

Strip Map and Sample excavation and Watching Brief at Bishops Sutton

Archaeological Mitigation Report



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Strip Map and Sample excavation and Watching Brief at Bishops Sutton, Alresford, Hampshire

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Summary

Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd (URS) to carry out the archaeological mitigation during the construction of a photovoltaic array at Bishops Sutton, Alresford (centred on NGR SSU 5146 1950). The general approach to excavation was a mixture of strip, map and sample hand-excavation followed by archaeological watching brief.

The work was carried out in January and February 2014. Forty one archaeological features were found within the main cable trench and the areas excavated for three adjacent substations and eight inverters. The cable trench ran north across the southern and central fields, and then east along the northern boundary of the central field, before continuing north along the east edge of the northern field and west along its northern boundary to the edge of the site. At the north-eastern edge of the central field the trench was diverted to avoid a protected archaeological zone, where cropmarks and a geophysical survey had indicated a pair of conjoined ditched enclosures, believed to be Iron Age, and two probable Bronze Age ring-ditches.

In total 41 archaeological features were exposed, excavated and recorded, though none produced any finds. The larger features were ditches or pits, some of considerable size, but there were also two large postholes and (in the southern field) two groups of smaller postholes forming slightly curved rows, which could have belonged to one very large structure.

Watching brief monitored a trench west of and parallel to the main cable trench south-north through Fields 1 and 2, cable trenches linking the solar arrays to the inverters, a cable trench for CCTV monitors around the edges of much of Fields I and 2, and an access road to the substations along the north edge of Field 3. This revealed another six features.

The majority of the exposed features were found within the central field. A number of the excavated archaeological features in the central and the northern fields corresponded in plan with linear anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey, though some of these had been interpreted as of geological or recent origin. This showed that there was a more extensive field system present, probably belonging to the adjacent settlement. The discrete features had mostly not been picked up by the geophysical survey, but were probably associated pits. Not all of the linear features indicated by the geophysical survey that were crossed by the cable trenches were confirmed as archaeological features. Excavations in the southern field revealed that some of the broad linear features were indeed lynchets.

The only archaeological finds were worked flint flakes and debitage fragments of late Neolithic-early Bronze Age date from the northern field, and one piece of medieval tile. All were recorded in colluvial deposits rather than in excavated features. The flints probably derive from activity related to the ring-ditches upslope to the south-west. The tile fragment may suggest that some of the ditches were of medieval date. One of the features crossed by the cable trench was a ditch parallel to the linked enclosures. Surface finds show that the enclosures were probably in use during the Roman period, although the absence of finds from the features might suggest a prehistoric, rather than a Roman or medieval, origin for the enclosures. The pits found at some distance from the enclosures, again without finds, are likely to have had agricultural functions.



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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Location and scope of work

- 1.1.1 Oxford Archaeology (OA) was commissioned by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd (URS) to carry out the archaeological mitigation during the construction of a photovoltaic array at Bishops Sutton, Alresford, Hampshire (Fig. 1). The scope of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigations (WSI) prepared by archaeological consultant Andy Mayes of URS (URS 2014) and agreed with the Winchester City Council (hereafter WCC) Archaeologist Tracy Matthews. This was supplemented by a Method Statement prepared by OA and agreed with URS and Tracy Matthews.
- 1.1.2 All work was undertaken in accordance with local and national planning policies.
- 1.1.3 The development site is centred on National Grid Reference SU 5146 1950 between Bishops Sutton and Alresford, east of Winchester (Fig. 1). The two fields that will contain the solar array together measure up to 475m east-west and up to 570m northsouth, with an area of approximately 20 ha. A cable trench linking the array to a substation on the National Grid runs along the east and north sides of a further field to the north (Fig. 2). The area comprising all three fields is *c* 30 ha.
- 1.1.4 The three fields making up the site were until recently under agricultural cultivation (URS 2013a). The fields are divided by a mature hedge and narrow trackway. Whitehill Lane runs immediately beyond the hedge along the southern boundary of the site, and further to the south is the A31. The northern border of the site is the B3047, which runs from Winchester via Alresford to Bishops Sutton.

1.2 Geology and topography

- 1.2.1 In this report the southern field is called Field 1, the central one Field 2 and the northern one Field 3. The boundary between the northern and central field is c 0.5km long. The westernmost 360m of the north border is occupied by a copse of mature deciduous trees which is c 60m at the widest point and 30m at its narrowest. The remaining 140m of the northern border is open to the northern field. The western edge of the site is bordered by a mature hedge which is wider at the northern end, and the eastern edge of the site is bordered by a further mature hedgerow. The boundary between the central and the southern field is also c 0.5km long and consists of line of trees and shrubs.
- 1.2.2 The investigated area slopes down from the central field (the highest point of Field 2 being at 111m AOD) both to the south (92m AOD at the southern end of Field 1) and to the north (78m AOS at the Inorth-eastern corner of Field 3).
- 1.2.3 The bedrock geology of the site is Newhaven Chalk Formation, overlain in the central field by Clay-with-Flints (BGS online viewer 2014). There are also head deposits overlying the chalk at the south end of the southern field and colluvial deposits at the bottom of the slope in the southern and northern fields.

1.3 Archaeological and historical background (Fig. 2)

1.3.1 This site has been subject to previous archaeological investigation, comprising an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (hereafter DBA) (URS 2013a) and a geophysical survey (Terradat 2013). Both cropmarks and geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin have been identified across the site.



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- 1.3.2 According to the Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment (HCC 1999), the site is part of the Bighton and Bramdean Downs area, an area of upland chalk between the Itchen valley to the north and south-west and the Meon valley to the south-east.
- 1.3.3 The archaeological and historical background to the site has been described in detail in the DBA (URS 2013a). This is summarised below.
- 1.3.4 No Mesolithic or Neolithic finds have been recovered from the site or its immediate environs. Mesolithic activity is relatively sparse in this part of the county, the river valleys perhaps being the focus of activity. Activity of the Neolithic is more widespread, and there is a long barrow at the head of the Itchen valley, so it remains possible that features, or more likely finds, of the Neolithic period may be encountered.
- 1.3.1 No Bronze Age finds were recorded from the site or its immediate environs, but geophysical survey within the field north of the development revealed one circular and one penannular ring-ditch, both c 20m across, which may represent ploughed-out Bronze Age barrows (URS 2013a, 28-9). Between these was another circular feature of similar diameter interpreted by the geological survey as of probable geological origin, but it is likely it indicates another archaeological feature (Terradat 2013). Alternatively these circular and penannular features may represent Iron Age enclosures associated with a rectangular enclosure and settlement site recorded on the HER (see below).
- 1.3.2 Cropmarks of a settlement site of Iron Age date, comprising a rectangular enclosure, a trackway and a ring ditch, are recorded on the HER within the northern field (called variously MWC860, 861 and 6092). The HER entry describes these as of early to late Iron Age date. This site is marked on the geophysical survey interpretation (Terradat 2013, fig. 4 area c; Fig. 2).
- 1.3.3 The geophysical survey also identified an area of probable archaeological pits, bounded on the south-west and south-east by ditches, in the central field, close to the eastern boundary and some 100m south of the cropmark rectangular enclosure (Terradat 2013, fig. 4 area b; Fig. 2). These pits are also likely to be of Iron Age date, that is, contemporary with the settlement. A third, smaller area of probable archaeological activity comprising a few pits and ditches, again on a similar alignment to those in areas b and c, was found by the geophysical survey in the north-west part of the central field (Terradat 2013, fig. 4 area a; Fig. 2). In the absence of other evidence, this may also be of Iron Age date.
- 1.3.4 Some 750m to the west of the site, finds of early to late Iron Age date were recovered from Tichbourne Down House (MWC311a-c), and probably mark another settlement.
- 1.3.5 No Roman finds have been made within, or in the immediate vicinity of, the site. It is however possible that the cropmark rectangular enclosure and associated features continued in use into this period.
- 1.3.6 The geophysical survey also showed a number of other linear features interpreted as of probable archaeological origin in the southern field (Terradat 2013, fig. 4 area d; Fig. 2). These are not on the same orientation as those further north, and so are undated. Further linear marks identified on the geophysical survey in the southern part of the central field were interpreted as of geological origin (Terradat 2013, fig. 4; Fig.2). These are on predominantly south-east and north-east alignments, and it is possible that some may also prove to be field boundaries of archaeological origin.
- 1.3.7 No early medieval or medieval finds are recorded from the site. Early medieval finds have been recovered from Tichbourne Down House, 750m west of the site, and there are medieval churches both at Alresford (the church of John the Baptist, MWC103) and

at Bishops Sutton (St Nicholas church, MWC72). Just north-east of the site is Western Court Farm, originally a medieval messuage, and it is possible that some of the linear field boundaries within the site are associated, and so also of medieval origin.

- 1.3.8 Historic maps show that the site has been open farmland since 1840, the date of the Bishops Sutton Hundred Tithe map (URS 2013a, plate 5).
- 1.3.9 Two roughly parallel linear features found by geophysical survey running north-east across the central field were interpreted as belonging to a former field boundary (Terradat 2013, fig. 4; see Fig. 2). A boundary dividing the central field into two, the larger field to the west, the smaller to the east, is shown on the 1840 Bishops Sutton Hundred Tithe map (URS 2013a, plate 5), but the features revealed by the geophysical survey do not match its alignment. The ditches revealed by the geophysical survey may instead indicate a trackway or boundary of an earlier date.
- 1.3.10 A small chalk quarry (now tree-covered) is shown at the southern edge of the central field on the OS maps from 1870 onwards, by which time the former boundary dividing the central field has disappeared (Fig. 2). The position of the chalk quarry suggests that it may have been dug against the former field boundary in the south-eastern corner of the western field.
- 1.3.11 Aerial photographs show the former subdivisions of the northern field marked on 19th century maps, and also a variety of broadly east-west furrows, whose date is uncertain. A lynchet of unknown date is recorded some 750m east of the site (MWC7140), and earthworks east of that again at Bishops Sutton (MWC7141).

1.4 Acknowledgements

- 1.4.1 OA would like to thank Andy Mayes from URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd, who commissioned the work and acted as archaeological consultant, and Tracy Mathews, the Winchester City Council Archaeologist, who monitored the fieldwork. The project was managed by Tim Allen for OA and the fieldwork was undertaken by Mariusz Gorniak assisted by Christopher Nutall, Philip Wright, Christof Heistermann, Ashley Strutt, Joanne Robinson, Jonathan Tierney, Richard Kevill, Leanne Waring, Alice Rose, and Hannah Kennedy.
- 1.4.2 OA would also like to thank the employees and subcontractors of OPDE PHOTOVOLTAICS, the developer, who were helpful and understanding throughout the fieldwork.



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL MITIGATION AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims

- 2.1.1 General :
 - (i) To establish the presence or absence of any archaeological remains.
 - (ii) To determine the extent, condition, nature, character, date and significance of any archaeological remains encountered.
 - (iii) To establish the nature of the activity on the site.
 - (iv) To identify and (where possible) date any artefacts relating to the occupation or use of the site, and to investigate their significance with reference to economy, status, utility and social activity.
 - (v) To provide further information on the archaeology from any archaeological remains encountered through an appropriate level of reporting.
 - (vi) To investigate the environment of the site through palaeo-environmental sampling and, if appropriate, analysis.
 - (vii) To assess the associations and implications of any remains encountered with reference to the historic landscape.

2.1.2 Specific aims and objectives:

- (viii) To establish whether the interpretation of some linear features identified by the geophysical survey as of geological origin is correct, or whether all or most of these features are also of archaeological origin.
- (ix) To clarify the date or dates of the features identified by geophysical survey, and the character of the activities they represent.
- (x) To attempt to establish whether the linear boundaries of archaeological origin are likely to be of one period, or represent a variety of field systems of different dates.
- (xi) As a corollary of this, to place any archaeological remains discovered in context in relation to the settlement and ring ditches identified within the northern field.
- (xii) To investigate whether there is a difference in the preservation of archaeological deposits/features across the site, and in particular whether the slope has resulted in better preservation of any archaeological features at the southern edges of the central and southern fields.
- (xiii) To determine whether there is any activity of Bronze Age date.

2.2 Regional Research Aims

2.2.1 The WSI identified a number of aims within the Hampshire Historic Environment Research Agenda for the Solent-Thames Archaeological Research Framework that may be relevant to this project (URS 2014, 30). These aims will be considered during the fieldwork, and will be supplemented by any other research aims and objectives from the Research Framework that may be relevant to the archaeological features or finds discovered (Hey and Hind 2014).

2.3 Scope of Works

2.3.1 The area of proposed development was approximately 20 hectares, but the area of potential impact upon archaeological remains was much smaller.



