

BRIDGEWALK HOUSE, BRIXTON DEVERILL, WILTSHIRE

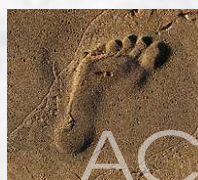
(NGR ST 86162 38844)

Project Design for archaeological monitoring and
recording

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archaeology

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Project Design for archaeological monitoring and recording

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This document sets out proposals to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension at Bridgewalk House, Brixton Deverill, Wiltshire (S86162 38844). It represents the Written Scheme of Investigation anticipated to be required by Wiltshire Council as a condition of planning consent. The scope of work is based on consultation advice provided by the Wiltshire Council Assistant County Archaeologist (hereafter WCACO). This had been provided under previous planning consent reference PL/2022/05624.
- 1.2 The archaeological work will be carried out by AC archaeology and has been commissioned by the private owner.
- 1.3 Bridgewalk House is located to the northwest of the B3095 that bisects the village and adjacent to the River Wylye (Fig. 1). The position of the proposed extension lies to the south of an existing outbuilding in an area currently occupied by gardens. It lies on flat ground at approximately 123m OD, with the underlying solid geology comprising chalk of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation, which is beneath superficial deposits of alluvial clay, silt, sand, and gravel are also recorded (British Geological Survey 2026).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is bounded immediately to the west by a Scheduled area (National Heritage List for England reference 1448408). This comprises a Roman Villa that was discovered in 2015 during the exaction of a cable trench which exposed a mosaic floor. Following its discovery Historic England commissioned geophysical survey and trial trenching during 2015 and 2016, the results of which mapped a substantial winged corridor Roman villa. The work showed that the northern wing and western part of the central range were poorly preserved, while the southern wing demonstrated a greater level of survival that included evidence for a bath suite in the form of an apsidal wall, the remains of a hypocaust, and a possible bathing pool. The trial trenching also exposed evidence for a subsequent timber structure built in the ruins of the north wing that indicated some level of maintained occupation of the site in the immediate post-Roman period.
- 2.2 As part of the current proposals a previous trial trench evaluation has been carried out (Simmonds and Hughes 2024) (Fig. 1). This was undertaken in association with a previous planning consent reference PL/2022/05624. The trial trenches recorded evidence for Roman activity. This comprised the exposure of a stone-built wall (Trench 2 S208), which was overlain by demolition deposits that included fragments of Roman painted wall plaster. More recent activity dating from the 19th century was also recorded, with this comprising a brick structure (Trench 1 S101), a ditch and a pit (Trench 2 F206 and F203).
- 2.3 The development proposals comprise the excavation of a foundation raft for the new extension. This will be excavated to a depth of 0.4m below existing levels. Based on the results from the previous trial trenching, the *in situ* Roman wall was present from a minimum depth of 0.45m

below existing levels. The proposed foundation pad is therefore anticipated to be maintained within overlying collapse and demolition deposits relating to the Roman structure or later layers and features dating to the 19th century.

3. AIMS

- 3.1** The main aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording is to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits exposed during the groundworks associated with the development. This is with particular reference for deposits associated with the former Roman building to be exposed.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** The work will be undertaken in accordance with this document, the Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service's *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Assessment and Fieldwork in Wiltshire and Swindon Borough* (2025), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' documents *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023a) and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (2023b).
- 4.2** It is anticipated that the monitoring of groundworks will be maintained during bulk reduction of the extension footprint to a depth of 0.4m below existing levels.
- 4.3** All bulk reduction will be carried out using a machine fitted with a toothless bucket. The groundworks excavation 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 WCACO.
- 4.4** Where it can be established that previous disturbance has been so thorough that archaeological deposits could not reasonably be expected to survive, or that in the judgement of the site archaeologist sufficient exposure of the natural subsoil has been found to be devoid of archaeological interest and that the site is considered to have no further potential then, following consultation with the WCACO, monitoring of the site groundworks will be terminated.
- 4.5** 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 and the local coroner contacted. Should the remains be of non-archaeological origin then the local police will also be informed. Any consents or licences required will be obtained on behalf of the client by AC archaeology.
- 4.6** Any object which falls under the definition of treasure, as defined in 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. The object or objects will be removed to a safe place (usually the nearest AC archaeology office) on the day of discovery or excavation. Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery, suitable security measures will be taken to protect 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. In accordance with the standard WCACO requirements, 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 WCACO and the client to determine the most appropriate mitigation.

