

# Electricity Pole Renewal Nr Baverstock Wiltshire



## Archaeological Watching Brief Report



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Prepared by: Mike Sims

Position: SWD Supervisor

Date: 26th January 2009

Checked by: Dan Dodds

Position: Head of Small Works

Date: 29th January 2009

Approved by: Alan Hardy

Signed.....

Position: Senior Project Manager

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**Oxford Archaeology**

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Janus House

Osney Mead

Oxford OX2 0ES

t: (0044) 01865 263800

e: info@oxfordarch.co.uk

f: (0044) 01865 793496

w: www.oxfordarch.co.uk

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# Electric Pole Renewal near Baverstock, Wiltshire

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Front Cover: Installing the new poles

## SUMMARY

*On December 3rd 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief near Baverstock, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 0250 3163). The work was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Energy PLC in advance of the renewal of overhead power cable poles within the region of an earthwork. The watching brief revealed modern ploughsoil overlying earlier ridge and furrow. No other significant archaeology was encountered.*

## 1 INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Scope of work

- 1.1.1 On December 3rd 2008, Oxford Archaeology (OA) carried out an archaeological watching brief near Baverstock, Wiltshire (NGR: SU 0250 3163). The work was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Energy PLC in respect of a proposal to replace overhead power cable poles close to a known earthwork.
- 1.1.2 In order to investigate if the earthwork extended out into the field to the west it was decided to commission a watching brief during excavation of the trench for the new poles. This is in line with best management practise.
- 1.1.3 OA prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation detailing how it would meet the requirements of the brief (OA, 2008).

### 1.2 Location, geology and topography

- 1.2.1 The line of the poles was located to the west and north of the village of Baverstock, approximately 6.5 km west of the town of Wilton and 9.2 km north-west of the city of Salisbury (Fig. 1). The area under consideration was mixed pasture and arable land. Three sides of a ditched and banked enclosure are visible in the field immediately to the north-east of the proposed site at a height of approximately 83 m, with the hedge line possibly concealing the fourth side.
- 1.2.2 The site itself lies at approximately 78 m above OD, on the edge of a field sloping gently down to the south, with the southern end of the site at 76 m rising to 107 m high at the northern end. The underlying geology is clay and flints over Upper green sandstone (Geological Survey of Great Britain, sheet no 298).

## 2 PROJECT AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

### 2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 To identify and record the presence or absence, extent, condition, quality and date of archaeological remains in the areas affected by the development. In particular to establish if the earthworks to the north-east extend into this part of the field.

2.1.2 To preserve by record any archaeological deposits or features that may be disturbed or destroyed during any intrusive groundworks.

2.1.3 To make available the results of the archaeological investigation.

## 2.2 Methodology

2.2.1 The work observed consisted of the excavation of a trench for the replacement electricity poles sited 1.4 m north-east of the existing poles (Fig. 2). This was excavated using a mechanical excavator (JCB) fitted with a 1 m wide bucket. The material was removed in spits until the required depth was achieved. After the installation of the replacement poles, a second pit was excavated immediately south-west of the old poles in order to allow their removal. The stratigraphy exposed was identical to that recorded in the first trench and it was not recorded separately.

2.2.2 A plan was maintained showing the extent of any intrusive works at a scale of 1:100 (Fig. 2) and any recorded sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. All excavations, features and sections were photographed using digital photography. A general photographic record of the work was also made. Recording followed procedures detailed in the *OA Field Manual* (ed. D Wilkinson, 1992).

## 3 RESULTS

### 3.1 Description of deposits

3.1.1 The underlying natural, a grey clay (5), was encountered at a depth of 1.6 m below ground level (Fig. 3, Section 1). This was overlaid by a layer of orange-brown sandy clay (4) measuring 0.85 m in depth. This deposit contained large quantities of sub-angular flint gravels and inclusions of light grey clay which increased in frequency with depth. The rounded appearance of the flints suggests that this was a colluvial deposit. Overlying this was a 0.35 m deep layer of yellow-grey sandy silt clay (3), which also contained many sub-angular flint gravels, again suggesting a colluvium.

3.1.2 The surface of this layer was cut by a 2.5 m wide, 0.15 m deep linear feature running east-west across the trench (6). The profile and linear nature of this feature suggests that it represents the truncated base of a plough furrow. This was filled by a layer of light yellow-brown silt clay (2) measuring up to 0.28 m in depth. This represents an earlier ploughsoil horizon associated with the ridge and furrow working.

