

BOLHAM WEIR
WASHBRIDGE
TIVERTON
DEVON

Written Scheme of Investigation



South West Archaeology Ltd WSI no. WBW21WSIv1.1



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Bolham Weir, Washbridge, Tiverton, Devon

Written Scheme of Investigation

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Produced by SWARCH for the West Country Rivers Trust.

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) has been prepared by South West Archaeology Ltd. (SWARCH) for the West Country Rivers Trust (the Client). It details the methodology to be employed for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording to be undertaken during the proposed works at Bolham Weir, Washfield, Tiverton, Devon.

Bolham Weir is documented as a modern weir constructed over a historic weir site (wrt.org.uk). The Devon County Historic Environment Record (HER) records the weir as 'Stone built weir at the head of Bolham Leat. Depicted on 19th century mapping' (MDV126935).

Bolham Weir lies within the parish of Washfield, in the historic hundred of West Budleigh and the deanery of Tiverton. In the year 1242 the manor of Washfield was held by the family of Le Abbe, before soon passing to the Worth family, named after the Worth residence in the parish.

No archaeological work is recorded in the Devon County HER on or in the vicinity of Bolham Weir.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

LOCATION: BOLHAM WEIR
PARISH: TIVERTON
DISTRICT: MID DEVON
COUNTY: DEVON
NGR: SS 94854 15309
OASIS NUMBER: SOUTHWES1-503112
MUSEUM REFERENCE NUMBER: PENDING

1.1. PROJECT SCOPE

This document is the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for Bolham Weir, Washfield, Tiverton, Devon. It has been produced by South West Archaeology Ltd (SWARCH) for the West Country Rivers Trust (the Client). It sets out the methodology for a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording, and for related off-site analyses and reporting. The WSI and the schedule of work it proposes were drawn up in consultation with DCHET.

1.2. PUBLIC AND ECONOMIC BENEFIT¹

- 1.2.1 Social benefit can arise through learning and development, and community strength and local identity can be enhanced through contact with the historic environment.
- 1.2.2 Social benefit also arises from the net contribution to human knowledge (the research dividend) made by investigative works.
- 1.2.3 Economic benefit can arise from the regeneration of historic places, leading to the revitalisation of communities and neighbourhoods.
- 1.2.4 Economic benefit can also arise from beneficial publicity, particularly through via outreach, but also via public appreciation of the works and enhanced public understanding.

2.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Bolham Weir is documented as a modern weir constructed over a historic weir site (wrt.org.uk). The Devon County Historic Environment Record (HER) records the weir as 'Stone built weir at the head of Bolham Leat. Depicted on 19th century mapping' (MDV126935).

Bolham Weir lies within the parish of Washfield, in the historic hundred of West Budleigh and the deanery of Tiverton². In the year 1242 the manor of Washfield was held by the family of Le Abbe, before soon passing to the Worth family, named after the Worth residence in the parish.

No archaeological work is recorded in the Devon County HER on or in the vicinity of Bolham Weir.

¹ CfA 2015: *Professional Archaeology: a guide for clients*.

² Lysons 1822: *Magna Britannia Vol 6. Devon*.