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- 2.3.2 An unique site code and museum accession number WINCM.AY538 was issued for this project through consultation with the WCC curatorial archaeologist.
- 2.3.3 The general approach to mitigation was strip, map and sample hand-excavation, to be followed by archaeological watching brief. This report presents the result of both phases of work, and discusses their results together.
- 2.3.4 The area of potential archaeological impact mitigated by the strip, map and sample excavation was c 0.09ha in total, and comprised two substations which together were around 43sq m in area, one control building (called below Substation 3) of around 27.5sq m, eight inverters housings each around 40sq m in area, a cable trench 1680m long and 0.65-0.7m wide, and extensions of the cable trench in places where archaeological features were recorded during the strip (19 extensions, together covering c 116sq m).
- 2.3.5 Following on from the strip map and sample excavation and recording, watching brief was carried out on a series of further cable trenches and the construction of part of a road leading from the north entrance to the site down to a pair of substations in the northern field.

2.4 Programme

- 2.4.1 The fieldwork commenced on 14th January 2014. The strip map and sample fieldwork took three weeks and one day to complete by a field director with a team of up to five project archaeologists and a surveyor, under the management of Senior Project Manager Tim Allen (MIFA).
- 2.4.2 The Watching Brief commenced on Monday 10th February, and concluded on Wednesday 13th March, involving a total of 17 days on site.

3 STRIP MAP AND SAMPLE EXCAVATION

3.1 Site specific methodology

- 3.1.1 A summary of OA's general approach to excavation and recording can be found in the Method Statement Appendices (OA 2014). The methodology for this site followed these guidelines, modified as necessary to comply with the requirements laid down in the WSI (URS 2014), as follows:
- 3.1.2 All of the areas of potential impact (see Fig. 2) were stripped by machine using a toothless bucket down to the first archaeological horizon, or failing that to the top of the natural, unless this lay below the level of impact of the development. Topsoil and subsoils were stockpiled separately. The machine did not track upon any stripped surfaces.
- 3.1.3 All horizons thus exposed were cleaned by hand when necessary, mapped digitally (and as necessary by hand) at an appropriate scale (1:10,.1:20 or 1:50). Spot-heights were recorded on all plans. The extent of excavation was accurately recorded digitally using electronic survey equipment, and the data were transferred onto plans showing OS National Grid co-ordinates.
- 3.1.4 All revealed archaeological deposits and features were sampled by hand-excavation. Even if no features were present, a full written, drawn and photographic record was made of each substation or inverter excavation area.



- 3.1.5 All archaeological deposits and features were excavated; where more than one fill was present, deposits were excavated in reverse stratigraphic order. No extensive archaeological deposits were present.
- 3.1.6 All termini within the excavated areas were excavated.
- 3.1.7 Pits, isolated postholes and other discrete features were half-sectioned. Large pits were half-sectioned by hand.
- 3.1.8 Hand-excavation continued until the base of the feature was reached (or to the limit of safe excavation depth).
- 3.1.9 Discrete features that proved to belong to structures, ie the rows of posts in Field 1, were fully excavated within the defined limits of the scope of works in an attempt to retrieve finds.
- 3.1.10 When archaeological features were identified in section or in the base of the trench, the area was extended and stepped for Health and Safety reasons to ensure safe excavation of any deposits found in the base of the trench. Due to the difficulty of recognising archaeological features in the Clay-with-Flints in Field 2 during excavation of the cable trench, some of these features were removed by machine within the trench before being identified in section. A proportion of the archaeological features were therefore sampled by hand-excavation in the adjacent extensions.
- 3.1.11 All excavated archaeological features were recorded in section. Due to the uniformity of fills and the absence of more than one fill in most cases, some sections were recorded at at a scale of 1:20 rather than 1:10.
- 3.1.12 Colour transparency and monochrome negative photographs were taken at format of 35mm. In addition to records of archaeological features, general site photographs were also taken.

Environmental sampling

- 3.1.13 The English Heritage Regional Advisor for Archaeological Science (Jane Corcoran) was notified of the commencement of the project and consulted regarding the general environmental sampling strategy. As only one feature potentially containing any environmental material was found, and none of the features contained artefactual material, she was not subsequently called upon the visit or further advise upon environmental sampling.
- 3.1.14 Provision was made for the recovery of material suitable for scientific dating, but no suitable deposits were encountered.
- 3.1.15 Environmental sampling was undertaken in accordance with current English Heritage guidance (EH 2011), and in line with Appendix C in The Method Statement (OA 2014).
- 3.1.16 Samples were taken from appropriately cleaned surfaces, were collected with clean tools and were placed in clean containers. They were adequately recorded and labelled and a register of samples was kept.
- 3.1.17 The one environmental sample was stored appropriately, and was processed according to the instructions of the charcoal specialist. The resulting flot was scanned by the specialist for assessment.

Artefact recovery

3.1.18 All artefacts were collected, stored and processed in accordance with standard methodologies and national guidelines (Appendix 1 in the Methods Statement – OA 2014). All non-modern artefacts were collected and retained.



3.1.19 Artefacts were stored in appropriate materials and conditions, and monitored to minimise further deterioration.

3.2 Monitoring

3.2.1 Seven days notice of the commencement of the strip map and sample works was given to the Winchester City Council Archaeologist Tracy Mathews, who made one monitoring visit.

3.3 Introduction to Results

3.3.1 The content of this report is as defined in section 18 of the WSI (URS 2014), and in Appendix F of the Method Statement (OA 2014).

General soils and ground conditions

- 3.3.2 Topsoil was present in all trenches and averaged 0.2m thick in Field 1, 0.3m in Field 2, and 0.35m in the southern part of Field 3. The underlying subsoil layer was thinnest in the central and highest part of Field 2 (only 0.04m thick in some places), and its depth increased northwards and southwards to a maximum 0.26m in Field 1 and 0.3m at the lowest part of Field 3.
- 3.3.3 The natural geology was predominantly Newhaven Chalk Formation in Fields 1 and 3, and where this was revealed beneath topsoil and subsoil archaeological features were easy to discern, and excavation straightforward. The northern part of Field 3 had a substantial depth of colluvial deposits overlaying the chalk bedrock, so that chalk was not reached in the excavations for the two substations in the north-east corner of the field, the full depth of impact being reached within the colluvial build-up.
- 3.3.4 In the areas of Clay-with-Flints in Field 2, the soils were very tenacious and the trenches and excavation areas were badly affected by the heavy rain that often fell during this phase of work. Archaeological features were difficult to discern at first, though after a few days in this part of the site the team got their eye in. There were also large numbers of clay patches penetrating down into the underlying chalk, several of which were excavated before their geological origin was recognised. Cleaning of the natural was also hindered by the frequent flint nodules.

General distribution of archaeological deposits (Figs 3-6 and Fig. 11)

- 3.3.5 The results of the 'strip map and sample' phase are presented below, beginning with a summary of the results, followed by more detailed descriptions of the features. The features are grouped by field and described starting with Field 1 (see Fig. 3) and within each field from the south to north. A table of the contexts is presented in Appendix A.
- 3.3.6 Archaeological features were recorded in all three fields. Most of the features were found on the plateau in the central part of development area (Field 2 had twenty-one archaeological features), but there were also seven features in Field 3 and thirteen features (12 of them postholes) in Field 1 (see Figs 3-6).
- 3.3.7 In general, features were cut from beneath the subsoil, into either chalky bedrock (Field 1 and Field 3) or into the Clay-with-Flints (Field 2). Only one modern feature was found, a large rubbish pit cutting both subsoil and bedrock chalk in Field 2.
- 3.3.8 The recorded features comprised fifteen probable pits (12 in Field 2, 2 in Field 3 and one in Field 1), fourteen postholes (12 in Field 1 and 2 in Field 3) and twelve ditches or gullies (9 in Field 2 and 3 in Field 3). One further feature in Field 1 could have been a ditch terminus, but was more probably a tree-throw hole. Unless clearly linear in character, features have been characterised as pits rather than ditch termini.



- 3.3.9 Most of the ditches survived between 0.5m and 0.75m deep below ploughsoil and subsoil, the largest being up to 1.2m deep. Pits were generally much wider than deep with sloping sides; several had steep or vertical sides with flattish bottoms, but these too were wider than deep.
- 3.3.10 A number of natural features were investigated and recorded across the site. These comprised large tree-throw holes 133 and 106 (in Field 1 and Field 3 respectively), two smaller features of similar character (122 and 192) in Fields 1 and 2, and periglacial features, one numbered 183 in Field 2 and a group collectively numbered 114 in Field 3 (Figs 4-6).
- 3.3.11 Except for the modern pit, only a former field boundary in Field 3 contained any artefactual material, and this was a sherd of tile of later medieval date. Apart from the lower fill of a single pit in Field 2, which was sampled, none of the deposits within the features contained any traces of organic material, molluscan remains or other environmental material.
- 3.3.12 Several linear anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (Terradat 2013) were matched by ditches in the east-west and north-south cable trenches in Field 2, and another in the east-west cable trench in Field 3. A number of other linear geophysical anomalies that crossed the cable trench or the areas excavated for inverters were not however confirmed in the excavation. These include some linear features in the southern part of Field 2 (see Terradat 2014, Fig. 4).
- 3.3.13 Only a few of the discrete features found by excavation were evident on the geophysical survey plot (see Figs 3-6). The geophysical survey did show a concentration of discrete anomalies towards the north-east corner of Field 2 (Terradat 2013), and although not one of these, a pit was recorded in the east-west cable trench in this area, suggesting that these anomalies may well have been archaeological.

3.4 Field 1 (Figs 3 and 7; Plates 1 and 2)

- 3.4.1 In Field 1 a relatively thick topsoil and a substantial subsoil layer overlay the chalk bedrock. Archaeological features were cut into the chalk deposit. Several broad and diffuse linear anomalies on the geophysical survey of Field 1 were marked as of probable archaeological origin, and were provisionally interpreted as lynchets (URS 2013a). These were not visible on the ground surface. The two northernmost of these were marked by clear dips in the level of the chalk bedrock, with a correspondingly greater depth of overlying subsoil and topsoil, supporting their interpretation as agricultural strip lynchets, but those further downslope were not marked by significant changes in bedrock level, and in one or two cases were hardly visible (Terradat 2013, Fig. 4).
- 3.4.2 Group 221 consisted of five postholes (123, 125, 127, 129, and 131) running NNE in a slightly curving line across the area of Inverter 1 (Fig. 3, Plate 1). All five postholes were of similar size in plan (from 0.34 x 0.38m to 0.3 x 0.2m) with excavated depths varying from 0.05m to 0.29m. All the postholes had vertical or near-vertical sides and either flat or slightly concave bases (Fig. 7, Plate 2). Their single fills were composed of very friable reddish brown, slightly clayey silt with moderate amount of chalk fragments and flint (poorly sorted). No artefactual material was present.
- 3.4.3 Ditch 162 crossed the cable trench south of Inverter 2, and the extension dug on the east side for safe access revealed the terminus (Fig. 3). It was orientated WNW-ESE, and *c* 1.0m of the length was exposed. The ditch survived 0.65m wide, and was shallow (0.17m), cut into the natural chalk and sealed by subsoil (Fig. 7). Its single fill was a friable, clayey silt with pieces of chalk and flint, with no finds.



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- 3.4.4 Group 222 was a second set of postholes, five (136, 138, 140, 142, 144) in Inverter 2 running NNW, and another (146) in the cable trench to the north-west, possibly also belonging to this group. Postholes from group 222 were slightly larger (diameters measuring from 0.42m to 0.23m) than those in Group 221, and had steep or vertical sides and flat or slightly concave bases (Fig. 7). Their single fills were analogous to those of the postholes in Group 221, and did not contain any artefactual material.
- 3.4.5 One further posthole (160) was exposed in section in the cable trench extension for feature 133, in between Inverters 2 and 3. It was morphologically similar to the other postholes in Field 1 and its fill contained no finds (Figs 3 and 7).
- 3.4.6 Feature 133 was exposed crossing the cable trench, and the extension dug on the east side revealed its east edge (Fig. 3). It was irregularly oval in plan with a gradually sloping southern side, steep northern side and an undulating base (Fig. 7). There were two slightly diffuse fills; the lower fill contained more chalk inclusions than the upper fill, but neither contained any artefacts. As this does not relate to any of the linear features identified by the geophysical survey, it was most probably a tree-throw hole.
- 3.4.7 North of this no archaeological features were observed in the cable trench. Substation 3 (also called Inverter 3), which lay at the northern end of Field 1, was stripped to the surface of the chalk, but did not contain any archaeological features or deposits.

