. The Castle later lost favour, falling into disrepair and eventually, after it ceased to be used in 1370, it became a quarry for building materials. By 1403 it had deteriorated significantly and subsequently remained neglected (Marlborough History Society 2023, Marlborough College 2023).
- 2.2.4 Archaeological investigations (described below) illustrate the location of the castle buildings at its peak, on the southern side of the Mound. A ground plan of the castle in c. 1260 by H.C.Brentnall places the Site (where not part of the Mound itself) within the former castle moat. Should part of the Site have extended beyond the moat, it is unlikely to have been the location of any structural medieval activity.
- 2.2.5 In the early 18th century, Lady Hertford created a famous garden in the grounds (WHER MWI14167), with the Mound forming a key feature within it. A shell-adorned grotto (NHLE: 1273151) was constructed at the base of the Mound, and was part of a cascade feature associated with a canal which was situated around the mound. Such features were designed to stimulate imagination, and the Mound was claimed as the burial place of Merlin (Marlborough College 2023).
- 2.2.6 Stukeley illustrated the Mound extensively in his *Itinerarium Curiosum* (1723), from a variety of viewpoints and projections. The images depict the route of a waterway encircling the base of the Mound, assumed to be adapted from the former moat. The images suggest that the Site lies partially within a backfilled, man-made channel, which was infilled at some time between 1843 and 1886.

2.3 Previous investigations within Castle Mound

Archaeological investigation

- 2.3.1 An archaeological investigation was undertaken within the Site in 1912 by Brentnall (WHER EWI2620). This produced a cross-section approximately 2 m high on the west side of the mound, in advance of construction of the extant boiler house (to be demolished). The resulting sketched cross-section indicates the composition and depth of the layers of material used to form the Mound. It illustrates the original ground level was encountered above Alluvium, which may suggest that the current ground surface was reduced to below original level, ahead of construction of the buildings. Fragments of red deer antler, presumed to be picks, were also recovered (Brentnall 1912).
- 2.3.2 Core sampling of the Mound was undertaken in 2010, with two samples taken through the centre of the Mound, and a further four in its immediate surroundings through the former ditch (WHER EWI7447). Radiocarbon dating from the Mound samples returned dates from the late 3rd millennium BC, indicating that the Mound was indeed initially constructed as a Neolithic monument (Leary et al 2013). The makeup of the mound illustrated in the 1912 cross-section broadly accords with core sampling. The original ground surface layer shown in the sketch was encountered in the sampling beneath the body of the mound at a height of 130.94 m aOD. No alluvium, identified by Brentnall, was noted, however the sequence identified within the cores did reveal two possible flood events early in the construction of the Mound. The cores indicated that prehistoric centre of the Mound, many metres thick,

clearly represented multiple phases of activity, and was formed of layers of silty clay and gravel amongst the chalk and flint rubble, as opposed to the chalk of the sketch. These deposits were encountered up to 145.73 m aOD, giving the original mound height (Leary et al 2013).

- 2.3.3 A series of non-commercial, small-scale excavations have been undertaken in and around the Mound between the 1910s and 1950s by the Marlborough College Natural History Society (WHER EWI2621, EWI2622, EWI2623, EWI2624, EWI2625 and EWI2626; exact locations not recorded), though subsequent modern investigations have provided greater information.
- 2.3.4 Five phases of AMR and small-scale evaluation (WHER EWI10545, EWI6179, EWI9568 and EWI9798) have been undertaken by Wessex Archaeology during works associated with the restoration of the spiral path and preservation of the Mound. A ground penetrating radar survey has also been undertaken on the summit of the Mound (WHER EWI9367), and the subsequent evaluation illustrated that the very centre, at the top of the Mound, has been heavily truncated (>2 m) by the construction of a central water tank in the early part of the 20th century. Whilst these investigations provided evidence from the Mound's use as both a medieval motte and as a post-medieval garden feature, no earlier material was encountered.
- 2.3.5 A 1 m wide trench was excavated on the southern side of the Mound, c. 55 m south-east of the Site (WHER EWI6179). The topsoil sealed a deposit comprising a highly degraded, loose chalk rubble, thought likely to be part of the original fabric of the Mound, which had been eroded in the medieval period and reworked during the 17th-century terracing (Wessex Archaeology 2005).

2.4 Investigations within the vicinity of the Site

- 2.4.1 Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken during the installation of a cable trench running through the college grounds (WHER EWI9281), extending c. 60 m east and c. 75 m south of the Site. This encountered wall footings associated with the medieval castle. Three of the wall footing cuts appeared to align with plans of the Marlborough Castle curtain wall, whilst one wall footing could possibly have been associated with an internal building. All wall footings contained a single fill of similar description, which suggests the features are all of contemporary date. No other archaeological features or deposits were noted (Wessex Archaeology 2018).
- 2.4.2 Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by Archaeoscan (Roberts 2022) between 2021 and 2022 during the excavation of a drainage trench extending c. 70 m south and 80 m west of the Site (WHER EWI10227). Surfaces associated with the medieval castle were encountered and several wall footings were recorded, particularly in the vicinity of the Book office and the Grotto. The evidence suggested that the walls of the castle buildings had been robbed down to the footings. No deposits were encountered that suggested the presence of a moat in the footprint of the excavations, which is contrary to the suggested plan of the castle by H. C. Brentnall.
- 2.4.3 The area between the Mound and the Haywood Building has been extensively assessed as part of three geophysical surveys, extending c. 60 m south of the Site. A resistivity survey identified multiple features interpreted as remains of the post-medieval and 19th-century gardens (WHER EWI7927), whilst the 2015 resistivity survey (WHER EWI7926) and 2016 ground penetrating radar survey (WHER EWI8081) identified features associated with the medieval outer keep (WHER MWI74303). In addition to modern features, some anomalies were interpreted as parts of the curtain wall (Archaeological Surveys Ltd 2016).



- 2.4.4 Excavated evidence for the outer keep comes from small-scale excavations undertaken by college students, with archaeological supervision, c. 130 m south-east of the Site (WHER EWI9359 and EWI8619). Evidence for the curtain wall in the form of several small areas of the rubble and mortar foundations were identified, corroborating records of a similar excavation in this location in the 1930s.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

- 3.1.1 The aims of the investigation are to:

- allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of the development or other works;
- provide an opportunity, if needed, to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the allocated resources are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and
- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 General objectives

- 3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the general objectives are to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results.

