
WENTWORTH CASTLE GARDENS,
SOUTH YORKSHIRE.
(POLYTUNNELS PROJECT)

WRITTEN SCHEME OF INVESTIGATION FOR A
PROGRAMME OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECORDING
(WATCHING BRIEF)

May 2022

OSA

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OSA Method Statement.

SITE LOCATION: Wentworth Castle Gardens South Yorkshire.
(Polytunnels Project)

NATIONAL GRID REFERENCE: SE 31942 03455

PLANNING REFERENCE NUMBER: 2021/1448 (Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council)

LANDUSE: Historic gardens complex

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1.0 Summary.

1.1 This brief is for a programme of archaeological observation, investigation and recording to be carried out during groundworks associated with the Installation of 3 no. polytunnels for a temporary period of 5 years within the walled garden area.

1.2 This method statement has been prepared by *On-Site Archaeology Ltd.* to detail the mitigation programme to be employed.

1.3 It is anticipated that, as long as all planning permissions are in place and pre-commencement conditions have been satisfied, the works will be carried out during May 2022.

2.0 Site Location.

2.1 Wentworth Castle Gardens are located at Menagerie House Park Drive, south of Lowe Lane and Round Green Lane, Stainborough, 1.5km south of Dodworth, southwest of Barnsley in South Yorkshire (Figure 1). The site is surrounded on all sides by open fields.

2.2 The areas of the site covered by this programme of archaeological works are located in the northern part of the Wentworth Castle Gardens complex (Figure 2).

2.3 The bedrock geology comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Pennine Middle Coal Measures Formation with no superficial deposits.
(<http://mapapps.gbs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home>).

