

Land at West End Farm, Bishops Cannings, Devizes, Wiltshire

Written Scheme of Investigation for a Strip, Map and Record



ISCA Archaeology Limited

Unit 54, Basepoint Business Centre

Yeoford Way, Marsh Barton

Exeter, Devon

EX2 8LB

07715 977479

contactus@iscaarch.co.uk



For: **Private Client**

ISCA Project: **P08-0052**

ISCA Report: **R02-0052-1**

Report Version: **v.1.1**

OASIS Number: **iscaarch2-544409**

July 2026

Project Name: Land at West End Farm
Location: Bishops Cannings, Devizes, Wiltshire
Type: Strip, Map and Record
National grid reference (NGR): SU 03260 64221
What3Words: ///digestion.stickler.spouse
Planning authority: Wiltshire Council
Planning Application: PL/2025/05510
Proposed date of fieldwork: Autumn 2026
Site Code: WEF26
Location of Archive: Wiltshire Museum
Museum Reference Code: TBC
Report number: R08-0052-1
Report written by: Andrea Del Carpio L
Produced by ISCA for: Private client
OASIS number: iscaarch2-544409

DOCUMENTATION CONTROL

Revision	Date	Author	Checked by	Status	Reason for Revision	Approved by
v.1.0	22/07/2026	Andrea Del Carpio	Tim Brown (MCIfA)	Draft	Internal Review	Tim Brown (MCIfA)
v.1.1	28/07/2026	Andrea Del Carpio	WCAS	Submitted	WCAS Review	Tim Havard (WCAS)

SUMMARY

This Written Scheme of Investigation sets out the methodology for an Archaeological Strip, Map and Record at Land at West End Farm, Bishops Cannings, Devizes, Wiltshire; prior to the proposed formation of a car park adjacent to West End Farmhouse. These works have been commissioned as part of planning application **PL/2025/05510**.

This WSI sets out the methodology for an excavation area of c. 50m² to target the location of below ground impacts associated with the construction of the entrance to the proposed car park area. The excavation will be implemented prior to any groundworks to allow for the safe identification, investigation and recording of archaeology within the Site. The results of the fieldwork and subsequent post-excavation analysis will be presented in a detailed and illustrated report.

CONTENTS

SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND.....	7
3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	9
4. METHODOLOGY	9
5. STAFF AND TIMETABLE	15
6. POST-EXCAVATION, ARCHIVING AND REPORTING.....	16
7. HEALTH AND SAFETY.....	18
8. INSURANCES AND QUALITY CONTROL.....	20
9. MONITORING	20
11. REFERENCES	21