3.5 Field 2 (Figs 4-5 and 8-9; Plates 3-7)

The south-north cable trench

- 3.5.1 Towards the top of the slope, ie along the boundary between Fields 1 and 2, the geology changed, with a thick sandy clay layer underlying thin subsoil in the southernmost part of Field 2. The cable trench and Inverter 4 lay within a large circular depression (*c* 20m in diameter) here, and it is possible that the sandy fill was the backfill of an extension to the chalk quarry existing until recently just to the east (see Fig. 2). Further north, on the plateau, the chalk bedrock was overlain by a 0.5-1.0m deep deposit of Clay-with-Flints. This also filled a large number of irregular holes up to 1m deep in the top of the chalk. Archaeological features were cut into the Clay-with-Flints, and sometimes into the chalk bedrock below as well.
- 3.5.2 Features in the south-north cable trench and adjacent areas are described first, then those in the west-east cable trench. Almost all of the features in this field had only a single fill of silty clay with moderate chalk and flint fragments, and none contained any finds. Only fills differing from this will be described individually below.
- 3.5.3 Inverter 4 lay at the south end of the field, and was stripped to a depth of between 0.6 and 0.9m, the latter below the impact depth. The surface of the area was cleaned, but no archaeological features or deposits were seen, and it was later realised that this probably lay within quarry backfill.
- 3.5.4 The cable trench was monitored running north from this, but no archaeological features were found up to and within Inverter 5. The chalk was exposed below the Clay-with-Flints in places along the cable trench; the excavation for the Inverter bottomed within the Clay-with-Flints, and the surface was cleaned by hand, but no archaeological features or deposits were seen.
- 3.5.5 Pit 200 was exposed between Inverters 5 and 6 (Fig. 4), and was circular and only 0.5m in diameter, with a bowl profile (Fig. 8). It lay immediately adjacent to the south-east side of ditch 198.



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- 3.5.6 Ditch 198 was orientated south-west to north-east, and was traced over 3.6m across the cable trench and an extension on the east side (Fig. 4). It was 1.2m wide and 0.7m deep, with moderately steep sides and a slightly undulating, concave base. The ditch had been almost completely removed by machine in the cable trench. The ditch corresponds to the more southerly of two parallel linear anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (Terradat 2013; see Fig. 4).
- 3.5.7 Feature 190 crossed the cable trench east-west, and its eastern limit was found within the extension dug on the east side (Figs 4, 8, Plate 4). The feature was 0.72m deep, the south side considerably steeper than the north. This feature was somewhat irregular in plan, and may have been a tree-throw hole rather than a pit.
- 3.5.8 Immediately adjacent on the north side, and cut into the fill of 190, was kidney-shaped feature 192. This was irregular both in plan and in profile, and was probably either an animal burrow or a small tree-throw hole (Figs 4, 8, Plate 4). Possibly this belonged to a hedge alongside ditch 198.
- 3.5.9 Some 12m north of ditch 198 two linear features 206 and 208 crossed the cable trench on a roughly north-east to south-west orientation. Ditch 208 had steep sides and a flattish base, and survived 0.5m deep; Ditch 206 was slightly larger, surviving 0.6m deep, and had sloping sides, the northern or which appeared to step in partway down, and a narrow flat base (Figs 4, 9). Neither feature was seen crossing the extension on the east, or Inverter 6 to the north-east. Ditch 208 corresponded with the more northerly of the two parallel linear anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey (Terradat 2013, Fig. 4), though both may represent different phases of this boundary. The line of the geophysical anomaly only clips the very corner of Inverter 6, and it is possible that this feature lay just beyond the stripped area. In the extension immediately north of the recorded features, it is possible that the ditches stopped short of ditch 202 at right angles, which ended in line with 206.
- 3.5.10 Ditch 202 ran north-west to south-east across the cable trench, and the south-eastern terminus was exposed in the extension dug to its east (Fig. 4). Some 3.2m of the length was exposed. The ditch was 0.5m deep, with moderately steep sides and a narrow slightly concave base (Fig. 9). The terminus was curving slightly eastwards. This ditch may have been associated with either 206 or 208 just to the south, but none of these features contained any finds.
- 3.5.11 Pit 204 lay immediately north of ditch 202, and may have cut it, although the fills were very similar, making the relationship uncertain (Fig. 4). It was oval in plan, 0.7m by 0.6m, and was 0.41m deep with a bowl-profile, ie very steep sides and a concave base (Fig. 9).
- 3.5.12 Pit 219 was partly exposed in Inverter 6 (Fig. 4). The feature was subrectangular in plan, with steeply sloping sides and a concave base (Fig. 9, Plate 5). It extended southwards beyond the excavated area.
- 3.5.13 Some 6m to the north was a pit or ditch terminus 177 (also numbered 196) seen in the base of the cable trench (Figs 4 and 8). This was 1.1m wide in section, and was 0.7m deep with sloping sides and a narrow flat base. The profile suggested a ditch rather than a pit.
- 3.5.14 Less than 1m north of this was a wide ditch or pit 194, which was orientated east-west (Fig. 4). It had steep sides and a wide flat base, and was 0.3m deep on the west (Fig. 8), but increased to 0.6m deep on the east.



- 3.5.15 The next group of features lay more than 20m further north (Fig. 4). Here a cluster of oval and possibly circular pits (212, 214, 216 and 218) was found. Pits 212, 216 and 218 all had sides sloping to varying degrees and concave bases. Pit 212 was cut by 214, the largest of the group, and this had a flattish base. All of the pits were of similar depth (0.48-0.60m).
- 3.5.16 A few metres further north was feature 187, which was aligned south-west to north-east across the cable trench. This was 1.71m wide and 0.51m deep, and had a very similar profile to feature 194, with steep sides and a wide flat base. It had a basal fill of dark orange-brown silty clay with many natural flints (188) and an orange-brown silty clay main fill with infrequent flint fragments (189), neither containing any artefactual evidence (Figs 4 and 8). This feature did not appear in the area stripped for Inverter 7 some 6m to the north, although the projected alignment would clearly have crossed it, indicating either that this was not a ditch but an elongated pit, or that the ditch ended between the cable trench and Inverter 7.
- 3.5.17 Four metres north of this ditch 185 crossed the cable trench on an ENE alignment. It was almost 1m wide and just over 0.5m deep with a sharp V-profile, but was almost completely truncated by the excavation of the cable trench, petering out in the base before the east edge. This was the northernmost feature found in the north-south cable trench (Figs 4, 8).
- 3.5.18 Inverter 8 lay at the north end of Field 2, where the cable trench turned eastwards. The bottom of the trench, which was cleaned by hand, lay within the Clay-with-Flints, and no archaeological features or deposits were observed within it.

The west-east cable trench

- 3.5.19 Only a single archaeological feature was found in the cable trench running east before it turned south to avoid the archaeologically sensitive area. Ditch 178 was orientated NNE-SSW, and was narrow (only 0.4m wide) with steep sides and a concave base (Figs 5 and 8 Section 129). The ditch position corresponds to that of the more westerly of two linear anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey (Terradat 2013, Fig. 4). This is the same anomaly that was tentatively matched to ditches 206 or 208 in the south-north cable trench. The alignment of 178 was however not exactly the same.
- 3.5.20 Where the cable trench was diverted south and east to avoid the known cropmark enclosures, three features were revealed, two close to the south-west corner, and one further east.
- 3.5.21 In the north-south trench, and just before the trench turned east again, an oval pit 148 was found (Figs 5, 8, Plate 6). It was orientated east-west, and the western end was found within an extension on the west side. The feature was not clear in the eastern side of the cable trench, so may have ended within it, although there were hints that it may have continued. There were two fills, the lower similar to the general fill already described, the upper (150) a brownish-grey clayey silt containing lenses of red-brown clay and occasional flints, plus flecks of charcoal. Neither fill contained any finds. The upper fill was sampled for environmental analysis, but produced only comminuted fragments of charcoal of indeterminate species.
- 3.5.22 Pit 151 lay a few metres south-east of pit 148, and was oval and much wider than deep, with sloping sides and a slightly concave base. Only 0.6m further south part of another pit with a very similar fill was exposed and planned, though it was not excavated as it lay outside the remit of the mitigation strategy.



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3.5.23 Some 45m further east, the cable trench cut across a large ditch (181) orientated northwest to south-east. This had largely been removed by machine before it was recognished, but an extension was stripped to the north, confirming its alignment and allowing the hand-excavation of a sample length (Figs 5, 8, Plate 7). In total nearly 5m of this feature was exposed, and the ditch proved to be 2.16m wide and 0.66m deep, with sloping sides stepped in partway down, and a wide somewhat irregular base. It corresponds in plan with a linear anomaly (orientated NW-SE) recorded by the geophysical survey (Terradat 2013, Fig. 4). There were no finds.

3.6 Field 3 (Figures 6 and 10; Plate 9)

- 3.6.1 The Clay-with-Flints petered out at the top of this field, and north of this the trench came down onto chalk. A large recent pit or quarry 165 was uncovered towards the top of the slope in the southern part of the cable trench. This was 14m long and extended both eastwards and westwards beyond the cable trench. The feature was not excavated, but the exposed fill contained large quantities of recent ceramic building material, which were not retained.
- 3.6.2 At the top of the slope down to the north the topsoil directly overlay the chalk, but a layer of subsoil (172) appeared a little lower down (see Fig. 6 and Fig. 10 Section 126). About a third of the way down the east edge of the field, the cable trench crossed a former field boundary marked by a drop in the level of the natural chalk, and here there was a greater build up of colluvium (successively layers 175, 174 and 173) below the topsoil (Fig. 6 and Fig. 10 Section 127). A small number of worked flakes of late Neolithic or early Bronze Age character were recovered from these colluvial layers, and several fragments of burnt unworked flint from layer 175 (see Appendix B.1 for details). These deposits were not however prehistoric, as layer 174 contained a piece of tile of 13th-16th century manufacture (see Appendix B.3).
- 3.6.3 No other archaeological features were found down the east edge of this field, except at the very south end towards the base of the slope, where two pits were recorded.
- 3.6.4 Pits 168 and 170 were found in the west and east sides of the cable trench respectively, and an extension was opened on the west side, which exposed the remainder of pit 168 (Fig. 6). No extension was opened on the east side, as this lay close to the edge of the field. Pit 168 was sub-circular and 1.1m across, with shelving sides and a cupped base, and was only 0.25m deep. It contained a single dark greyish-brown clayey silt fill that did not produce any finds.
- 3.6.5 Pit 170 was the same dimension north-south, but its eastern limit was not established. Unlike 168, this pit had vertical or near-vertical sides and a flat base and was 0.50m deep. There were two fills, the lower (169) a dark greyish-brown clayey silt with frequent flint fragments, the upper a loose orange-brown clayey silt, again with frequent flint. A shard of 19th/20th century glass wine bottle glass was found at the very bottom of the pit, which may date this feature, although it is possible that this had fallen in from the topsoil.
- 3.6.6 The areas excavated for the two substations in the north-east corner of Field 3 both bottomed within colluvial deposits overlying the chalk. Both were hand-cleaned, but no archaeological features were found, and no finds were recovered from the colluvial deposits.
- 3.6.7 Halfway along the northern boundary the east-west cable trench cut across a group of features comprising a gully, two postholes and a large ditch (Figs 6 and 10; Plate 9).



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Ditch 110 was exposed over a length of 3.2m. It was orientated NNE-SSW, and was nearly 3m wide and 1.2m deep, with a sharp V-profile and three fills. The primary fill (111) was a brown silt with much chalk, and the main fills 113 and 112 were both clayey silts with chalk and flint lumps, 113 darker than 112, but none of the fills contained any finds. This ditch lay just north of a linear anomaly recorded by the geophysical survey, and on the same line, so was probably a continuation (Terradat 2013, Fig. 4).

- 3.6.8 Just east of 110, gully 120 crossed the cable trench running just east of south-north. It was removed by machine before it was recognised, but was followed in an extension to the north, and a sample excavated by hand (Fig. 6). The gully was 0.38m wide and 0.22 deep with a sharp V-profile and pointed base. Its dark clayey silt fill did not contain any finds.
- 3.6.9 Two circular postholes 116 and 118 (0.45m and 0.35 in diameter respectively) lay immediately west of gully 120 less than 1m apart (Fig. 6). Posthole 116 had slightly undercut sides and a flat base, while 118 had vertical sides and a flat base (Fig. 10), and was much deeper. It had stone packing at its base and sides, made of medium sized pieces of flint, so was clearly a posthole; 116 could be interpreted as a pit, but given its spatial relationship to 118 and 120, was more probably a posthole as well. Neither feature contained any finds. The postholes and gully did not intercut, but may well have been associated.
- 3.6.10 Some 50m further west, ditch 108 crossed the cable trench on a north-south orientation. An extension was dug to the south of the trench for safe access, so that in total 3.2m of the feature was planned (Fig. 6). The feature was 0.53m wide and 0.3m deep, cut into bedrock chalk 102 (Plate 8). Its single silty clay fill did not contain any artefactual evidence.

3.7 Finds and environmental sample summary

- 3.7.1 Three worked flint flakes were found in the cable trench running north-south along the east edge of Field 3, within a colluvial layer behind a former field boundary. Although this is a very small assemblage, the technological features that are present suggest a later Neolithic to early Bronze age date (see Appendix B.1 below). The worked flint was found down-slope of the possible Bronze Age ring-ditches, and may have derived from their vicinity.
- 3.7.2 Four small flint debitage fragments also came from subsoil in the north-south trench in Field 3. These flint pieces cannot be dated with any precision (see Appendix B.1).
- 3.7.3 Several unworked burnt flint pieces were recorded in topsoil and subsoil layers in Fields 2 and 3, including in the colluvial deposits behind the former field boundary (see Appendix B.2).
- 3.7.4 A single sherd of glazed medieval roof tile was found in a colluvial deposit that had built up behind a former field boundary in the north-south cable trench in Field 3. Western Court Farm, just north-east of the site, was originally a medieval messuage, and it is possible that this sherd was derived from there, possibly by manuring onto its associated fields, others of which may be represented by ditches within the site (see Appendix B.3).
- 3.7.5 Only one feature fill (148) contained visible evidence of environmental remains, and this, the upper fill of feature 150, was sampled for environmental analysis (see



Appendix C below). Sampling was undertaken due to the presence of charcoal flecking, but environmental processing yielded only a very small flot, and assessment showed that the majority of this was fine modern roots; charcoal fragments all being too small for species identification. No charred seeds were noted.