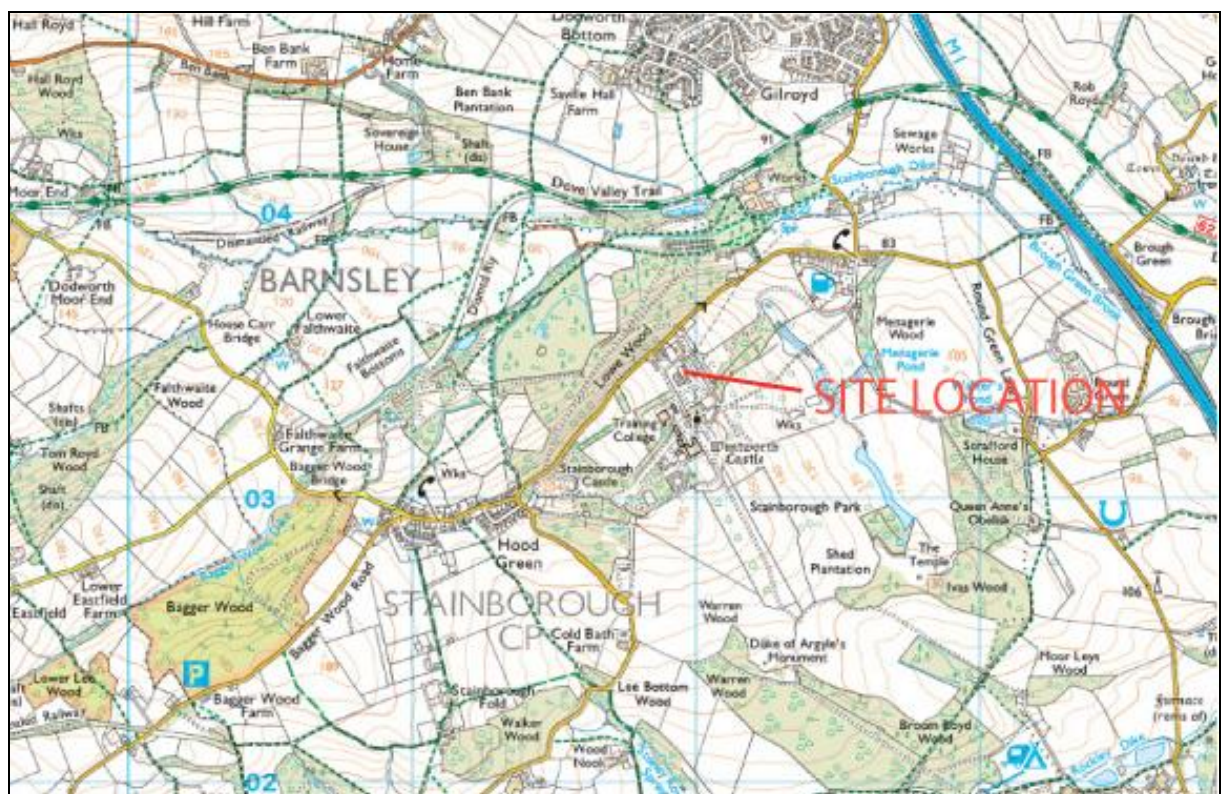


Figure 1. Site Location.