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location plan

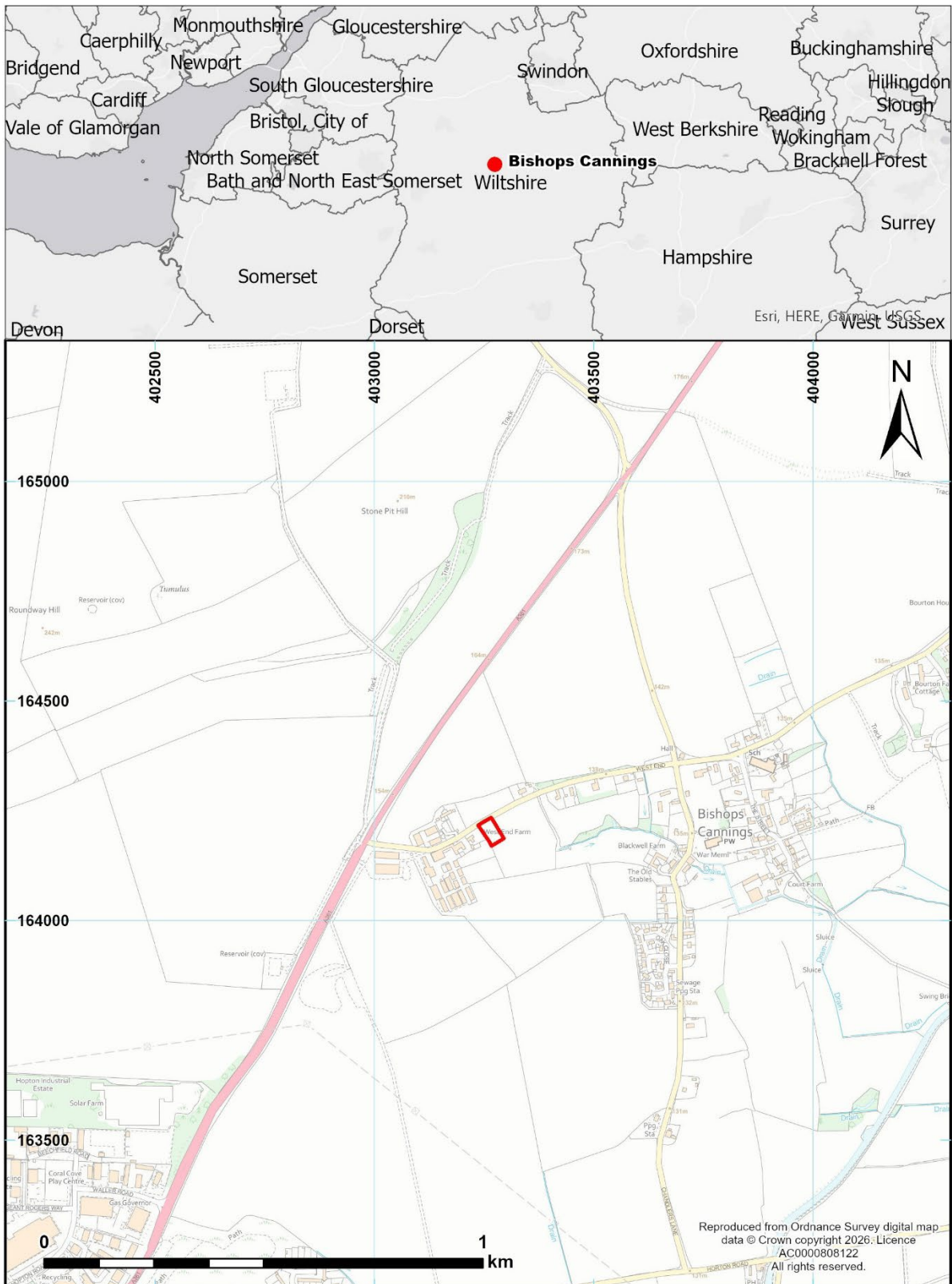
Figure 2: Location of proposed works

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI), prepared by ISCA Archaeology Limited (ISCA), sets out the methodology for a programme of Strip, Map and Record (SMR) at Land at West End Farm, Bishops Cannings, Devizes, Wiltshire (henceforth referred to as the 'Site'), centred at NGR SU 03260 64221 (**Fig. 1**). The works have been commissioned by a private client in relation to conditionally granted planning application **PL/2025/05510**.
- 1.2. **Condition 3** of the planning application requires a programme of archaeological investigation to be secured and implemented in accordance with an approved Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prior to the commencement of development.
- 1.3. The WSI sets out the methodology for the archaeological excavation prior to the proposed work, and for related off-Site analyses and reporting. The WSI and the schedule of work therein were drawn up in consultation with Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS).

The Site

- 1.4. The site is located within Bishops Cannings Conservation Area and it comprises the entrance to the proposed car park serving Piggery Farm Shop, located within West End Farm. It is accessed from the A361 and is bordered by the farm shop to the west, agricultural fields to the north and south, and residential development to the east.
- 1.5. Archaeological investigation has been advised by WCAS due to the Site's location within an area of archaeological potential associated with the former medieval settlement of Bishops Cannings. WCAS have clarified within comments in application PL/2025/05510 that stripping of topsoil and ground levelling in relation to the planning proposals may expose hitherto unrecorded archaeological features (WCAS, 2025).
- 1.6. The proposed archaeological excavation area extends from West End Road and will form the access route linking the road to the proposed car park. The excavation area measures approximately 50m².



 Site boundary

FIGURE TITLE

Site Location

PROJECT TITLE

Land at West End Farm,
Bishops Cannings, Devizes, Wiltshire

FIGURE NO.

1

- 1.7. The archaeological excavation will take the form of a Strip, Map and Record (SMR) and will allow for the identification, investigation, and recording of any exposed archaeological or artefactual deposits. The results of the fieldwork and any post-excavation analysis undertaken will be presented in either an HER report or a detailed and illustrated report (dependent upon the level of archaeological remains, and requirements by WCAS).