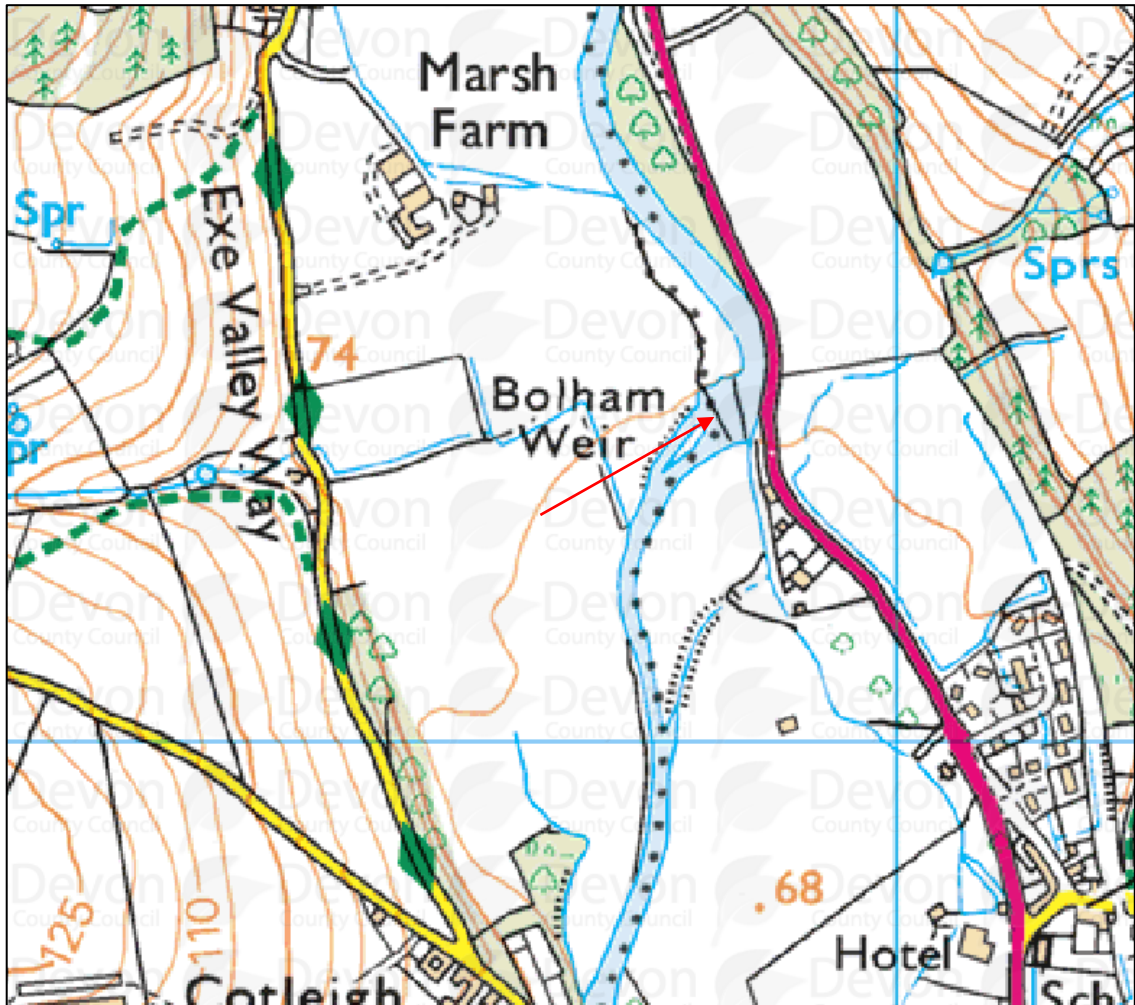


FIGURE 1: LOCATION MAP.

2.2. TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

Bolham Weir is located along the River Exe, which originates on Exmoor and joins the larger River Barle at Exebridge before continuing as the Exe to the sea at Exmouth. It lies c.1.5km north of Tiverton at c. 71m AOD. The soils of this area are the deep stoneless reddish fine silty and fine clayey soils variably affected by groundwater of the Hollington Association³, which overlie the sedimentary mudstone of the Bude Formation⁴.

3.0 HEALTH & SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

3.1. SWARCH H&S POLICIES

SWARCH is committed to the highest standards of health and safety awareness. Works will be carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work Act 1974*, the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and other relevant health and safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice. All SWARCH field staff hold current CSCS safety cards and EFAW or FAW qualifications. Specific RAMS and RA have been produced for this site and will be taken onto site with any SWARCH personnel.

3.2. SPECIFIC HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

- 3.2.1 The site archaeologist will undertake any site safety induction course provided by the Client.
- 3.2.2 These health and safety requirements will be observed at all times by any archaeological staff working on site, particularly when working around voids, unprotected falls, and damaged floors.

³ Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983: *Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales (a brief explanation of the constituent soil associations)*.

⁴ British Geological Survey 2021: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>.

- 3.2.3 Appropriate PPE will be employed at all times. As a minimum: protective footwear and high-vis jacket, with hard hats as appropriate. Additional PPE (gloves, glasses etc.) will be worn as required.
- 3.2.4 If the structure appears unsafe, a dynamic risk assessment will be undertaken to determine how to proceed. If necessary, the archaeologist will leave the structure to enable additional safety measures to be implemented. The provision of these measures will be the responsibility of the Client.

3.3. ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

- 3.3.1 SWARCH is committed to the laws, regulations, and other policy mechanisms concerning environmental issues and sustainability. These issues include air and water pollution, solid waste management, biodiversity, ecosystem management, maintenance of biodiversity, the protection of natural resources, wildlife and endangered species, energy or regulation of toxic substances including pesticides and many types of industrial waste.
- 3.3.2 As a provider of archaeological services, SWARCH, its employees and subcontractors have a responsibility for the protection of archaeological heritage. In line with the ClfA *Environmental Protection Policy* para.1, SWARCH recognises that its responsibilities to the built heritage extend to the environment more generally, and that archaeological activities have the potential to affect the environment⁵.
- 3.3.3 SWARCH will adhere to any reasonable environmental policies of the Client and, if applicable, will take steps to minimise environmental damage or pollution arising from fieldwork.

4.0 PROJECT AIMS AND TIMETABLE

4.1. PROGRAMME OF WORKS

- 4.1.1 Undertake archaeological monitoring and recording;
- 4.1.2 Analyse and report on the results of the project as appropriate.

4.2. TIMETABLE

- 4.2.1 The recording works are not yet scheduled but likely to take place in early 2022.

5.0 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

5.1. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

- 5.1.1 This project has the potential to feed into research aims as outlined in the regional archaeological framework document SWARF⁶. The specific research aims from SWARF relevant to this project are:
- 5.1.2 Research Aim 4: Encourage wide involvement in archaeological research and present modern accounts of the past to the public.

⁵ ClfA 2016: *Policy Statements*.

⁶ Grove, J. & Croft, B. (eds.) 2012: *The Archaeology of South West England: South West Archaeological Research Framework; Research Strategy 2012-17*. Somerset County Council.

6.0 METHODOLOGY

6.1. MONITORING & RECORDING

6.1.1 All groundworks will be subject to archaeological monitoring and recording. The area for the topsoil strip and any works removing the weir structure will be monitored. Groundworks should be undertaken by a 360° tracked or wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket (where possible) under the supervision and control of the site archaeologist to the depth of formation, the surface of in situ subsoil/weathered natural or archaeological deposits whichever is highest in the stratigraphic sequence. Should archaeological deposits be exposed, machining will cease in that area to allow the site archaeologist to investigate the exposed deposits.

6.2. METHODOLOGY:

- 6.2.1 The archaeological work will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation 2014, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation 2014 and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief 2014 and in line with DCHET Specifications.
- 6.2.2 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts, including the use of a metal detector.
- 6.2.3 All excavation of exposed archaeological features shall be carried out by hand, stratigraphically, and fully recorded by context to ClfA guidelines. All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation. An adequate photographic record of the excavation will be prepared.
- 6.2.4 If archaeological features are exposed, then as a minimum:
- i) small discrete features will be fully excavated;
 - ii) larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated);
 - iii) long linear features will be excavated to sample 20% of their length – with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature. Whether any further excavation is required will be confirmed with the LPA. Should the above excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits may be required.
- 6.2.5 Should the above excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined, full excavation of such features/deposits may be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts. Any variation of the above will be undertaken in consultation with the LPA.
- 6.2.6 Artefacts will be bagged and labelled on site. Unstratified post-1800 pottery may be discarded on site after a representative sample has been retained. Following post-excavation analysis and recording, further material may be discarded, subject to consultation with the appropriate specialists and the receiving Museum;
- 6.2.7 Should archaeological or palaeoenvironmental remains be exposed, the site archaeologist will investigate, record and sample such deposits.
- 6.2.8 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits - if required. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with Historic England's guidance in [Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation 2011](#).
- 6.2.9 Human remains will be left *in-situ*, covered and protected. Removal will only take place under appropriate Ministry of Justice and environmental health regulations. Such removal will be in compliance with the relevant primary legislation.
- 6.2.10 Any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or Prehistoric metalwork, will be dealt with according to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision) (Dept for Culture Media and Sport). 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.