5.3 All artefacts or deposits revealed will be recorded using the standard AC archaeology *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, and in accordance with AC archaeology's *General Site Recording Manual, Version 2*. Plans 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. All site levels will be related to Ordnance Datum. 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 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 Royal Albert Memorial Museum Conservation Laboratory, Exeter, who regularly provide sub-contract services and conservation advice to AC archaeology.

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

- 6.4** Where deposits of palaeoenvironmental potential are encountered, including carbonised or waterlogged organic deposits, these will be sampled as appropriate in accordance with English Heritage (now Historic England) guidelines *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.

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 Historic England (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 and the recipient museum collections policy, a fully integrated site archive will be prepared with reference to the Historic England (2015b) document *Management of the 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 in accordance with the Archaeology Data Services (ADS) standards and 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 the unique project code of **ACA0540** and the accession reference **SBYWM:2023.4** issued from Sailsbury Museum, Salisbury. On completion of all fieldwork the contents of the finds archive from this stage of work and the previous trial trenching undertaking under project reference **ACW1518** will be reviewed by the museum, and if they are considered worthy of retention then they will be transferred under an allocated accession number. Material not retained by the museum, or the landowner will be discarded three months from acceptance of the final report.

8. REPORTING

- 8.1** The reporting requirements will be confirmed with WCACA on completion of all site works. If archaeological remains are exposed during the course of the work, then an illustrated summary report will be prepared, within six weeks of completion on site, or if more significant remains are present, then a post-excavation assessment report will be prepared, within six months subject to specialist's reports. The contents of the final report will vary depending on the level of reporting required, but as a minimum will contain:

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

- 8.2** The finds and samples recovered during the investigations will be reviewed by the AC archaeology Finds Manager who will make a decision, in consultation with the DCCHET, on the level of reporting initially required (Levels 1-2), based on the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' 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:

- Reports on any prehistoric ceramics will be provided by Imogen Wood PhD;
- Other ceramics will be reported on by Naomi Payne BA MA PhD MCIfA, FSA, Finds Manager, AC archaeology, or other regional specialist as required;
- Land snail analysis, environmental, geoarchaeological and radiocarbon sampling will be carried out by Mike Allen PhD MCIfA FLS FSA;
- Pollen analysis will be carried out by Rob Scaife BSc PhD FRGS;
- General plant macrofossils will be reported by John Georgi MSc;
- Charcoal will be reported by Dana Challanor MSc, PhD;
- Reporting on worked flint will be carried out by Peter Bellamy, BSc, MCIfA, Terrain Archaeology;
- Reporting on any human remains will be carried out by Charlotte Coles BSc MSc MCIfA;
- Reporting on animal bone will be reported on by Charlotte Coles BSc MSc MCIfA;
- Reporting on any metal objects will be undertaken by Naomi Payne BA MA PhD MCIfA, FSA; and,
- Coins will be identified by Naomi Payne BA MA PhD MCIfA, FSA.

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 and a hard copy of the finalised report sent to the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record. Copies will be produced for distribution to the Client and the Local Planning Authority as required.
- 8.4** Details of the project will be submitted to the OASIS (Online AccesS to the Index of Archaeological InvestigationS) within four weeks of acceptance of the final report. The OASIS number for this project is **512456** and will be cited in the report.
- 8.5** In the event that significant remains are recorded then the WCACO may require more detailed analysis and publication of the results. If such remains are encountered, then a post-excavation assessment report will be prepared within six months, subject to specialist's reports, of the completion of all site work, which will outline the publication requirements, including any further analysis that may be necessary, as confirmed in consultation with the WCACO and the Client.

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 2015*.
- 9.2** In accordance with the provisions of the AC archaeology Health and Safety Policy, the AC archaeology site representative will be responsible for ensuring that operations under their control are carried out in accordance with the procedures outlined in 9.1 and in the site-specific risk assessment.
- 9.3** Archaeological staff will not work in unsafe or unhealthy conditions, even where not to do so will result in the possible under-recording of the archaeological resource. Safety helmets, high visibility vests and boots are to be used by all site personnel as necessary. Archaeological staff **must not** enter any area where there is a considered to be a health and safety risk that has not or is not being appropriately mitigated against.
- 9.4** All senior members of staff hold up to date first aid, CAT and Genny, banksman, asbestos awareness and manual handling qualifications. AC archaeology is registered as an approved contractor under the Worksafe Health and Safety Scheme (SMAS) and CQMS Safety Scheme, as recognised by SSIP (Safety Schemes in Procurement).
- 9.5** 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.
- 9.6** The Project Manager responsible for Health and Safety for AC archaeology is Laurence Vinnels. Laurence is accredited under the *Site Manager's Safety Training Scheme* (SMSTS).

