

Somerset County Council Historic Environment Record

Civil Parish & District: Burnham Without, Sedgemoor	National Grid Reference: ST 3375 4780	Number: 32421
Subject: Archaeological monitoring and recording at Watchfield Lawn, Highbridge, Somerset.		Photo attached: Y
Planning Application no: n/a	Recipient museum: Somerset Museum	
OASIS ID: oakforda1-168843	Museum Accession no: TTNCM 21/2014	
Contractor's reference number/code: OA1105	Dates fieldwork undertaken: 06/01 and 09/01/2014	
<p>Description of works:</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology in January 2014 during work at Watchfield Lawn, Highbridge, Somerset (ST3375 4780). The site (Fig. 1) lies in an area of archaeological potential on the edge of the former river Siger. Undated earthworks and cropmarks have been identified to the west and south, while evidence for Romano-British salt workings has been found just to the northeast of the site. Preliminary archaeological work included a desk-based assessment (Salvatore 2013) and a geophysical survey (gradiometer), carried out by Substrata in April 2013 (Substrata 2013). This identified a number of linear and other anomaly patterns including a possible ditched routeway. It was therefore considered possible that remains or deposits of prehistoric or Roman date may survive within the footprint of the development.</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the construction of a solar farm and associated cabling works (Fig. 2). Five separate trenches, totalling 1100m, were monitored. These were on average 0.5m wide and 0.6m deep, and revealed a simple deposit sequence extending across the entire site:</p> <p>0 -0.3m mid to dark brownish black silty clay (topsoil - 100) 0.3m+ mid grey silty clay (alluvial subsoil - 101)</p> <p>Conclusion:</p> <p>No deposits, features or dating evidence indicative of archaeological activity was found. The lack of pottery and other finds from the site, despite examination of spoil heaps, further indicates that the site is archaeologically sterile. The work identified deep alluvial deposits across the entire site, suggesting that archaeological deposits may survive at a greater depth than any below ground disturbance associated with the development. This is the only report on these works.</p> <p>Project archive and OASIS entry</p> <p>The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Oakford Archaeology's offices under project number 1105, pending deposition with the Somerset Museum. A summary of the investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).</p> <p>Bibliography</p> <p>Dean, R. 2013 '<i>Land at Watch Field Lawn, Watchfield, Burnham-on-Sea and Highbridge, Sedgemoor, Somerset</i>'. Substrata Report No. 130326. Salvatore, J. 2013 '<i>Archaeological assessment of two parcels of land at Watchfield Lawn, near Highbridge, Sedgemoor, Somerset</i>'.</p>		

Recorder:

MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

Date sent to HER:

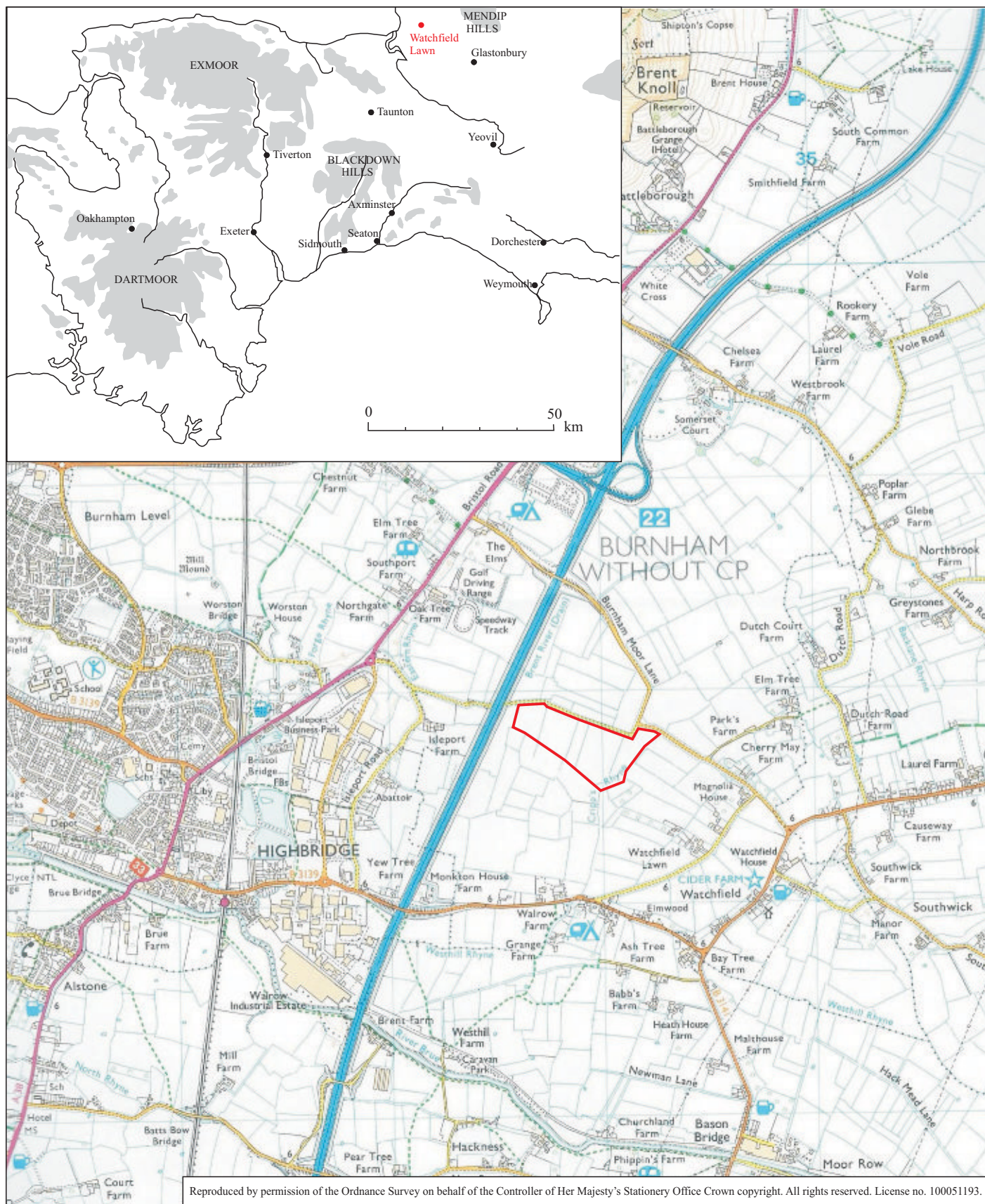


Fig. 1 Location of site.

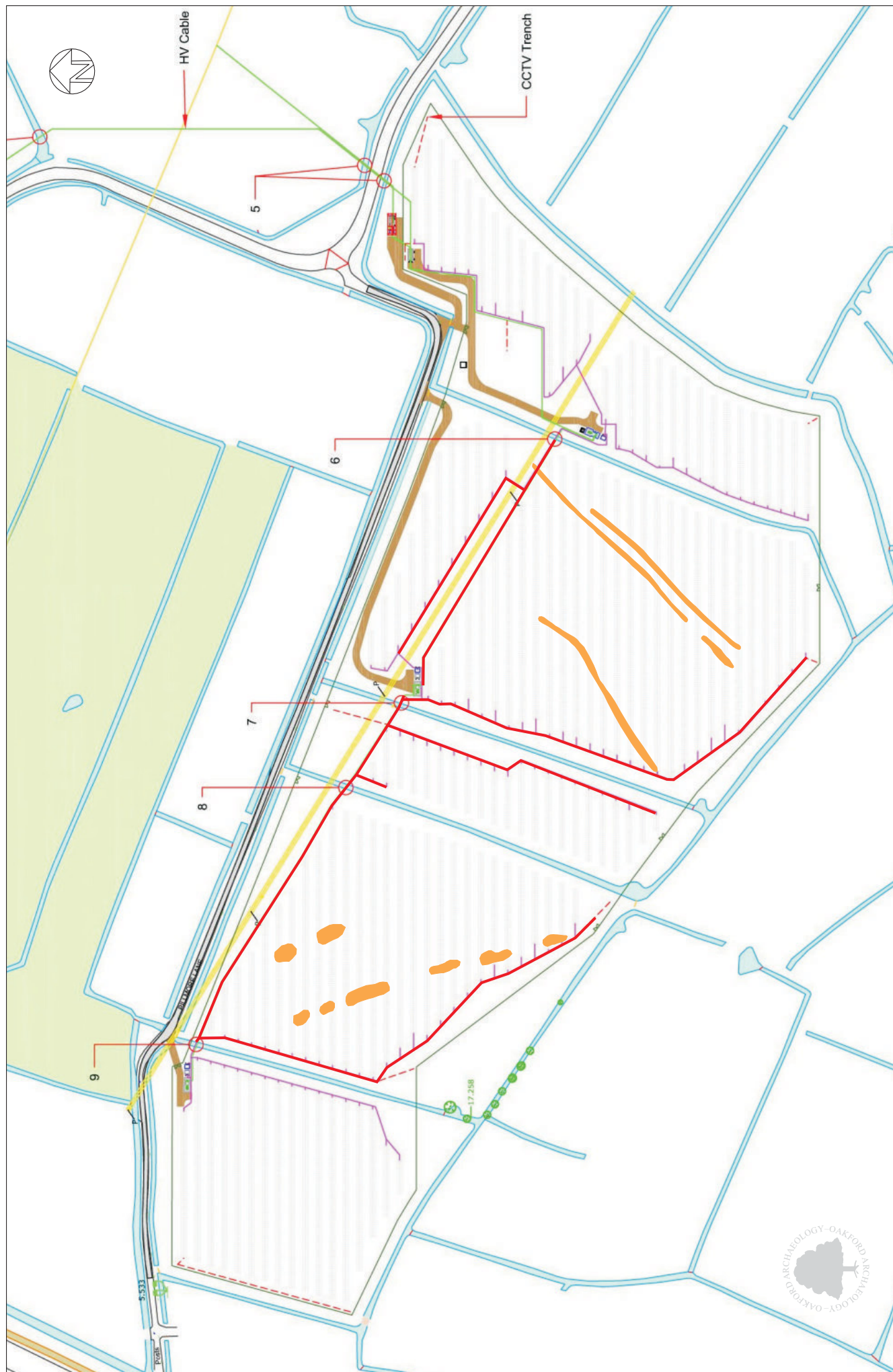


Fig. 2 Plan showing trenches (red) and summary results of geophysics (orange).



Pl. 1 General view of trenching. Looking south.



Pl. 2 Sample Section showing depth of topsoil (100) and alluvial subsoil (101). 1m scale. Looking west.