

BRIDGEWALK HOUSE, BRIXTON DEVERILL, WILTSHIRE

(NGR ST 86162 38844)

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

Wiltshire Council planning references PL/2026/02102 and
PL/2026/02315

Prepared by:
Daniel Brace

Report No: ACA0540/2/0

Date: June 2026

BRIDGEWALK HOUSE, BRIXTON DEVERILL, WILTSHIRE

(NGR ST 86162 38844)

Results of archaeological monitoring and recording

Wiltshire Council planning references PL/2026/02102 and PL/2026/02315

Client	Private owner
Report Number	ACA0540/2/0
Date	02 June 2026
Status	Version 1
Report Authors	Daniel Brace
Contributions	-
Checked by	Simon Hughes
Approved by	Simon Hughes

Acknowledgements

The archaeological investigations were commissioned by the property owner and managed for AC Archaeology and Heritage by Simon Hughes. The site works were carried out by Daniel Brace, with the illustrations for this report prepared by Leon Cauchois. The assistance of the Wiltshire Council Assistant County Archaeologist is gratefully acknowledged.

The views and recommendations expressed in this report are those of AC Archaeology and Heritage and are presented in good faith on the basis of professional judgement and on information currently available.

Copyright

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.

CONTENTS

	<i>Summary</i>	1
1.	Introduction	1
2.	Archaeological background	1
3.	Aims	2
4.	Methodology	2
5.	Results	2
6.	Comments	3
7.	Archive and OASIS	3
8.	Sources consulted	3

List of figures

Fig. 1: Location of site and monitored area in relation to development plan and previous trial trench results

List of plates

Plate 1: General view of site area during reduction, looking north

Plate 2: Completed bulk reduced area. View to southeast

Plate 3: Brick-lined structure. View to northwest

Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC Archaeology and Heritage during April 2026 in relation to a single storey extension at Bridgewalk House, Brixton Deverill, Wiltshire (centred on NGR ST 86162 38844). The site lies adjacent to a recently-discovered and Scheduled Roman villa. The extension footprint was subject to an archaeological evaluation in 2024. During this, structural remains comprising a Roman wall with associated overlying demolition layer was recorded.

Work comprised the monitoring of groundworks during bulk reduction of the extension footprint. The excavation was maintained at a depth above that of the previously exposed Roman structural remains. Consequently no structural remains or other contemporary features were exposed by the groundworks. A brick-lined structure of likely late 19th century date, which had also been previously recorded during the trial trenching, was re-exposed. No pre-modern finds recovered.

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Archaeological monitoring and recording was undertaken by AC Archaeology and Heritage in April 2026 during groundworks associated with the construction of a single storey extension at Bridgewalk House, Brixton Deverill, Wiltshire (NGR ST 86162 38844). The work was undertaken in association with planning references PL/2026/02102 and PL/2026/02315. The scope of work was based on consultation advice provided by the Wiltshire Council Assistant County Archaeologist (hereafter WCACO), which had been provided under previous planning consent reference PL/2022/05624.
- 1.2** Bridgewalk House is located to the northwest of the B3095 that bisects the village and lies adjacent to the River Wylfe (Fig. 1). The position of the new extension is situated to the southwest of an existing outbuilding in an area currently occupied by gardens. It lies on flat ground at approximately 123m above Ordnance Datum. 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 (British Geological Survey 2026).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The site is bounded immediately to the northwest by a Scheduled area (National Heritage List for England ref. 1448408). This comprises a Roman Villa that was discovered in 2015 during the excavation of a cable trench which exposed a mosaic floor. Following its discovery Historic England commissioned a programme of 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 proposed extension a previous trial trench evaluation was carried out (Simmonds and Hughes 2024). This was undertaken in association with previous planning consent reference PL/2022/05624. The trial trenches recorded evidence for Roman activity comprising 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, consisting of a brick structure (Trench 1, S101), a ditch and a pit (Trench 2, F206 and F203).
- 2.3** The development proposals comprised the excavation of a foundation raft for the new extension, which was to be excavated to a depth of 0.4m below existing levels. Based on the results from the previous trial trenching, this depth was above the *in situ* Roman wall, this this present from a minimum depth of 0.45m below existing levels. The proposed foundation pad was therefore designed to be maintained largely within modern garden soils and partially into the overlying collapse and demolition deposits relating to the Roman structure.

