



OCR HISTORY AROUND US Site Proposal Form Example from English Heritage

The Criteria

The study of the selected site must focus on the relationship between the site, other historical sources and the aspects listed in a) to n) below. It is therefore essential that centres choose a site that allows learners to use its physical features, together with other historical sources as appropriate, to understand all of the following:

- a) The reasons for the location of the site within its surroundings
- b) When and why people first created the site
- c) The ways in which the site has changed over time
- d) How the site has been used throughout its history
- e) The diversity of activities and people associated with the site
- f) The reasons for changes to the site and to the way it was used
- g) Significant times in the site's past: peak activity, major developments, turning points
- h) The significance of specific features in the physical remains at the site
- i) The importance of the whole site either locally or nationally, as appropriate
- j) The typicality of the site based on a comparison with other similar sites
- k) What the site reveals about everyday life, attitudes and values in particular periods of history
- I) How the physical remains may prompt questions about the past and how historians frame these as valid historical enquiries
- m) How the physical remains can inform artistic reconstructions and other interpretations of the site
- n) The challenges and benefits of studying the historic environment





OLD SARUM

Created by: ENGLISH HERITAGE LEARNING TEAM

Please provide an explanation of how your site meets each of the following points and include the most appropriate visual images of your site. Refer to your images to justify your explanation of how the site meets the criteria.

Criteria	Specifics about the site in relation to this criteria	Sources that can be used with this criteria
a) The reasons for the location of the site within its surroundings	 Iron Age (800 BC-AD 43) The Iron Age hillfort was built on the westernmost limit of Bishopdown ridge, a series of hills that rise above the Avon and Bourne rivers, providing unobstructed views across the surrounding landscape. This landscape offered access to many natural resources, as well as pastures and cultivated fields. The Iron Age hillfort was one of multiple sites that looked down upon the river valleys and may have been part of a wider community of hillforts. Roman (AD 43-410) 'Sorviodunum', as the site was known in the Roman period, sat very near the convergence of three Roman roads from London, Winchester and Cirencester. The site was also on the Roman road to Dorchester and Exeter. Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066) During the establishment of Anglo-Saxon kingdoms in Britain following the withdrawal of the Romans, the site is thought to have served as a stronghold for the Britons. The defensive location of the site helped local forces resist the efforts of the Saxons in the westward expansion of the kingdom of Wessex. Norman (1066-1154) William the Conqueror identified the potential of the settlement as a fortified site 	McNeill, J, <i>Old Sarum</i> , English Heritage Guidebooks (2006) <u>www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books- media/books/guidebooks/guidebook-old- sarum</u> Old Sarum history website <u>www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old- sarum/history</u>





	and included its development in his first round of Norman royal castles.	
b) When and why people first created the site	 Iron Age Hillfort The Iron Age hillfort was first established <i>c</i>.400 BC. It may have served a number of purposes, including as a place of worship or marketplace, but the hillfort's location and defensive earthworks suggest its primary function was as a protective refuge. While there is very little evidence of permanent habitation at the site, the hillfort probably provided safety for local people and their livestock during times of conflict. Norman Castle The Norman castle and defences at the site were built after the Normans invaded England in 1066. William the Conqueror ordered a motte-and-bailey castle to be built as part of a national building programme to establish Norman rule. The situation of the site close to roads for ease of transport was also probably a significant factor in the choice of the site as a Norman military base. Norman Cathedral The first Norman cathedral at Old Sarum was completed <i>c</i>.1090, in part to provide literary clerks who could assist in the administrative duties of the sheriffs of Wiltshire. Bishop Roger held an official residence at Old Sarum. As both Bishop of Salisbury and chancellor/deputy to the king, it was beneficial for him to be in such close proximity to the royal castle. 	McNeill, J, <i>Old Sarum</i> , English Heritage Guidebooks (2006) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books- media/books/guidebooks/guidebook-old- sarum Old Sarum description website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old- sarum/history/description
c) The ways in which the site has changed over time	 Iron Age (800 BC-AD 43) The landscape was altered when the Iron Age hillfort was built. The height and slope of the ridge were exaggerated to form the outer banks and ditches. There was originally a north-facing entrance, but this was later blocked and replaced by an east-facing entrance. 	Old Sarum phased site plan <u>www.english-</u> <u>heritage.org.uk/content/visit/places-to-</u> <u>visit/history-research-plans/old-sarum-phased-</u> <u>plan</u>