3.1.3 This was sealed by a 0.2 m deep layer of grey-brown clay loam (1), the present day ploughsoil.

### 3.2 Finds

3.2.1 No dating evidence was recovered during the course of the watching brief.

### 3.3 Palaeo-environmental remains

3.3.1 No deposits suitable for palaeo-environmental sampling were encountered during the course of the watching brief.

## 4 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

4.1.1 No evidence for the continuation of the enclosure extending into the field was encountered, nor were any archaeological deposits possibly associated with the enclosure, during the course of the watching brief.

4.1.2 No dating evidence for the ridge and furrow working was recovered during the course of the watching brief.

**APPENDICES****APPENDIX 1    ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT INVENTORY**

<i>Context</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Depth</i>	<i>Comments</i>	<i>Finds</i>	<i>Date</i>
1	Layer	0.2 m	Present day ploughsoil	-	C20th
2	Fill	0.1 m – 0.28 m	Fill of truncated plough furrow	-	-
3	Layer	0.35 m	Colluvium	-	-
4	Layer	0.85 m	Colluvium	-	-
5	Layer	> 0.35 m	Natural clay	-	-
6	Cut	0.18 m	Plough furrow	-	-

**APPENDIX 2    BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES**

IFA, 2001 *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs*

OA, 1992 *Field Manual* (ed. D. Wilkinson)

**APPENDIX 3    SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS**

**Site name:** Electric Pole Renewal, Salisbury to Teffont, Wiltshire

**Site code:** SALTEF 08

**Grid reference:** SU 0250 3163

**Type of watching brief:** Machine excavation of trench for new electricity poles

**Date and duration of project:** December 3rd 2008, 1 site visit

**Area of site:** 30 m<sup>2</sup>

**Summary of results:** The watching brief revealed modern worked soil overlying earlier ridge and furrow working. No other significant archaeology was observed.