- 6.2.11 In the event of particularly significant discoveries, the DCHET will be informed and a site meeting between the consultant, DCHET and the client will be held to determine the appropriate response.

6.3. SAMPLING STRATEGY

- 6.3.1 Where suitable deposits are exposed then samples will be collected in preparation for scientific assessment/analysis/dating. Sampling will be undertaken in line with the relevant guidance⁷. It is envisaged that samples will either consist of bulk soil samples [sampling 100% or 40 litres, in labelled 5 litre plastic sample tubs] or vertical sediment columns [monolith tins].
- 6.3.2 Suitable deposits are taken to include contexts where sampling will recover material for dating or palaeo-economic evidence (e.g. sealed pits, basal deposits), or waterlogged/well-preserved sediments with potential for palaeo-environmental remains.
- 6.3.3 Bulk samples will be stored in sealed containers until off-site processing by SWARCH personnel. The flot will be separated and the residue examined for small artefacts/ecofacts/hammerscale. The residue will be disposed of appropriately, and the flot/remnant forwarded for specialist analysis.
- 6.3.4 Monolith samples will be stored under controlled conditions before delivery to the appropriate specialist.
- 6.3.5 The project will be organised so that specialist consultants, and the regional Historic England science advisor, can be called upon during the works as necessary.

6.4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING

- 6.4.1 Standardised single recording sheets will be employed.
- 6.4.2 Survey drawings in plan, section and profile at 1:10, 1:20, 1:50 and 1:100 will be prepared, as appropriate to the size and/or significance of archaeological features.
- 6.4.3 A photographic record of the excavation and will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating the principal features and finds discovered, in detail and in context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All photographs of archaeological and architectural detail will feature an appropriately sized scale.
- 6.4.4 Survey and location of features (metal finds to sub-metre accuracy).
- 6.4.5 All stratified finds, except when clearly modern, will be retained, bagged and labelled on site. Unstratified post-1800 material may be discarded on site, but a representative sample will be retained.
- 6.4.6 Spoil will be examined for the recovery of artefacts; a metal detector may be used to enhance the recovery of metal finds.
- 6.4.7 All retained artefacts will be processed (washed, identified, weighed, counted) and assessed for their stratigraphic and research potential.
- 6.4.8 Any variation of the above shall be agreed in consultation with DCHET.

7.0 MONITORING

- 7.0.1 SWARCH will inform the DCHET with two weeks notice, unless otherwise agreed, of when the fieldwork is scheduled to take place. If significant architectural features are exposed or observed, or if significant archaeological features or deposits are uncovered, SWARCH will immediately liaise with the Client and DCHET to determine the most satisfactory way to proceed and determine any variation of method.
- 7.0.2 Monitoring will continue until the deposition of the site archive and finds, and the satisfactory completion of an OASIS report.

⁷ English Heritage 2011: *Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*.

8.0 REPORTING

8.1. REPORTING STRATEGY

- 8.1.1 Copies of the report(s) detailing the results of these investigations will be submitted to the OASIS (*Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations*) database under reference Southwes1-503112 within 3 months of completion of fieldwork, unless longer as dictated by specialist reporting, etc.