	Oxford Cambridge and RSA
 Roman (AD 43-410) Excavations in the 20th century revealed evidence of a Romano-British building on top of an Iron Age pit. While no conclusions have been drawn, it has been suggested that these foundations may have belonged to a Roman-British temple and point to significant building development of the site during the Roman period. 	Old Sarum research website <u>www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-</u> <u>sarum/history/research</u>
 Anglo-Saxon (AD 410–1066) Little is known of what happened to Old Sarum at the end of the Roman period. A bronze brooch and a few silver pennies hint at Old Sarum's use as a defensive refuge during the tenth century. In 1003, the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records that Sweyn, king of Denmark, destroyed Exeter and Wilton and travelled back to the sea, via Old Sarum. As a result of Sweyn's attack on Wilton, the mint moved to Old Sarum. Archaeological work has also established that there was late Anglo-Saxon settlement outside the ramparts. 	Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (1003) www.britannia.com/history/docs/1000- 06.html
 Norman (1066–1154) A Norman castle, called 'Seresberi', was built on the site, along with a new motte at the centre of the old hillfort. Two lateral banks were built to enclose an outer bailey. In the late 11th century, the first Norman cathedral was built outside the bailey, and to the north of this a bishop's palace to provide an official residence for the clergy. The early keep was probably made of wood and was replaced with a stone keep in the early 1100s, which provided accommodation, including the king's chamber, and also facilitated administrative duties. 	English Heritage YouTube Channel, <i>A Mini</i> <i>Guide to Medieval Castles</i> (2017) <u>www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXXDThkJ3Ew</u>
 In the 1130s, Bishop Roger built the courtyard house within the castle walls to facilitate his role as the king's deputy, in addition to his religious duties within the cathedral community. Medieval (1154–1484) From this point onwards, there was no further development at the site. 	<i>Calendar of the Patent Rolls</i> (1 March 1331) www.archive.org/stream/calendarpatentr17off igoog#page/n95/mode/2up





			Oxford Cambridge and RSA
 Despite some investment in repair and maintenance, the castle fell into ruin; and in the early 16th century, King Henry VIII (r.1509–47) released the royal title on the castle to Thomas Compton along with the right to remove materials, making what was left a salvage site. How the site has been used throughout its history Iron Age (800 BC–AD 43) The Iron Age hillfort was a community resource for people living in the local area, serving as a safe haven in times of conflict but also as a marketplace for local farmers and traders in times of peace. Roman (AD 43–410) Although it was continuously occupied between AD 43 and the early fourth century, the specific purpose of the site during this time has not been established. It is known, however, that it went through a period of decline in the fourth century, and its main use was as a refuge during conflicts. Anglo-Saxon (AD 410–1066) The site was being used by Britons in AD 552 notes that people were still living at the site, which was then called 'Searobyrg'. Written by English monks, the Chronicle was an account of the history of England started in AD 890. The site was being used by Britons in AD 552 as a regional stronghold during the Saxon expansion into Witshire; the Britons were defeated by the Saxons, led by Cynric.		royal interest in the site and the beginning of the demolition of Old Sarum.The cathedral at the site was dismantled and some of the stone reused in the	
 The Iron Age hillfort was a community resource for people living in the local area, serving as a safe haven in times of conflict but also as a marketplace for local farmers and traders in times of peace. Roman (AD 43-410) Although it was continuously occupied between AD 43 and the early fourth century, the specific purpose of the site during this time has not been established. It is known, however, that it went through a period of decline in the fourth century and its main use was as a refuge during conflicts. Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066) The Anglo-Saxon (AD 410-1066) The Anglo-Saxon for be site during the istory of England started in AD 890. The site was being used by Britons in AD 552 as a regional stronghold during the Saxons, led by Cynric. In 1003, the Anglo-Saxon mint, which had been sited at Wilton, was moved to within the former hillfort as a result of the destruction of Wilton by the 		- Despite some investment in repair and maintenance, the castle fell into ruin; and in the early 16th century, King Henry VIII (r.1509–47) released the royal title on the castle to Thomas Compton along with the right to remove	26 December 1514 www.british-history.ac.uk/letters-papers-
 The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of AD 552 notes that people were still living at the site, which was then called 'Searobyrg'. Written by English monks, the Chronicle was an account of the history of England started in AD 890. The site was being used by Britons in AD 552 as a regional stronghold during the Saxon expansion into Wiltshire; the Britons were defeated by the Saxons, led by Cynric. In 1003, the Anglo-Saxon mint, which had been sited at Wilton, was moved to within the former hillfort as a result of the destruction of Wilton by the 	d) How the site has been used throughout its history	 The Iron Age hillfort was a community resource for people living in the local area, serving as a safe haven in times of conflict but also as a marketplace for local farmers and traders in times of peace. Roman (AD 43-410) Although it was continuously occupied between AD 43 and the early fourth century, the specific purpose of the site during this time has not been established. It is known, however, that it went through a period of decline in the fourth 	Guidebooks (2006) www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books- media/books/guidebooks/guidebook-old-
		 The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle of AD 552 notes that people were still living at the site, which was then called 'Searobyrg'. Written by English monks, the Chronicle was an account of the history of England started in AD 890. The site was being used by Britons in AD 552 as a regional stronghold during the Saxon expansion into Wiltshire; the Britons were defeated by the Saxons, led by Cynric. In 1003, the Anglo-Saxon mint, which had been sited at Wilton, was moved to within the former hillfort as a result of the destruction of Wilton by the 	www.britannia.com/history/docs/501-97.html Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (1003) www.britannia.com/history/docs/1000-





