

LAND AT CHURCH ROAD, IDMISTON, SALISBURY, WILTSHIRE

(Centred on NGR SU 20035 37336)

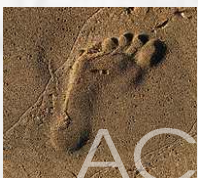
Project Design for archaeological monitoring and
recording

Wiltshire Council planning reference PL/2023/04010
(Condition 3)

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archaeology

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out proposals to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording of the groundworks associated with two new detached dwellings on land at Church Road, Idmiston, Salisbury, Wiltshire (SU 20035 37336). It represents the Written Programme of Archaeological Investigations required by Wiltshire Council as condition 3 of planning permission PL/2023/04010, 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 owner.
- 1.3 The site lies on the current north extent of Idmiston and occupies part of a wider plot of agricultural land (Fig. 1). It is situated on land with moderate slope down to the south between 94m and 82m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying solid geology comprises Cretaceous chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation; there are no superficial deposits recorded on the site (British Geological Survey 2024).
- 1.4 The proposed development will comprise the construction of two new dwellings with integral garages and access. The advice of the WCACA provided to Wiltshire Council for planning reference PL/2023/04010 is as follows:

This application proposes the erection of two dwellings on a plot of land on the fringes of the historic village of Idmiston, on the archaeologically rich Salisbury Plain. Salisbury Plain is renowned for the quality and density of its archaeological heritage. The site of this proposed development is not currently developed, and historic mapping indicates that no buildings have previously occupied the site in the last 200 years. Although Wiltshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) shows no known heritage assets recorded within the application area, the undeveloped character of the site and the wider archaeological potential provides grounds to consider that buried archaeological remains may be present within the site.

This is best demonstrated by recent (within the last 20 years) archaeological work within the Porton Down complex, itself a highly developed site since the First World War, where one might not expect buried remains to survive. In the last 20 years archaeological investigations prior to and during development have identified a number of Neolithic (4,000 – 2,000 BC) pits, a possibly Neolithic building, Bronze Age (2,000 – 800 BC) ditches and pits, Iron Age (800 – 100 BC) pits, a Late Roman

(4th-century AD) inhumation burial, and several prehistoric or later field boundaries, trackways and ditches.

This undeveloped site at Church Road, Idmiston, therefore has an archaeological potential. On this basis, I recommend as a precaution that the development is subject to archaeological monitoring and recording during ground works, should this application be permitted. The archaeological monitoring and recording can be secured by the following condition:

No development shall commence within the area indicated by the red line boundary on AD Draughting Architectural Service's Drawing No. 1282-01, Rev A, dated 26/01/2023 until:

a) A written programme of archaeological investigation, which should include on-site work and off-site work such as the analysis, publishing and archiving of the results, has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority; and

b) The approved programme of archaeological work has been carried out in accordance with the approved details.

REASON: In order to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost in a manner proportionate to their importance and to make this evidence and any archive generated publicly accessible.

This is in accordance with Paragraph 205 of the NPPF which states that 'Local planning authorities should require developers to record and advance understanding of the significance of any heritage assets to be lost (wholly or in part) in a manner proportionate to their importance and the impact, and to make this evidence (and any archive generated) publicly accessible'.

The watching brief should comprise the archaeological monitoring and recording of any ground works that have the potential to impact on buried archaeological remains. The programme of archaeological work will conclude with the preparation of a report on the results of the exercise. If the applicant wishes to address the uncertainty at an earlier stage, an initial programme of exploratory trial trenches would be an alternative approach.

2. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The site is located in an area with previously recorded prehistoric remain, including a number of funerary monuments and findspots. To the north and east of the site are four bowl barrows (Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record ref. SU23NW724; SU23NW616; SU23NW617; SU13NE607). To the east and south of the site a number of findspots comprising Neolithic worked flint (SU13NE101; SU23NW10; SU23NW104), and to the north a Bronze Age razor (SU23NW150).
- 2.2** The village of Idmiston has probable Saxon origins and was first recorded as *Idemestone* in 947 AD (Gower *et al* 1939). To the west of the village are surviving earthworks, thought to be Saxon in date, which were surveyed by the Royal Commission on the Historic Monuments of England in 1994 (SU13NE401).
- 2.2** Idmiston contains a number of Listed buildings dating from between the 12th to 19th centuries. These include the Grade I Church of All Saints, which has surviving elements dating from the 12th century, and a number of properties dating between the 15th and 16th centuries (National Heritage List for England ref. 1023956). The most notable of these properties is the Grade II Listed Idmiston Manor (1355682), and associated Grade II Listed

front gateway (1183901), dated to c. 1600 AD and located approximately 190m west of the site.

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 Saxon and medieval settlement.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** All works will be carried out in accordance with this Project Design. Attendance by the site archaeologist undertaking the monitoring and recording will be undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (both revised 2023) i.e. present during all (relevant) groundworks.
- 4.2** The expected works to be monitored will comprise the following:
- Bulk reduction for the driveway and terracing works;
 - Footings trenches for the dwellings; and,
 - Service trenches.
- 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 and the recent Explanatory Memorandum to the Treasure Act 1996: Code of Practice (3rd Revision) 2023, will be reported to the local coroner within the notice period. The object or objects will be removed to a safe place 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 the 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 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 WCACA 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 the 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 Historic England (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 **TSM-AN03** 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

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 John Georgi MSc;
- 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 **524900** 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** Senior members of staff 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).
- 9.5** The manager responsible for Health and Safety for AC archaeology is Laurence Vinnels. Laurence is accredited under the *Site Manager's Safety Training Scheme* (SMSTS).