10. PERSONNEL, PROGRAMME AND MONITORING

- 10.1** The project will be managed by Simon Hughes MCIfA, Director, AC archaeology Ltd. Other personnel will be permanent and contract staff members for 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 document prior to commencing the work.

- 10.2** A date for commencement is anticipated to be during the course of April 2026. The WCACO will be given at least 2 weeks notice prior to work commencing and be kept updated on the results including confirmation of the completion of work.
- 10.3** The project will be monitored by the WCACO for the local planning authority. Any variations to this document shall be agreed with the WCACO before they are carried out.

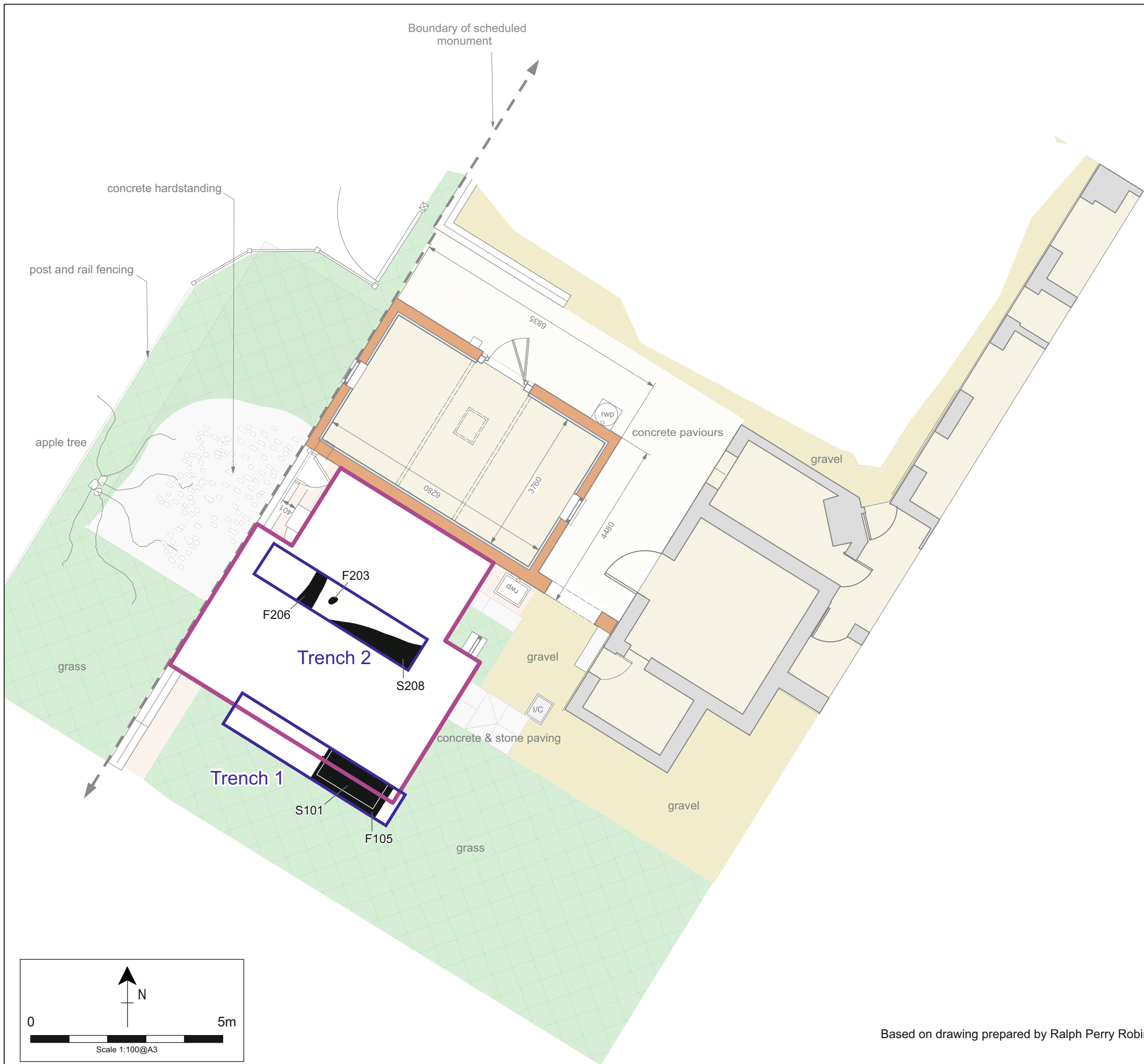
11. COPYRIGHT

- 11.1** AC archaeology Ltd shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved, excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the Client for the use of the report by the Client in all matters directly relating to the project. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be freely copied for planning, development control, education and research purposes without recourse to the Copyright owner subject to all due and appropriate acknowledgements being provided.