Statute, policy, and guidance context

- 1.8. This WSI has been guided in its composition by *Standard for Archaeological Excavation* (Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2023a), *Universal guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (CIfA, 2023b), *Code of Conduct: Professional Ethics in Archaeology* (CIfA, 2022), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment PPN 3: Archaeological Excavation* (Historic England, 2015a), *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England, 2015b), *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Assessment and Fieldwork in Wiltshire and Swindon Borough* (WCAS, 2025) and in accordance with Section 16, paragraph 218 of the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF, 2024), which states:

“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. However, the ability to record evidence of our past should not be a factor in deciding whether such loss should be permitted.”

- 1.9. Furthermore, this WSI has also been guided in its composition by the *Wiltshire Core Strategy* adopted January 2015. With regard to the historic environment, Core ‘Policy 58: Ensuring the conservation of the historic environment’ clarifies that:

‘Development should protect, conserve and where possible enhance the historic environment.

Designated heritage assets and their settings will be conserved, and where appropriate enhanced in a manner appropriate to their significance, including:

- i. nationally significant archaeological remains*

- ii. *World Heritage Sites within and adjacent to Wiltshire*
- iii. *buildings and structures of special architectural or historic interest*
- iv. *the special character or appearance of conservation areas*
- v. *historic parks and gardens*
- vi. *important landscapes, including registered battlefields and townscapes.*

Distinctive elements of Wiltshire's historic environment, including non-designated heritage assets, which contribute to a sense of local character and identity will be conserved, and where possible enhanced. The potential contribution of these heritage assets towards wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits will also be utilised where this can be delivered in a sensitive and appropriate manner in accordance with Core Policy 57 (Ensuring High Quality Design and Place Shaping).

Heritage assets at risk will be monitored and development proposals that improve their condition will be encouraged. The advice of statutory and local consultees will be sought in consideration of such applications' (Wiltshire Council, 2015, 290).

- 1.10. Furthermore, this WSI has been informed and guided by **Condition 3** of the planning application (PL/2025/05510), namely:

"No development shall commence within the area indicated by application PL/2025/05510 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 by the Local Planning Authority; and*
- b) 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. (Wiltshire Council, 2025).

- 1.11. In addition, comments from the Assistant County Archaeologist for Wiltshire Council state:

...” I would advise that the initial topsoil strip and ground reduction phase within the development footprint is carried out as a Strip, Map and Record (SMR) excavation by qualified archaeologists. Any archaeological features and/or deposits exposed during this work are to be excavated and fully recorded by the archaeologists before work on the car park itself can begin.

The SMR is to be carried out following the standards and guidelines for such work as set out by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) and the document 'Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Assessment and Fieldwork in Wiltshire and Swindon Borough' issued by Wiltshire Council Archaeology Service (WCAS). The costs of the work are to be borne by the applicant.” (WCAS, 2025).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The underlying bedrock geology comprises chalk of the West Melbury Marly Chalk Formation. This sedimentary bedrock was formed in a shallow marine environment during the Cretaceous Period, approximately 100.5 to 93.9 million years ago. They are a biogenic and detrital carbonate material, and include microscopic coccolith remains, which accumulated on the seabed and subsequently formed distinctive beds of chalk (BGS, 2026). The soils across the Site are classified as freely draining lime-rich loamy soils (LandIS, 2026).
- 2.2. The Site is located on the western edge of Bishops Cannings, within the Bishops Cannings Conservation Area. Bishop's Cannings is located approximately two miles north east of Devizes towards the north western edge of the Vale of Pewsey. Half a mile further north east are the hamlets of Bourton and Easton, and south, on the other side of the canal, is Horton.
- 2.3. The surrounding area is predominantly agricultural, with West End Road forming the northern boundary, West End Farm and West End Cottage to the west, and residential development to the east. Further residential development extends eastwards towards the historic core of the village.
- 2.4. Bishop's Cannings originated during the early medieval period and was first mentioned within the Domesday Book as part the estate of the Bishop of Salisbury, when it was recorded as 'Kainingham' or Canning's Farm. The manor was evidently large and wealthy,

and the village acquired the prefix 'Bishop's' during the 13th century. Agriculture historically dominated the surrounding landscape, with downland used for grazing, hillsides for arable cultivation and meadows for pasture. The present road network is also thought to preserve routes connecting Bishop's Cannings with the neighbouring settlements of Coate, Horton, Bourton and Easton (Wiltshire Council, 2009).