4 THE WATCHING BRIEF

4.1 Scope of work

- 4.1.1 The cable trenches that were monitored comprised the following (see Figs 2, 11 and 15):
 - A second trench for a low-voltage cable running parallel to the main cable trench south-north through the southern field (Field 1), and another running south-north, again parallel to the main cable trench, through the middle field (Field 2).
 - A series of trenches running from the inverter areas to link up with the ends of the adjacent panel arrays. In Field 1 these were monitored adjacent to Inverters 1 and 2. In Field 2, a long trench was monitored running south-eastwards from Inverter 4 all the way along the southern edge of the solar array, and adjacent to Inverters 5 and 7. The trench adjacent to Inverter 6 was carried out without an archaeological presence.
 - Trenches linking the inverters to the low-voltage cable trench were monitored adjacent to Inverters 7 and 8. Those for Inverters 4, 5 and 6 were dug without an archaeological presence.
 - Cable trenches around the edges of Fields 1 and 2 for CCTV monitoring of the solar array. In Field I the monitored trench ran all the way around the eastern half of the field, and from the southern entrance to the field to the south-west corner and halfway up the western side. In Field 2, the monitored trench ran all the way around the western half of the field, except for a stretch along the south side west of the main cable.
- 4.1.2 The central half of the road constructed from the northern entrance to the site down to the substantions at the north-east corner of the northern field was monitored. Work here consisted only of removal of 200mm of topsoil, and did not reach the archaeological horizons found during the strip, map and sample work. OA advised URS of this, and were told that no further monitoring would be required.

4.2 Methodology

- 4.2.1 The Watching Brief was carried out by agreement with the client and his contractor, who advised OA when they would be required. No programme for the work was supplied to OA, and as a result attendance could only be carried out on an *ad hoc* basis. The start of notified works was often delayed, and some work was carried out at weekends without informing OA.
- 4.2.2 The cable trenches were located using the detailed CAD plans supplied by the client. These were annotated, and the locations of any archaeological features measured in and marked on.
- 4.2.3 Detailed plans and sections at appropriate scales were drawn wherever possible, although the poor weather and working conditions on the Clay-with-Flints in Field 2 meant that some features were only seen in section, rather than in plan. Representative

sections of the soil sequence were drawn, but the sequence was very simple, and so these are not illustrated in the report.

- 4.2.4 Photographs were taken of all features that were discovered, and of representative sections of the soil sequence.
- 4.2.5 Both the trenches themselves and the spoil heaps were checked for finds as work proceeded, but none were found.
- 4.2.6 None of the deposits was of visible environmental potential, so no sampling was undertaken. Like almost all of the features observed in the Strip, Map and Sample exercise, the features contained only one fill, which was very similar in every case.

4.3 Description of the results

Field 1 (Figures 11-14; Plates 10 and 11)

- 4.3.1 The monitored cable trenches were up to 0.8m deep (Plate 10). Topsoil (context 302) varied in depth from 0.2m in the north (Section 160) to 0.32m halfway down the slope (Section 162) and only 0.15m in the south (Section 161).
- 4.3.2 Subsoil (context 303) ranged from 0.45m in the north (Section 160) to only 0.2m in the middle of the field (Section 162), but was more than 0.6m deep at the bottom of the slope in the south (Section 161).
- 4.3.3 Only one archaeological feature was seen in this field. This was feature 316, and was found below topsoil in the CCTV trench running up the west side of the field (Fig. 13). It crossed the trench east-west, was 3.4m wide and at least 0.46m deep with sloping sides, but was not bottomed (Fig. 18 Section 162; Plate 11). No finds were recovered from the fill, but it was probably a fairly recent ditch, as it cut the subsoil (303).

Field 2 (Figures 15-17; Plates 12-17)

- 4.3.4 The monitored cable trenches were up to 1m deep (Plate 12). Topsoil (context 302) was of similar depth (only 0.2m) on the north side of the field (Sections 155-9) and in the middle (Sections 151 and 154) but was increasing (0.22-0.30m) at the south side where the ground sloped away towards the hedge boundary (Section 150).
- 4.3.5 Subsoil (context 303) varied significantly in depth across the field. It ranged from 0.24m to 0.45m on the north (sections 155-7) except towards the north-west corner, where it increased to over 0.8m deep (Sections 158-9). It was 0.45m deep in Section 154, but only 0.2m in Section 151 south of that. On the south it was only recorded as 0.2m deep (Section 150).
- 4.3.6 A modern feature (300), probably derived from recent machining, was found in the south-east corner of field 2.
- 4.3.7 Feature 305 was found in the low-voltage cable trench running south-north parallel to the main cable trench up the middle of the field (Fig. 16). It was located towards the south end, and was found below the subsoil running roughly east west. It was just under 2m wide, with steep sides, and was at least 0.62m deep, but was not bottomed (Fig. 18; Plate 13). There were no finds from the single dark orange-brown silty clay fill. This was probably a ditch, and it corresponded to the position of one of the linear anomalies running north-west to south-east picked up by the geophysical survey (Fig. 16).
- 4.3.8 Some 32m north of this a probable pit, feature 307, was found at the end of the cable trench linking Inverter 5 to the ends of the solar arrays (Fig. 16). This feature lay just outside the north-west corner of Inverter 5, and just east of the main cable trench. It lay



below the subsoil, and was semicircular in plan, continuing beyond the north edge of the cable trench. It was 1.4m wide with sloping, slightly concave sides, and was at least 0.32m deep, but was not bottomed (Fig. 18; Plate 14). There were no finds from the single dark brown silty clay fill.

- 4.3.9 Just south of the very north-west corner of the field feature 313 was exposed just below the topsoil, and appeared to be crossing the trench on an east-west alignment (Fig. 17). It was 1m wide with vertical sides, and was at least 0.8m deep, but was not bottomed. The fill was of chalk rubble (315), except at the very top, where topsoil had slumped in (here numbered 314), and the edges of the feature had eroded outwards (Plate 15). No finds were recovered from the fill, but this was clearly a modern feature, probably a French drain. It appears to be on the projected line of one of the linear geophysical anomalies marked as of geological origin, so may correspond to this, but its chalk fill makes it equally possible that this feature was not picked up by the geophysical survey.
- 4.3.10 Along the northern edge of Field 2 a probable ditch, feature 309, was found below the subsoil layer (303). The subsoil was 0.8m deep here, so only the top of 309 was exposed in the bottom of the trench (Plate 16). It was 1.6m wide and at least 0.1m deep, with steeply sloping sides, and appeared to be running approximately north-south. The visible fill was the usual dark brown silty clay. This feature was plotted close to the line of another of the linear anomalies on the geophysical survey, which ran north-west to south east, and despite the apparent discrepancy in alignment, it is possible that 309 corresponds to this.
- 4.3.11 Nearly 100m further to the east the CCTV cable trench cut across the south end of feature 311, which was rounded and nearly 2m across (Fig. 17). It had steeply sloping sides and was at least 0.6m deep, but was not bottomed (Fig. 18; Plate 17). There were no finds from the single dark brown silty clay fill. This feature lay very close to a north-south anomaly marked on the geophysical survey plot, which measured some 5m long and 2m wide, and probably corresponds to its south end.

4.3.12 Interpretation

- 4.3.13 One feature in Field 1 and three (or possibly four) of the recorded features in Field 2 may correspond to anomalies plotted on the geophysical survey. This includes both linear and discrete anomalies. Only one of these anomalies, feature 316 in Field 1, was however interpreted as of archaeological origin.
- 4.3.14 Two of these features (313 at the north-west corner of Field 2, and 316 partway down the west side of Field 1), are of recent origin, and probably belong to a former field boundary and a French drain. It is doubtful whether the French drain does correspond to the geophysical anomaly, as its fill was of chalk very similar to the natural, and very unlike that of the other features from the geophysical survey identified during the archaeological works.
- 4.3.15 Features 305 and 309 appear to correspond to linear anomalies on a north-west to south-east alignment, which were interpreted as of geological origin. Despite the absence of any finds, the regular and sharply-defined sides of 305 would suggest that this was man-made, and 309 may well also have been. The overall alignment and plan of the linear anomalies marked in green on the survey interpretation includes ditches at right angles at the south side of Field 2 looking very much like field boundaries. They also lie at right angles to the `trackway' ditches shown in black running north-east, at least one of which was confirmed as manmade during the Strip Map and Sample recording in the main cable trench. It therefore seems likely that these ditches formed



another element of the field system south-east of the enclosures at the junction of Fields 2 and 3.

- 4.3.16 Few discrete anomalies were marked on the geophysical survey interpretation, but the correspondence of feature 311 to an elongated pit is very strong. This lies 50m northwest of the cluster of archaeological features marked a) on the geophysical interpretation, and may be an extension of this.
- 4.3.17 Feature 307, like most of the pits identified in the main cable trench, was not clearly identified by the geophysical survey. It extends the area covered by such pits southwards by 25m.

5 DISCUSSION

5.1 Reliability of field investigation

- 5.1.1 The narrow width of the cable trenches (0.65-0.7m) made the recognition of archaeological features during the initial machining very difficult in Field 2, where the fills of the archaeological features were very similar to the natural geology (Clay-with-Flints) and its thin covering of subsoil, and at the north-east corner of Field 3, where a considerable depth of colluvium overlay the chalk. In areas of doubt, it was decided to dig into uncertain features using a machine under close archaeological supervision to expose them partly in section, and then to open extensions for hand-excavation, rather than have to test all these features by hand.
- 5.1.2 Because a temporary road was located alongside the main cable trench, digging extensions alongside the trench in areas where archaeological deposits were encountered was not always possible. No extensions were possible during the watching brief. In some such cases it was not possible to determine whether the exposed parts of features belonged to pits or to ditch termini. The narrowness of the trench in some cases also prevented accurate determination of the orientation.
- 5.1.3 The majority of the excavated features had very similar single fills. That fact, combined with the limited width of the stripped area in the cable trench, did not always allow the stratigraphic sequence between intercutting features to be established.
- 5.1.4 Opening of the main cable trench in all three fields was conducted very rapidly by machine operators without previous experience of working in Britain with archaeologists, and initially (due to language difficulties) the spoil was placed close to the edge of the trench. Spoil was also placed close to the edge of the trench during the watching brief. Initial machining was followed by heavy rainfall, resulting in the collapse of the trench sides in places, and a significant percentage of the main cable trench in Field 2 had to be re-emptied by machine.
- 5.1.5 As a consequence of all these factors, some parts of the cable trenches (particularly in Field 2) were cut right through exposed archaeological features, and a few features were recorded only in the cable trench sections. This was the case with all of the features recorded during the watching brief.

5.2 Mitigation objectives and results (Fig. 2)

- 5.2.1 *Aim i:* the presence of archaeological features was confirmed by the archaeological mitigation, and a range of types exposed.
- 5.2.2 *Aim ii:* in terms of linear features, the archaeological fieldwork confirmed the existence of a significant proportion of the anomalies. In terms of discrete features, however, the



distribution of discovered features was somewhat different to that indicated by the geophysical survey interpretation, indicating a probable concentration of pits midway between the clusters indicated by the geophysical survey interpretation (Terradat 2013, fig. 4 a and b).