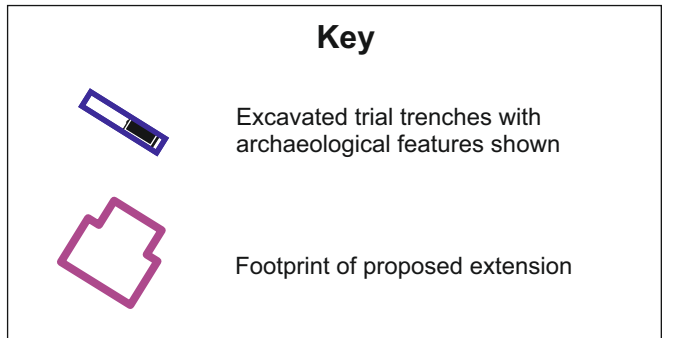
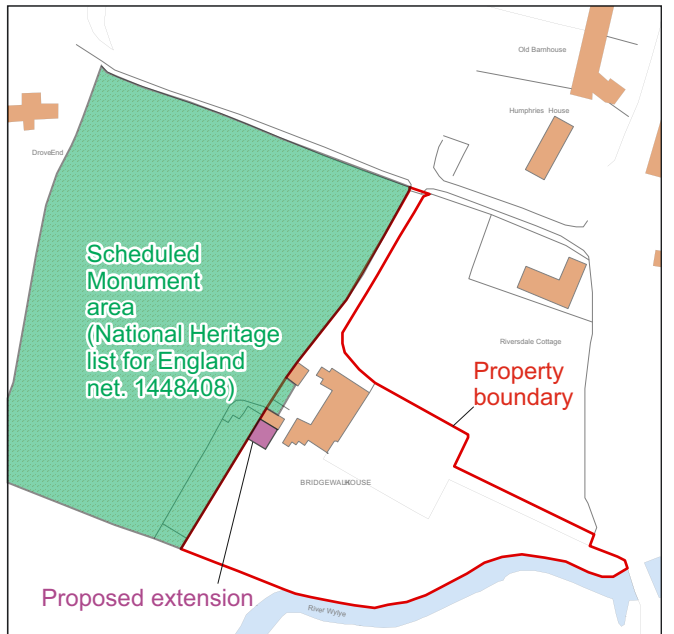
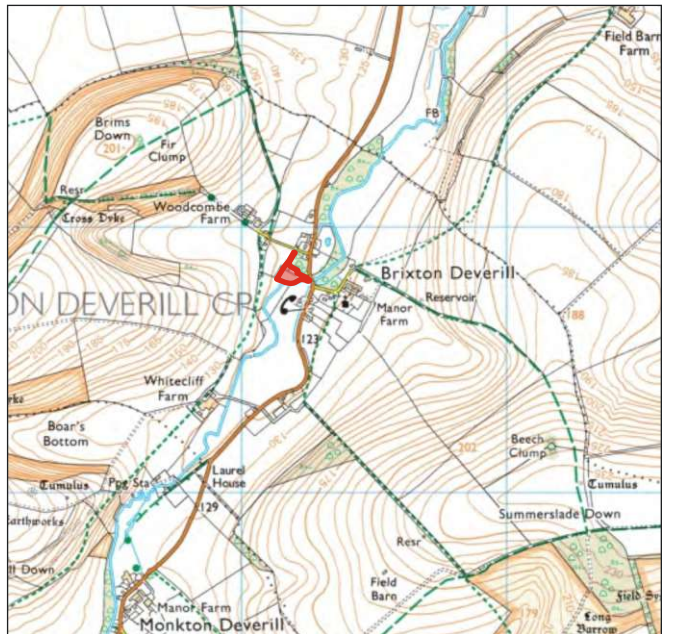
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Version 1
Simon Hughes
Director
AC archaeology
1 April 2026



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PROJECT
Bridgewalk House, Brixton Deverill, Wiltshire

TITLE
Fig. 1: Location of site and proposed extension footprint in relation to previous trial trenches

Based on drawing prepared by Ralph Perry Robinson

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