3.3 Site-specific objectives

- 3.3.1 Following consideration of the archaeological potential of the site, the site-specific objectives are to:

- examine evidence for remains of Neolithic and medieval activity that may exist within the Site;
- determine the depth, profile and composition of the deposits in-filling the moat;
- determine the depth and character of the soil sequence forming the Mound; and
- examine the archaeological and ecofactual potential of exposed deposits.



4 FIELDWORK METHODS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Compliance with health and safety regulations and requirements will take priority over archaeological considerations in all works.
- 4.1.2 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the detailed methods set out within this WSI and in compliance with SMC (S00246939; Appendix 1). Any significant variations to these methods will be agreed in writing with the County Archaeologist, Inspector for Ancient Monuments at Historic England – South-West, and the client prior to being implemented.
- 4.1.3 The demolition of the plant room (former boiler house), carpentry workshop and disused student toilet block structures which partially cut into the west side of the mound will be monitored by a qualified archaeologist. During the demolition two explorative holes, measuring 1m by 1 m will be made through the retaining wall of the building, to investigate the mound, for location see Figure 2 following the demolition the works further comprise a geoarchaeological survey consisting of six window sample boreholes along two transects at approximately 5 m intervals.

4.2 Service location and other constraints

- 4.2.1 The client and/or their principal contactor will be responsible for the identification and protection of any above- and below-ground services within the AMR and geoarchaeological survey, area/s. The client and/or their principal contactor will also be responsible for informing Wessex Archaeology of, and delimiting, any other areas of environmental, ecological or other constraints.

4.3 Archaeological monitoring and recording methods

- 4.3.1 The AMR and geoarchaeological survey, will be undertaken by at least one archaeologist, subject to the number of site operations being carried out at any one time. All mechanical excavation will, where possible, be undertaken using a toothless ditching bucket and will be constantly monitored by the attending archaeologist.
- 4.3.2 Without causing unnecessary delay to the groundwork programme, the archaeologist may ask for the groundwork to be temporarily halted whilst investigations are carried out. If appropriate, areas of archaeological interest will be defined and suitably protected in advance of their investigation and recording.
- 4.3.3 Where necessary, the surface of archaeological deposits will be cleaned by hand. A sample of the archaeological features and deposits identified will be hand-excavated and recorded, sufficient to address the project aims. Spoil from machine stripping and hand-excavation will be visually scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. Finds will be collected and bagged by context.
- 4.3.4 If extensive, complex or well-preserved archaeological remains are identified, for which the scope of the approved strategy is insufficient, the monitoring archaeologist will halt the groundwork, delimit the area of archaeological interest, and report immediately to the Wessex Archaeology project manager. Wessex Archaeology will then inform the groundwork contractor, the client, the County Archaeologist, and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England – South-West as a contingent excavation or revised strategy may be required. The programme, and additional resources, for any contingent excavation will be agreed with the client. Accordingly, this WSI will need revising before any further fieldwork proceeds – the revised WSI will need the approval of the County



Archaeologist on behalf of the LPA, and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England – South-West.

- 4.3.5 If human remains are uncovered, the specific methods outlined below (section 4.8) will be followed.

4.4 Boreholes

Drilling methods

- 4.4.1 A total of six boreholes (WA_BH01-06) will be put down at the proposed locations shown in **Figure 3**. The final locations of the boreholes may be adjusted depending on buried utilities and other obstructions. A breaker may also be needed if any hard standing or footings remain following demolition
- 4.4.2 The boreholes will be drilled throughout anthropogenic deposits (e.g. moat/ditch) to surface of the underlying Pleistocene or bedrock geology. Boreholes are expected to be between 4-5m in depth.
- 4.4.3 The attending geoarchaeologist will liaise closely with the geotechnical drillers in order to ensure effective communication is maintained as the works proceed, that all parties understand his/her role and the broad aims with regard to the monitoring and sampling. This can be achieved by means of a tool-box style talk from the geoarchaeologist at project start and where appropriate as the works progress.
- 4.4.4 Whilst coring is in progress the geoarchaeologist will maintain a safe distance from the drilling crew but will be afforded access to the work area to describe and retain a sample of the deposits observed.
- 4.4.5 Hand dug inspection pits will be excavated to a depth of 1.20 m below ground level prior to drilling.
- 4.4.6 For the boreholes, a percussive window sampling rig (Terrier type) will be used to extract sleeved cores one metre in length and 100 mm in diameter.
- 4.4.7 Drilling works will be carried out by experienced geotechnical engineers under the supervision of a suitably experienced member of Wessex Archaeology's geoarchaeological team.
- 4.4.8 The supervising geoarchaeologist will record, describe and interpret the sequences of deposits encountered in order to allow assessment of likely geoarchaeological potential. Where deposits with geoarchaeological potential are identified, selected core lengths will be retained.
- 4.4.9 Retained core lengths will be sealed and marked with the project number, site number, borehole number and sample depth and returned to the Wessex Archaeology laboratory for retention.
- ##### *Sampling*
- 4.4.10 Where deposits of geoarchaeological potential are identified in the boreholes, Wessex Archaeology will retain suitable core lengths in sleeved liners.



- 4.4.11 If deposits with geoarchaeological potential are identified in hand-dug inspection pits, a suitable sampling strategy will be devised including column or bulk sampling where practical.

Recording

- 4.4.12 Cores will be split and recorded on-site and an initial recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro-forma digital recording system. For each lithostratigraphic unit descriptions and interpretations of the deposits will be provided.
- 4.4.13 For each sedimentary stratigraphic context (including those within the hand-dug inspection pits) descriptions and interpretations of the deposits will be provided.
- 4.4.14 Descriptions of deposits will include information such as:
- Depth
 - Texture
 - Composition
 - Colour
 - Inclusions
 - Structure
 - Shape and nature of contacts between deposits
- 4.4.15 Interpretations will include, where possible, probable depositional environments and formation processes.
- 4.4.16 A full photographic record will be made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. This will include a records of the hand dug inspection pits and individual split core lengths. Photographs will also be taken of each borehole location, including access routes, to provide a record of conditions prior to and on completion of the boreholes. Images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.
- Reinstatement*
- 4.4.17 Boreholes will be immediately backfilled on completion with a combination of bentonite and arisings. No further reinstatement will be carried out.