8.2. ARCHIVE REPORT

- 8.2.1 The full report will include the following elements:
- 8.2.2 A report number, date and the OASIS record number;
- 8.2.3 A non-technical summary of the results
- 8.2.4 An introduction to the project and the background to the project;
- 8.2.5 A description and illustration of the site location;
- 8.2.6 A methodology of the works undertaken, and an evaluation of that methodology;
- 8.2.7 Plans and reports of all documentary and other research undertaken;
- 8.2.8 A location plan and overall site plan;
- 8.2.9 A plan showing the location of areas subject to archaeological recording;
- 8.2.10 Detailed plans of areas of the site in which archaeological features are recognised along with adequate OD spot height information. These will be at an appropriate scale to allow the nature of the features exposed to be shown and understood. Plans will show the site and features/deposits in relation to north. Archaeologically sterile areas will not be illustrated unless this can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeo-environmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- 8.2.11 Section drawings of deposits and features, with OD heights, at scales appropriate to the stratigraphic detail to be shown and must show the orientation of the drawing in relation to north/south/east/west. Archaeologically sterile areas will not be illustrated unless they can provide information on the development of the site stratigraphy or show palaeo-environmental deposits that have influenced the site stratigraphy;
- 8.2.12 A description of any remains and deposits identified including an interpretation of their character and significance;
- 8.2.13 Analysis, as appropriate, of significant artefacts, environmental and scientific samples;
- 8.2.14 A summary table and descriptive text showing the features, classes and numbers of artefacts recovered and soil profiles with interpretation;
- 8.2.15 The photographic archive will be presented as an appendix to the main body of the report;
- 8.2.16 An interpretation of the results in the appropriate context;
- 8.2.17 A summary of the contents of the project archive and its location;
- 8.2.18 A bibliography;
- 8.2.19 The DCHET will receive the report within three months of completion of fieldwork, dependant on the provision of any specialist reports etc, the production of which may exceed this period. If a substantial delay is anticipated then an interim report will be produced and a revised submission date for the final report agreed with the DCHET.

8.3. PUBLICATION AND DISSEMINATION

- 8.3.1 It is not anticipated that the results of this work will merit formal dissemination. However, a note may be placed in the newsletter of the Devon Archaeological Society.

8.4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 8.4.1 The limitations of this programme of fieldwork renders it unsuitable for public participation; however there may be local interest in the results of the recording;
- 8.4.2 Where there is local interest, SWARCH personnel routinely give evening talks to local historical and/or archaeological societies.

9.0 ARCHIVE

- 9.1.1 On completion of the project an ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with the appropriate guidelines⁸;
- 9.1.2 The archive will normally consist of two elements: the digital archive and the physical archive;
- 9.1.3 Should a material (artefact) archive will be generated during the recording work it will be deposited with the Royal Albert Memorial Museum (RAMM) in line with the RAMM accessioning and selection guidelines, using reference number PENDING;
- 9.1.4 Should a material archive be generated (comprising the retained artefacts/samples and the hardcopy paper record (if requested)) it will be cleaned (or otherwise treated), ordered, recorded, packed and boxed in accordance with the deposition standards and selection strategies of the RAMM, and in a timely fashion. Should SWARCH be unable to attain a selection strategy from the Museum, specialists will be consulted to achieve an appropriate strategy in line with best practice;
- 9.1.5 The digital archive, including a copy of the final report, will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) in compliance with their standards and requirements and according to Historic England guidance for digital photography;
- 9.1.6 South West Archaeology Ltd. will retain copyright of the reports, documents and photographic images under the terms of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. Licence is hereby granted to the ADS for the storage and dissemination of the digital archive;
- 9.1.7 The material archive, comprising the retained artefacts/samples and the hardcopy paper record (if requested) will be cleaned (or otherwise treated), ordered, recorded, packed and boxed in accordance with the deposition standards and selection strategies of the RAMM under reference number PENDING and in a timely fashion. Should SWARCH be unable to attain a selection strategy from the Museum, specialists will be consulted to achieve an appropriate strategy in line with best practice. The paper archive, comprising site notes, sketches, annotated plans/elevations, will be digitised and will form part of the digital archive for the structure;
- 9.1.8 SWARCH will, on behalf of the MBND, obtain a written agreement from the landowner to transfer title to all items in a material archive to the receiving museum;
- 9.1.9 If ownership of all or any finds is to remain with the landowner, provision and agreement must be made for the time-limited retention of the material and its full analysis and recording, by appropriate specialists;
- 9.1.10 If the RAMM are to retain the hardcopy paper archive it will be deposited under the same accession number as any material archive. Should the RAMM decline the hardcopy paper archive, that archive will be offered to other appropriate museum bodies, record offices or DCHET. If a suitable third party cannot be found, the hardcopy paper archive will be retained by SWARCH for 3 years and then destroyed;
- 9.1.11 The archive will be completed within 3 months of the completion of the final report;
- 9.1.12 SWARCH will notify the DCHET when the digital archive is deposited with the ADS, and when any physical archive is deposited with the RAMM.