3. AIMS

- 3.1** The main aim of the archaeological monitoring and recording was 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 villa complex, if exposed.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1** The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a Project Design prepared by AC archaeology (Hughes 2026), the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' documents: *Standard for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023a) and *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording* (2023b), and the Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service document, *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Assessment and Fieldwork in Wiltshire and Swindon Borough* (2025).
- 4.2** All features and deposits revealed were recorded using the standard AC Archaeology and Heritage *pro forma* recording system, comprising written, graphic and photographic records, in accordance with AC archaeology's General Site Recording Manual, Version 2 (revised August 2012).

5. RESULTS (Fig. 1; Plates 1-3)

- 5.1** The monitored groundworks consisted of the bulk reduction of the extension footprint using a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket (Fig 1; Plate 1). The footprint was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.4m below existing levels. This was dug through a 0.2m thick garden soil, a 0.1m to 0.2m thick mid-greyish brown silty loam subsoil, and intermittently into a light brown silty loam with chalk and flint gravels, and stone rubble inclusions (Plate 2). This lower layer was consistent with the Roman demolition deposit recorded previously during the previous trial trenching.
- 5.2** Toward the southern corner of the footprint the previously recorded brick-lined structure was re-exposed (Trench 1, S101) (Plate 3). It comprised a lime-mortared, unfrogged red brick square structure measuring approximately 2m². This is thought to

be a 19th century feature, likely to have been associated with a former glasshouse as shown in this location on the 1887 First-Edition 25-inch Ordnance Survey map.

- 5.3 The remnant Roman wall recorded during the evaluation (Trench 2, S208) was not exposed and no further archaeological deposits or structures were recorded during the monitored groundworks. In addition, no pre-modern finds were recovered.

6. COMMENTS

- 6.1 The monitored groundworks were relatively shallow. Therefore, except for localised exposure of a Roman demolition deposit overlying known building remains, the stripped area was largely maintained within overlying subsoil and garden soil. This deposit sequence was consistent with that recorded during the previous trial trenching.
- 6.2 The shallow design of the extension foundation raft was therefore successful in not exposing the previously recorded *in situ* Roman building remains that are present at a greater depth.

7. ARCHIVE AND OASIS

- 7.1 The aim will be to create a synthesised and ordered archive containing all paper and digital primary records including the previous trial trenching stage under the site codes **ACW1518** and **ACA0540**. The end result will be usable and easily accessible for anyone carrying out subsequent research on this or other comparable sites.
- 7.2 The contents of the finds archive will be reviewed by Salisbury Museum, and, if they are considered worthy of retention, with the agreement of the site owner they will be transferred to the museum under accession number SBYWM:2023.4 three months after acceptance of the report.
- 7.3 The archive will be prepared with reference to the Historic England (2015) reissued document *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE) and Brown, DH, 2011, *Archaeological Archives A Guide to Best Practice in Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Curation*. A digital archive including the scanned site records will be compiled in accordance with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) standards, guidelines and the AC archaeology Data Management Plan for Digital Archives (Coles 2018) and uploaded to the ADS once all post-excavation work has been completed.
- 7.4 An online OASIS database entry has been completed using the unique reference **512456**, which includes a digital version of this report.

8. SOURCES CONSULTED

British Geological Survey. Geology of Britain Viewer ([BGS Geology Viewer \(BETA\)](#)). Accessed April 2026.