**Location of archive:** The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum in due course.







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Figure 1: Site location

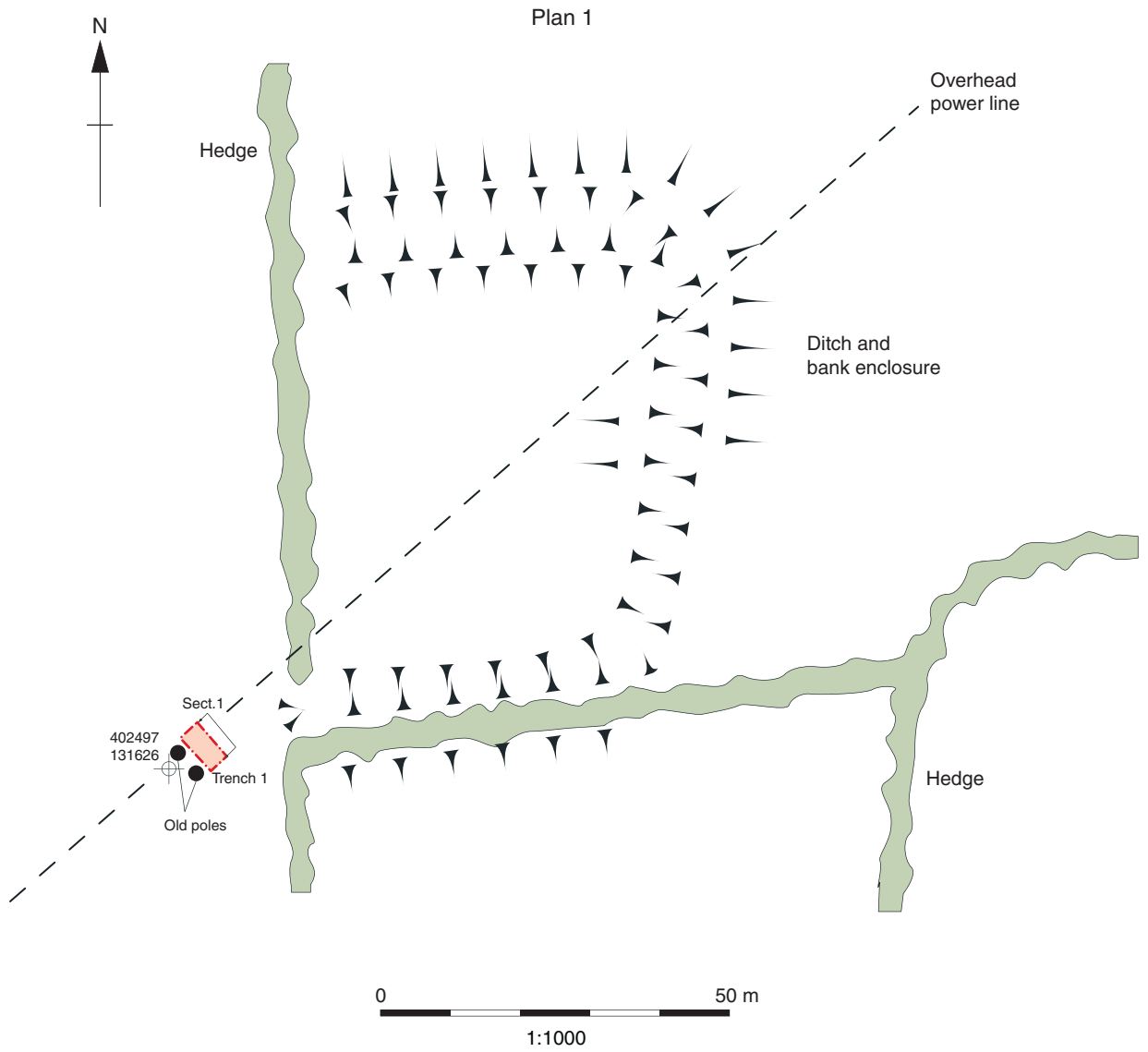


Figure 2 : Site plan

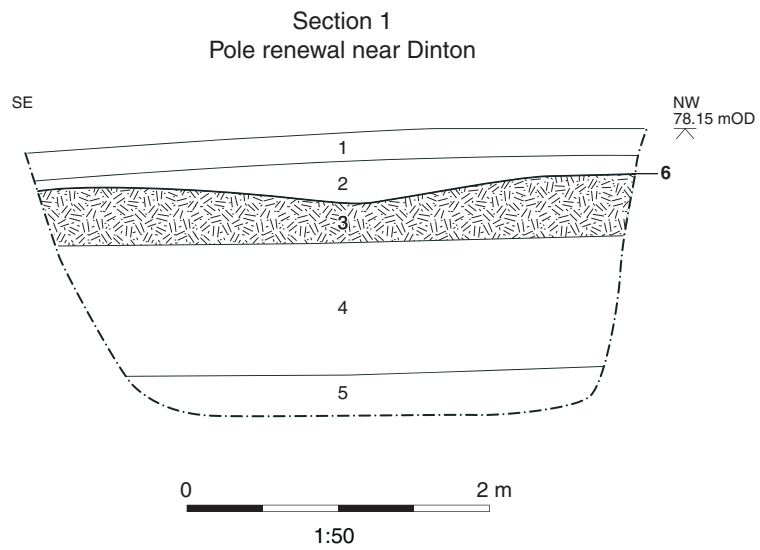


Figure 3 : Section 1



#### **Head Office/Registered Office**

Janus House  
Osney Mead  
Oxford OX2 0ES

t: +44 (0) 1865 263 800  
f: +44 (0) 1865 793 496  
e: [info@thehumanjourney.net](mailto:info@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA North**

Mill 3  
Moor Lane  
Lancaster LA1 1GF

t: +44 (0) 1524 541 000  
f: +44 (0) 1524 848 606  
e: [oanorth@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oanorth@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net>

#### **OA East**

15 Trafalgar Way  
Bar Hill  
Cambridgeshire  
CB23 8SQ

t: +44 (0) 1223 850500  
f: +44 (0) 1223 850599  
e: [oaeast@thehumanjourney.net](mailto: oaeast@thehumanjourney.net)  
w: <http://thehumanjourney.net/oaeast>

#### **OA Méditerranée**

115 Rue Merlot  
ZAC La Louvade  
34 130 Manguio  
France

t: +33 (0) 4.67.57.86.92  
f: +33 (0) 4.67.42.65.93  
e: [oamed@oamed.fr](mailto: oamed@oamed.fr)  
w: <http://oamed.fr/>



**Director:** David Jennings, BA MIFA FSA

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