

What is a Written Scheme of Investigation?

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) is a method statement or a project design to cover a suite of archaeological works for a site.

A WSI is normally prepared as a response to a Project Brief, and details how the archaeologists will fulfil the requirements set out in that Brief. It should always be agreed by all relevant parties as this is the tool against which performance, fitness for purpose, and standards, can be measured.

As a minimum a WSI would normally include:

- a statement on the technical and research competences of the project team, including relevant professional accreditation
- non-technical summary
- context of the project
- geological and topographical background
- archaeological and historical background
- general and specific project methodology
- methods for collection, conservation or disposal strategy for artefacts
- arrangements for immediate conservation of artefacts
- report preparation (method)
- copyright
- archive deposition, including wherever possible identification of a recipient museum or other repository and its requirements programme
- a statement on the training and CPD built into the project, if appropriate
- a statement on compliance with relevant professional ethical and technical standards (including data standards) if appropriate
- Health and Safety considerations
- environmental protection considerations
- monitoring procedures
- contingency arrangements (if appropriate)
- licence eligibility / requirements (where required)

Written Schemes of Investigation prepared by AB Heritage will satisfy the specific needs of the development project, and comply with the Code of conduct and other relevant regulations of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.