- 5.2.3 **Aims iii & iv:** no artefactual material was found in the archaeological features, therefore their date and function remains unknown. The general absence of both finds and environmental material would appear to indicate features remote from settlement, probably of agricultural origin and not connected with burning. Their significance would appear to be low.
- 5.2.4 *Aim vi:* potentially informative environmental remains were only seen in one feature, but although the deposit was sampled, the remains were too comminuted to be identifiable.
- 5.2.5 *Aim vii:* with reference to the historic landscape, a former east-west field boundary in Field 3, still visible in part as a hedgerow, was picked up as a depression in the natural chalk partway along the south-north cable trench. There was no associated ditch, but a succession of colluvial deposits had built up behind it, the middle of which contained a fragment of glazed roof tile of later medieval date. The large ditch cut by the east-west cable trench in Field 3 appears to match the position of a former field boundary marked on the 1840 Tithe Map of Bishops Sutton Hundred (URS 2013a, plate 5), but had already been removed by the time the OS map of 1870 was published (ibid., plate 6). This ploughed out boundary is very evident in an RAF aerial photograph taken in 1946 (URS 2013a, plate 11), and is parallel to another boundary picked up by the geophysical survey further west, suggesting that formerly a series of smaller, square or sub-square fields, possibly of later medieval origin, existed in this corner of the site.
- 5.2.6 In Field 1, the east-west anomalies described as probably of archaeological origin are also visible on cropmark photographs, and have the appearance of lynchets on the north-facing slope. Several of these were cut across by the main cable trench, and the northernmost two were visible as distinct lowerings of the level of the natural chalk and a thicker build-up of topsoil and subsoil above them. Those further downslope were much less pronounced, and in one or two cases hardly visible. One boundary of a more usual ditched form was also seen during the watching brief. None of these features is shown on the 1840 Tithe map, so they had presumably all been removed before this. No finds were seen to help refine their date.
- 5.2.7 In Field 2, Inverter 4 and the southern end of the cable trench encountered a deep deposit of sandy clay within a large depression, probably indicating that the quarry marked on historic maps formerly extended further west. At least one of the two black parallel linear features running north-east across Field 2 corresponded to a ditch crossed by the cable trenches. These features were interpreted by Terradat as former field boundaries, possibly because their north ends run up to the east edge of the band of woodland dividing Fields 2 and 3. A former field boundary is shown on the 1840 Tithe map dividing Field 2, although the line of this was more nearly south-north than that of the anomalies picked up by the geophysical survey, running from a slight change of alignment in the southern boundary of Field 2, which is still evident further east than these anomalies.
- 5.2.8 **Aims vii, viii & xi:** in Field 2 a number of linear anomalies were found by geophysical survey, and were interpreted variously as archaeological (brown), recent field boundaries (black) or geological (green) (Terradat 2013, fig. 4; see also Fig. 2). The linear features shown in green at the south end of the field were not seen in the main



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cable trench, but one was found in the parallel cable trench during the watching brief, and is very likely to have been a man-made ditch. Another of these anomalies was exposed in the north-west of the field. In the north-east corner of Field 2 the cable trench cut across a large anomaly running north-west to south-east shown in green (ie interpreted as of natural origin), which proved to be a substantial ditch probably associated with the adjacent enclosures.

- 5.2.9 **Aims viii & ix**: In Field 1, a thin linear anomaly was marked on the geophysical survey running almost due south-north just west of the line of the cable trench. This is close to the line of closely-spaced postholes found in Inverters 1 and 2, and as an adjustment was needed to match the linears in the geophysical plot to the ditches in the cable trench found in Field 2, the possibility that these were one and the same was considered. The adjustment would however have had to have been of the order of 10m, an improbable margin of error, and more importantly, the slight curve evident in the posthole line is not matched by the linear geophysical anomaly, so the two are not likely to correspond. The postholes were probably not picked up by the geophysical survey, though their curving line appears to mirror that of one of the broad linear anomalies coloured brown marked 4-5m further to the east.
- 5.2.10 *Aim ix:* a number of the pits found in the central part of the north-south trench probably correspond to discrete geophysical anomalies, although not highlighted by Terradat in their interpretation. There is a band of possible anomalies running east-west across the field, although many of these may represent modern material rather than buried features (Fig. 2). If some are genuine, they may indicate a zone of activity alongside a former above-ground boundary, or perhaps an area of former planting, although the excavated features were mostly rather regular for tree-throw holes. One discrete feature was identified during the watching brief in the north-west part of Field 2, and almost certainly corresponds to a discrete anomaly identified by the survey.
- 5.2.11 **Aims ix, xi & xiii:** a few worked flint flakes of probable late Neolithic or early Bronze Age date were found in colluvial layers in the southern part of Field 3, and perhaps provide support for the view that the ring-ditches evident as geophysical anomalies in the southern part of Field 3 may have been Bronze Age.
- 5.2.12 *Aim x:* in the absence of dating evidence, and as the scale of the mitigation was very limited, no further information as to the dating or relative phasing of the linear anomalies has been obtained.
- 5.2.13 One piece of medieval tile from a colluvial deposit behind a former field boundary subsoil layer indicates the likely date of some elements of a former field system. Considering the proximity of a medieval messuage at Western Court Farm nearby, it is possible that others of the cropmark ditches, including some of the recorded features, are also of similar date.
- 5.2.14 *Aim xii:* the trenching showed that only a thin layer of subsoil survived between topsoil and the Clay-with-Flints in Field 2, except in the north-west corner, and that topsoil came down directly onto the chalk at the edges of Fields 1 and 3, but that increasing depths of colluvium were present downslope in both of these fields over the natural chalk. Despite this, however, no definite evidence was found to substantiate the view that archaeological features were better-preserved at the southern edges of Fields 1 and 2, or at the north edge of Field 3. The presence of colluvium may well mean that such features exist, but none were exposed in Fields 1 or 2, and the scale of trenching in Field 3 was not sufficient to show that the features revealed at the north edge edge.



5.2.15 **Regional Research Aims:** Due to the lack of dating of the archaeological features, and the very limited artefactual and environmental evidence, there is little that would contribute to the questions posed in the Regional Research Framework.

5.3 Interpretation

Dating and sequence of the archaeological features

- 5.3.1 Except for one modern deposit, and a colluvial layer behind a late medieval field boundary, all of the forty-one recorded archaeological features from the Strip, Map and Sample exercise, which include ditches, pits and postholes, are undated (Figs 3-6). The same is true of the six features found during the watching brief. In addition, few intercutting features were found, and due to the very similar fills of all of the features, relationships were not very clear. There is therefore no good information on which to date the features, or to offer a sequence of development of activity. The character of the features was not distinctive enough to suggest that they belonged to specific periods, and in the absence of environmental evidence there were no environmental indicators that might have narrowed down the dating.
- 5.3.2 Comparison of the revealed features with the historic map evidence has confirmed the presence of a former east-west field boundary in Field 3, probably active from the later medieval period, and has indicated that one ditch in Field 3 probably corresponds to a boundary shown on the Tithe map of 1840. A probable extension to the quarry marked on the south side of Field 2 was also found. The ditches orientated south-west to north-east in Field 2 appear to be earlier than this, and similarly, the probable lynchets in Field 1 appear to predate the 1840 Tithe map.
- 5.3.3 A little dating evidence in the form of a small number of struck flints was found, together with a single sherd of medieval pottery, but all of this material came from colluvial or topsoil deposits of later date, not from archaeological features. The late Neolithic or early Bronze Age struck flints from the southern part of Field 3, and the fragments of burnt flint from the same area, perhaps provide some support for the view that the ring-ditches found by geophysical survey in the same area represent the remains of Bronze Age barrows. Prehistoric activity of this date need not however have been related to monuments, and burnt flint, while common in the Bronze Age, can be of any date. The medieval sherd can plausibly be related to the documented medieval messuage at Western Court Farm, but attributing ditches and other features in Field 3 to this period, while plausible, is not substantiated.

Relation of the discovered features to the geophysical survey results (Figs 2-6, 13 and 16-17)

- 5.3.4 A number of the linear anomalies indicated on the geophysical survey that were not on the historic maps were matched to ditches found below ground. A substantial ditch at the north-east corner of Field 2, which ran on a north-west to south-east alignment, clearly matches a linear anomaly, and runs parallel to the two conjoined enclosures shown on the geophysical survey in this area (Fig. 5). At least one of two linear anomalies orientated south-west to north-east crossing the centre of the field on the geophysical survey corresponded to a ditch (Figs 4 and 5), and two of the linear anomalies orientated north-west to south-east were also identified as ditches. No finds were recovered from any of these.
- 5.3.5 In the absence of finds, their spatial arrangement, broadly at right angles to one another, may indicate an association, possibly some form of field system attached to the enclosures, with the north-east aligned ditches forming a trackway between fields,



and the ditches further south-west bounding a series of smaller fields or enclosures (see Fig. 2) Some of the linear anomalies marked running south-east and south-west within Field 2 were not matched to archaeological features below ground, so may not have been genuine.

- 5.3.6 The enclosures, which are only known from cropmarks (MWC860 and 861) and from geophysical survey, have been tentatively ascribed an Iron Age date (URS 2013, 8), though enclosures of this form also continue into the Roman period. Surface finds observed in this area during the watching brief comprised a handful of Roman sherds (including one sherd of samian pottery) and one possibly late Iron Age/early Roman sherd, plus ceramic building material of medieval or later date. The absence of definitely Iron Age material does not however discount an Iron Age origin, as Iron Age pottery is generally less robust than Roman pottery, and so less likely to survive in the ploughsoil.
- 5.3.7 The limited exposure of the archaeological features has meant that it was not always possible to determine whether these represented pits or ditch termini. Unless the geophysical survey has provided evidence to suggest that these may have been linear features, they have been interpreted as pits. As noted above, there is a wide spread of possible discrete anomalies shown on the geophysical survey in Field 2, in addition to those picked out as archaeological, and some of the features found in the cable trenches correspond to these, although many do not (Figs 2 and 4).
- 5.3.8 Several of the possibly lynchets marked on the geophysical survey (and seen as cropmarks) in Field 1 were crossed by the cable trench, but only one of these was distinctive enough to be noted, and no dating for these was found (Fig. 3). There is a possible correspondence in alignment between a broadly north-south linear in the southern half of Field 1 and the line of postholes found in Inverters 1 and 2 some 5m to the west. It is not suggested that these two were one and the same, but that there was a fence-line parallel to this former field boundary at some stage.

Recent features

- 5.3.9 One 14m long pit was uncovered in the southern part of the N-S cable trench in Field 3. Its fill contained modern bricks and tiles, probably infilling a chalk quarry like those indicated on the historic maps elsewhere within the site (URS 2013, plates 5-10; OA 2014). One piece of modern glass was recovered from the fill of pit 170 in the northern part of the N-S cable trench in Field 3. This may not however date the feature, as it is possible that the find fell in from the topsoil.
- 5.3.10 A probable French drain was identified cutting the subsoil at the north-west corner of Field 2 during the watching brief, though no dating evidence was recovered.

5.4 Significance

- 5.4.1 The archaeological mitigation demonstrated that there were more discrete archaeological features present than were indicated on the geophysical survey plot, including postholes, which are not usually detected using standard magnetometer survey. Some of the linear features tentatively interpreted as of geological or recent origin proved to be neither, suggesting that the conjoined enclosures and adjacent ring ditches lie within a more extensive, and perhaps more coherent landscape than previously thought.
- 5.4.2 The lack of finds, and the uniform character of most of the fills, did not allow the chronology to be clarified, or any sequence of development to be suggested. The absence of artefactual evidence and paucity of environmental data may indicate that



the revealed archaeological features were of agricultural character, and of low significance. The very limited scale of impact of this scheme, and thus of archaeological investigation, however, makes any assessment of significance based purely upon it very tentative, and of limited value.

6 ARCHIVE

- 6.1.1 At present the archive is held at OA, but will be deposited with the Winchester City Museums Service following completion of the project.
- 6.1.2 A copy of the report will also be supplied to the National Monuments Record (NMR) in Swindon.
- 6.1.3 A summary of the contents of the archive will also be supplied to Winchester City Council.

APPENDIX A. FIELD DESCRIPTIONS AND CONTEXT INVENTORY

Field 1									
General o	description	I							
					Avg. d (m)	epth	0.35		
Field 1. T Main cabl Building. Geologica	Field 1. The southern field. Main cable trench (running N-S), Inverters 1-3, Substation 3/Controlling Building. Geological sequence: Topsoil and subsoil overlying chalk bedrock.			Width	(m)	Cable trench: 0.65-0.7 Four extensions: 2.0 Three inverters: 5.0 Substation 3: 2.5			
Archaeology: Two rows of postholes, a discrete posthole, and a small ditch terminus were exposed. Other: Two natural features explored.						ו (m)	Trench: 167.3 Four extensions: 3.0 Three inverters: 9.0 Substation: 11.0		
Contexts	Contexts								
Context	T	Width	Depth	Description		Data	Lasatian		

Context no	Туре	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	Location
100	Topsoil layer	-	0.14- 0.15	Friable, dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent small- medium sized, angular and subrounded pieces of flint, small/medium sized pieces of chalk, and pebbles. Sealing subsoil layer 101.	-	-	Main Trench, Inverter 1, Inverter 2, Inverter 3, Substation 3
101	Subsoil layer	-	0.06- 0.18	Firm, medium brown clayey silt with moderate amount of pieces of flint and chalk. Sealed by layer 100, sealing natural geology 102 and archaeological features.	-	-	Main Trench, Inverter 1, Inverter 2, Inverter 3, Substation 3
102	Chalk bedrock	-	+0.2	Natural geology, weathered chalk deposit. Surface in places irregular due to periglacial modifications and weathering (chemical solution). Sealed by subsoil layer 101.	-	-	Main Trench, Inverter 1, Inverter 2, Inverter 3, Substation 3
122	Geologica I deposit	0.11	0.9	Natural feature – deposit in between subsoil layer 101 and natural chalk 102; firm, light brown clayey silt with frequent pieces of chalk (c. 15%).	-	-	Inverter 1