		Oxford Campridge and RSA
	 Norman (1066–1154) William the Conqueror built a motte-and-bailey castle on the hillfort as a formidable display of Norman power in the early stages of the Norman Conquest of 1066. 	
	 On I August 1086, King William I (r.1066–87) summoned his council and any landholding men from across the country to swear an oath of allegiance to him at Old Sarum. By the early 1120s, there was a strong cathedral community at the site, led by 	Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (1086) www.britannia.com/history/docs/1083- 86.html
	Bishop Roger of Sarum, King Henry I's (r.1100–35), deputy; from here Roger performed his duties as the king's chief minister and deputy.	<i>The Oath of Sarum</i> online article <u>www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-</u> <u>england/medieval-part-1/oath-of-sarum</u>
	 Medieval (1154–1484) For most the 1170s, Eleanor of Aquitaine was held by her husband, King Henry II (r.1154–89), as a prisoner at the castle for encouraging her sons to rebel against the king. The cathedral community persisted at the site until the 1220s, at which point both the condition of the cathedral and relations with the castle garrison had deteriorated significantly. The cathedral community moved to New Sarum (Salisbury), while the administrative centre remained at Old Sarum into the 15th century, though by this time the borough was mostly abandoned and the castle falling into ruin. 	A Mini Guide to Medieval Castles, English Heritage YouTube Channel (2017) www.youtube.com/watch?v=RXXDThkJ3Ew Papal Bull of Pope Horonius III (1219) 'Situated within a castle, the church is subject to such inconvenience that the clergy cannot stay there without danger to their persons.'
	 Post Medieval (1485 onwards) In the 18th century, England had several 'rotten boroughs', which had been given the right, in the Middle Ages, to elect two Members of Parliament (MPs). Old Sarum was one of the most famous 'rotten boroughs', keeping its right to elect two MPs as the years went on, even though most of its population had disappeared. The Great Reform Act of 1832 finally abolished 'rotten boroughs'. 	<i>The Georgians: Power and Politics</i> online article <u>www.english-</u> <u>heritage.org.uk/learn/story-of-</u> <u>england/georgians/power-and-politics</u>
e) The diversity of activities and people associated with the	Activities - Iron Age: marketplace and refuge for the local community.	McNeill, J, <i>Old Sarum</i> , English Heritage Guidebooks (2006)