4.5 Recording

- 4.5.1 All exposed archaeological deposits and features will be recorded using Wessex Archaeology's pro forma recording system.
- 4.5.2 A complete record of excavated archaeological features and deposits will be made. This will include plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (generally 1:20 or 1:50 for plans, 1:10 for sections) and tied to the Ordnance Survey (OS) National Grid.
- 4.5.3 A full photographic record will be made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. This will record the detail and general context of the principal features and the site. Digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.



4.6 Survey

- 4.6.1 The real time kinematic (RTK) survey of all archaeological features will be carried out using a Leica Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) connected to Leica's SmartNet service. All survey data will be recorded in OS National Grid coordinates and heights above OD (Newlyn), as defined by OSTN15 and OSGM15, with a three-dimensional accuracy of at least 50 mm.
- 4.6.2 If, due to unforeseen circumstances, it is not possible to survey using survey equipment prior to the destruction of the material, archaeological features will be located to client plans that are related to OS mapping or structures/features that appear on OS mapping. This will be achieved using hand-held measuring tapes and the basic principles of triangulation.

4.7 Monitoring

- 4.7.1 The client will inform the County Archaeologist and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England – South-West of the start of the archaeological works and its progress. Reasonable access will be arranged for the County Archaeologist and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England – South-West to make site visits to inspect and monitor progress. Any variations to the WSI, if required to better address the project aims, will be agreed in advance with the client, the County Archaeologist and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England – South-West.

4.8 Finds

General

- 4.8.1 All archaeological finds will be retained, although those of clearly very recent origin with negligible potential to provide information relevant to the project aims and objectives may be recorded on site and not retained. Where appropriate, soil samples may be taken and sieved to aid in finds recovery. Any finds requiring conservation or specific storage conditions will be dealt with immediately in line with *First Aid for Finds* (Watkinson and Neal 1998).

Human remains

- 4.8.2 In the event of discovery of any human remains (articulated or disarticulated, cremated or unburnt), all excavation of the deposit(s) will cease pending Wessex Archaeology obtaining a Ministry of Justice licence (this includes cases where remains are to be left *in situ*).
- 4.8.3 Initially the remains will be left *in situ*, covered and protected, pending discussions between the client, Wessex Archaeology's osteoarchaeologist, the County Archaeologist, and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England – South-West regarding the need for excavation/removal or sampling. Where this is deemed appropriate, the human remains will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from site in compliance with the Ministry of Justice licence.
- 4.8.4 Excavation and post-excavation processing of human remains will be in accordance with Wessex Archaeology protocols and in-line with current guidance documents (e.g., McKinley 2013) and the standards set out in ClfA Technical Paper 13 (McKinley and Roberts 1993). Appropriate specialist guidance/site visits will be undertaken if required.
- 4.8.5 The final deposition of human remains subsequent to the appropriate level of osteological analysis and other specialist sampling/examinations will follow the requirements set out in the Ministry of Justice licence.

Treasure

- 4.8.6 Wessex Archaeology will immediately notify the client, the County Archaeologist, and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England – South-West on discovery of any material covered, or potentially covered, by the *Treasure Act 1996*. All information required by the Act (i.e., finder, location, material, date, associated items etc.) will be reported to the Coroner within 14 days.

4.9 Environmental sampling

- 4.9.1 All sampling will be undertaken following Wessex Archaeology's in-house guidance, which adheres to the principles outlined in Historic England's guidance (English Heritage 2011; Historic England 2015b).
- 4.9.2 Bulk environmental soil samples, for the recovery of plant macrofossils, wood charcoal, small animal bones and other small artefacts, will be taken as appropriate from well-sealed and dateable contexts. In general, features directly associated with particular activities (e.g., pits, latrines, cesspits, hearths, ovens, kilns and crop driers) should be prioritised for sampling over features, such as ditches or postholes, that are likely to contain reworked and residual material.
- 4.9.3 If waterlogged or mineralised deposits are encountered, an appropriate environmental sampling strategy will be agreed with the County Archaeologist and the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England – South-West. Specialist guidance will be provided by Wessex Archaeology's geoarchaeological and environmental team, with site visits undertaken if required.
- 4.9.4 Any samples will be of an appropriate size – typically 40 litres for the recovery of environmental evidence from dry contexts, and 10 litres from waterlogged deposits.
- 4.9.5 Following specialist advice, other sampling methods such as monolith, Kubiena or contiguous small bulk (column) samples may be employed to enable investigation of deposits with regard to microfossils (e.g., pollen, diatoms) and macrofossils (e.g., molluscs, insects), soil micromorphological or soil chemical analyses.

5 POST-EXCAVATION METHODS AND REPORTING

5.1 Stratigraphic evidence

- 5.1.1 All written and drawn records, and surveyed data from the AMR and geoarchaeological survey, will be collated and checked. Key data will usually be transcribed into a database, which can be updated during any further analysis. The preliminary phasing of archaeological features and deposits will be undertaken using stratigraphic relationships and the spot dating from finds, particularly pottery, and any other relevant information.
- 5.1.2 A written description will be made of all archaeologically significant features and deposits that were exposed and excavated, ordered by period/phase and/or feature group as appropriate.

5.2 Geoarchaeological stratigraphic evidence and deposit modelling

- 5.2.1 All written and drawn records from the evaluation will be collated, checked for consistency.
- 5.2.2 Where possible, probable depositional environments, formation processes and chronostratigraphic context will be considered.

