

LAND OFF JUNCTION OF SALISBURY AND LYNCHETS ROADS, AMESBURY, WILTSHIRE

(Centred on NGR SU 15881 40950)

Project Design for archaeological monitoring and
recording

Wiltshire Council planning reference PL/2026/00617

Prepared by:
Laurence Vinnels

On behalf of:
Wessex Water

Document No: ACA0531/1/1

Date: March 2026



AC archaeology

LAND OFF JUNCTION OF SALISBURY AND LYNCHETS ROADS, AMESBURY, WILTSHIRE

(Centred on NGR SU 15881 40950)

Project Design for archaeological monitoring and recording

Wiltshire Council planning reference PL/2026/00617

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out proposals for undertaking archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the installation of a below ground stormwater storage tank, creation of a permanent layby and bollards and a temporary compound access on land off junction of Salisbury and Lynchets Roads, Amesbury, Wiltshire (centred on NGR SU 15881 40950). It represents the Written Scheme of Investigation anticipated to be required by Wiltshire Council as a condition of planning reference PL/2026/00617, based on consultation advice provided by the Wiltshire Assistant County Archaeologist (hereafter WCACA).
- 1.2 The archaeological work will be carried out by AC Archaeology and Heritage and has been commissioned by Wessex Water.
- 1.3 The site is located on the southwest extent of Amesbury and occupies a single plot with a mixture of trees and scrub. It is situated on land that slopes gently downwards to the northwest between 82m and 77m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying solid geology comprises Cretaceous chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation. This is beneath superficial deposits consisting of Quaternary head deposits (British Geological Survey online viewer 2026).
- o
- 1.4 The proposed scheme will comprise the installation of a below ground stormwater storage tank, access covers, kiosk, fencing and temporary work compound to be carried out under permitted development, and the creation of a layby with security bollards and temporary construction access carried out under planning application reference PL/2026/00617. The advice of the WCACA provided to Wiltshire Council for planning reference PL/2026/00617 is as follows:

Thank you for consulting Wiltshire Council's Archaeology Service regarding this planning application. Please note that my comments relate solely to the buried archaeological heritage and not to the historic built environment, which is a matter for your Conservation Officer.

These proposed works are in a sensitive archaeological location with some impressive medieval lynchets (probably the best preserved in Wiltshire) immediately to the south of the site that are designated as a Scheduled Monument. Wiltshire's Historic Environment Record (HER) also shows a cropmark ring ditch closer to the proposed works. This feature has been interpreted as indicating the location of a Bronze Age barrow, although other interpretations are possible. There were also traces of other possible barrows and an ancient field system on the north-facing slope to the east of the site that have since been lost under the 20th-century housing estate.

Wessex Water has previously been in contact with the Archaeology Service about the permitted development elements of this scheme and, as noted in the accompanying planning statement, I have previously advised that the groundworks are subject to archaeological monitoring. I am satisfied that this remains an appropriate response for those aspects of the development set out in this application.

It can be noted that the temporary compound, which as I understand it is not part of this application, lies close to the cropmark ring ditch to the south. The method of construction of the temporary compound is not included in this application but should seek to impact minimally on below ground deposits.

It is also noted in the planning statement that Historic England has been consulted by Wessex Water. You may wish to consult with Historic England separately given the proximity of the Scheduled Monument to the south.

The programme of 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 Wessex Water's Location Plan, dated April 2025, 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 in accordance with Paragraph 218 of the NPPF.

The programme of archaeological work should comprise the archaeological monitoring 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 commensurate with their significance.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site is located immediately north of the Scheduled Monument known as *Lynchets at Southmill Hill* (National Heritage List for England ref. 1015220). The listing description is as follows:

The monument includes a flight of four strip lynchets lying across the north west facing slope of Southmill Hill, immediately north east of the A345 Salisbury to Amesbury road. The lynchets are medieval in date and are the result of deliberate terracing of the steep hillslope for cultivation. They survive as wide terraces up to 15m wide cut into the slope and separated by steep sections of bank which range in height from 2m to 5.5m. The northernmost lynchet survives to the greater height, declining gradually to the southernmost lynchet which is the lowest in height. The remains of a further lynchet to the south east of the monument have been levelled by cultivation and are not included within the scheduling. All fence posts and cattle troughs are excluded from the scheduling although the ground beneath these features is included.