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Version 1

123	Cut of posthole	0.38	0.15	Oval in plan, near vertical sides, a slightly concave base, filled with deposit 124; a part of group 121.	-	-	Inverter 1
124	Fill of posthole 123	0.38	0.15	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown slightly clayey silt with moderate amount of small sized chalk pieces. Single fill of posthole 123; a part of group 121.	-	-	Inverter 1
125	Cut of posthole	0.28	0.05	Sub-oval in plan, with a slightly undulating base, filled with 126 deposit; a part of group 121.	-	-	Inverter 1
126	Fill of posthole 125	0.28	0.05	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown slightly clayey silt with moderate amount of small sized chalk pieces. Single fill of posthole 125; a part of group 121.	-	-	Inverter 1
127	Cut of posthole	0.38	0.07	Oval in plan, near vertical sides, a flat base, filled with 128 deposit; a part of group 121.	-	-	Inverter 1
128	Fill of posthole 127	0.38	0.07	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown slightly clayey silt with moderate amount of small sized chalk pieces. Single fill of posthole 127; a part of group 121.	_	-	Inverter 1
129	Cut of posthole	0.36	0.12	Oval in plan, steep sides, a concave base, filled with deposit 130; a part of group 121.	-	-	Inverter 1
130	Fill of posthole 129	0.36	0.12	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown slightly clayey silt with moderate amount of small sized chalk pieces. Single fill of posthole 129; a part of group 121.	-	-	Inverter 1
131	Cut of posthole	0.3	0.29	Oval in plan, steep (near vertical) sides – western side irregular, a flat base, filled with deposit 132; a part of group 121.	-	-	Inverter 1
132	Fill of posthole	0.3	0.29	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown slightly clayey silt with moderate amount of small sized chalk pieces. Single fill of posthole 131; a part of group 121.	-	-	Inverter 1
133	Cut of	2.95 N-	0.55	Oval ? (extends westwards	-	-	N-S Trench



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Version 1

	tree-throw hole	S x 0.92 E-W		beyond the trench) in plan, with gradual southern side, steep northern side and an undulating base, filled with deposits 134 and 135, cut into deposit 102.			
134	Fill of natural feature 133	2.95 N- S x 0.92 E-W	0.4	Firm, medium brown silty clay with moderate amount of flint pieces and chalk fragments upper fill of natural feature 133.	-	-	N-S Trench
135	Fill of tree-throw hole 133	1.8 N-S x 0.35 E-W	0.2	Firm, medium brown silty clay with frequent fragments of chalk lower fill of natural feature 133.	-	-	N-S Trench
136	Cut of posthole	0.38	0.42	Circular in plan, with vertical sides and a slightly concave base, filled with 137 deposit. A part of group 122.	-	-	Inverter 2
137	Fill of posthole 136	0.38	0.42	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown clayey silt with moderate amount of small sized chalk and flint pieces. Single fill of posthole 136; a part of group 122.	-	-	Inverter 2
138	Cut of posthole	0.39	0.31	Circular in plan, with vertical sides and a slightly concave base, filled with deposit 139; a part of group 122.	-	-	Inverter 2
139	Fill of posthole 138	0.39	0.31	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown clayey silt with moderate amount of small sized chalk and occasional flint pieces. Single fill of posthole 138; a part of group 122.	-	-	Inverter 2
140	Cut of posthole	0.28	0.21	Circular in plan, with very steep (almost vertical sides) and a slightly concave base, filled with deposit 141.; a part of group 122.	-	-	Inverter 2
141	Fill of posthole 140	0.28	0.21	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown clayey silt with occasional small sized chalk pieces and relatively frequent flint pieces (possible packing stones). Single fill of 140 posthole; a part of group 122.	-	-	Inverter 2
142	Cut of posthole	0.23	0.27	Circular in plan, with very steep (almost vertical sides) and a concave base, filled with deposit 143; a part of group 122.	-	-	Inverter 2



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143	Fill of posthole 142	0.23	0.27	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown clayey silt with moderate amount of small sized chalk pieces and occasional flint nodules (possible packing stones). Single fill of 142; a part of group 122.	-	-	Inverter 2
144	Cut of posthole	0.39	0.21	Circular in plan, with very steep (almost vertical sides) and a slightly concave base, filled with 145 deposit.; a part of group 122.	-	-	Inverter 2
145	Fill of posthole 144	0.39	0.21	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown clayey silt with occasional small sized chalk pieces and relatively frequent flint nodules. Single fill of 144; a part of group 122.	-	-	Inverter 2
146	Cut of posthole	0.33	0.07	Circular in plan, with steep sides and a flat base, fiilled with 147 deposit; a part of group 122.	-	-	N-S Trench
147	Fill of posthole 146	0.33	0.07	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown clayey silt with occasional small sized chalk pieces and flint. Single fill of 146; a part of group 122.	-	-	N-S Trench
160	Cut of posthole	0.22	0.25	Circular? In plan (truncated by machine excavator), very with steep (almost vertical sides and a slightly concave base, filled with 161 deposit.	-	-	N-S Trench
161	Fill of posthole 160	0.22	0.25	Friable (close to loose), reddish brown clayey silt with moderate amount of small sized chalk pieces and flint. Single fill of 160.	-	-	N-S Trench
162	Cut of ditch terminus or tree- throw hole	0.17	0.6 x +1.0	Linear with subrounded end in plan, orientated WNW-ESE (extending WNW beyond the N-S Trench), with moderately steep sides and a slightly concave base, filled with deposit 163; probably a ditch terminus.	-	-	N-S Trench
163	Fill of ditch terminus 162	0.17	0.6 x +1.0 long	Friable, medium brown, clayey silt with frequent subangular and subrounded small/medium sized pieces of chalk; single fill of 162.	-	-	N-S Trench
221	Group of posholes	5.1	0.05- 0.29	Slightly curved line of five postholes (123, 125, 127, 129,	-	-	Inverter 1



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				and 131), orientated NNE-SSW			
222	Group of posholes	6.2	0.07- 0.42	Slightly curved line of six postholes (136, 138, 140, 142, 144, and 146), orientated NNW-SSE	-	-	Inverter 2

Field 2		
General description		
	Avg. depth (m)	0.6
Field 2. The central field. Main cable trench (running N-S and E-S), Inverters 4-8. Geological sequence: Topsoil and subsoil overlaying Clay and Flint deposit above the chalk bedrock. 1.8	Width (m)	Cable trench: 0.65-0.7 Eleven extensions: 2.0 Five Inverters: 5.0
aeology: Fourteen ditches, five pits, and two either ditch termini or were recorded. er: Two natural features explored.	Length (m)	Cable trench: 519.11 Eleven extensions: 3.0 Five inverters: 9.0
Contexts		

Context	-	Width	Depth		-	Data	
no	Туре	(m)	(m)	Description	Finds	Date	Location
100	Topsoil layer	-	0.15- 0.45	Friable, dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent small- medium sized, angular and subrounded pieces of flint, small/medium sized pieces of chalk, and pebbles; sealing subsoil layer 101.	-	-	E-W Trench, N-S Trench, Inverter 4, Inverter 5, Inverter 6, Inverter 7, Inverter 8
101	Subsoil layer	-	0.06- 0.25	Firm, medium brown clayey silt with moderate amount of pieces of flint and chalk; sealed by layer 100, sealing natural geology 102 and archaeological features.	-	-	E-W Trench, N-S Trench, Inverter 4, Inverter 5, Inverter 6, Inverter 7, Inverter 8
102	Geological layer - chalk	-	+0.2	Natural geology, weathered chalk deposit; surface irregular due to periglacial modifications and weathering (chemical solution).	-	-	E-W Trench, N-S Trench, Inverter 4, Inverter 5, Inverter 6, Inverter 7, Inverter 8
148	Cut of pit	1.1 x	0.54	Subrounded in plan (extending	-	-	Eastern part


	or ditch terminus	+1.7		eastwards beyond the cable trench), moderately steep sides (slightly asymmetrical), a concave base; filled with deposits 149 and 150, cut into subsoil 101 and natural geology 164.			of E-W Trench
149	Lower fill of pit or ditch 148	1.1 x +1.7	0.54	Firm, medium orangey brown silty clay with frequent subangular flint pieces; lower fill of 148.	-	-	Eastern part of E-W Trench
150	Upper fill of pit or ditch 148	1.1 x +1.7	0.24	Firm, medium brownish grey with reddish brown lenses clayey silt with moderate amount of poorly sorted subangular flint pieces; upper fill of 148.	-	-	Eastern part of E-W Trench
151	Cut of pit	1.1 E- W x 1.0 N-S	0.36	Oval in plan, asymmetrical sides – eastern gently sloping, western moderately steep - a flat base, with single fill 152, cut into layer 102.	Oval in plan, asymmetrical sides – eastern gently sloping, western moderately steep - a flat base, with single fill 152, cut into layer 102.		Eastern part of E-W Trench
152	Fill of pit 151	1.1 E- W x 1.0 N-S	0.36	Firm, mid greyish brown silty clay with frequent subangular pieces of flint; single fill of pit 151.		Eastern part of E-W Trench	
164	Geological deposit – Clay-with- Flints	-	0.8	Firm, reddish brown clay (with lenses of olive yellow clay in places) with frequent rounded to angular pebbles and cobbles of flint. Residual sediment of clay and flint derived from weathering of the chalk plateaus – periglacial process. Sealing natural layer 102, sealed by subsoil 101.	_	-	Eastern part of E-W Trench and N-S Trench
176	Fill of pit or ditch 177	1.1 x +0.4	0.7	Firm, medium orangey brown, very clayey silt with c 5% of flint pieces (poorly sorted); single fill of 177.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
177	Cut of pit or ditch terminus	1.1 x +0.4	0.7	Subrounded in plan (extending beyond the trench), steep and symmetrical sides, a flat base; filled with deposit 176. Same as feature 196.	Subrounded in plan (extending beyond the trench), steep and symmetrical sides, a flat base; - filled with deposit 176. Same as feature 196.		Northern part of N-S Trench
178	Cut of ditch	0.42	0.22	Linear in plan, orientated N-S, with steep sides, a concave base; filled with deposit 179.	-	-	Western part of E-W Trench
179	Fill of ditch 178	0.42	0.22	Firm, dark brown silty clay with frequent subrounded and subangular flint pebbles; single fill of ditch 178.	-	-	Western part of E-W Trench



180	Subsoil layer	1.0	0.17	Firm, medium brown silty clay with frequent flint pebbles – equals to layer 101.	-	-	Western part of E-W Trench
181	Cut of ditch	2.16 x +5.5 x 2.16	0.66	Linear in plan, orientated NW- SE, with uneven, asymmetrical, moderately steep sides and a concave base; cut into 164 layer and fill of 183 natural feature, filled with deposit 182.	-	-	Western part of E-W Trench
182	Fill of ditch 181	2.16 X +5.5	0.66	Firm, medium orangey brown slightly silty clay with moderate amount of flint cobbles; single fill of ditch 181.	-	-	Western part of E-W Trench
183	'Cut' of geological feature	0.4 x 0.84	0.36	Sublinear in plan, with steep sides and concave base, periglacial feature, cut into natural layers 164 and 102; filled with 184 deposit.	-	-	Western part of E-W Trench
184	Fill of geological feature 183	0.4 x 0.84	0.36	Firm, dark orangey (not homogeneous) brown clay with moderate amount of flint cobbles; single fill of periglacial feature. Linear in plan, orientated ESE-		Western part of E-W Trench	
185	Cut of ditch	1.0 x +0.7	0.6	Linear in plan, orientated ESE- WNW (extends in both directions beyond the cable trench), with moderately steep sides and a narrow, flat base.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
186	Fill of ditch 185	1.0 x +0.7	0.6	Firm, medium orangey brown slightly silty clay with moderate amount of flint cobbles; single fill of ditch 185.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
187	Cut of pit or ditch	1.78	0.51	Linear in plan, orientated NE- SW (extends both directions beyond the cable trench), with moderately steep sides and a slightly undulating base; filled with 188 (basal fill) and 189 (main fill) deposits – cut into natural layer 164		-	Northern part of N-S Trench
188	Basal fill of pit or ditch 187	1.52	0.1	Firm, dark orangey brown silty clay with frequent (c. 30%) angular and subangular flint pieces; sealed by 189 deposit; main fill of ditch 187.		-	Northern part of N-S Trench
189	Main fill of pit or ditch 187	1.78	0.41	Friable, medium orangey brown silty clay with c 5% angular and subangular flint pieces, sealing deposit 188.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
190	Cut of pit	1.8 x +1.7	0.72	Sublinear (northern side curving inwards) in plan,	-	-	Northern part of N-S



				orientated E-W (extending westwards beyond the cable trench), with moderately steep sides and a slightly undulating base, cut into layer 164, filled with deposit 191.			Trench
191	Fill of pit 190	1.8 x +1.7	0.72	Friable, dark brownish grey silty clay with clusters of flint nodules (poorly sorted); single fill of ditch terminus 190.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
192	Cut of pit or tree- throw hole	1.2 N-S x 0.7 E- W	0.21	Oval in plan, with gradually sloping southern side and steep northern side, a flat base; cutting fill of ditch terminus 190; filled with deposit 193.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
193	Fill of pit or tree- throw hole 192	1.2 N-S x 0.7 E- W	0.21	Friable, medium brownish grey silty clay with moderate amount of flint cobbles; single fill of 192	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
194	Cut of ditch or pit	2.55 x +0.7	0.6	Linear in plan, orientated E-W (extends both directions beyond the cable trench), with very steep sides and a flat base, cut into layers 164 and 102, with single fill 195.		-	Northern part of N-S Trench
195	Fill of ditch or pit 194	2.55 x +0.7	0.6	Firm, medium brown silty clay with moderate amount of flint cobbles and chalk fragments, single fill of 194.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
196	Cut of pit	0.62	0.4	Sublinear, orientated NE-SW, with moderately steep sides and a concave base, filled with 197 deposit. Continues as 177 ditch.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
197	Fill of pit 196	0.62	0.4	Firm, medium brown silty clay with moderate amount of flint cobbles and chalk fragments; single fill of 196.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
198	Cut of ditch	1.8 x 2.4	0.7	Linear in plan, orientated NE- SW (extends both directions beyond the cable trench), steep, symmetrical sides, a concave base; filled with deposit 199.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
199	Fill of ditch 198	1.8 x 2.4	0.7	Firm, dark greyish brown silty clay with moderate amount of angular pieces of flint; single fill of 198 ditch.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
200	Cut of pit	0.52 x 0.3	0.24	Circular in plan, with steep sides and a concave base; cut	-	-	Northern part of N-S