- 5.2.3 Deposits will be preliminary phased using stratigraphic relationships, augmented with additional chronological information, if available.
- 5.2.4 Data will be utilised to provide an updated deposit model. Deposit modelling identifies the range of Quaternary deposits that may be present in a defined area and maps the lateral extent and depth.
- 5.2.5 The deposit modelling will be carried out in accordance with Deposit modelling and archaeology: guidance for mapping buried deposits (Historic England 2020).
- 5.2.6 The results of the borehole survey will be combined with a review of any available GI logs and relevant BGS archive borehole logs.
- 5.2.7 Only lithostratigraphic records with sufficiently detailed descriptive terminology and location data (including surface elevation) will be included in the model.
- 5.2.8 All available data points will be entered into industry standard geological utilities software (Rockworks™ 23). Each stratigraphic unit will be given a colour and pattern allowing cross correlation and grouping of the different sedimentary units. The grouping of these deposits will be based on lithological descriptions, which define distinct depositional environments referred to as 'stratigraphic units' (e.g., Bedrock, Alluvium and Made Ground)
- 5.2.9 Outputs generated using RockWorks 23™ may include two-dimensional stratigraphic profiles ('transects') of selected interventions and/or models of surface height and/or thickness were generated using an inverse-distance weighted (IDW) algorithm for the stratigraphic units present.
- 5.2.10 The modelling algorithms employed in the creation of the outputs will be described in the methods section of the report. The results of the deposit modelling will be reviewed and utilised within the final report with a comment on data coverage and the limitations and practical use of the deposit model.

5.3 Finds evidence

- 5.3.1 All retained finds will, as a minimum, be cleaned, weighed, counted and identified. They will then be recorded to a level appropriate to the aims and objectives of the project. Recording and reporting will conform to the Type 1 (Description) level according to the ClfA (n.d. a) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting*, to include appropriate quantification and characterisation. The report will include a table of finds by feature/context.
- 5.3.2 Metalwork from stratified contexts will be X-rayed and, along with other fragile and delicate materials, stored in a stable environment. The X-raying of objects and other conservation needs will be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology's conservation staff or another approved conservation centre.
- 5.3.3 Finds will be suitably bagged and boxed in accordance with the guidance given by the relevant museum and ClfA (2014b).

5.4 Environmental evidence

- 5.4.1 Bulk environmental soil samples will be processed by standard flotation methods. The residues will be fractionated into 5.6/4 mm and 1 mm and dried if necessary. The coarse residue fraction (>5.6/4 mm), and the fine fraction when appropriate, will be sorted and discarded, with any finds recovered given to the appropriate specialist. The flot will be



retained on a 0.25 mm mesh and scanned to assess the range of environmental remains present and their preservation. Unsorted fine residues will be retained until after any analyses and discarded following final reporting (in accordance with the Selection policy, below).

- 5.4.2 In the case of samples from cremation-related deposits the flots will be retained on a 0.25 mm mesh, with residues fractionated into 4 mm, 2 mm and 1 mm. In the case of samples from inhumation burial deposits, the sample will be wet-sieved through 9.5 mm and 1 mm mesh sizes. The coarse fractions (9.5 mm) will be sorted with any finds recovered given to the appropriate specialist together with the finer residues.
- 5.4.3 Any waterlogged samples will be processed by standard waterlogged flotation methods.
- 5.4.4 Recording and reporting will conform to the Type 1 (Description) level according to the ClfA (n.d. a) *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting*, to include appropriate quantification and characterisation.

5.5 Reporting

- 5.5.1 Following completion of the fieldwork and the assessment of the stratigraphic, finds and environmental evidence, a draft report will be prepared in general accordance with relevant guidance (ClfA 2023b). The draft report will be submitted for approval to the client and the County Archaeologist for comment. Once approved, a final version will be submitted.
- 5.5.2 The report will include the following elements:
- Non-technical summary;
 - Project background;
 - Archaeological and historical context;
 - Aims and objectives;
 - Methods;
 - Results – stratigraphic, finds and environmental;
 - Conclusions in relation to the project aims and objectives, and discussion in relation to the wider local, regional or other archaeological contexts and research frameworks etc;
 - Archive preparation and deposition arrangements;
 - Appendices;
 - Illustrations; and
 - References.
- 5.5.3 A copy of the final report will be deposited with the HER, along with surveyed spatial digital data (.dxf or shapefile format).

Publication

- 5.5.4 If no further excavation works are undertaken, a short report on the results will be prepared for publication in a suitable journal, if considered appropriate and agreed with the client and the County Archaeologist.

OASIS

- 5.5.5 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) will be created, with key fields completed, and a .pdf version of the final report submitted. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

6 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

6.1 Museum

- 6.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive be deposited with Wiltshire Museum (Devizes). Provision has been made for long-term storage in the post-fieldwork costs. The museum will receive notification of the project prior to fieldwork commencing, and an accession number will be obtained.

6.2 Transfer of title

- 6.2.1 The legal owner of any finds recovered (i.e., the landowner), with the exception of human remains and any objects covered by the *Treasure Act 1996*, will be contacted to request transfer of their ownership to the museum via a written agreement.

6.3 Preparation of archive

Physical archive

- 6.3.1 The physical archive will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Wiltshire Museum (Devizes), and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; ClfA 2014b; SMA 1995). The archive will usually be deposited within one year of completion of the project, with the agreement of the client.

Digital archive

- 6.3.2 The digital archive will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

6.4 Selection strategy

- 6.4.1 It is widely accepted that not all records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of future researchers and the receiving museum.
- 6.4.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows ClfA's (n.d. b) *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.



- 6.4.3 In this instance, given that the level of finds recovery is expected to be relatively low, decisions on selection will be deferred until after the fieldwork, and no detailed strategy is presented here. Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by the museum, or by Wessex Archaeology.

6.5 Security copy

- 6.5.1 In line with current best practice (e.g., Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared in the form of a digital PDF/A file.

7 COPYRIGHT

7.1 Archive and report copyright

- 7.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. The museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

- 7.1.2 Digital copies of the final report will be made available to the Historic Environment Record (HER) through OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations). Geospatial/survey data forming part of the digital archive will be supplied, on request, to the HER.

7.2 Third party data copyright

- 7.2.1 This document, the report and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

8 WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY PROCEDURES

8.1 External quality standards

- 8.1.1 Wessex Archaeology is registered as an archaeological organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and fully endorses its *Code of Conduct* (CIfA 2014c) and *Regulations for Professional Conduct* (CIfA 2019). All staff directly employed or subcontracted by Wessex Archaeology will be of a standard approved by Wessex Archaeology, and archaeological staff will be employed in line with the CIfA codes of practice, and will normally be members of the CIfA.

