

Archaeology Wales

High Point Farm, Neen Sollars Shropshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



By

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Report No. 1569

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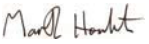
Archaeology Wales

High Point Farm, Neen Sollars Shropshire

Archaeological Watching Brief

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May 2017

CONTENTS

Non-Technical Summary	1
1 Introduction	2
1.1 Location and Scope of Work.....	2
1.2 Geology and Topography	2
1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background	2
2 Aims and Objectives of the Watching Brief	4
3 Methodology	4
3.1 Fieldwork	4
3.2 Finds.....	4
3.3 Palaeo-environmental Evidence.....	4
4 Results of the Watching Brief	5
5 Interpretation and Conclusion	5
5.1 Overall Interpretation	5
5.2 Storage and Curation.....	5
6 Bibliography and References	6

Appendix I Figures

Figure 1 Location Map and Site Plan

Appendix II Plates

Plates 1-9 Views of the groundworks within Field 1

Plates 10-14 Views of the groundworks within Field 2

Appendix III Written Scheme of Investigation

Appendix IV Archive Cover Sheet

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from an archaeological watching brief undertaken on behalf of Armour Heritage, during the excavation of cable trenches for a solar array at High Point Farm, Neen Sollars, Shropshire. The development site is located within two agricultural fields centred at NGR 366397 270949.

The local planning authority is Shropshire Council and the application references are 14/04463/FUL and APP/L3245/W/15/3019429. The programme of archaeological work has been requested by Shropshire County Council Historic Environment Team (SCC-HET).

The watching brief follows on from previous investigations to evaluate the archaeological potential of the site. A field evaluation was undertaken by Archaeology Wales in 2016. This comprised four trial trenches positioned to target anomalies identified from a geophysical survey in the same year by Lefort Geophysics. The trenched evaluation identified a feature of possible archaeological significance located some 0.9m below ground level in the northwest corner of Field 1 (Trench 3). This feature comprised a high-density spread of burnt material and heat affected stones; this deposit is characteristic of the remains of a prehistoric burnt mound.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief undertaken in March 2017. Despite the negative results of the fieldwork, there remains a moderate potential for archaeological features to survive within the development site. The trenching represents a moderate density of impact in terms of the area excavated. In consequence, there is a potential for further archaeological investigation within the development site.

The soil sequence recorded during the watching brief was highly consistent across the development site (Fields 1 & 2). This comprised topsoil and a thick subsoil which overlay natural deposits of red clay encountered over 0.9m below ground level.

This watching brief was undertaken to the standards detailed in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.

1. Introduction

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

Archaeology Wales Ltd (henceforth - AW) was commissioned by Armour Heritage to undertake an archaeological watching brief at High Point Farm, Neen Sollars, Shropshire (Figure 1). The groundworks comprised the excavation of narrow trenches to lay electric cables for a solar farm. The development site is located within two agricultural fields centred at NGR 366397 270949.

The local planning authority is Shropshire Council and the application references are 14/04463/FUL and APP/L3245/W/15/3019429. The programme of archaeological work was requested by Shropshire County Council Historic Environment Team (SCC- HET).

Previous archaeological investigations undertaken in relation to the solar farm comprise a Desk-Based Assessment (Armour Heritage 2015), Geophysical Survey (Lefort Geophysics 2016) and an Archaeological Evaluation (Archaeology Wales 2016). An Archaeological Watching Brief was subsequently requested by SCC-HET during development groundworks. The Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by Armour Heritage and subsequently approved by Dr Andy Wigley of SCC-HET. The following report details the results of the watching brief.

The project was managed by Mark Houliston (MCifA). The fieldwork was undertaken by William Rigby. The AW Project Number is 2464 and the Site Code NSS/17/WB.

1.2 Geology and Topography

The Site comprises an area of approximately 9.9 hectares, situated some 1.2km south of the small village of Neen Sollars and 11.6km west of Bewdley. It comprises an area of undulating farmland divided into two irregularly shaped fields. The fields are bounded by substantial mature hedgerows, with the southern boundary containing a number of mature trees.

The geology of the site is characterized by St Maughans Formation - argillaceous rocks and (subequal / subordinate) sandstone, interbedded. The sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 398 to 416 million years ago in the Devonian Period. The subsoils are slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage (BGS 2016; Soilscales 2016).

1.3 Archaeological and Historical Background

Although there are no prehistoric sites recorded in the development area on the Historic Environment Record (HER), evidence for prehistoric activity is suggested by the HER notes. These catalogue a number of find-spots in the area, comprising a range of materials and types from fragments of Neolithic tools, such as a polished axe head and a knife blade, to records of Iron Age metalwork.