	1	Oxford Cambridge and RSA
site	 Roman: military base; place of worship. Anglo-Saxon: strategic stronghold in the expansion of Wessex for both the Britons and the Saxons. Norman: the site where the Oath of Sarum was sworn by landholders to William the Conqueror in 1086; administrative centre and cathedral community. Medieval: settlement and political borough. Post medieval: a notorious 'rotten borough'. 	www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books- media/books/guidebooks/guidebook-old- sarum Old Sarum history website www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old- sarum/history
	People-Cynric: Saxon king of Wessex (552)-Sweyn Forkbeard: Viking king of Denmark (1003)-Eleanor of Aquitaine: wife of Henry II (1170)-King William I: first Norman king (Oath of Sarum, 1086)-William of Eu: rebel lord and prisoner (1096)-Bishop Roger: bishop and chief minister (1102)-John Constable: Victorian artist (1830)	
f) The reasons for changes to the site and to the way it was used	 In times of peace, the site was used as a community gathering place, fostering strong relations between the local people and supporting their way of life through, for example, religious worship (Romans, Normans) and the local economy (Iron Age). During times of conflict, the site became a stronghold. It was a place to seek shelter and protection (Iron Age), but was also a target for attacking forces – a cornerstone to be held or captured (Britons, Saxons, Normans). 	McNeill J, <i>Old Sarum</i> , English Heritage Guidebooks (2006) <u>www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-</u> <u>media/books/guidebooks/guidebook-old-</u> <u>sarum</u> Old Sarum history website <u>www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-</u> <u>sarum/history</u>
g) Significant times in the site's past: peak activity, major developments, turning points	 Arguably, the most significant point in the site's history was just after the Norman Conquest, when William the Conqueror realised the potential of Old Sarum as a Norman fortification. 1069: Old Sarum was documented as one of the first Norman strongholds to be established. 1075: building work began on the first cathedral. 	McNeill, J, <i>Old Sarum</i> , English Heritage Guidebooks (2006) <u>www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-</u> <u>media/books/guidebooks/guidebook-old-</u> <u>sarum</u>





		oxiola cambridge and hox
	 I August 1086: landholders from across the country gathered before King William I at Old Sarum. They bowed down before him and swore an oath of allegiance, promising to place him above all other men. This was an important event both politically and administratively. With all of England's landholders in one place, post-Conquest patterns of landholding could be recorded and included in Domesday Book. I220: the cathedral community could not stay at Old Sarum and the decision was made to move the cathedral down the valley to New Sarum (Salisbury). 	Anglo-Saxon Chronicle (1086) www.britannia.com/history/docs/1083- 86.html Papal Bull of Pope Horonius III (1219) 'The church is exposed to such winds that those celebrating the divine offices can hardly hear each other speak. The fabric is so ruinous that it is a constant danger to the congregation.'
h) The significance of specific features in the physical remains at the site	 The huge Iron Age earthworks are still visible today. The eastern entrance and protective hornwork largely survive, along with the outer ramparts. No major physical evidence of Roman or Saxon occupation has yet been found at the site. The foundations of the Norman keep are still visible, opposite the main entrance to the inner bailey. The boundaries of the outer bailey can still be seen, defined by the radial banks. It is most likely in this area that the Oath of Sarum took place. You can still see the Norman foundations of the courtyard house, built by Bishop Roger as a royal residence, within the royal castle. The courtyard house is the most formidable structure on the site and shows that the inner bailey at Sarum was the royal zone, while the cathedral clergy and bishop had their own, distinct, precinct within the royal and religious buildings, thanks to his dual role as Bishop of Salisbury and chancellor/deputy to the king. Looking down on the cathedral precinct, it is possible to see the outline of the early cathedral and subsequent alterations made by Bishop Roger to create the larger, second cathedral. 	Visit to Old Sarum McNeill, J, <i>Old Sarum</i> , English Heritage Guidebooks (2006) <u>www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-</u> <u>media/books/guidebooks/guidebook-old-</u> <u>sarum</u> Old Sarum phased site plan <u>www.english-</u> <u>heritage.org.uk/content/visit/places-to-</u> <u>visit/history-research-plans/old-sarum-phased-</u> <u>plan</u>
i) The importance of the whole site either locally or nationally, as appropriate	 Locally Important in relation to the history of the local area and the development of Salisbury (New Sarum). 	McNeill, J, <i>Old Sarum</i> , English Heritage Guidebooks (2006) <u>www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books-</u> <u>media/books/guidebooks/guidebook-old-</u>