8.2 Personnel

- 8.2.1 The fieldwork will be directed and supervised by an experienced archaeologist from Wessex Archaeology's core staff. The overall responsibility for the conduct and management of the project will be held by one of Wessex Archaeology's project managers, who will visit the fieldwork as appropriate to monitor progress and to ensure that the scope of works is adhered to. Where required, monitoring visits may also be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology's Health and Safety manager.



8.2.2 The assessment of any finds and environmental data will be undertaken by Wessex Archaeology core staff or external specialists, using Wessex Archaeology's standard methods, under the supervision of the departmental managers and the overall direction of the project manager. A complete list of finds and environmental specialists is provided in Appendix 2.

8.2.3 The following key staff are proposed:

- Project Manager Kathryn Brook - Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
- Project Manager Alex Brown - Geoarchaeological Survey
- Fieldwork Director TBC

8.2.4 Wessex Archaeology reserves the right, where necessary due to unforeseen circumstances, to replace nominated personnel with alternative members of staff of comparable expertise and experience.

8.3 Internal quality standards

8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology is an ISO 9001 accredited organisation (certificate number FS 606559), confirming the operation of a Quality Management System which complies with the requirements of ISO 9001:2015 – covering professional archaeological and heritage advice and services. The award of the ISO 9001 certificate, independently audited by the British Standards Institution (BSI), demonstrates Wessex Archaeology's commitment to providing quality heritage services to our clients.

8.3.2 Wessex Archaeology assigns responsibility to individual managers for the successful completion of all aspects of a project, including reporting. This includes monitoring progress and quality; controlling the budget from inception to completion; and all aspects of health and safety for the project. At all stages, the project manager will carefully assess and monitor performance of staff and adherence to objectives, timetables and budgets, while the manager's own performance is monitored by the team leader or regional director. The technical managers in the Graphics, Research, GeoServices and IT sections provide additional assistance and advice.

8.3.3 All staff are responsible for following Wessex Archaeology's quality standards but the overall adherence to and setting of these standards is the responsibility of the senior management team who, in consultation with the team leaders/regional directors, also ensure projects are adequately programmed and resourced within Wessex Archaeology's portfolio of project commitments.

8.4 Health and safety

8.4.1 All works will be undertaken in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*; the *Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999* and all other applicable health and safety legislation.

8.4.2 Wessex Archaeology is an ISO 45001 accredited organisation (certificate number OHS 744383), confirming the operation of an Occupational Health and Safety Management System that complies with the requirements of ISO 45001:2018. The award of the ISO 45001 certificate, independently audited by the British Standards Institution (BSI), demonstrates Wessex Archaeology's commitment to delivering effective risk management across all its activities.



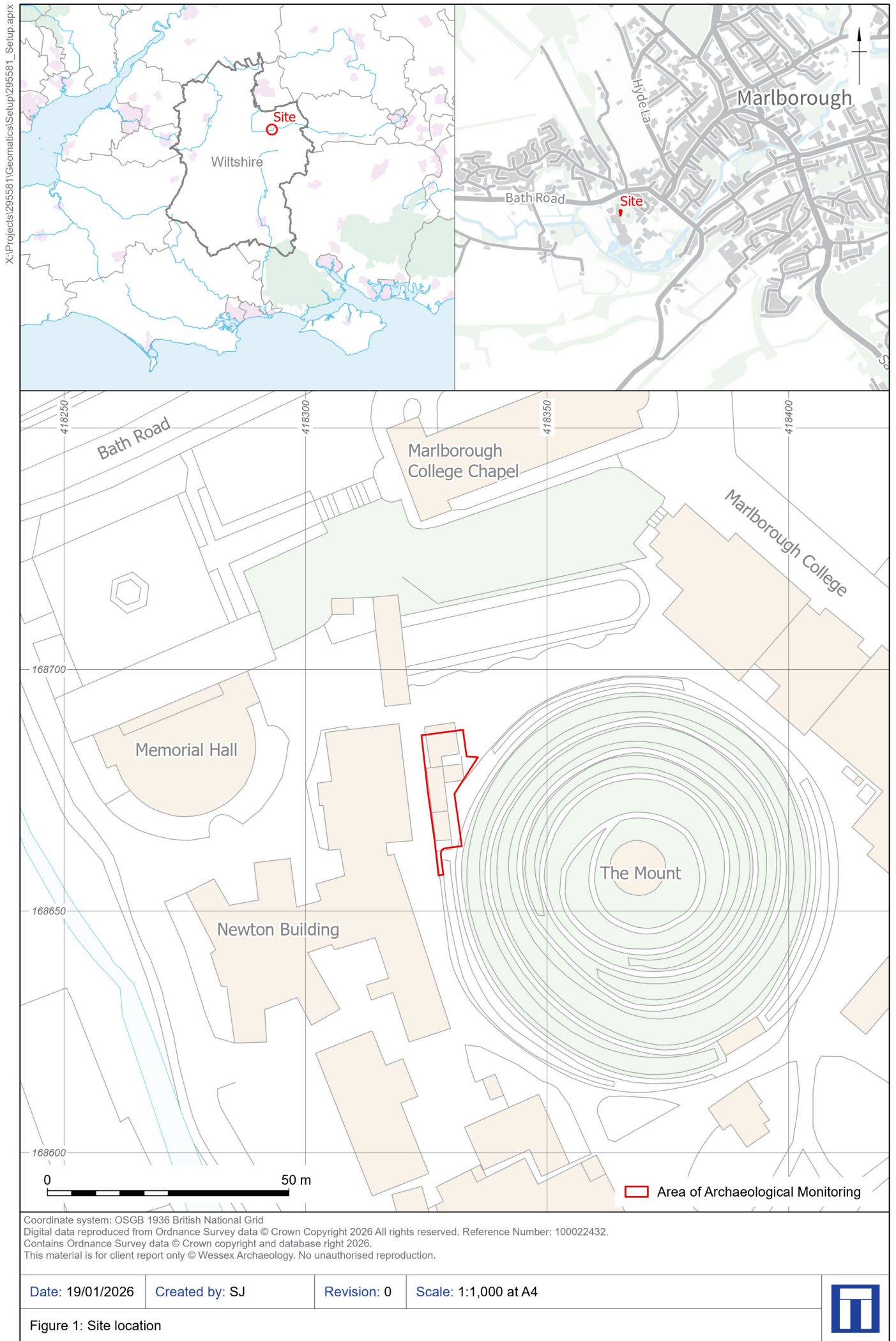
- 8.4.3 Wessex Archaeology will, for all projects, produce one or more task and site-specific risk assessments and method statements (RAMS), which will ensure our staff can work safely on the site. A copy of the RAMS and our Health and Safety Policy can be provided to the client. All staff on our sites will be made fully familiar with the RAMS before work commences.
- 8.4.4 We aim to work collaboratively on health and safety with clients and, where separately appointed, with principal contractors. We expect clients to provide in good time all the necessary risk information about a site that may affect the archaeological work, such as locations of utilities or any known ground contamination. We will comply with the project specific Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) requirements, and any other specific additional requirements of the Principal Contractor.
- 8.4.5 All fieldwork staff are provided with relevant health and safety training to ensure they are able to work safely in a construction industry environment. This includes training accredited by the Construction Industry Training Board (CITB), Institution of Occupational Safety & Health (IOSH) and the National Plant Operators Recognitions Scheme (NPORS). However, since May 2024 the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) has ceased issuing cards to archaeologists.
- 8.5 Insurance**
- 8.5.1 Wessex Archaeology holds Employers Liability (£15,000,000), Public Liability (£15,000,000) and Professional Indemnity (£10,000,000) policies.