- 2.5. The village lies c. 500m to the east of the Site. Earthworks associated with the shrunken medieval settlement have been identified in fields to the west, south and east of the present village, including former fields, paddocks, a possible toft, ditched boundaries and areas of ridge and furrow.
- 2.6. Approximately 500m to the east of the Site, the Grade I listed Church of St Mary the Virgin forms the principal historic landmark within Bishop's Cannings. The church has origins in the late 12th or early 13th century, with much of the chancel dating to the mid-13th century. It was subsequently altered during the 14th and 15th centuries, including the addition of its prominent central spire, before undergoing restoration during the 19th century.
- 2.7. Medieval pottery and other finds have also been recovered from the village and churchyard. Documentary evidence indicates that the medieval bishops of Salisbury held the manor and obtained licences to crenellate a residence at Bishop's Cannings during the 14th century, although the location and character of any episcopal manor house remain uncertain.
- 2.8. Approximately 50m to the east of the Site, medieval metalwork comprising a key, spoon handle and spoon finial was recovered from the grounds of Manor House (SU06SW477). The objects are recorded as a findspot in the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record.
- 2.9. By the 14th century, Bishop's Cannings was a large and prosperous settlement, although it subsequently declined in size. The Bishop's Cannings Conservation Area Statement records West End Farm, immediately west of the Site, as a farmstead of medieval origin, documented as 'Westend' in 1598. This suggests that the surviving 19th century farmstead may occupy or lie close to an earlier focus of settlement or agricultural activity.
- 2.10. A map dating to approximately 1770 depicts numerous deserted crofts, while a map of 1773 shows houses continuing to line the roads extending west and south from the village (Wiltshire Council, 2009).

- 2.11. Immediately adjacent to the west of the Site is West End Farm, a partially extant 19th-century farmstead arranged around a regular courtyard plan (MWI69377). The farm buildings are dispersed across several yards, with additional detached buildings and the farmhouse set apart from the principal yard.
- 2.12. Approximately 200m to the south west of the Site, a small grass landing strip dating to the Second World War has been identified from aerial photographs taken in 1944 (MWI64114). The landing ground was marked by a lighter area extending across the field, with two aircraft and three tents visible along its edge. It was probably a 'Cub Strip' used by Piper L-4 Cub aircraft undertaking air-observation duties and may have been associated with American troops stationed at the nearby military hospital in Devizes.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1. The aim of the SMR is to ensure that any archaeological remains are appropriately identified, investigated and recorded prior to their removal or disturbance by the proposed development. The works will seek to preserve by record any archaeological features or deposits that may be affected.
- 3.2. The objectives of the SMR are to identify the presence, nature, extent, condition, character and significance of any archaeological remains encountered on the Site, and to establish their stratigraphic relationships and spatial distribution. Where appropriate, artefactual and environmental evidence will be recovered in order to assist with the dating, interpretation and understanding of past activity.
- 3.3. The programme of works will aim to place any archaeological remains within their local, regional and, where relevant, national archaeological and historical context. A permanent archaeological record will be produced in accordance with the approved WSI and current ClfA Standards and Guidance, with the results disseminated through post-excavation, reporting and archive deposition, and in line with the *NPPF* (2024).

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1. The definition of an archaeological excavation is:

'...a programme of intrusive fieldwork with defined research objectives which examines, records and interprets archaeological deposits, features and

structures and, as appropriate, retrieves artefacts, ecofacts and other remains within a specified area or site on land, in an inter-tidal zone or under water’ (ClfA, 2023).

4.2. The purpose of an archaeological excavation is to:

‘examine and record the archaeological resource within a specified area using methods that are described in a project design that is fit for purpose. The work undertaken will be carried out by suitably competent persons in accordance with that project design and the ClfA Code of conduct and give due regard to the guidance for archaeological excavation. All archaeological excavations will result in a report, published accounts where appropriate, and a stable, ordered, accessible archive’ (ClfA, 2023).

4.3. The SMR will comprise the excavation of the area affected by the construction of the new car park entrance serving The Piggery Farm Shop (Fig. 2). The excavation area will extend from West End Road and will cover c. 50m². The remainder of the proposed car park will be formed above the existing ground surface using recycled aggregate hardcore, with no excavation or ground reduction required, and is therefore excluded from the SMR excavation area.

4.4. The excavation area will be excavated using a tracked 360 mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machining will be conducted under archaeological supervision and will cease when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate is revealed (whichever is encountered first). Topsoil and subsoil will be stored separately at a distance of more than one meter from the edge of areas of excavation.