The HER records two small pieces of Romano-British pottery, which were recovered from the study area, but no location is given. There is however no evidence of occupation in the local area until the medieval period. The earliest recorded reference to Neen Sollars occurs in the 1086 Domesday survey, where it is noted as 'Neen' (Williams & Martin 1992), within Conditre Hundred, part of the lands of Osbern fitz Richard. The settlement was clearly very small with one mill and land for five ploughs.

The place-name 'Neen Sollars' is derived the former name of the River Rea with an appended personal name derived from Roger de Solariis who held the area from 1195 (Ekwall 1960). With the exception of the medieval Church of All Saints at Neen Sollars, the fabric of which dates from the late 13th century, and a small number of medieval churches in the wider study area, the HER record little physical evidence for medieval activity.

It is very likely that, throughout much the medieval period, the development site would have formed part of the agricultural hinterland of Neen Sollars. The often steeply sloping quality of the fields could have made it impractical for ox-team ploughing and, during this period, this area most probably comprised pasture rather than arable land.

A large number of buildings within Neen Sollars and the surrounding rural farmland are of post-medieval date, and a number of these are listed. The majority of the buildings, both listed and undesignated, represent farmhouses with associated barns and other agricultural buildings and domestic properties of 17th or 18th century date. This range of building types is indicative of the rather limited growth and development of the settlements in the immediate and wider environs of the site (Armour Heritage 2015).

During 2016 Archaeology Wales undertook an evaluation across the development area. This comprised four trial trenches, positioned to target anomalies identified by a previous geophysical survey (Lefort Geophysics, 2016). Three trenches were positioned in the eastern part of the site (Field 1) and one in the western area (Field 2). The evaluation identified a feature of possible archaeological significance located some 0.9m below ground level in the north-western corner of Field 1 (Trench 3). This feature, which was examined in two hand-excavated sondages, comprised a high-density spread of burnt material and heat effected stones; this deposit is characteristic of the remains of a prehistoric burnt mound. No other deposits or finds of potential archaeological significance were found during the investigation.

2. Aims and Objectives of the Watching Brief

2.1 The aims of an archaeological watching brief, as defined by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA, 2014) were:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should any remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard
- confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence
- determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains
- determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains
- determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present
- prepare a report on the results of the watching brief
- prepare and deposit a site archive with the local museum.

3. Methodology

3.1 Fieldwork

The archaeological fieldwork was undertaken on 19th March 2016 (Figure 1). The widespread cabling works were on average *circa* 1m deep.

All areas were photographed using high resolution (16mp+) digital photography.

All works were undertaken in general accordance with the CIfA's Standards and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation

3.2 Finds

No archaeological finds were recovered during the course of the watching brief.

3.3 Palaeo-environmental Evidence

No deposits suitable for sampling were encountered during the fieldwork.

4. Results of the Watching Brief (Figure 1; Plates 1-14)

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the fieldwork. The soil sequence was highly consistent across the development site (Fields 1 & 2).

The overall soil sequence comprised a thin topsoil overlying a thick subsoil, up to 1m deep, above natural geological deposits. The natural, a firm red clay, was encountered approximately 0.9m to 1.1m below ground level. This deposit was overlain by subsoil up to 0.8m thick consisting of a firm reddish brown silty-clay. The topsoil comprised a soft mid brown humic silty clay, which was approximately 0.15m thick.

Excavations were not undertaken in the northwest corner of Field 1 where the burnt mound deposit was identified during trial trenching in 2016.

The cable trenches were examined across the site. These had been excavated prior to the monitoring visit, with some trenches infilled across the development site.

5. Interpretation and Conclusion

1.4 Overall Interpretation

The upper soil sequence identified during the investigation comprised topsoil and subsoils, which overlay natural deposits of red clay.

No evidence for any anthropogenic activity was identified in any of the exposed or excavated deposits. Although the cable trenches had been excavated prior to the monitoring visit, deposits associated with features such as prehistoric burnt mounds would have been apparent. More ephemeral archaeological deposits would not however have been identified during the watching brief. In consequence, there remains a moderate potential for archaeological features to survive within the development site. The trenching represent a moderate density of impact in terms of the area excavated and as such, potential features such as burnt mounds are likely to survive within the solar farm. In consequence, there is a potential for further archaeological investigation within the development site.

5.2 Storage and Curation

The site archive will be prepared in accordance with the *Standards and Guidance for the Creation, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives* (CIfA, 2014) and *Archaeological Archives: A Guide to Best Practice in Compilation, Transfer and Curation* (AAF 2007). The resultant archive will conform to guidelines described in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE)* (Historic England 2006).

6. Bibliography and References

Chelu, R. 2015, *High Point Farm, Neen Sollars, Shropshire, Archaeological Desk- Based Assessment & Heritage Asset Impact Assessment*. Armour Heritage Report No. AH170/1.