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				into layer 164, filled with despit 201 deposit			Trench
201	Fill of pit 200	0.52 x 0.3	0.24	Firm, medium orangey brown silty clay with no inclusions; single fill of pit 200.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
202	Cut of ditch terminus	+2.9 x 0.9	0.5	Linear with subrounded SE end in plan, orientated NW-SE, with moderately steep, symmetrical sides and a narrow concave base, filled with deposit 203.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
203	Fill of ditch terminus 202	+2.9 x 0.9	0.5	Firm, medium brown silty clay with moderate amount of flint cobbles and chalk pieces; single fill of 202.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
204	Cut of pit	+0.78 x 0.65	0.41	Oval in plan with very steep (almost vertical) sides and a concave base, cut into 164 layer (relationship with 203 unclear), filled with deposit 205.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
205	Fill of pit 204	+0.78 x 0.65	0.41	Firm, medium brown silty clay with moderate amount of flint cobbles and chalk pieces; single fill of 204.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
206	Cut of ditch	+0.7 x 0.78	0.3	Linear in plan, orientated E-W, with moderately steep sides (northern side stepped) and a flat base, cut into 164 layer; filled with deposit 207.		Northern part of N-S Trench	
207	Fill of ditch 206	+0.7 x 0.78	0.3	Firm, medium brown silty clay with moderate amount of flint cobbles and chalk pieces, single fill of 206.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
208	Cut of ditch	+0.7 x 0.48	0.25	Linear in plan, orientated E-W, with steep sides and a slightly concave base, cut into layer 164, filled with 209 deposit.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
209	Fill of ditch 208	+0.7 x 0.48	0.25	Firm, medium brown silty clay with moderate amount of flint cobbles and chalk pieces; single fill of 208.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
210	Geological layer	+ 6.0	+0.4	Firm silty coarse sand under subsoil 101, overlaying natural geology 102. The deposit is a result of filling up a natural depression.		Inverter 4	
211	Fill of pit 212	1.65 N- S x 0.5 E-W	0.76	Firm, medium orangey brown silty clay with frequent, poorly sorted subangular flint pieces; single fill of 212 either a pit or a ditch terminus.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench



212	Cut of pit	1.65 N- S x 0.5 E-W	0.76	Semicircular in plan (extending eastwards beyond the trench) with steep sides and a concave base, truncated by pit/ditch 214, cut of of either an oval pit or ditch terminus; filled with 213 deposit.		Northern part of N-S Trench	
213	Fill of pit 214	1.8 N-S x 2.0 E- W	0.6	Firm, medium orangey brown silty clay with frequent, poorly sorted subagular flint pieces; single fill of either an oval pit or ditch terminus 214.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
214	Cut of pit	1.8 N-S x 2.0 E- W	0.6	Linear (extending eastwards and westwards beyond the rench) in plan, with steep and asymmetrical sides, a flat base, cutting 212; either a ditch extending both directions beyond the cable trench and its extension or a ditch terminus unning westwards		-	Northern part of N-S Trench
215	Fill of pit 216	2.4 N-S x 0.5 E- W	0.7	Firm, medium orangey brown silty clay with frequent, poorly sorted subangular flint pieces; single fill of 216.		-	Northern part of N-S Trench
216	Cut of pit	2.4 N-S x 0.5 E- W	0.7	Semicircular in plan, with moderately moderately steep sides and a concave base; cut of either an oval pit or a ditch terminus.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
217	Fill of pit 218	2.2 N-S x 1.3	0.4	Firm, medium orangey brown silty clay with frequent, poorly sorted subangular flint pieces; single fill of 218.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
218	Cut of pit	2.2 N-S x 1.3	0.4	Oval in plan (extends further south-east beyond the cable trench and its extension), slightly convex, moderately steep sides and a concave base, filled with deposit 217.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
219	Cut of pit	1.8 x 0.75	0.6	Suboval in plan (extending southwards beyond the inverter area) with very steep sides and a concave base, filled with deposit 202.	-	-	Inverter 6
220	Fill of pit 220	1.8 x 0.75	0.6	Firm, medium orangey brown slightly silty clay with moderate amount of flint pebbles.	-	-	Inverter 6



Version 1

Field 3



General description		
Field 3. The southern field	Avg. depth (m)	0.45
Main cable trench (running N-S and E-W), Substation 1 and Substation 2		Cable trench: 0.65-0.7 Four
Geological sequence: Topsoil and subsoil overlaying the chalk bedrock. Colluvial deposits at the southern part of the area.	Width (m)	extensions 2.0 Two
Archaeology: Three ditches, two postholes, one pit, one either pit or		inverters: 4.8
Other: Two natural feature explored. One large modern pit exposed. Finds: A few worked flint flakes collected from the subsoil layer can be of late Neolithic/early Bronze Age. One piece of medieval tile from subsoil.	Length (m)	Cable trench: 519.11 Four extensions: 3.0 Two inverters: 9.0

Contexts	Contexts									
Context no	Туре	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Finds	Date	Location			
100	Topsoil layer	-	0.15- 0.45	Friable, dark brownish grey clayey silt with frequent small- medium sized, angular and subrounded pieces of flint, small/medium sized pieces of chalk, and pebbles; sealing subsoil layer 101.	-	-	E-W Trench, N-S Trench, Substation 1, Substation 2.			
101	Subsoil layer	-	0.06- 0.25	Firm, medium brown clayey silt with moderate amount of pieces of flint and chalk; sealed by layer 100, sealing natural geology 102 and archaeological features.	-	-	E-W Trench, N-S Trench, Substation 1, Substation 2.			
102	Natural layer - chalk	-	+0.2	Natural geology, weathered chalk deposit; surface in places irregular due to periglacial modifications and weathering (chemical solution).	-	-	E-W Trench, N-S Trench, Substation 1, Substation 2.			
103	Geological deposit	55.0 x +0.65	0.30	Moderately firm, brown clayey silt with moderate amount of subangular and angular pieces of chalk and relatively frequent pieces of flint; upper deposit of a dry valley sediment sequence, formed during periglacial conditions.; sealed by topsoil layer 100, sealing deposit 104.	-	-	Western part of E-W Trench			
104	Geological deposit	50.50 x 0.65	0.47	Moderately firm, dark brown silty clay with frequent subangular and angular	-	-	Western part of E-W Trench			



				pebblss and occasional pieces of chalk and flint; dry valley deposit formed under periglacial conditions, typical of chalk landscapes; not present beyond the dry valley sequence; sealed by 103 layer and sealing deposit 105.			
105	Geological deposit	12.5 x 0.65	0.33	Firm, greyish brown clayey silt with frequent angular and subangular pebbles and occasional pieces of chalk and flint modules; basal deposit of a dry valley sediment sequence formed under periglacial conditions, typical of chalk landscapes; sealed by layer 104, sealing deposit 102.	_	-	Western part of E-W Trench
106	'Cut' of tree-throw	0.42	0.29	Amorphous/irregular in plan with steep sides and a slightly undulating base; filled with 107 deposit, cut into layer 102	-	-	E-W Trench
107	Fill or tree-throw 106	0.42	0.29	Friable, medium yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pieces of chalk and flint; single fill of tree-throw 106.	-	-	E-W Trench
108	Cut ditch	0.53	0.3	Semicirlular in plan, orientated N-S, almost vertical sides and a concave base; filled with deposit 109.	-	-	E-W Trench
109	Fill of ditch 108	0.53	0.3	Friable, medium yellowish brown silty clay with occasional pieces of flint and chalk;s single fill of 108.	-	-	E-W Trench
110	Cut of ditch	2.8 x +3.2	1.2	Linear in plan, with steep, slightly convex sides, a flat, narrow base, filled with deposits 111, 112, 113, 115.	-	-	E-W Trench
111	Basal fill of ditch 110	3.2	0.2	Firm, very stony (chalk pieces) medium brown silty clay, overlain by 114; basal fill of ditch 110.	-	-	E-W Trench
112	Main fill of ditch 110	2.8	0.52	Firm, medium brown clayey silt with moderate amount of flint pebbles and chalk pieces. Sealing deposit 113 and sealed by 101, main fill of 110 ditch.	-	-	E-W Trench
113	Lower fill of ditch 110	2.1	0.37	Firm, greyish brown clayey silt with frequent flint and chalk fragments, sealing 115 deposit and sealed by 112; lower fill of ditch 110.			E-W Trench



114	Geological deposit	6.0	0.28	Linear in plan (parallel bands 0.3-0.4m wide) filled with firm, light greyish brown clayey silt with relatively frequent pieces of chalk and flint; structured soil from periglacial processes formed under permafrost conditions, by down-slope transport of subsoil leaving ridges in chalk layer 102.	-	-	E-W Trench
115	Subsoil/pl oughsoil in top of ditch 110	0.2	0.18	Firm, medium brown clayey silt with moderate amount of chalk and flint pieces, identical to 101 subsoil layer; uppermost deposit within ditch cut 110.	-	-	E-W Trench
116	Cut of posthole	0.45 x 0.39	0.38	Oval in plan, with vertical, slightly convex sides, a flat base, filled with deposit 117.	-	-	E-W Trench
117	Fill of posthole 116	0.45 x 0.39	0.38	Friable, dark brown clayey silt with fre116quent subrounded flint nodules and small- small/medium sized pieces of chalk; single fill of 116. Round in plan, with vertical		E-W Trench	
118	Cut of posthole	0.35 x 0.34	0.4	Round in plan, with vertical sides and a flat base, filled with deposit 119.		-	E-W Trench
119	Fill of posthole 118	0.35 x 0.34	0.4	Friable, dark brown clayey silt with frequent angular, medium sized pieces of flint at the bottom and near the sides (stone packing) and small- small/medium sized pieces of chalk, single fill of 118.	-	-	E-W Trench
120	Cut of ditch/gully	1.7 x 0.38	0.22	Linear in plan, with moderately steep sides, an almost pointed base, filled with deposit 212.	-	-	E-W Trench
121	Fill of ditch 120	1.7 x 0.38	0.22	Friable, dark brown clayey silt with moderate amount of flint and chalk fragments (poorly sorted), single fill of 120.	Friable, dark brown clayey silt with moderate amount of flint and chalk fragments (poorly sorted), single fill of 120.		E-W Trench
165	Cut of modern pit	14.0	+0.15	Only partially exposed in the trench, large pit (not excavated), filled with 166 deposit	Only partially exposed in the trench, large pit (not excavated), filled with 166 deposit		N-S Trench
166	Fill of modern pit 165	14.0	+0.15	Friable, medium-dark brownish grey silty clay (not homogeneous) with c 75% content CBM and occasional chalk and flint pieces; fill of modern pit 165.		Modern	N-S Trench
167	Fill of pit	0.62 E-	0.3	Friable, medium reddish brown		-	Northern part