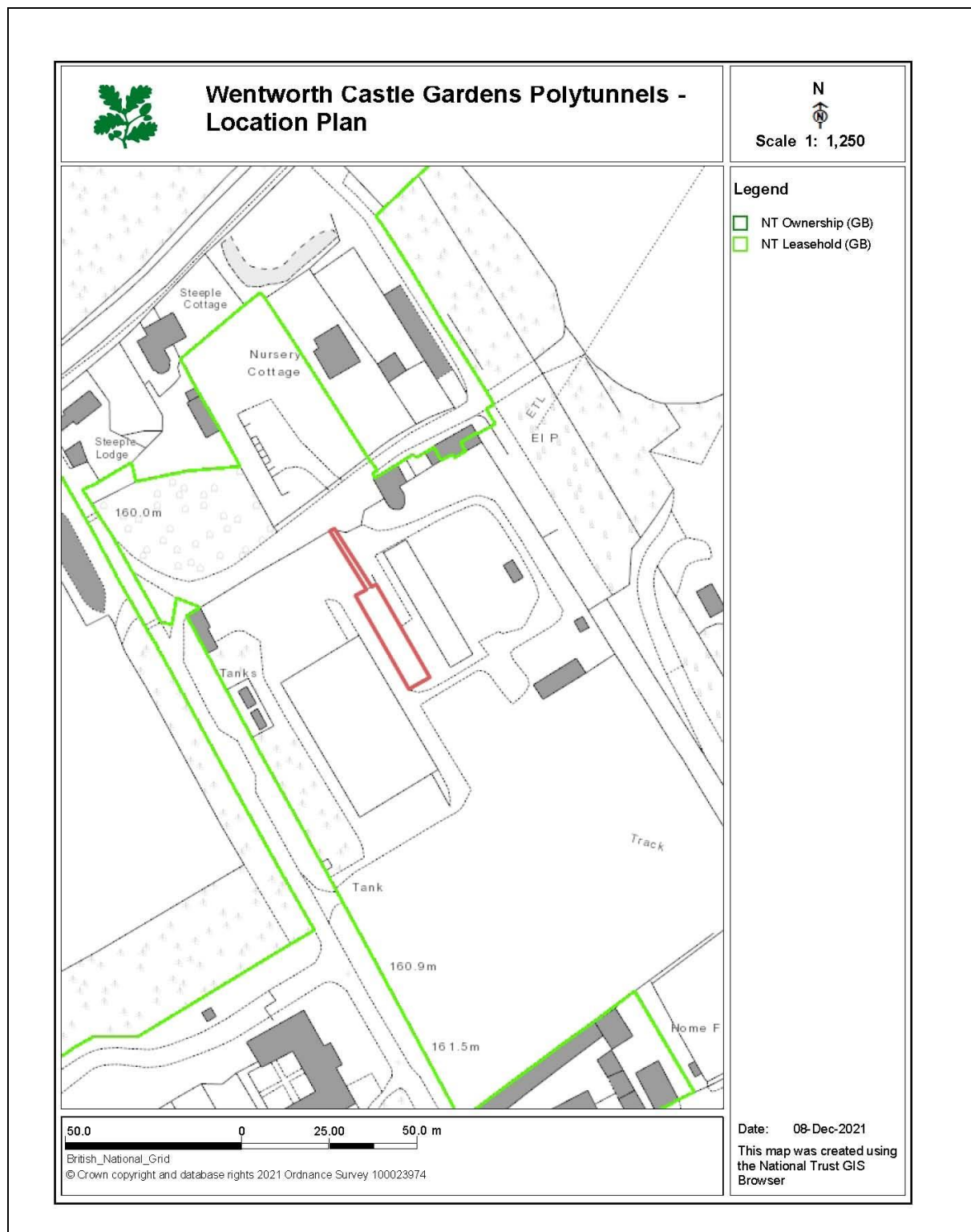


Figure 2. Detailed location of proposed works (in red).

3.0 Planning Background

3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council for the Installation of 3 no. polytunnels for a temporary period of 5 years within the walled garden area. (Planning reference 2021/1448). The following condition is attached to the grant of planning consent (No. 3).

Part A (pre-commencement)

No development, including any demolition and groundworks, shall take place until the applicant, or their agent or successor in title, has submitted a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) that sets out a strategy for archaeological investigation and this has been approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority. The WSI shall include:

- o The programme and method of site investigation and recording.
- o The requirement to seek preservation in situ of identified features of importance.
- o The programme for post-investigation assessment.
- o The provision to be made for analysis and reporting.
- o The provision to be made for publication and dissemination of the results.
- o The provision to be made for deposition of the archive created.
- o Nomination of a competent person/persons or organisation to undertake the works.
- o The timetable for completion of all site investigation and post-investigation works.

Part B (pre-occupation/use)

Thereafter the development shall only take place in accordance with the approved WSI and the development shall not be brought into use until the Local Planning Authority has confirmed in writing that the requirements of the WSI have been fulfilled or alternative timescales agreed.

REASON

To ensure that any archaeological remains present, whether buried or part of a standing building, are investigated and a proper understanding of their nature, date, extent and significance gained, before those remains are damaged or destroyed and that knowledge gained is then disseminated.

3.2 The proposed development groundworks comprise two elements: excavations for the foundations for the polytunnels (postholes) and excavations for the installation of a short length of electric cabling. The posthole excavations will be 0.45m deep and up to 0.50m x 0.50m in extent. A total of 36 such postholes will be required.