10.0 PERSONNEL

10.1. SWARCH PERSONNEL

- 10.1.1 The project will be managed by Samuel Walls BA MA PhD MCifA (Director at SWARCH 2013-present with 12 years of experience in the commercial sector);
- 10.1.2 The archaeological monitoring and recording will be undertaken by SWARCH personnel with appropriate expertise and experience, or supervised by SWARCH personnel with appropriate expertise and experience: Brynmor Morris BA MA PhD ACifA (Director at SWARCH 2013-present with 13 years commercial experience); Joe Bampton BA MA MCifA (12 years commercial experience); Peter Webb BA MA² (13 years commercial experience).
- 10.1.3 Where necessary, appropriate specialist advice will be obtained.

⁸ Historic England 2015: *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide*.

10.2. SPECIALISTS

Bone	Hayley Foster MA, PhD
Building Recording	Richard Parker
Conservation	Laura Ratcliffe BSc
Curatorial	Tom Cadbury
Environmental Sample Processing	SWARCH personnel
Lithics	Peter Webb MA
Medieval Pottery	John Allan
Metal & Leatherwork	Quita Mould MA
Metal Detectorists	Taw and Torridge Metal Detecting Club
Mills & Hydroelectric Plants	Martin Watts
Plant Macro-Fossils	Wendy Carruthers
Pollen Analysis	Ralph Fyfe PhD
Post Medieval Pottery	Bryn Morris PhD
Prehistoric Pottery	Henrietta Quinnell
Roman Pottery	Imogen Wood PhD
Wood Identification	Imogen Wood PhD
	Dana Challinor PhD

10.3. TRAINING AND CPD

- 10.3.1 Where appropriate, SWARCH will seek to provide training opportunities to SWARCH personnel during the archaeological fieldwork and post-excavation process. Training would be undertaken in order to enhance recording and recovery, and maximise the research gain.
- 10.3.2 SWARCH training plans (PDP) and CPD logs will be updated during the project, as appropriate to need and demand.

11.0 INSURANCES AND QUALITY CONTROL

- 11.0.1 SWARCH carry Professional Indemnity Insurance cover up to £5 million, Public Liability up to £5 million and Employers Liability up to £10 million.
- 11.0.2 SWARCH is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA).
- 11.0.3 SWARCH is committed to the highest standard of professional ethics and technical standards, and adheres to CIfA and Historic England guidelines in the conduct of our work.
- 11.0.4 The work undertaken will be carried out by professional archaeologists overseen by supervisors of ACIfA-level competence. The works and products will be overseen and checked by professional archaeologists with MCIfA-level competence.

12.0 CONFLICT WITH OTHER CONDITIONS AND STATUTORY RESTRAINTS

- 12.0.1 It remains the responsibility of the Client - in consultation with SWARCH, the applicant or agent - to ensure that the required archaeological works do not conflict with any other conditions that have been imposed upon the consent granted and should also consider any biodiversity issues as covered by the NERC Act 2006. In particular, such conflicts may arise where archaeological investigations/excavations have the potential to have an impact upon protected species and/or natural habitats e.g. SSSIs, National Nature Reserves, Special Protection Areas, Special Areas of Conservation, Ramsar sites, County Wildlife Sites etc.



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