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APPENDIX I: Figures

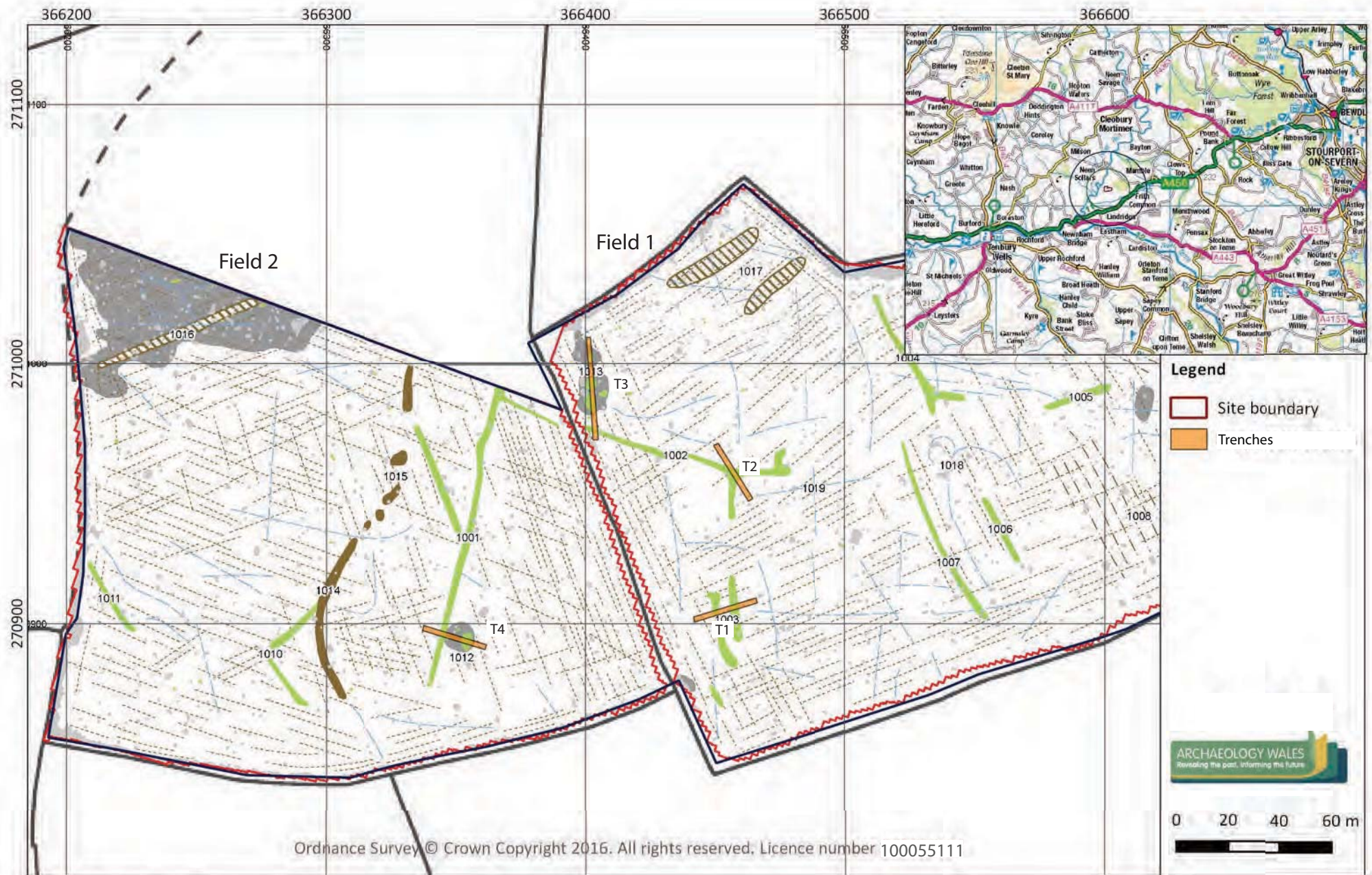


Figure 1: Map showing general location of site and detailed trench locations overlaid on geophysical traced interpretation (after Armour Heritage 2016)

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APPENDIX II: Plates



Plate 1. General shot of backfilled cable trenches within Field 1. Looking west



Plate 2. Close up of cable trenches within Field 1.



Plate 3. General view of cable trenches within Field 1. Looking west



Plate 4. General view of backfilled cable trenches within Field 1. Looking south



Plate 5. Close up of cable trenches within Field 1. Looking north-west



Plate 6. Shot showing the evaluation trench within Field 1 conducted by Archaeology Wales in 2016, where the Burnt Mount was recovered. Looking north



Plate 7. General shot of access road. Looking south



Plate 8. Shot of cable trenches within Field 2. Looking north



Plate 9. Shot of backfilled cable trenches within Field 2. Looking north



Plate 10. General shot of cable trenches within Field 2. Looking west



Plate 11. General shot of cable trenches within Field 2. Looking east



Plate 12. General shot of cable trenches within Field 2. Looking west



Plate13. General shot of backfilled cable trenches in central area of Field 2. Looking south



Plate14. Close up of partly backfilled cable trench within Field 2.