4.5. Following machining, any archaeological features revealed will be investigated, planned using Leica GPS, and recorded. If extensive and/or complicated archaeological remains are present, then sample excavation will be limited and minimally intrusive, sufficient to achieve the aims and objectives identified in Section 3. Where appropriate, excavation will not compromise the integrity of the archaeological record and will be undertaken in such a way as to allow for the subsequent protection of remains either for conservation or to allow more detailed investigations to be conducted under better conditions at a later date.



FIGURE TITLE

Proposed SMR Area

PROJECT TITLE

**Land at West End Farm,
Bishops Cannings, Devizes, Wiltshire**

DRAWN BY	TB	PROJECT NO.	P08-0052
CHECKED BY	TB	DATE	28/07/2026
APPROVED BY	TB	SCALE	1:750

FIGURE NO.

2

- Site boundary
- Proposed SMR area



- 4.6. Where archaeological features are exposed, as a minimum, features and deposits will be investigated using hand tools to the following sample levels; 100% excavation of discrete features (pits, postholes etc) and, long linear features (e.g. ditches) will be sampled along their length to a maximum percentage of 10% of their total length. Terminals, junctions, and relationships between features will also be investigated. Discrete features of particularly large size or of post-medieval and modern age will be recorded in plan and machine excavated where appropriate to establish their maximum dimensions. Should the above percentage proportions not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, then full excavation of such features/deposits may be required. Each context will be recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description.
- 4.7. Additional excavation may also be needed for the taking of paleoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts. Features that are clearly of modern or later post medieval date may not be excavated. Should in-situ structural remains be encountered, then sufficient excavation will be undertaken to confirm the function, sequence, chronology, and method of construction.
- 4.8. All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out stratigraphically by hand and recorded according to ClfA guidelines and best practice. All features/deposits will be recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50, or electronically using Leica GPS as appropriate) and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the size and/or significance/complexity of the archaeological features to allow accurate depiction and interpretation.
- 4.9. An adequate digital photographic record of the archaeological works will be compiled in both section and plan. All excavated features and deposits will be photographed at a minimum of 4608 x 3456 pixels resolution. A selection of representative feature group/area shots will also be taken, along with general working shots to illustrate the general nature of the works. A photographic scale and north arrow will be included in detailed photographs.
- 4.10. Upon completion of the excavation, the SMR area will be backfilled by mechanical excavator, with topsoil and subsoil replaced in original order. The SMR Area will not be backfilled without being signed off by WCAS.

Artefacts

- 4.11. Any artefacts will be recovered and retained for processing and analysis in consultation with relevant specialists. Artefacts from topsoil, subsoil and unstratified contexts will normally be noted and may be discarded unless they are of intrinsic interest, or their further examination is considered necessary for the interpretation of a site. All artefacts from stratified excavated contexts will be collected, except for large assemblages of post-medieval or modern material. Such material may be noted and discarded or, if appropriate, a representative sample may be retained.
- 4.12. Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts; a Garrett Ace 400 metal detector may be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds as required. This will include metal detecting all horizons during machining of the site, as well as all spoil from hand excavation. In addition, any unexcavated archaeological features (i.e linear features) will also be subject to metal detecting survey.
- 4.13. All metal finds, and other typologically distinct or closely dateable artefacts will be recorded three-dimensionally.

Environmental Remains

- 4.14. Due care will be taken to identify deposits which may have environmental potential and, where appropriate, a programme of environmental sampling will be initiated in preparation for scientific assessment/analysis/dating in accordance with Historic England guidelines within *Environmental Archaeology* (Historic England, 2025). The sample strategy will either consist of bulk soil samples (sampling to a maximum of 100% or 40 litres, in labelled 10 litre plastic sample tubs) or vertical sediment columns – ‘monolith tins’ and will be examined for diatoms, insect, plant macrofossils and molluscs, if required. The sampling strategy will be adapted for the specific circumstances of this site but will follow the general selection parameters set out in the following paragraphs.
- 4.15. All samples will be fully recorded and labelled with a register of samples made and sampling pro-forma record sheets completed for all samples taken which will include the following information: sample type, reason for sampling, sample size, context, sample number, spatial location, date, context description, method and the percentage of the context sampled. The samples will be recorded on the relevant site section drawing and photographs of the sample locations taken.