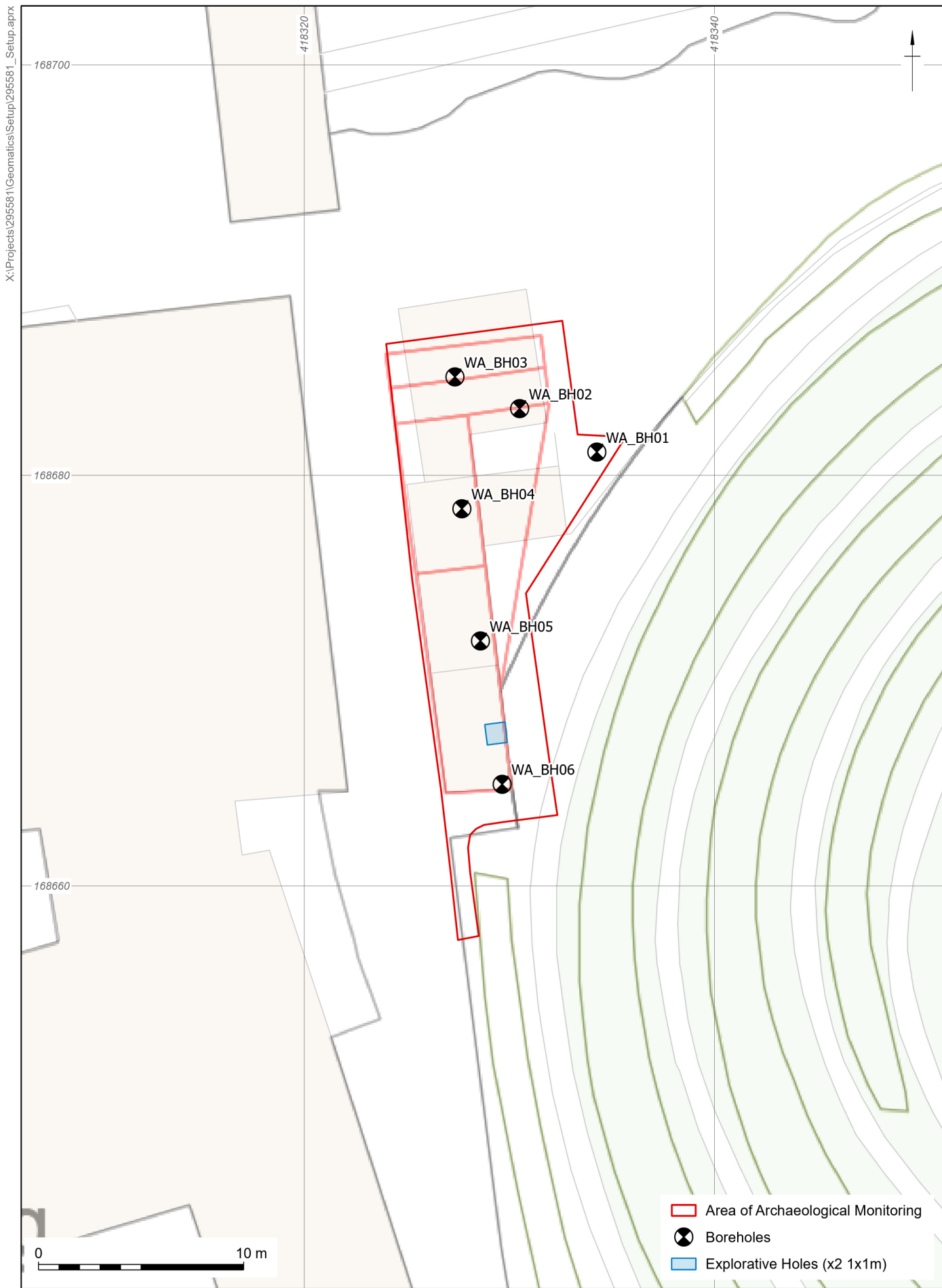
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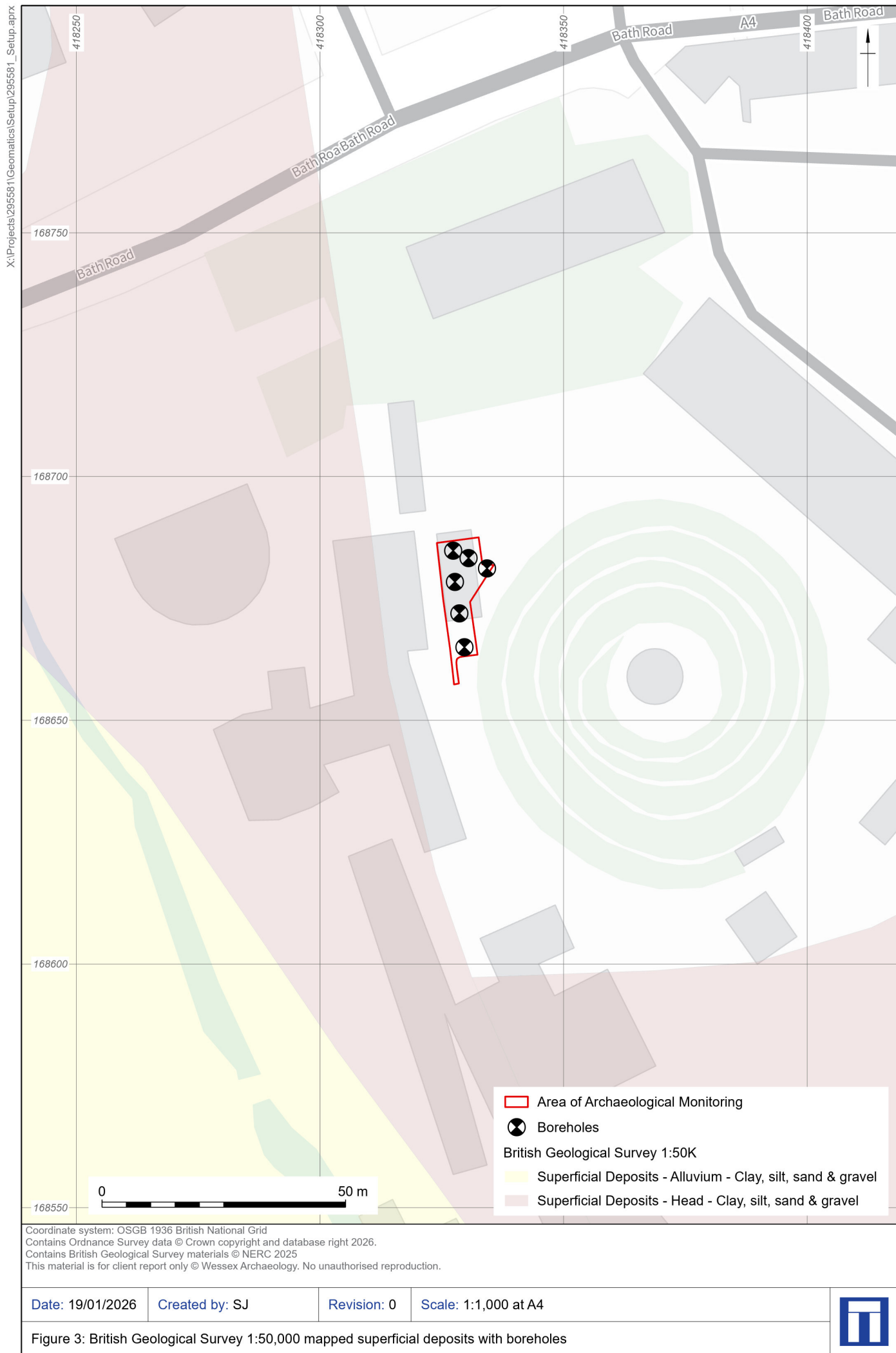
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Date: 27/01/2026	Created by: SJ/EW	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:250 at A4	
Figure 2: Borehole locations and area of archaeological monitoring				