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APPENDIX III: WSI

High Point Farm
Neen Sollars
Shropshire

Written Scheme of Investigation:
Archaeological Watching Brief

AH Project Ref. AH453
Planning Ref: 14/04463/FUL
Appeal Ref: APP/L3245/W/15/3019429



High Point Farm
Neen Sollars
Shropshire

Written Scheme of Investigation:
Archaeological Watching Brief

AH Project Ref. AH453
Planning Ref: 14/04463/FUL
Appeal Ref: APP/L3245/W/15/3019429

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Date	October 2016
Issue no.	01
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CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION	3
2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	4
3. METHODOLOGY	7
4. POST-EXCAVATION	8
5. QUALITY STANDARDS	9
6. INSURANCES AND HEALTH AND SAFETY	11
7. REFERENCES	11

Figures

Fig. 1 Site location plan

Fig. 2 Plan showing proposed 'no dig' zone to avoid possible archaeological feature

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project Name: High Point Farm
Location: Neen Sollars, Shropshire
NGR: 366397, 270949 (centre)
Type: Archaeological Watching Brief

Armour Heritage Ltd has been commissioned to complete a written scheme of investigation (WSI) with regard to a proposed archaeological watching brief on land at High Point Farm, Neen Sollars, Shropshire, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'. The Site comprises two agricultural fields and is centred on NGR 366397, 270949.

Planning consent (14/04463/FUL) has been granted on appeal (APP/L3245/W/15/3019429) for the construction of a solar park on condition that a programme of archaeological work is undertaken.

The application included the submission of an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Armour Heritage 2014). Following consent, a geophysical survey (Lefort Geophysics 2016) and trial trench evaluation (Archaeology Wales 2016) have been completed. The trenching identified a charcoal rich deposit indicative of a possible burnt mound. In order to preserve the feature *in situ*, a 'no dig' zone has been agreed around the 'feature' with the Senior Archaeological Adviser.

In light of the results of the works completed, further mitigation in the form of an archaeological watching brief on the remainder of the Site has been agreed. This will be completed during significant intrusive groundworks for such items as the access/maintenance track (if these would penetrate more than 250mm below ground level), compound, centre station and the inverter stations.

When all archaeological monitoring is complete, a report setting out the results will be produced and forwarded to the client and Senior Archaeological Adviser for approval.

1. INTRODUCTION

Outline

- 1.1. Armour Heritage Ltd (AH, 'the Consultant') has been commissioned to complete a written scheme of investigation (WSI) with regard to a proposed archaeological watching brief on land at High Point Farm, Neen Sollars, Shropshire, hereafter referred to as 'the Site' (Fig. 1). The Site comprises two agricultural fields and is centred on NGR 366397, 270949.
- 1.2. Planning consent (14/04463/FUL) has been granted on appeal (APP/L3245/W/15/3019429) for the construction of a solar park comprising the installation of c. 14,200 ground mounted solar panels, inverter cabin, electricity sub-station, switchroom, communications building, pole mounted CCTV system, 2.4m high security fencing, associated access gates and gravelled roads on condition (Condition 10) that a programme of archaeological work is undertaken.
- 1.3. The condition states:

No development shall take place until a programme of archaeological work has been implemented in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority. The programme shall be carried out as approved. Where significant archaeological remains are identified by the investigation the approved programme shall provide for non-intrusive construction methods to be employed within areas to be approved in writing by the local planning authority prior to the commencement of the development hereby permitted.
- 1.4. The application included the submission of an Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Armour Heritage 2014). Following consent, a geophysical survey (Lefort Geophysics 2016) and trial trench evaluation (Archaeology Wales 2016) have been completed. The trenching identified a charcoal rich deposit indicative of a possible burnt mound. In order to preserve the feature *in situ*, a 'no dig' zone has been agreed around the feature with the Senior Archaeological Adviser (Fig. 2).
- 1.5. In other areas within the Site, further mitigation in the form of an archaeological watching brief has been agreed. This will be completed during significant intrusive groundworks for such items as the access/maintenance track (if these would penetrate more than 250mm below ground level), compound, centre station and the inverter stations.
- 1.6. Archaeological fieldwork will be carried out by AH's nominated fieldwork sub-contractor, Archaeology Wales ('the Sub-contractor').
- 1.7. The archaeological watching brief will be undertaken following the methodologies and standards set out in the written scheme of investigation (WSI, this document), submitted to and approved by the Senior Archaeological Adviser in advance of commencement of any works on the Site.