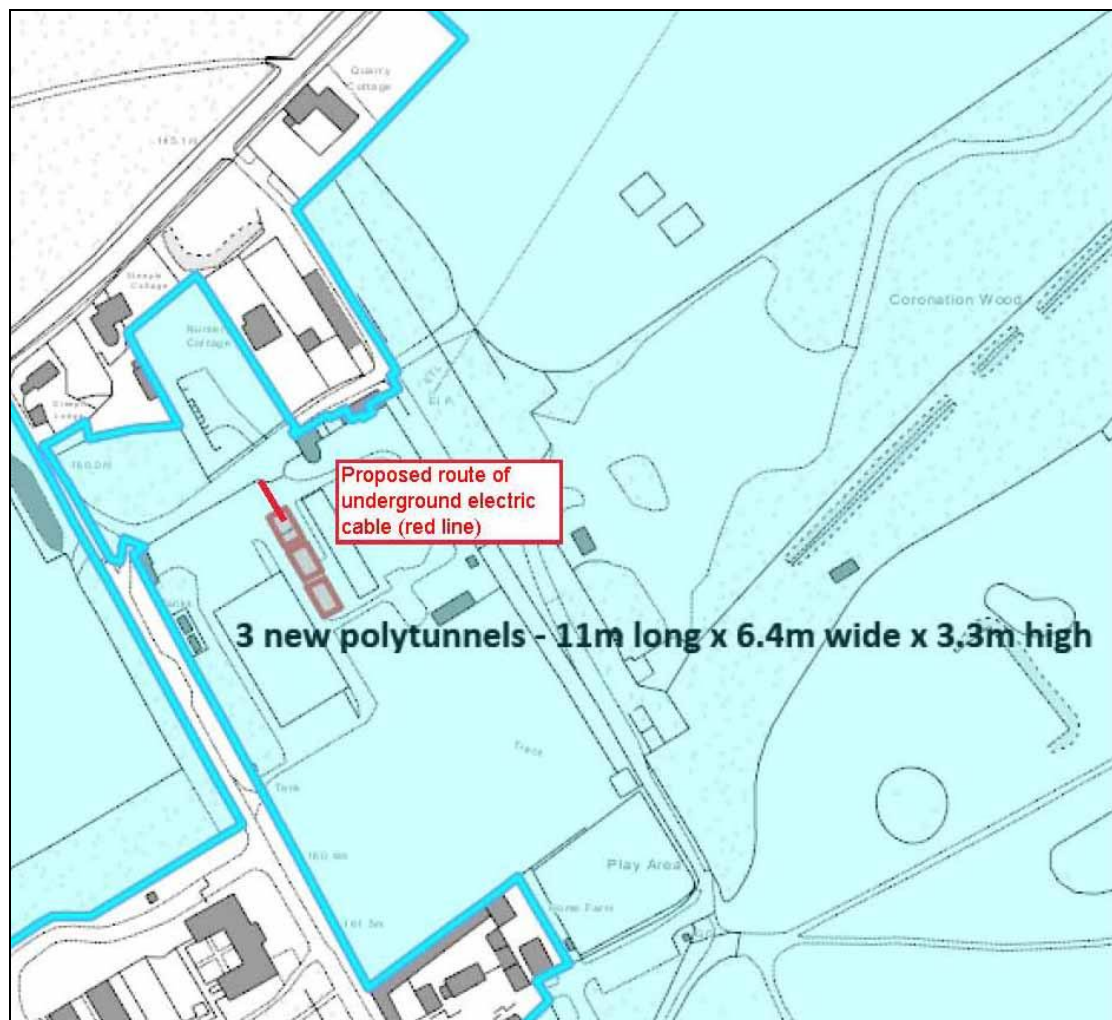


Figure 3. Location of the three polytunnels and proposed route of underground electric cable.

4.0 Archaeological Interest.

4.1 Wentworth Castle is a Grade I listed country house, the former seat of the Earls of Strafford, at Stainborough, near Barnsley in South Yorkshire, England. It is surrounded by one of the country's greatest 18th century landscapes, the only Grade I Listed park and garden in South Yorkshire. The house is now home to the Northern College for Residential and Community Education. An older house existed on the estate, then called Stainborough, when it was purchased by Thomas Wentworth, Baron Raby (later Earl of Strafford), in 1708. The name was changed in 1731. The original name lives on in the form of Stainborough Castle, a sham ruin constructed as a garden folly on the estate. In total there are 26 listed buildings and monuments within the gardens, which cover 60 acres.

4.2 A Heritage Significance and Impact Assessment (Newman, M. Archaeological Consultant, North Region (East), National Trust, 2021) has been prepared for the proposed development, which assessed the archaeological potential within the proposed area of groundworks.

The assessment concludes that the archaeological potentials of the site are low. There may be remains of the 1870s glass houses present, but this is not currently known. Remains of earlier periods are thought unlikely to be present. Surface remains (low brick walls) probably relate

to a mid-C20 structure placed on part of the site, but will not be impacted by the proposed polytunnel foundations. It may be necessary for the associated electric cable trench to locally remove narrow sections of any such structures.