- 4.16. Bulk samples will be stored in sealed containers until off-site. Bulk samples will be processed using the standard flotation methods with the following mesh sizes: 5.6mm, 4mm and 500 micron Bulk samples will be sub-sampled as appropriate.
- 4.17. Monolith tin samples, up to 500mm in length, will be overlapped in the standard way to allow for a continuous sample of an entire sequence.
- 4.18. Secure, phased deposits, especially those relating to settlement activity and/or carbonised or waterlogged organic deposits will be considered for sampling for the recovery of charcoal, charred plant and mineralised remains. Any cremation-related deposits will be sampled appropriately for the recovery of cremated human bone and charred remains. If any evidence of potential in-situ metal working is found, suitable samples for the recovery of slag and hammerscale will also be taken.
- 4.19. If sealed waterlogged deposits are encountered, a sampling strategy will be considered for the recovery of waterlogged remains. The taking of sequences of samples for the recovery of molluscs and/or waterlogged remains will be considered through any suitable deposits. Monolith samples may also be taken from suitable deposits as appropriate. All samples will be recovered and recorded using current guidelines (English Heritage, 2011).
- 4.20. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants (such as OSL, archaeomagnetic dating and dendrochronology) and the regional Historic England science advisor, can be called upon to advise the works if/when necessary.
- 4.21. Sample processing and reporting will be undertaken by relevant specialists.

Treasure

- 4.22. Upon discovery of treasure, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner within 14 days in accordance with the Treasure Act 1996 and the Code of Practice referred to therein. Suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft. The definition of 'Treasure' is provided within the Code of Practice of the above act and primarily refers to items of gold and/or silver.

Human Remains

- 4.23. If the presence of potential human remains is encountered, then small slots will be hand-excavated across any suspected burial features (inhumations or cremated bone deposits) in

order to confirm the presence and condition of any human bone. Where disturbance is unavoidable, or where full exhumation of the remains is deemed necessary, then their excavation and removal will only be undertaken on receipt of the appropriate licence from the Ministry of Justice.

- 4.24. All excavation of human remains and associated post-excavation processes will be in accordance with the standards set out in ClfA Technical Paper *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for recording Human Remains* (ClfA, 2017).
- 4.25. Excavation of the human remains will be undertaken with due reverence and the support of an osteoarchaeologist (as per best practise, see Historic England 2018, HEAG263).
- 4.26. Any variation of the above will be undertaken in consultation with WCAS and/or the LPA.

5. STAFF AND TIMETABLE

- 5.1. The project will be under the management of Tim Brown (MCIfA), Director, Senior Project Officer and Heritage Consultant. Other members of the team will all have suitable and relevant knowledge and experience of both the archaeological works and the heritage landscape (details available upon request).
- 5.2. The staffing structure will be organised thus: the Project Manager will direct the overall conduct of the fieldwork as required during the period of fieldwork. Day to day responsibility will rest with the Project Leader who will be on-site throughout the project, although this may be one and the same. The Archaeological Excavation will be carried out by staff members of ISCA Archaeology, all with suitable experience of this type of investigation and adhering to the ClfA's Code of Conduct.
- 5.3. Analysis of the results and subsequent reporting will take up to a further four weeks, longer if dictated by specialist reporting, etc.
- 5.4. Depending upon the nature of the deposits and artefacts encountered it may be necessary to consult a number of local and/or national specialists who will be invited to advise and report on specific aspects of the project. A list of these potential specialists is displayed in Table 1 below.

<i>Specialist</i>	<i>Expertise</i>	<i>Period</i>	<i>Organisation</i>
John Allan	Ceramic	Medieval/ Post-medieval	Freelance
Henrietta Quinnell	Ceramic	Prehistoric	Freelance
Imogen Wood MCIfA	Ceramic	All	Freelance
Ed McSloy MCIfA	Ceramic and Metalwork	All	Cotswold Archaeology
Gary Saunders	Metalwork	All	Freelance
Jacky Sommerville ACIfA	lithics	All	Cotswold Archaeology
Andy Clarke ACIfA	Animal Bone	All	Cotswold Archaeology
Matilda Holmes ACIfA	Animal Bone	All	Freelance
Sharon Clough MCIfA	Human Remains	All	Cotswold Archaeology
Mike Allen MCIfA	Environmental Remains/ Geoarchaeology/ Archaeological Science	All	AEA Allen Environmental Archaeology
Stacey Addams	Environmental Remains	All	York Archaeology
Sarah Wyles MCIfA	Environmental Remains	All	Cotswold Archaeology