Site location and landscape context

- 1.8. The Site comprises an area of land of approximately 9.9ha, situated some 1.2km south of the small village of Neen Sollars and 11.6km west of Bewdley, Shropshire. It consists of an area of undulating farmland, sub-divided into two irregularly shaped fields (Fig. 1). The fields are bounded by substantial mature hedgerows, with the southern boundary containing a number of mature trees.

- 1.9. At its highest elevation along its southern boundary, the Site lies at an elevation of 101m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), dropping to 88m aOD at its northernmost extent.
- 1.10. The Site's broader environs comprise a similar rolling landscape, typical of the southern extents of Shropshire. The landscape comprises small and moderately sized settlements and individual farmsteads, set within a patchwork of fields alongside small areas of woodland and wooded streams. Settlements and farms are linked by a network of minor and larger roads such as the A456 which passes approximately 1km to the south of the Site.
- 1.11. The underlying geology of the Site is described by the British Geological Survey (BGS) as Raglan Mudstone Formation, an interbedded mixed siltstone and mudstone formed approximately 416 to 419 million years BP. No superficial geological deposits are recorded.

Scope of WSI

- 1.12. This document sets out the strategy and methodology by which the Sub-contractor will implement the archaeological watching brief. In format and content it conforms with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2006), and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and guidance for archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014).
- 1.13. This WSI will be submitted to the Senior Archaeological Advisor at Shropshire Council (SC), archaeological advisor to the local planning authority (LPA), for approval in advance of commencement of any groundworks on the Site.

Project aims

- 1.14. The aims of the archaeological fieldwork are to:
 - determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should any remains be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;
 - confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
 - determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;
 - determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;
 - determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;
 - prepare a report on the results of the watching brief; and
 - prepare and deposit a site archive with the local museum.

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Introduction

- 2.1. An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Armour Heritage 2014) assessed the known archaeological and historical background within a 1km study area centred on the Site. This document, along with the results of a geophysical survey (Lefort Geophysics 2016) and trial trench evaluation (Archaeology Wales 2016), formed the basis of a staged assessment of the Site's archaeological potential. The results of each report is summarised below.

Previous archaeological work at the Site***Geophysical survey***

- 2.2. A gradiometer survey (Lefort Geophysics 2016) completed across the Site identified a small number of anomalies which were considered to represent potential features of archaeological interest.
- 2.3. The most significant features detected were ditches defining the layout of a former field system that are possibly associated with clusters of pits and areas of ridge and furrow.
- 2.4. Anomalies 1001 to 1007 appeared to demarcate a former field system and were aligned approximately parallel to the break of slope in the fields. Anomalies 1012 and 1013 represented clusters of pit-like anomalies. The latter was located close to the edge of a field boundary and given the strong magnetic values (in excess of +25nT) was considered to have served to dispose of magnetically enhanced waste.
- 2.5. More recent agricultural features were also detected including a former field boundary, a former track and numerous ploughing trends. The remaining features detected represented a number of linear and curvilinear trends of uncertain origin.

Trial Trenching

- 2.6. Four trenches were excavated and positioned to target anomalies identified by the previous geophysical survey (*ibid.*). Three were positioned in the eastern field and one in the western field.
- 2.7. The evaluation confirmed a feature of possible archaeological significance located at a depth of 0.9m in the north-western corner of the eastern field (Trench 3). This feature, which was examined in two hand-excavated sondages, comprised a high density spread of burnt material and heat affected stones, a composition that is characteristic of the remains of a prehistoric burnt mound.
- 2.8. No other deposits or finds of potential archaeological significance were found within the trenches.

Archaeological background

- 2.9. The following section summarises the results of the previously completed DBA (Armour Heritage 2014).

Designated sites

- 2.10. No Scheduled Monuments are recorded within the 1.5km study area. Twenty-five Listed Buildings are recorded, 13 of which are situated within the Neen Sollars Conservation Area.

Prehistoric (pre-AD43) to Romano-British (AD43-AD410)

- 2.11. Whilst no sites or monuments of prehistoric date are recorded by the Historic Environment Record, a number of unnumbered findspots have been noted in the area, including fragments of Neolithic tools, such as a polished axe head and a knife blade, and fragments of Iron Age metalwork.

- 2.12. Whilst these finds certainly represent evidence for prehistoric activity, the Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Armour Heritage 2014) concluded that the lack of sites or upstanding monuments in the landscape reflected a lower potential for finds or features of prehistoric date to exist within the Site itself.
- 2.13. One undated cropmark at Windmill Farm may represent prehistoric activity, although equally could represent activity of any later period.
- 2.14. The HERs record no sites or major finds of Romano-British date within the 1.5km study area, although the WHER report does indicate *two pieces of Roman pottery* having been recovered from the study area. No location is given.