	168	W x 1.02 N- S		clayey silt with moderate amount of chalk and flint pieces (poorly sorted); single fill of pit 168.			of N-S Trench
168	Cut of pit	0.62 E- W x 1.02 N- S	0.3	Oval in plan, with moderately steep sides, slightly undulating base, cut into deposit 102.	-	-	Northern part of N-S Trench
169	Lower fill of pit 170	0.8	0.24	Recorded in section, friable, medium dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent pieces of flint (poorly sorted) lower fill of either a pit or a ditch 170. It contained one piece of modern glass, though that could be result of contamination. Lower fill of 170.	1 piece of glass	Modern ?	Northern part of N-S Trench
170	Cut of pit or ditch terminus	0.86	0.42	Extending beyond the trench, recorded in section only – probably linear in plan, with very steep sides, a flat base, filled with deposits 169 and 171, cut into subsoil 101 and into chalk layer 102. Friable (close to loose), modum orangety brown, clayot		Modern ?	Northern part of N-S Trench
171	Upper fill of pit 170	0.86	0.2	Friable (close to loose), nedium orangey brown, clayey silt with frequent pieces of flint. 		Modern ?	Northern part of N-S Trench
172	Colluvial deposit - subsoil	c. 100.0	0.16	Moderately firm light brown clayey silt with frequent, small sized, angular and sub-angular pieces of flint. Subsoil layer in between topsoil 100 above and natural chalk layer 102 below. A few pieces of worked flint were recovered from the layer.	Work ed flint	-	Southern part of N-S Trench
173	Colluvial layer – subsoil	2.6	0.2	Firm, medium brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular pieces of flint and chalk, diffused with 173; deriving from colluvium. Above 174.	Firm, medium brown silty clay with frequent sub-angular pieces of flint and chalk, diffused with 173; deriving from colluvium. Above 174		Southern part of N-S Trench
174	Colluvial layer below 173	c. 15.0	0.2	Moderately firm, reddish brown silty clay with frequent subrounded and subangular pieces of flint and chalk. Diffuse boundaries with layers 173 above and 175 below, behind a former field boundary	Work ed flint; Glaze d ridge tile	13th- 16th C	Southern part of N-S Trench
175	Colluvial deposit below 174	C 15.0	0.1	Friable, yellowish brown silty clay with frequent, small sized chalk pieces, diffused with 174 subsoil above, clear with	Burnt flint	-	Southern part of N-S Trench



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	natural layer 102 below. Plateau clay, result of onset of either colluvial build up or periglacial episode.		
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Context	Туре	Depth	Width	Length	Comments	Finds	Date
300	modern	0.7	1m		modern machine bucket		Modern
	excavator cut				cut		
301	fill of modern cut	0.7	1m		fill contained plastic	Plastic and	
	300				refuse and fresh	fresh	
					vegetation	vegetation	
302	topsoil	0.2m			dark brown silty clay		
					loam and small flint		
					fragments - topsoil		
303	subsoil	02m –			Orange-brown silty clay		
		0.9m			and small flint fragments	6	
304	natural				natural chalk		
305	Ditch cut	0.6m	2m		east – west orientated		
000		0.0	0				
306	TIII OF DITCH 305	0.6M	zm		dark orange-brown slity		
					ciay with small filnt		
0.07		0.0	4.4				
307	Pit cut	0.2m	1.4m		South west side of		
					feature, semicircular in		
	(III. (II. 0.0 -				plan		
308	fill of pit 307	0.2m	1.4m		dark brown silty clay		
					with small flints		
309	Ditch cut	0.1m	1.6m		north east – south west		
					orientated linear		
310	fill of ditch 309	0.1m	1.6m		dark brown silty clay		
					and small chalk		
					fragments		
311	Pit cut	0.6m	1.95m		South west side of		
					feature, semicircular in		
					plan		
312	fill of pit 311	0.6m	1.95m		dark brown silty clay		
					and small flints		
313	Trench cut	0.8m	1.8m		cut for drainage trench/		Recent –
					"French drain"		cuts subsoil
314	Top fill of cut 313	0.18m	1.8m		redeposited subsoil.		
315	fill of cut 313	0.75m	1m		Chalk rubble fill		
316	Ditch cut	0.45m	3.6m		East west orientated		Recent –
					linear.		cuts subsoil
317	fill of ditch 316	0.45m	3.6m		Dark brown silty clay fill		



APPENDIX B. FINDS REPORTS

B.1 Flint

By Geraldine Crann.

Context	Description	Date
101	Field 3 South. 3 plough or naturally shattered pieces. 46g.	-
101	Field 3 South. Flake on white-patinated flint, mis-hit scars, punctiform butt, thick cream cortex. 10g.	Later Neolithic/ early Bronze Age.
101	Field 3 South. Flake on white-patinated flint, linear butt, mis-hit scars, thick cream cortex. 10g.	Later Neolithic/ early Bronze Age.
101	Field 3 South. 2 refitting fragments of single debitage chunk on white-patinated flint. 4g.	-
100	S.125. Small debitage fragment on black flint, thin cortex 10%. 1g.	-
172	S.126. Small debitage fragment on honey coloured flint. 1g.	-
172	S.126. Small white-patinated ?debitage chunk. 3g.	-
172	S.126. Primary flake on white-patinated flint, soft hammer lip, thick cream cortex 50%. 4g.	Later Neolithic/ early Bronze Age.
172	S.126. Plough or naturally shattered piece. 10g.	-
174	S.127. Plough or naturally shattered piece. 16g.	-
174	Large flake on white-patinated flint, large linear butt, prominent bulb, thick cream cortex 20%. Some patinated edge damage/? usewear to right dorsal margin. 38g.	Later Neolithic/ early Bronze Age.
176	I classic pot lid thermally fractured natural piece, 45g.	-

B.1.1 Discussion and recommendations

There are 8 humanly-struck flints within the collected assemblage, the majority of which are whitepatinated, so that the colour of the raw material cannot be ascertained. Two pieces indicate the use of both black and honey-coloured flint, and the thick cream cortex on the four other flakes would suggest that these were made using chalk flint. All of the flints are either flakes or debitage; one of the flakes has possible evidence of utilisation. All the worked flint is residual in colluvial contexts in the area down-slope of the Iron Age settlement and possible Bronze Age ring ditches.

The size and nature of the assemblage limits its interpretation. The majority of the technological features that are present point to the use of hard hammers, flake production and a generally rough and ready approach to core reduction. This type of knapping strategy would fit with a later Neolithic to early Bronze age date. It is therefore possible that the worked flints are related to activity in the area of the probable Bronze Age ring-ditches. The worked flints from the evaluation should be integrated into any future analysis arising from further archaeological work on the site.

Having been recorded the natural flints may be discarded.



B.2 Burnt unworked flint

By Geraldine Crann.

Context	Description
100	1 fragment, 8g.
101	South. 4 fragments, 112g.
101	North. 2 fragments, 30g.
172	2 fragments, 11g.
175	5 fragments, 42g.

B.2.1 Discussion and recommendations

The assemblage is of low potential and requires no further work, having been recorded the burnt unworked flint may be discarded.

B.3 Ceramic Building Material

Identified by John Cotter, compiled by Geraldine Crann.

Context	Description	Date
174	A single sherd of glazed medieval roof tile, no diagnostic features - could alternatively be a scrap of pot base of the same date. 10g	13 th – 16 th century

B.3.1 Discussion and recommendations

The assemblage is of low potential and no further work is recommended.

B.4 Glass

Identified by Ian Scott

Context	Description	Date
101	North. A single body sherd wine bottle glass. 5g	19 th -20 th century

B.4.1 Discussion and recommendations

The assemblage is of low potential and no further work is recommended.



APPENDIX C. ENVIRONMENTAL REPORTS

C.1 Environmental samples

By Sharon Cook

C.1.1 Introduction

A single environmental sample <1> was taken from the upper fill (150) of feature [148] for artefact retrieval and the recovery of charred plant remains. No other deposits were deemed suitable for sampling as all appeared sterile.

C.1.2 *Methodology*

The sample was processed by water flotation using a modified Siraf style flotation machine. The flot was collected on a 250μ m mesh and the heavy residue sieved to 500μ m; both were dried in a heated room, after which the residue was sorted by eye for artefacts and ecofactual remains. The flot was scanned for charred plant remains using a binocular microscope at approximately x10 magnification.

C.1.3 Results

The sample was a strong brown silty clay (10YR 4/6) with angular and subangular flint inclusions and was 20l in volume. No artefacts were recovered from the residue. The sample yielded approximately 20ml of flot material, the majority of which was fine modern roots. Charcoal was noted within the sample, but the fragments all measure <2mm across and not suitable for species identification. No charred seeds were noted.



APPENDIX D. BIBLIOGRAPHY AND REFERENCES

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URS 2013b Bishops Sutton, Alresford, Hampshire. Landscape Management Plan

URS 2014 Bishops Sutton, Alresford, Hampshire. Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Mitigation, unpublished client report prepared by Andy Mayes for OPDE



APPENDIX E. SUMMARY OF SITE DETAILS

Site name:	Bishops Sutton, Alresford, Hampshire
Site code:	AY538
Grid reference:	SU 5146 1950
Туре:	Strip, Map and Sample excavation report
Date and duration:	14.01.2014 - 04.02.2014
Area of site:	20 ha.

Summary of results: Oxford Archaeology (OA) were commissioned by URS Infrastructure & Environment UK Ltd (URS) to carry out archaeological mitigation during the construction of a photovoltaic array at Bishops Sutton, Alresford (centred on NGR SSU 5146 1950). The approach adopted was strip, map and sample hand-excavation followed by archaeological watching brief. The strip, map and sample phase investigated features within the area of the main cable trench and adjacent structures, that is three substations and eight inverters. Watching brief monitored a trench parallel to the main cable trench south-north across the southern and central fields, trenches linking the solar arrays to the inverters, a CCTV cable trench around the edge of much of these fields, and a road to the substations in the north field.

A total of 41 archaeological features were exposed, excavated and recorded in the strip, map and sample excavation, comprising pits, ditches, some of considerable size, two large postholes, and two groups of postholes set in slightly curved rows, which could be parts of one very large structure. Another six features were recorded in the watching brief. The majority of the exposed features were within the central field, which might have been a part of the settlement located further north-east. A number of the excavated features in the central and in the northern fields matched linear anomalies recorded by the geophysical survey, but most of the discrete features were not mapped by the geophysical survey, and some of the geophysical anomalies were not confirmed by excavation. In the southern field the geophysical survey had identified a group of broad linear features believed to represent lynchets, but only two of these were characterised by marked steps in the level of chalk natural, and none produced any finds. One quarry containing recent brick and tile was also found in the northernmost field.

Otherwise the only finds from the site are worked flint flakes of late Neolithic-early Bronze Age, flint debitage fragments and a piece of medieval ridge tile. All of these came from colluvial deposits that had accumulated behind a former field boundary, the only feature with dating evidence. The late Neolithic-early Bronze Age flints, found downslope of the ring-ditches identified by geophysical survey, may derive from activity related to these features, supporting their attribution to the Bronze Age.

Surface finds from the area of the conjoined enclosures suggested a Roman phase of use, but does not preclude an Iron Age origin. None of the excavated features produced finds of either date. The linear anomalies confirmed by excavation suggest an attached field system, with a trackway on a north-east to south-west alignment between fields, and smaller fields or enclosures to the south, but this remains speculative. The absence of finds suggests an agricultural function for the pits, remote from settlement, although the limited scale of excavation makes any such interpretations very tentative.

Location of archive: The archive is currently held at OA, Janus House, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, and will be deposited with the Winchester City Museums Service once the Watching Brief phase of works is complete, under the following accession number: WINCM.AY538.





1:2,500 @ A3

Figure 2: Archaeological trenches and areas overlaid on the geophysical survey plot and interpretation



5 m

0

Figure 3: Field 1, location and plans of archaeological features with results of the geophysical survey





Insets at 1:100

Main map at A3 1:400

20 m

Figure 4: Field 2, location and plans of archaeological features with results of the geophysical survey





Maln map at 1:1000

50 m

0

Figure 6: Field 3, location and plans of archaeological features with results of the geophysical survey







Figure 8: Field 2 Sections

Section 140



Figure 9: Field 2 Sections



Figure 10: Field 3 Sections







Geophysics Interpretation supplied by Terradat

Scale at A3 1:400

Figure 13: Plan of the north-west corner of Field 1 with the watching brief trenches and features overlain onto the geophysical survey plot



^{10314.}mg(Figure 14) 2010 History Station (Second Geometics V2 CAD 1001 current) VBSEX_Bishops Sution Alestion_V82.010, B4.mg(Figure 14) 2012 History S1014 History S1014 Geometics V2 CAD 1001 current (V2 CAD 1001 current) V9 CAD 1001 current



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Geophysics Interpretation supplied by Terradat

Scale at A3 1:400

Figure 16: Plan of the south central part of Field 2 with the watching brief trenches and features overlain onto the geophysical survey plot



Figure 17: Plan of the north-west corner of Field 2 with the watching brief trenches and features overlain onto the geophysical survey plot

Scale at A3 1:400



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Plate 1: Field 1, Group of postholes in Inverter 1, looking west



Plate 2: Field 1, Section through posthole 123, looking east



Plate 3: Field 2, Section through ditches 214 and 216, looking west



Plate 4: Field 2, Section through ditch 190 and pit 192, looking east


Plate 5: Field 2, Section through pit 219, looking west



Plate 6: Field 2, Section through ditch 148, looking west





Plate 7: Field 2, Section through ditch 181, looking south



Plate 8: Field 2, Section through ditch 108, looking south



Plate 9: Field 2, Section through ditch 110 and natural feature 183, looking south



Plate 10: Field 1, north-south cable trench during watching brief, looking south



Plate 11: Field 1, north-south cable trench during watching brief, looking south



Plate 12: CCTV cable trench at north-west corner, looking north



Plate 13: Field 2, ditch 305 in section, looking east



Plate 14: Field 2, pit 307 in section, looking north



Plate 15: Field 2, French drain 313, looking west



Plate 16: Field 2, ditch 309 in base of trench, looking west



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Plate 17: Field 2, pit 311 looking north



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