5.0 Objectives.

5.1 The objective of the mitigation strategy is to ensure that any archaeological deposits that might be uncovered can be recorded. Where possible archaeological remains will be preserved *in-situ* through close liaison between the attending archaeologist and the groundworks contractor.

5.2 The results of the watching brief will be made public.

6.0 Methodology.

6.1 The watching brief shall comprise the archaeological monitoring of groundworks required for the development. The excavations will be undertaken under archaeological supervision. This is to enable the identification and recording of any archaeological material that might be uncovered the potential for *in-situ* preservation of remains.

6.2 Archaeological recording will comprise the production of written, drawn (to appropriate scales) and photographic records.

6.3 Stratified and non-modern unstratified artefacts will be collected to assist in the interpretation and analysis of the chronological sequence. All recording, marking and storage material will be of archive quality and recording systems will be compatible with the recipient museum. Allowance will be made for preliminary conservation and stabilisation of all objects and an assessment of long-term conservation and storage needs. Finds will be appropriately packaged and stored under optimum conditions, as detailed in the RESCUE/UKIC publication *First Aid for Finds*. In accordance with the procedures outlined in MAP2, all iron objects, a selection of non-ferrous artefacts (including all coins), and a sample of any industrial debris relating to metallurgy will be X-radiographed before assessment.

6.4 On completion of the fieldwork the project archive (physical and documentary) will be deposited Barnsley Museum Service, and a duplicate documentary archive will be held by the National Trust.

6.5 With the exception of human remains and finds of treasure (as defined under the 1996 Treasure Act and its amendments), which should be reported to the coroner, all finds are the property of the landowner. However, it is expected that the finds will be deposited with the archive, together with the material generated during the evaluation of the site.

7.0 Report Preparation, Contents & Distribution.

7.1 Within six weeks of the completion of the work a report will be produced and submitted to the developer, the Local Planning Authority and the SMR Office.

7.2 A report shall be prepared to include the following:

- a) A non-technical summary of the results of the work.
- b) An introduction page to include the site code, planning reference number and SMR Casework number, dates when the fieldwork and post-excavation analyses took place, and a National Grid Reference. A location plan with scale will be included.
- c) An account of the methods and results of the fieldwork in the context of the known archaeology of the area. This shall be supported by an overall plan of the site accurately identifying the location of trenches; individual trench plans as excavated indicating the location of archaeological features, with at least one section detailing the stratigraphic sequence of deposits within each trench; and photographs, which will include general views of site and images of any significant archaeology.
- d) A specialist assessment of the artefacts recovered with a view to their potential for further study.
- e) A specialist assessment of environmental samples taken, with a view to their potential for subsequent study.

7.3 Copies of the report will be submitted to the commissioning body, the Local Planning Authority, and the South Yorkshire Sites and Monuments Record, within an agreed timetable and subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality. A copy of the report will be sent to Historic England Regional Science Advisor. A digital copy of the report will be provided to the South Yorkshire Sites & Monuments Record Office in PDF format.

7.4 An OASIS online record <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/> will be initiated and the archaeological data will be added to this record. Key fields will be completed on Details, Location and Creators forms. All parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the SMR. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included within the archive).

7.5 In the event of significant remains being encountered and excavated, there will be the need for a more formal publication than in the summary form. In this instance a suitable programme and timetable for publication and dissemination will be discussed and agreed upon by all stakeholders.

8.0 Copyright, Confidentiality & Publicity.

8.1 Unless the organisation commissioning the project wishes to state otherwise, the copyright of any written, graphic or photographic records and reports rests with *On-Site Archaeology*. The National Trust will also reserve copyright for the use of all data and reports produced.

8.2 The circumstances under which the report or records can be used by other parties should be identified at the commencement of the project, as should the proposals for

distribution of the report (see 7 above). *On-Site Archaeology* will respect the commissioning body's requirements over confidentiality, but will endeavour to emphasise their professional obligation to make the results of archaeological work available to the wider archaeological community within a reasonable time (normally 6 months).