Early medieval (AD410-1066) to late medieval (1066-1529)

- 2.15. The earliest recorded reference to Neen Sollars occurs in the 1086 Domesday survey, where it is recorded as *Neen* (Williams & Martin 1992). The place-name Neen Sollars is derived from the former name of the River Rea with an appended personal name derived from Roger de Solariis who held the area from 1195 (Ekwall 1960).
- 2.16. The National Heritage List for England records a medieval moated site at Sodington Hall, some 2.63km east of the Site. This Scheduled Monument comprises the buried and earthwork remains of the moated site, which is located 700m to the southwest of St. John's Church, Mamble, and is situated in a commanding position with the ground falling sharply to the north and west. Sodington was held along with Doverdale (near Droitwich) by William de Sodington by 1303, and around 1316 passed solely to the Blounts who were the heirs of William.
- 2.17. With the exception of the medieval Church of All Saints at Neen Sollars, which dates to the late 13th century, and a small number of medieval churches in the wider study area, the HER records little physical evidence for medieval activity.
- 2.18. A hollow way of possible medieval date, Shakenhurst Lane, appears in 19th century maps, extending from the east of Neen Sollars to the Shakenhurst Brook some 890m to the northeast.
- 2.19. The fields which comprise the Site and its environs are described by the Shropshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) study as Large Irregular Fields, formed by the amalgamation of smaller, presumably medieval fields.

Post-medieval (1540-1800) and modern (1801-present)

- 2.20. The majority of the HER records represent the sites of buildings, some now demolished and for the sites of former infrastructure, including a canal that was never fully completed and a dismantled railway that is known to have reused some of the land from the canal.
- 2.21. A large number of buildings within Neen Sollars and the surrounding rural farmland are of post-medieval date, and a number of these are Listed. The majority of the buildings, both Listed and undesignated, represent farmhouses with associated barns and other agricultural buildings and domestic properties of 17th or 18th century date. This range of building types is indicative of the rather limited growth and development within communities which lie in the Site's immediate and wider environs.

- 2.22. The nearby parish of Mable is situated in Worcestershire and lies on the Wyre Forest Coalfield; the parish has seen mining from at least the 17th century. The largest complex of mines is located close to the village centre, along the Marlbrook valley.

3. METHODOLOGY

Introduction

- 3.1. The initial methodology proposes to preserve the potential burnt mound feature *in situ*, and a 'no dig' zone has been agreed (Fig 2) with the Senior Archaeological Adviser.
- 3.2. Elsewhere within the Site, an archaeological watching brief will be maintained during the groundwork associated with the proposed development.
- 3.3. The methodology is proposed in order to meet the aims and objectives of the watching brief. All works will be conducted in compliance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (IfA 2014), excepting where they are superseded by statements made below.
- 3.4. The Sub-contractor will submit the following documentation for approval to Armour Heritage prior to commencement of fieldwork;
- Health & Safety Risk Assessment.
- 3.5. Armour Heritage will take responsibility for consultation and/or document approval with the Senior Archaeological Adviser and any other key stakeholders.

Method Statement

- 3.6. The archaeological fieldwork will comprise the monitoring of all groundworks undertaken beneath the existing ground surface. Monitoring will be completed during significant intrusive groundworks for such items as the access/maintenance track (if these would penetrate more than 250mm below ground level), compound, centre station and the inverter stations.
- 3.7. The archaeological watching brief will be maintained during the excavations by at least one experienced archaeologist, subject to the number of site operations being undertaken at any one time.
- 3.8. In the event archaeological deposits and features, including human remains (see below) are revealed during groundwork operations, they will be identified and made clear to the client and the groundwork contractor, who will allow reasonable access to the monitoring archaeologist to facilitate the excavation and recording of the archaeology. Areas of archaeological interest will be marked up and suitably protected to prevent any potential damage in advance of their investigation and clearance.
- 3.9. The archaeological watching brief will be maintained throughout initial site excavations and will be concluded only when, in consultation with the Senior Archaeological Adviser, it is clear that the potential for archaeological remains to be exposed has been exhausted.
- 3.10. The Sub-contractor will investigate archaeological deposits and features through excavation and recording commensurate with the scale of work, and using a *pro forma* recording system. Where practical, and towards meeting the aims of the watching brief, excavation will include sampling of features and deposits in order to recover artefactual, ecofactual and dating

evidence, and in order to determine, where possible, stratigraphic relationships. Recording will include written, drawn, and photographic elements as conditions allow. The photographic record will be maintained using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 14 megapixels.

- 3.11. Archaeological features and deposits will be surveyed using a handheld GPS unit, and related to the Ordnance Survey British National Grid.
- 3.12. If deemed appropriate, arrangements will be made with the client in order for the Senior Archaeological Adviser to monitor progress of the watching brief via one or more site visits.
- 3.13. Should extensive and well-preserved remains be identified which will require a contingent excavation, it will be necessary to agree with the client and the Senior Archaeological Adviser a programme extending the scope of archaeological works, whilst, as far as is possible, ensuring no unreasonable delay is caused to the groundwork programme.