Table 1 – List of Specialists

6. POST-EXCAVATION, ARCHIVING AND REPORTING

- 6.1. Following the completion of the fieldwork, any artefacts and environmental samples will be processed, assessed, conserved, and packaged in accordance with all relevant guidelines. An accession number for the project **has been** requested from Wiltshire Museum. Any box fees requested by the recipient museum will be paid for by the archaeological contractor.
- 6.2. The level of reporting will be confirmed with the LPA on completion of the archaeological excavation. If few or no archaeological deposits are exposed, this is likely to restrict its publication value and it would be anticipated that only a short Historic Environmental Record (HER) entry will be produced (with the WSI also included as a final appendix to the report).

Post-Excavation Assessment (PXA)

- 6.3. It may be appropriate to produce a Post-Excavation Assessment (PXA) supplemented by an Updated Project Design (UPD) prior to the full publication report. The PXA would consist of

an appraisal of the character and significance of information and material evidence acquired through the excavation.

- 6.4. The PXA would be supported by specialist contributors on, for example, individual artefact categories, environmental and scientific assessments, cartographic or historic documentary appraisals, GIS/survey data, or other thematic studies.
- 6.5. The timetable related to the preparation of a PXA could and would be dependable on the scale, significance and quantity of archaeology encountered within the Site. Despite this variable, it is currently anticipated, given the scale and archaeological potential of the excavation, that a PXA, should this be requested by WCAS, will be made available within 6 months of completion of the on-Site work.

Final Report

- 6.6. If an illustrated report is required, then this will be compiled based on the fieldwork results. The extent and nature of this report will be confirmed with the LPA upon completion of the fieldwork. A draft copy of the report will be provided pre-submission to WCAS for comment via email correspondence. At the completion of this correspondence, copies of the report (PDF format) will be distributed to the client for submission to the LPA. The report may vary depending on the nature and extent of any archaeological deposits present, but at a minimum will consist of:

- 🌀 A report number, date and the OASIS reference number;
- 🌀 a non-technical summary;
- 🌀 a description and analysis of the methodology;
- 🌀 a summary of the historical background of the area and the Site;
- 🌀 a description of the results;
- 🌀 an assessment of any artefact/palaeoenvironmental analysis undertaken;
- 🌀 a plan showing location of the Site;
- 🌀 plans and sections of any archaeology present and a selection of appropriate photographs;
- 🌀 relevant historic maps - if appropriate;
- 🌀 an index of contexts as an appendix;
- 🌀 a copy of this WSI as a final appendix; and
- 🌀 an OASIS report;

- 6.7. Once the report has been approved by WCAS and a copy formally submitted and accepted by the LPA, a summary of information will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain, which will include the OASIS reference number, and the report uploaded before the planning condition will be discharged.
- 6.8. The primary paper record archive will be offered to Wiltshire Museum, in case the museum wishes to retain the hardcopy archive to accompany the artefactual material (for example, where the programme of archaeological works involves the investigation and analysis of regionally/nationally significant archaeological and/or artefactual deposits).
- 6.9. The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) and thus made publicly accessible, in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF, 2024). The digital archive will be compiled in accordance with the ADS Guidelines for Depositors.
- 6.10. Any material, including the hardcopy archive, which has been classified as not requiring deposition shall be discarded in a sensitive way. The paper archive will be hardcopy scanned into a digital format and, along with any other digital born data, deposited with the ADS. The site paper archive shall be either held by ISCA at its office in Marsh Barton, Exeter, Devon or shall be appropriately disposed of after. Undeposited artefactual material shall be offered to the legal landowner(s), local museums, universities, and societies who may benefit with the acquisition of such collections. ISCA will keep a record of all discarded materials and the transfer of any artefact collections.
- 6.11. The archive will be concluded within 6 months of the completion of the final report.

Journal Entry

- 6.12. If significant results are revealed by the excavation, further publication may be required in a relevant journal, in agreement with WCAS.

7. HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 7.1. All archaeological staff will operate under ISCA's Health and Safety Policy, *Method Statement 1: Archaeological Excavation* (ISCA, 2024a), *Safe Systems of work: Section 1.1* (ISCA, 2024b), and any other additional requirements set out by the main site contractor. All works will be carried out in accordance with (but not limited to) *the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974* and all subsequent Health and Safety legislation. A site-specific Project Health and Safety Plan will be formulated prior to commencement of fieldwork, setting out the site-specific

health and safety policies that will be enforced in order to reduce to an absolute minimum any risks to health and safety.