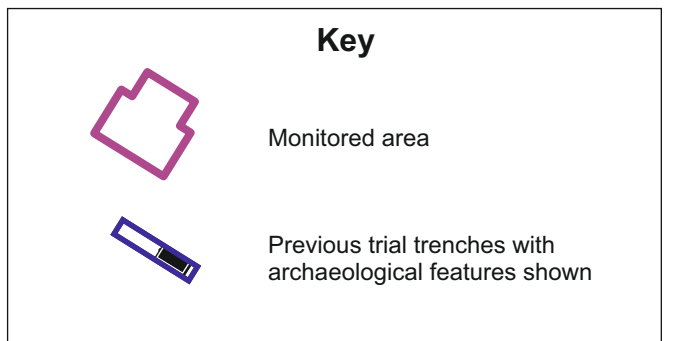
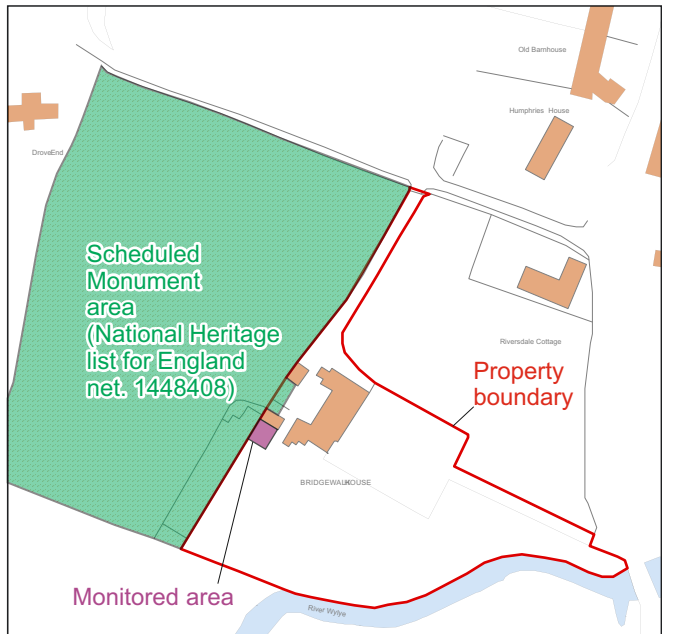
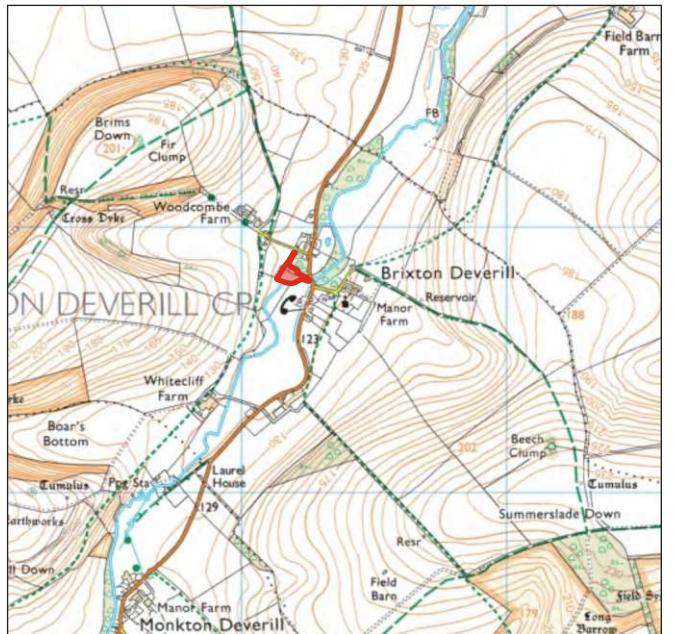
Brown, DH., 2011, *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation (revised edition)*. *Archaeological Archives Forum*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023a, *Standards for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*.

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2023b, *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*.
- Coles, C., 2018, *AC archaeology Data Management Plan for Digital Archives*. In-house AC archaeology technical document.
- Historic England, 2015, *Management of Archaeological Projects (Appendix 3)* Swindon, Historic England.
- Hughes, S., 2026, *Bridgewalk House, Brixton Deverill, Wiltshire: Project Design for archaeological monitoring and recording*. AC Archaeology and Heritage Doc. ACA0540/1/1.
- National Heritage List for England. Accessed April 2026 <http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list>
- Simmonds, V. & Hughes, S. 2024, *Bridgewalk House, Brixton Deverill, Wiltshire: Results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation*. Unpublished AC archaeology report ref. ACW1518/2/1.
- Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service. 2025. *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Assessment and Fieldwork in Wiltshire and Swindon Borough*



Ordnance Survey © Crown Copyright 2024. All rights reserved. Licence number 100022432



PROJECT
Bridgewalk House, Brixton Deverill, Wiltshire

TITLE
Fig. 1: Location of site and monitored area in relation to development plan and previous trial trench results



Plate 1: General view of site area during reduction, looking north (1m scale)



Plate 2: Completed bulk reduced area. View to southeast (1m scale)



Plate 3: Brick-lined structure. View to northwest (1m scale)

AC Archaeology & Heritage Ltd
2-4 Halthaies Workshops
Bradninch
Exeter
Devon
EX5 4LQ

Telephone: 01392 882410



www.acarchaeology.co.uk