Human remains

- 3.14. In the event of discovery of any human remains, it is proposed that these will be left in situ, covered and protected until the client and the Senior Archaeological Adviser have been informed. Should excavation/removal of remains be necessary, they will be fully recorded, excavated and removed from the site subject to compliance with the relevant Ministry of Justice Licence which will be obtained by Armour Heritage in advance of any disturbance.
- 3.15. Should human remains require excavation, all excavation and post-excavation will be in accordance with the standards set out in IFA Technical Paper 13 *Excavation and post-excavation treatment of cremated and inhumed remains*. The final deposition of human remains will be in line with the requirements of the Ministry of Justice.

Treasure

- 3.16. In the event of discovery of artefacts covered or potentially covered by *The Treasure Act 1996*, their excavation and removal will be undertaken following notification of the client, the County Coroner and the Senior Archaeological Adviser.

4. POST-EXCAVATION

Report

- 4.1. Within three weeks of completion of the archaeological fieldwork, or potentially sooner if no archaeological remains are identified, a report setting out the results will be produced and forwarded to the client for approval. Once agreed, the report will be sent to the Senior Archaeological Adviser for approval.
- 4.2. Upon approval, a digital copy will be supplied to the client for distribution to relevant parties. A further copy will be submitted to the Shropshire Historic Environment Record (HER) for inclusion in their county records database.
- 4.3. Emphasis in the report will be given to placing the results into the context of the archaeology of the local area.
- 4.4. As a minimum, the report will include:
 - a non-technical summary;

- where practicable, fulfilment of all project aims, as set out above;
- plans and sections at an appropriate scale locating the development site, known and projected archaeological features and deposits, and the extent and nature of colluvial and/or alluvial deposits, including OD heights; and
- a record of finds data by context and by material type, including a summary by category of the material types recovered during the fieldwork.

4.5. The preparation of the report may involve the following elements:

- The conservation of appropriate material, including the X-raying of ironwork;
- Spot-dating of all pottery from excavated contexts. Spot-dating will be corroborated by scanning of other categories of material, where possible;
- Preparation of a preliminary phased site matrix with supporting lists of contexts by type (ditch fill, pit fill etc.), by spot-dated phase (Early Bronze Age, Middle Iron Age, Romano-British etc.), by structural grouping (e.g. contexts by pit, by building etc.), supported by preliminary phase plans, where appropriate;
- A statement on each category of material, including reference to quantity, provenance, range and variety, condition and existence of other primary sources;
- The selection and prioritisation of bulk soil samples taken for environmental and artefactual data in the light of preliminary phasing. Sieving, processing and scanning of selected soil samples will be undertaken and an assessment statement on charred food and plant remains, including references as for the categories of material; and
- A statement of potential for each material category and for the data collection as a whole will be prepared, including specific questions that can be answered and the potential value of the data to local, regional and national investigation priorities.

Archive preparation and deposition

4.6. A complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage* (UKIC 1990). On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with the local museum or similar repository. Such an arrangement will be confirmed prior to the commencement of fieldwork to ensure that the curator's requirements for archive preparation, storage and conservation have been fully met.

4.7. An OASIS record will be completed for the project.

5. QUALITY STANDARDS

Quality Standards and Code of Practice

5.1. Armour Heritage is a heritage and archaeology based organisation and its Directors are Members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (MCIfA). Armour Heritage is a Registered Organisation (RO) with the CIfA and fully endorses the *Code of Practice* and the *Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology* of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

5.2. All core staff and sub-contractors would be of a professional standard approved by Armour Heritage, and would be employed in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Codes of Practice, and be members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists at an appropriate level, or be otherwise appropriately qualified to undertake the project work. The Sub-contractor appointed to complete the fieldwork for this project is also an RO with the CIfA.

- 5.3. All fieldwork and post-excavation work will be undertaken within the remit of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief (CIFA 2014).

Project Management arrangements, specialists and specialist sub-contractors

- 5.4. All core staff will be employed in line with The Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Codes of Practice and be members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or be appropriately qualified.
- 5.5. All finds will be examined by specialists drawn from the following pool of the Sub-contractor's employees and external specialists:

Type	Name
Flint	Amelia Pannett
Animal bone	Jen Kitch
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall
Clay pipe	Hilary Major
Glass	Andy Richmond
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers
Palaeoenvironmental sampling and analysis	Dr Martin Bates

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- 5.6. Armour Heritage shall retain full copyright of any written report or other associated material under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. AH hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the written scheme of investigation. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.
- 5.7. This document, the subsequent report and the completed site archive may contain material that is under separate copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which AH are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright

itself is non-transferable by AH. All parties remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of this document and subsequent report.