- 7.2. In accordance with ISCA Health and Safety Policy, the archaeological site representative will be responsible for ensuring that all operations under their control are carried out in accordance with all details laid out in this Section.
- 7.3. All archaeological staff will not work, or be asked to work, in unsafe or unhealthy conditions, even where not to do so may result in the possible under-recording of the archaeological resource.
- 7.4. All site staff carry Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards and senior members will have up-to-date first aid qualifications.
- 7.5. On-site archaeologists will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client. The Client will also provide any details of all known buried services or other below- and above-ground hazards and provide specific guidance on how works should be undertaken around those hazards. Health and safety requirements will always be observed by all archaeological staff working on site, particularly when working with machinery, deep excavations, standing buildings and any other hazards.
- 7.6. Appropriate PPE will always be employed. As a minimum: high-visibility jackets, safety helmets and protective footwear will be worn. Additional PPE (such as gloves, glasses etc) will be worn as and when required.
- 7.7. If the depth of any excavations or trenching exceeds either 1.2m or is excavated through unstable ground, a dynamic risk assessment will be undertaken to determine the stability of the excavation. If necessary, excavated sides will be shored or stepped to enable the archaeologists to examine and if appropriate record any features. A vigorous risk assessment methodology (shoring, stepping etc.) for work in any deeper trenches will be developed with the Client and the groundcrew to ensure only the safest possible working conditions for ISCA and all on-site personnel.
- 7.8. ISCA Archaeology is externally monitored by a Health and Safety Consultant. All the Health and Safety Policies, Risk Assessments, Method Statements and Project Specific Assessments are reviewed by Peninsula. ISCA Archaeology is a CHAS accredited contractor at Elite Level (CHAS-29013544).

8. INSURANCES AND QUALITY CONTROL

- 8.1. ISCA carries Public Liability Insurance to a limit of £5,000,000 and Professional Indemnity Insurance to a limit of £10,000,000.
- 8.2. ISCA is constantly committed to the highest standard of professional ethics and technical standards and adheres to the ClfA and Historic England guidelines.
- 8.3. The products and work undertaken will be carried out by professional archaeologists overseen by supervisors of at least ACIfA-level competence.

9. MONITORING

- 9.1. Notification will be made to WCAS at least one week prior of the start of site works so that there will be opportunities to visit the Site and check on the quality and progress of the work if required. ISCA will keep WCAS informed of the works as they progress, and once on-site works are complete, there will be a post-fieldwork monitoring meeting (email/phone call) to discuss the next stages regarding the fieldwork results. Access will also be facilitated for visits by any specialists if deemed necessary. The project is currently anticipated to commence in Autumn 2026.

10. QUALITY ASSURANCE

- 10.1. ISCA endorses the *Code of Conduct* (ClfA, 2022) and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* (ClfA, 2020). All ISCA Project Managers and Project Officers will uphold these to their fullest.

11. REFERENCES

British Geological Survey, 2025. *Geology of Britain Viewer* <https://geologyviewer.bgs.ac.uk> Accessed July 2026.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2017. *Updated Guidelines to the Standards for Recording Humans Remains*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2020. *The Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2022. *Code of Conduct: Professional Ethics in Archaeology*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2023a. *Standard for Archaeological Field Excavation*.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), 2023b. *Universal Guidance for Archaeological Field Excavation*.

Wiltshire Council, 2026. *Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record Viewer* <https://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/HistoryEnvRecord/Home/Index>. Accessed July 2026.

Kennet District Council, 2002. *Bishop's Cannings Conservation Area Statement*

English Heritage, 2011. *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*

Heritage Gateway, 2026. *Heritage Gateway* <https://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/gateway/> Accessed July 2026

Historic England, 2015. *Environmental Archaeology*

Historic England, 2015b. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*

Historic England, 2018. *The Role of the Human Osteologist in an Archaeological Fieldwork Project*

ISCA Archaeology, 2024a. *Method Statement 1: Archaeological Excavation*

ISCA Archaeology, 2024b. *Safe Systems of work: Section 1.1*

LandIS, 2026 *Soilscapes*. <https://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/> Accessed July 2026.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), 2024. *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)*

WCAS, 2025. *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Assessment and Fieldwork in Wiltshire and Swindon Borough*