		Oxioru Campridge and KSA
	- A key feature on Wiltshire's historic landscape.	sarum
	 Nationally One of the largest Iron Age hillforts in England. Changed hands in response to multiple key historical events (Roman withdrawal, Saxon invasion, Norman Conquest). A key site for helping William the Conqueror establish Norman rule in England. 	Salisbury Museum: Wessex Gallery www.salisburymuseum.org.uk/collections/wes sex-gallery
j) The typicality of the site based on a comparison with other similar sites	 Figsbury Ring, Wiltshire; Yarnbury Castle, Wiltshire; Beacon Hill, Hampshire all Iron Age hillforts. Cadbury Castle, Somerset – an Iron Age hillfort repurposed by the Romans. Sherborne Old Castle, Dorset – Bishop Roger's courtyard house at Old Sarum is very similar in structure to the house that he built for himself at Sherborne Old Castle at the same time, and to the royal residence built for Henry I at Windsor Castle, also around the same time, possibly under Bishop Roger's direction. Salisbury Cathedral, Wiltshire – stones from Old Sarum Cathedral were used in its construction. Clarendon Palace, Wiltshire – King Henry II's hunting lodge was upgraded and decorated around the same time that improvements were made to Old Sarum. 	McNeill, J, <i>Old Sarum</i> , English Heritage Guidebooks, 2006 <u>https://www.english-</u> <u>heritageshop.org.uk/books-</u> <u>media/books/guidebooks/guidebook-old-</u> <u>sarum</u> Visit to Old Sarum





k) What the site reveals about everyday life, attitudes and values in particular periods of history	 The different uses of the site throughout history reveal the changing attitudes and values of the people associated with it: Iron Age: marketplace; a community gathering place bringing local people together to support one another. Roman: military base and place of worship; a nucleus for the nearby villages. Anglo-Saxon: a strategic stronghold in the expansion of Wessex; demonstrates the conflict between the Britons and the Saxons in the struggle for England. Norman: administrative centre and cathedral community; a symbol of Norman control and shows that the Normans placed high value on religion. Medieval: settlement and political borough; politically important to successive kings and local noblemen. Post medieval: a rotten borough until 1832; illustrates much about the unreformed English Parliamentary system. 	McNeill, J, <i>Old Sarum</i> , English Heritage Guidebooks (2006) <u>www.english-heritageshop.org.uk/books- media/books/guidebooks/guidebook-old- sarum</u> Visit to Old Sarum
I) How the physical remains may prompt questions about the past and how historians frame these as valid historical enquiries	 What is it? What changes has it seen? What was it used for? What stories does it tell about the past? What do we still need to know? Where was it built? Where was it changed? Where did the people come from who used it? Where were the stones taken after it was ruined? Who built it? Who changed it? Who used it? When did people first live here? When was it built? When was it changed? When was it used? When did it stop being used? Why was it built? Why was it changed? Why was it used? Why was this location chosen? Why should we protect it? How was it built? How was it changed? How was it used? How much did it cost to build/change? How can an abandoned community send two MPs to Parliament? How can it tell us about the past? 	Visit to Old Sarum Old Sarum research website <u>www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/places/old-</u> <u>sarum/history/research</u>
m) How the physical remains can inform artistic reconstructions and other interpretations of the site	 In 1834, parch marks in the dry grass on the site outlined the foundations of the cathedral, which led to a local architect outlining the probable plan of the cathedral. Formal excavations of the site began in the early 20th century, but the interpretations of the discoveries at the time were limited due to the lack of actual physical remains. 	Iron Age reconstruction drawing <u>www.english-</u> <u>heritage.org.uk/content/properties/old-</u> <u>sarum/portico/aerial-reconstruction-iron-</u> <u>age.jpg</u>





		oxiora cambriage and hox
	 The excavation diaries from the 20th century digs are lacking in detail, making it difficult for today's historians to interpret the finds. Geophysical and topographical surveys allow for a greater understanding of how the site has developed over the centuries. The site is highly valued for its picturesque qualities and has been painted by such notable artists as Turner and Constable. 	Turner, JMW, <i>Distant View From Old Sarum</i> , (c.1828) <u>www.salisburymuseum.org.uk/collections/art-</u> <u>collection/distant-view-old-sarum</u>
n) The challenges and benefits of studying the historic environment	 Benefits Gives a sense of place, well-being and cultural identity. Allows visitors to connect people from the past to the place where they lived and worked. Stimulating way to engage with history in the place where it happened. Challenges Difficult to interpret due to lack of written sources and physical evidence. Different interpretations of the same site and evidence. 	Visit to Old Sarum