APPENDICES

Appendix 1 Scheduled Monument Consent



Historic England

Mr Andrew Barnes
Marlborough College
Bath Road
Marlborough
SN8 1PA

Direct Dial: 0117 975 1300

Our ref: S00246939

14 March 2025

Dear Mr Barnes

**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); Section 2
control of works
Application for Scheduled Monument Consent**

**CASTLE MOUND, MARLBOROUGH
Scheduled Monument No: SM WI 321, HA 1005634
Our ref: S00246939
Application on behalf of Marlborough College**

1. I am directed by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport to advise you of the decision regarding your application for Scheduled Monument Consent received 4 February 2025 in respect of proposed works at the above scheduled monument concerning the demolition of redundant buildings on the north west side of Castle Mound. The works include:

- Demolition of buildings (decommissioned plant room and toilets)
- Exposure and recording of archaeological section of bank
- Construction of a gabion wall filled with stone to support the base of the mound.
- Construction of a stone wall in front of the gabion cages to continue the existing stone wall around the west side of the mound.
- Landscaping of area with white paving slabs to match existing adjacent paving.

. The works were detailed in the following documentation submitted by you:

Scheduled Monument Consent Application Form
Covering e-mail dated
Proposed works at Castle Mound - SMC supporting Document
Marlborough Mound: Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment Wessex
Archaeology, July 2024
Drawing 07001 - Perega Structural Engineer Drawing showing details on site plan,
investigation holes, new retaining wall, existing walls

2. In accordance with paragraph 3(2) of Schedule 1 to the 1979 Act, the Secretary of State is obliged to afford you, and any other person to whom it appears to the Secretary of State expedient to afford it, an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by a person appointed for that purpose. This opportunity was offered to you by



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Historic England and you have declined it.

3. The Secretary of State is also required by the Act to consult with the Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England) before deciding whether or not to grant Scheduled Monument Consent. Historic England considers the effect of the proposed works upon the monument to be beneficial for the presentation and public enjoyment of the monument, but necessitating unavoidable but on balance acceptable ground disturbance. Necessary archaeological excavation and recording arrangements are included within the application.

I can confirm that the Secretary of State is agreeable for the works to proceed providing the conditions set out below are adhered to, and that accordingly Scheduled Monument Consent is hereby granted under section 2 of the 1979 Act for the works described in paragraph 1 above, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The works to which this consent relates shall be carried out to the satisfaction of the Secretary of State, who will be advised by Historic England. At least 4 weeks' notice (or such shorter period as may be mutually agreed) in writing of the commencement of work shall be given to Mel Barge (southwestcasework@HistoricEngland.org.uk; Melanie.Barge@HistoricEngland.org.uk) in order that an Historic England representative can inspect and advise on the works and their effect in compliance with this consent.
- (b) No ground works shall take place until the applicant has confirmed in writing the commissioning of a programme of archaeological work, in accordance with a written scheme of investigation for a watching brief during demolition and an excavation which has been submitted to and approved by Historic England on behalf of the Secretary of State
- (c) All those involved in the implementation of the works granted by this consent must be informed by the applicant that the land is designated as a scheduled monument under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 (as amended); the extent of the scheduled monument as set out in both the scheduled monument description and map; and that the implications of this designation include the requirement to obtain Scheduled Monument Consent for any works to a scheduled monument from the Secretary of State prior to them being undertaken.
- (d) All works will be undertaken as set out in the Proposed Works at Castle Mound Supporting Document
- (e) No works shall take place until the demolition contractor has provided a Method Statement which has been submitted to and approved by Historic England on