2.2 In the southeast of the plot a circular cropmark visible on aerial photographs. The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER) records that it may represent a Bronze Age round barrow, however, that based on the proximity to military activity on Boscombe Down it may be a 20th century military feature such as a gunpost or barrage balloon site (Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER) ref. SU14SE773).

2.3 The HER records a number of previous archaeological investigations, findspots and cropmarks visible on aerial photographs located to the north and east of the site. To the east of the site a Bronze Age Round barrow was excavated in 1977 and finds recovered consisted of pottery and worked flint (HER ref. SU14SE720). To the southeast two inhumations of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age date were recorded during excavations as well as over 40 late Neolithic pits (HER ref. MWI75441).

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 prehistoric features associated with the possible round barrow visible on aerial photographs and medieval features associated with the lynchets located to the south of the site.

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' documents *Standards for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023a) and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023b) i.e. present during all (relevant) groundworks.
- 4.2** The anticipated groundworks to be monitored will comprise the initial topsoil stripping of the site. Should this be of sufficient depth to expose natural subsoil, then following suitable excavation and recording, and in consultation with the WCACA, the monitoring will cease. Should the initial stripping not be deep enough to confirm the presence or absence of archaeological features or deposits, then it may be required to monitor deeper groundworks to the level of natural subsoil.
- 4.3** All machine excavation carried out under archaeological monitoring will be undertaken using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The relevant 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** 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 and Heritage.
- 4.5** 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 and Heritage 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 and Heritage *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC Archaeology and Heritage'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 and Heritage 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 and Heritage.
- 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 **ACA0479** 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 and Heritage, 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 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 and Heritage 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 and Heritage, 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 **541559**.

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 and Heritage 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 and Heritage 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 and Heritage 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 and Heritage 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 and MRes, Project Manager of AC Archaeology and Heritage Ltd. Other personnel will be permanent and contract staff members of AC Archaeology and Heritage, 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 and Heritage 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*.

British Geological Survey online viewer, accessed January 2026, www.bgs.ac.uk.

Brown, D. H., 2011, *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (revised edition). Archaeological Archives Forum.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023a, *Standard for Archaeological monitoring and recording*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023b, *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, accessed January 2026, www.archaeologists.net/reporting-toolkit/using-the-advisory-checklist.

Coles, C., 2018, *AC archaeology Data Management Plan for Digital Archives*. In-house AC archaeology technical document.

English Heritage, 2011, *Environmental Archaeology – A guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. Revised version.

English Heritage, 2014, *Animal Bones and Archaeology*.