8.3 *On-Site Archaeology* has a duty of confidence to the client commissioning the work. All aspects of publicity must be agreed at the outset of the project between the commissioning body and *On-Site Archaeology*.

9.0 Monitoring, Health And Safety, Staffing & Insurance.

9.1 The work will be monitored under the auspices of the South Yorkshire Archaeology Service who will be contacted before the commencement of site works.

9.2 Health and safety will take priority over archaeological matters. All archaeologists undertaking fieldwork will comply with all Health and Safety Legislation.

9.3 *On-Site Archaeology* will ensure that they are adequately insured, to cover all eventualities, including risks to third parties.

10.0 Personnel.

All work will be under the overall supervision of Mr. N Pearson MIFA (Member of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists 693). All elements of the archaeological watching brief will be carried out in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist (CIfA) Code of Conduct (2014a) and relevant Standards and Guidance. Other project staff may include: -

<i>Project Officer</i>	Tim Robinson
<i>Palaeo-environmental advisor</i>	Ellen Simmons
	Sheffield Archaeobotanical Consultancy
	University of Sheffield
<i>Human Remains</i>	Katie Keefe
<i>Finds Analysis</i>	Dr Chris Cumberpatch
	Ruth Leary
	Blaise Vyner
<i>Conservation</i>	Ian Panter, York Archaeological Trust
<i>Radiocarbon Determinations</i>	Beta Analytic Inc.

Digital Data Management Plan

Project Administration
- The project will be labelled with a unique code according to the year they were commissioned and the type of project followed by a Site name. Data will be further subdivided within the project folder according to its type. - The project will also be provided with a unique accession code provided by the relevant collection authority. - Digital data intended for deposition will receive a unique code provided by OASIS. - As standard the digital report will provide details of the Project code and site name, the museum accession code (where applicable) the name of the Project Manager, company email address, telephone number, the name of the client the work was carried out on behalf of.
Data Collection
- Digital photographic records (jpegs or preferably Tiff files if they can be taken in this format originally) of archaeology encountered, and its setting will be maintained for each project. - A digital report (pdf) will include findings and interpretation, specialist reports, and copies of the context, drawing and photographic registers (where applicable). - Cad drawings of trench locations, gids, baselines will be produced (where applicable) - CAD drawings of selected plans, sections and elevations may also be produced (where applicable) - Geophysical data will be stored in raw and interpreted formats (not applicable for this project)
Documentation and Metadata
Excel spreadsheets containing meta data pertaining to the deposited digital archive will be provided in a format that adheres to standards set out by the ADS
Ethics and Legal Compliance
- Digital data will comply with data protection and privacy compliance obligations. Photographic images which include the general public will not be included within the deposited digital archive, unless express permission had been granted and will be included with the deposited digital data - Copyright belongs to On-Site Archaeology and remains so in perpetuity, unless otherwise granted to a third party.
Storage and Backup
- Digital data will be stored on the server, backed up on external hard drives and uploaded to the P-Cloud on a weekly basis - Digital photographs will be downloaded and backed up on the server on a weekly basis. The files will be saved to the relevant site folder and saved under their download date.
Selection and Preservation
- Data produced may need to be rationalised through a selection process before being deposited with a digital, archive with an aim to retain one representative photograph per archaeological feature in order to reduce costs. Data rationalisation will follow the FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) - In some circumstances cost benefit analysis may preclude the inclusion of non-essential data that does not directly contribute to the preservation by record of the project - ADS initial flat fee £150 plus VAT (price includes 150 free photographs) price increases as with any additional item of data
Data Sharing, Accessibility and Reuse
Digital data will be deposited with the ADS in the required accessible formats suitable for the standard ADS interface unless the results of the work merit a more interactive interface, in which case we will liaise with the ADS to discuss options
Responsibilities
Data management will be carried out by the managing director of On-Site Archaeology, Nicholas Pearson