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behalf of the Secretary of State

- (f) Equipment and machinery shall not be used or operated in the scheduled area in conditions or in a manner likely to result in damage to the monument and ground disturbance other than that which is expressly authorised in this consent.
- (g) A report on the archaeological recording shall be sent to the Local Authorities Historic Environment Record and to Historic England within 3 months of the completion of the works (or such other period as may be mutually agreed).
- (h) The contractor shall complete and submit an entry on OASIS (On-line Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations - <http://oasis.ac.uk/england/>) prior to project completion, and shall deposit any digital project report with the Archaeology Data Service, via the OASIS form, upon completion.

4. By virtue of section 4 of the 1979 Act, if no works to which this consent relates are executed or started within the period of five years beginning with the date on which this consent was granted (being the date of this letter), this consent shall cease to have effect at the end of that period (unless a shorter time period is set by a specific condition above).

5. This letter does not convey any approval or consent required under any enactment, bye law, order or regulation other than section 2 of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979.

6. Your attention is drawn to the provisions of section 55 of the 1979 Act under which any person who is aggrieved by the decision given in this letter may challenge its validity by an application made to the High Court within six weeks from the date when the decision is given. The grounds upon which an application may be made to the Court are (1) that the decision is not within the powers of the Act (that is, the Secretary of State has exceeded the relevant powers) or (2) that any of the relevant requirements have not been complied with and the applicant's interests have been substantially prejudiced by the failure to comply. The "relevant requirements" are defined in section 55 of the 1979 Act: they are the requirements of that Act and the Tribunals and Inquiries Act 1971 and the requirements of any regulations or rules made under those Acts.

Yours sincerely

Melanie

Melanie Barge

Inspector of Ancient Monuments

E-mail: melanie.barge@HistoricEngland.org.uk



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Historic England

For and on behalf of the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

cc HARPO Wiltshire - Historic England

Wiltshire Council Archaeologist and Historic Environment Record

archaeology@wiltshire.gov.uk



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Appendix 2 Finds and environmental specialists

Name	Qualifications	Specialism
Sander Aerts	BA; MSc	Archaeoentomological remains, animal bone, marine shell
Phil Andrews	BSc; FSA; MCIfA	Slag and metal working debris
Richard Bradley	BA; MA; MCIfA	Battlefield artefacts, particularly Civil War period lead shot
Ceridwen Boston	BSocSc; MA; MSc; DPhil	Osteoarchaeology; funerary archaeology
Elina Brook	BA; MA; PCIfA	Later prehistoric and Romano-British pottery, and small finds
Alex Brown	BA; MSc; PhD	Geoarchaeology, palynology
Dan Carter	BSc; PhD	Pottery with particular emphasis on post-Roman ceramics. Small and bulk finds including ceramic building material, fired clay, metalwork, clay tobacco pipe, stone, shale and glass
Liz Chambers	BA; MSc	Geoarchaeology
Fiona Eaglesham	BSc; MSc	Archaeobotanical remains
Robert Francis	BSc, MSc, PhD	Anthracological remains, archaeobotanical remains
Erica Gittins	BA; MA; PhD	Prehistoric flint
Phil Harding	PhD	Prehistoric flint, particularly Palaeolithic flint
Hayley Hawkins	BSc; MSc	Geoarchaeology, marine geoarchaeology
Lorrain Higbee	BSc; MSc; MCIfA	Animal bone
Matt Leivers	BA; PhD; ACIfA	Prehistoric pottery and flint
Inés López-Dóriga	BA; MA; PhD	Archaeobotanical remains
Erica Macey-Bracken	BA; ACIfA	Post-medieval finds, ceramic building material and worked wood
Katie Marsden	BSc	Pottery from prehistoric to post-medieval/modern. Metalwork of all periods, including coins. Small and bulk finds including fired clay, ceramic building material, worked bone
Cai Mason	BSc; MCIfA	Post-medieval finds, particularly glass
Jacqueline McKinley	BTech; FSA	Human remains (inhumations and cremations)
Nicki Mulhall		Geoarchaeology and archaeobotanical remains
David Mullin	BA; M.Phil; PhD	Earlier prehistoric pottery (Neolithic–Late Bronze Age)
Marek Lewcun		Clay tobacco pipe
Virva Lompolo	HuK; FM*; MSc	Pottery trainee (*HuK equiv. = BA; FM equiv.= MA; qualifications acquired in Finland)
Jack Oughton	MSci; PhD	Geoarchaeology, palynology, geology
Kate Roberts	BA; MSc	Archaeobotanical remains
Charlie Robertson	BA; MSc	Human remains (inhumations)
Megan Scantlebury	BA; MSc	Archaeobotanical remains
Rachael Seager Smith	BA; MCIfA	Pottery with particular emphasis on Roman ceramics; and metalwork, fired clay, ceramic building material, stone, worked bone, shale, glass, and wall plaster



Name	Qualifications	Specialism
Andrew Shaw	BA; MA; PhD	Palaeolithic lithic artefacts and Pleistocene geoarchaeology
Mark Stewart	BA; MPhil	Prehistoric flint, worked stone, ceramic building material, glass, fired clay
Amy Thorp	BA; MA	Pottery with emphasis on Roman ceramics, small finds
Ed Treasure	BSc; MRes; PhD	Archaeobotanical remains, including plant remains and charcoal/wood
Kevin Trott	BA	Pottery from the Iron Age to early modern period, with emphasis on later Iron Age/Romano-British and medieval to post-medieval periods. Ceramic building material, fired clay/briquettage, metalwork/small finds, clay tobacco pipes, worked bone, stone artefacts, shale, glass, wall plaster, leather, marine shell
Ashley Tuck	BSc; MCIfA	Post-medieval CBM, crucibles, industrial residues and metal
Jessica Waterworth	BA; MSc	Animal bone
Thomas Wicks	BA; MA	Conservation of objects



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