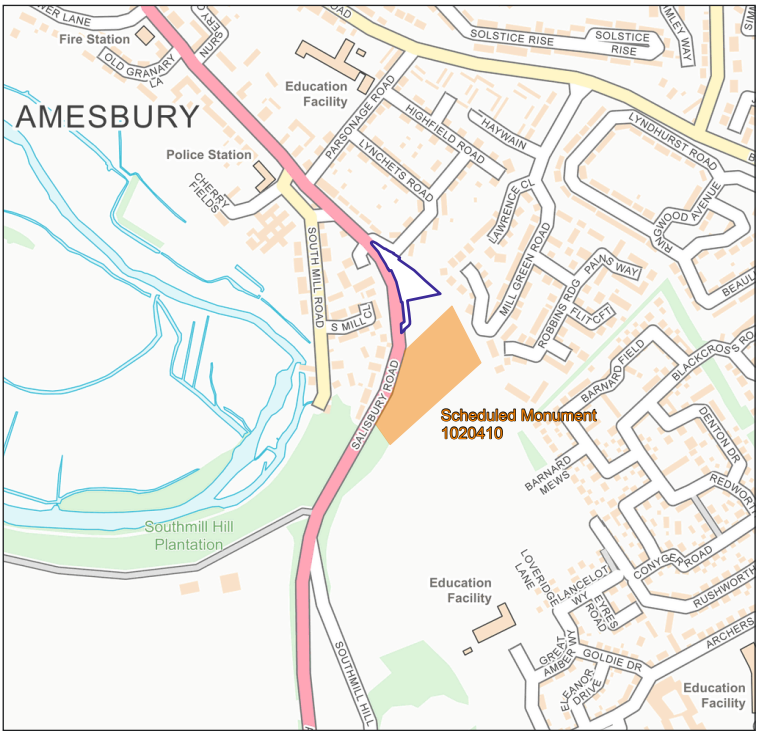
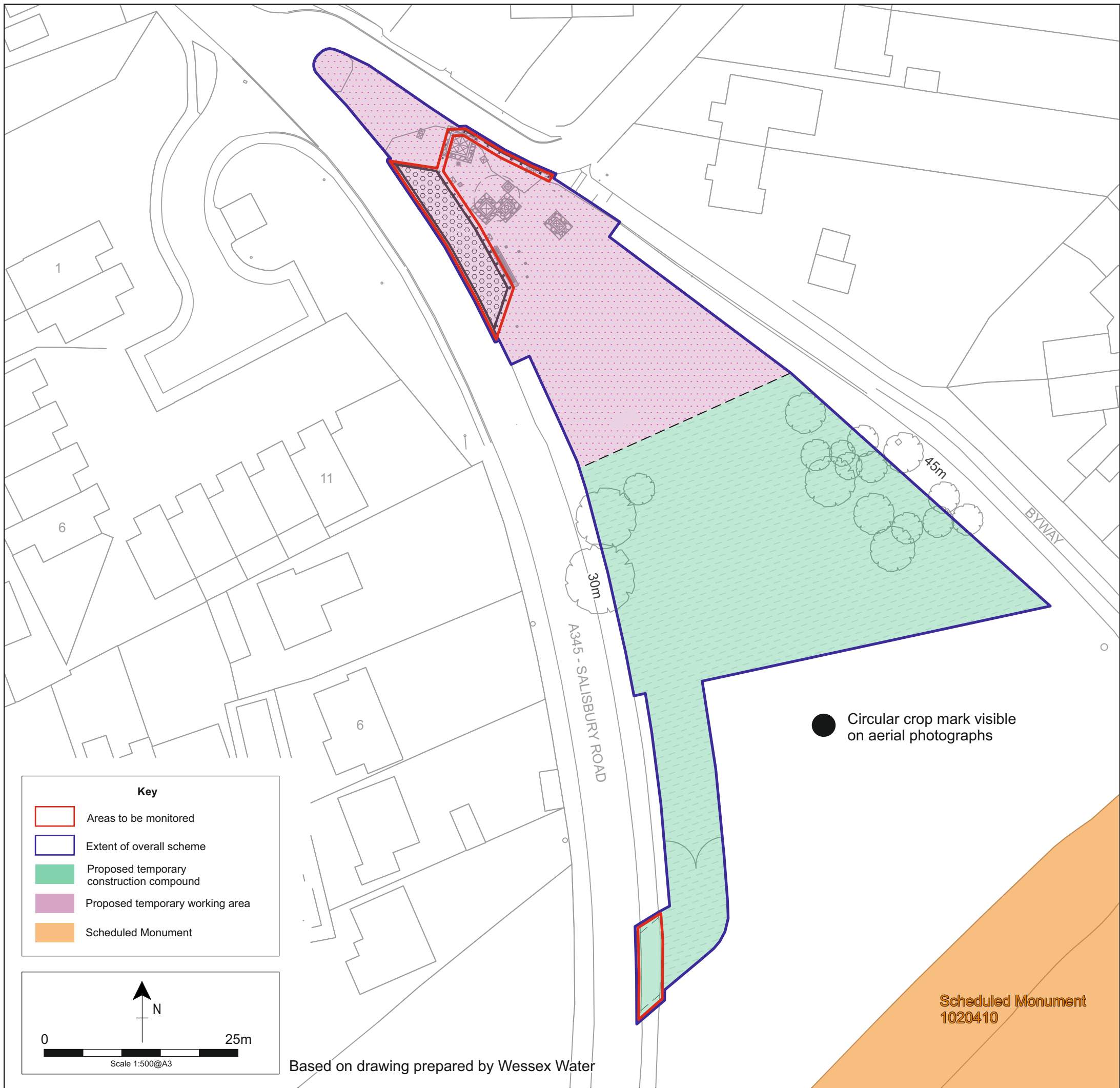
Historic England, 2015a, *Digital Image Capture and File Storage: Guidelines for Best Practice*.

Historic England, 2015b, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: the MoRPHE project managers' guide*. Swindon, Historic England.

National Heritage List for England, accessed March 2026, <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/map-search?clearresults=True>.

Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record, accessed March 2026, <https://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/HistoryEnvRecord/Home/Index>.

Version 2
Laurence Vinnels
Project Manager
AC Archaeology and Heritage
26 March 2026



PROJECT
Land off Junction of Salisbury and Lynchets Roads,
Amesbury, Wiltshire

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

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

Telephone: 01392 882410

www.acarchaeology.co.uk