10. PERSONNEL AND PROGRAMME

- 10.1** The project will be coordinated by Simon Hughes BSc MCIfA, Director of 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 ClfA 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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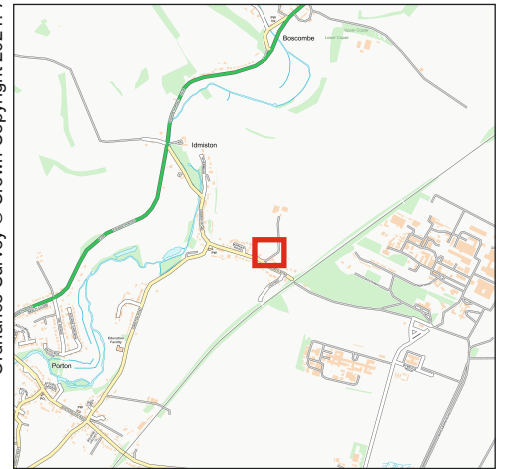
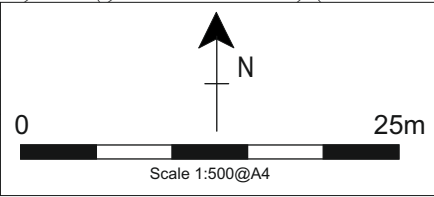
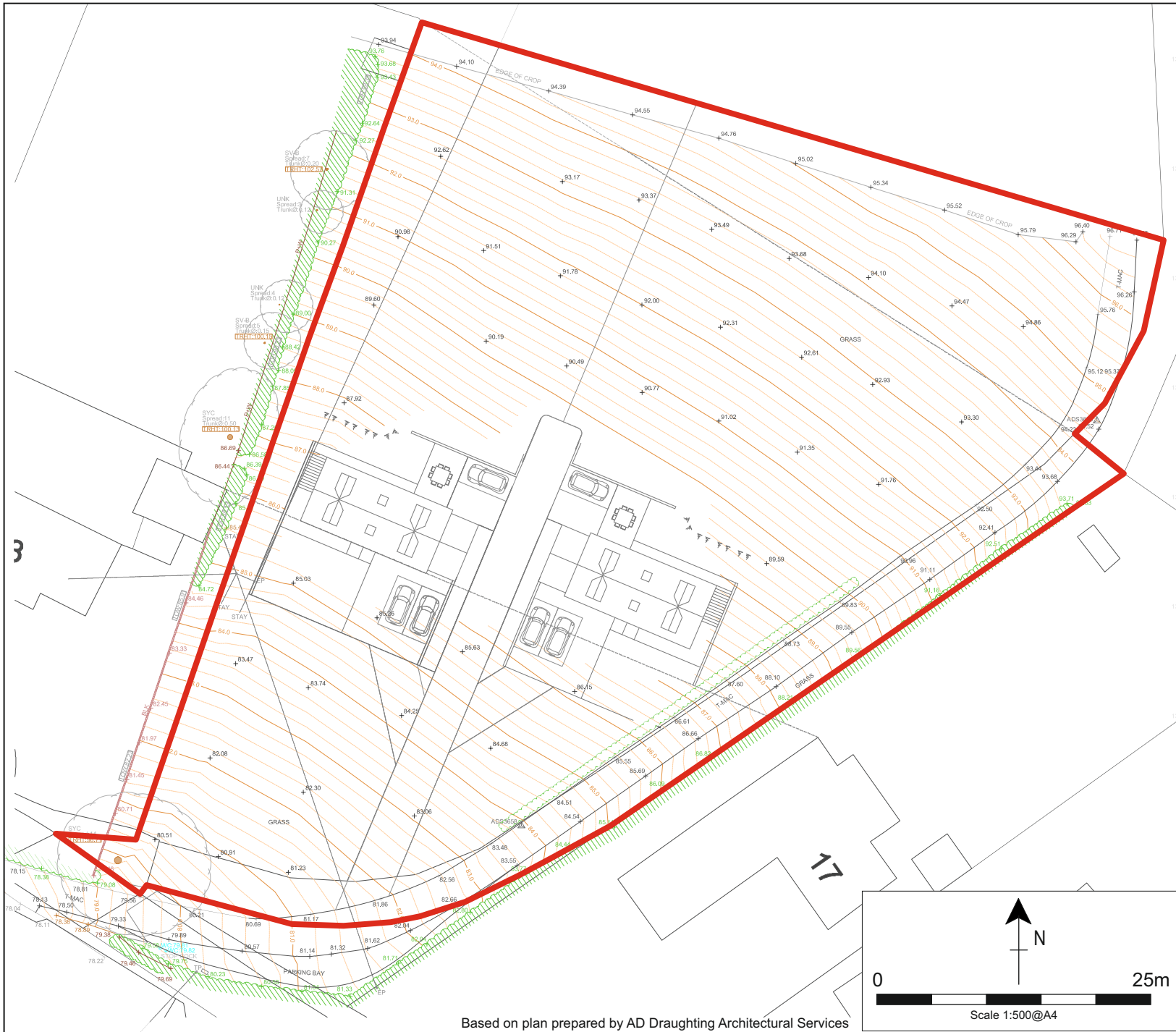
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Version 1
 Laurence Vinnels
 Project Manager
 AC archaeology
 13 May 2024



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PROJECT

Land at Church Road, Idmiston,
Salisbury, Wiltshire

TITLE

Fig. 1: Location of site and proposed
development



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