6. INSURANCES AND HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 6.1. Health and safety considerations will be of paramount importance in the undertaking of all archaeological fieldwork. Safe working practice will override archaeological considerations at all times.
- 6.2. All work will be carried out in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.
- 6.3. Armour Heritage will supply a copy of their Health and Safety Risk Assessment to the client before the commencement of any fieldwork. The Risk Assessment will have been read and understood by all staff attending the site before commencement of any groundworks.
- 6.4. Armour Heritage carries both public liability (£5,000,000) and professional indemnity insurance (£1,000,000). Copies of policies are available on request.
- 6.5. Armour Heritage will ensure that all archaeological fieldwork is undertaken within the strictures of the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*.

7. REFERENCES

ADS 2013. *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice* (Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice)

Armour Heritage 2014. *High Point Farm, Neen Sollars, Shropshire. Archaeological Desk Based Assessment & Heritage Asset Impact Assessment* (AH170/1)

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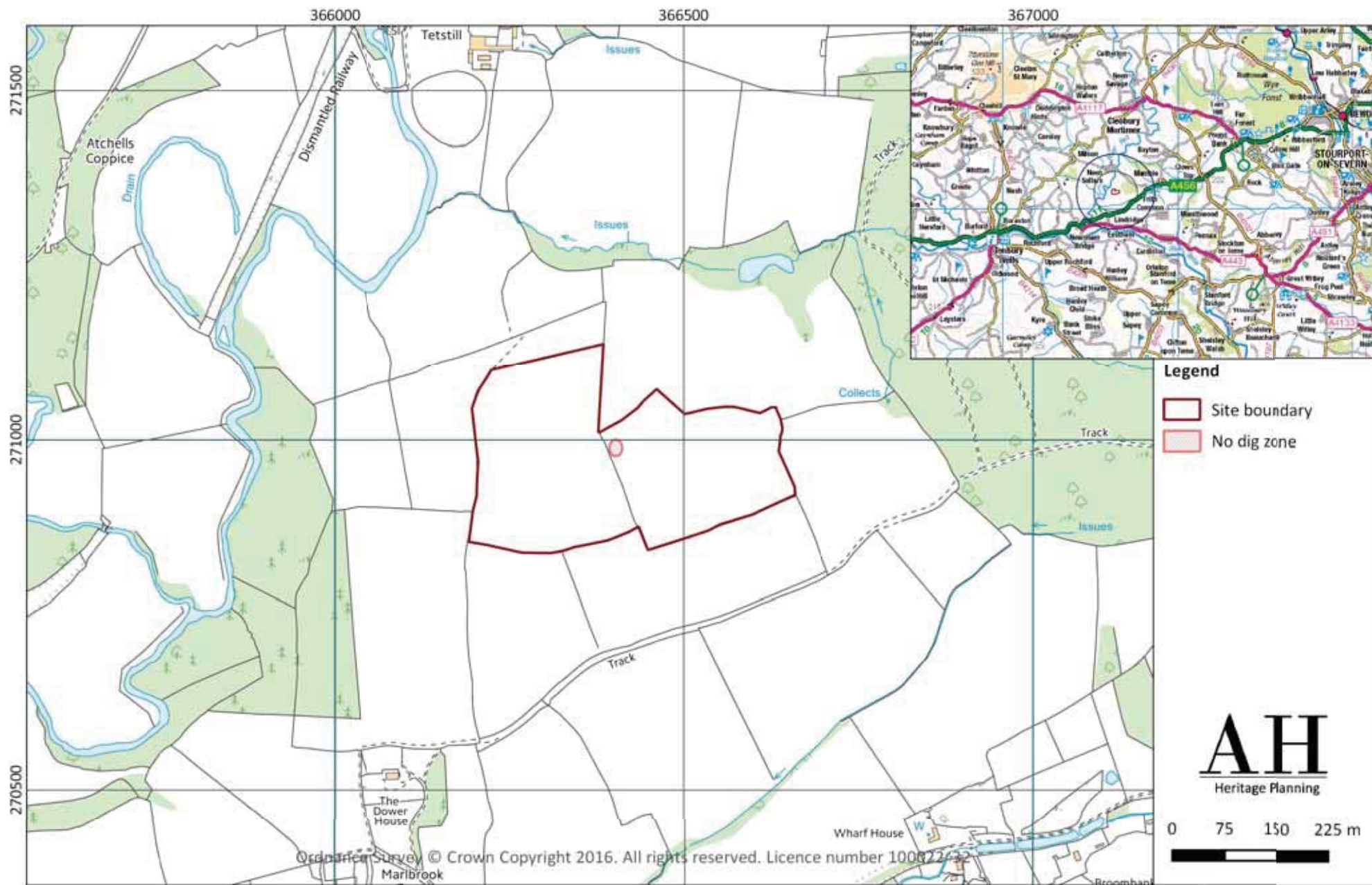


Fig. 1 Site location plan

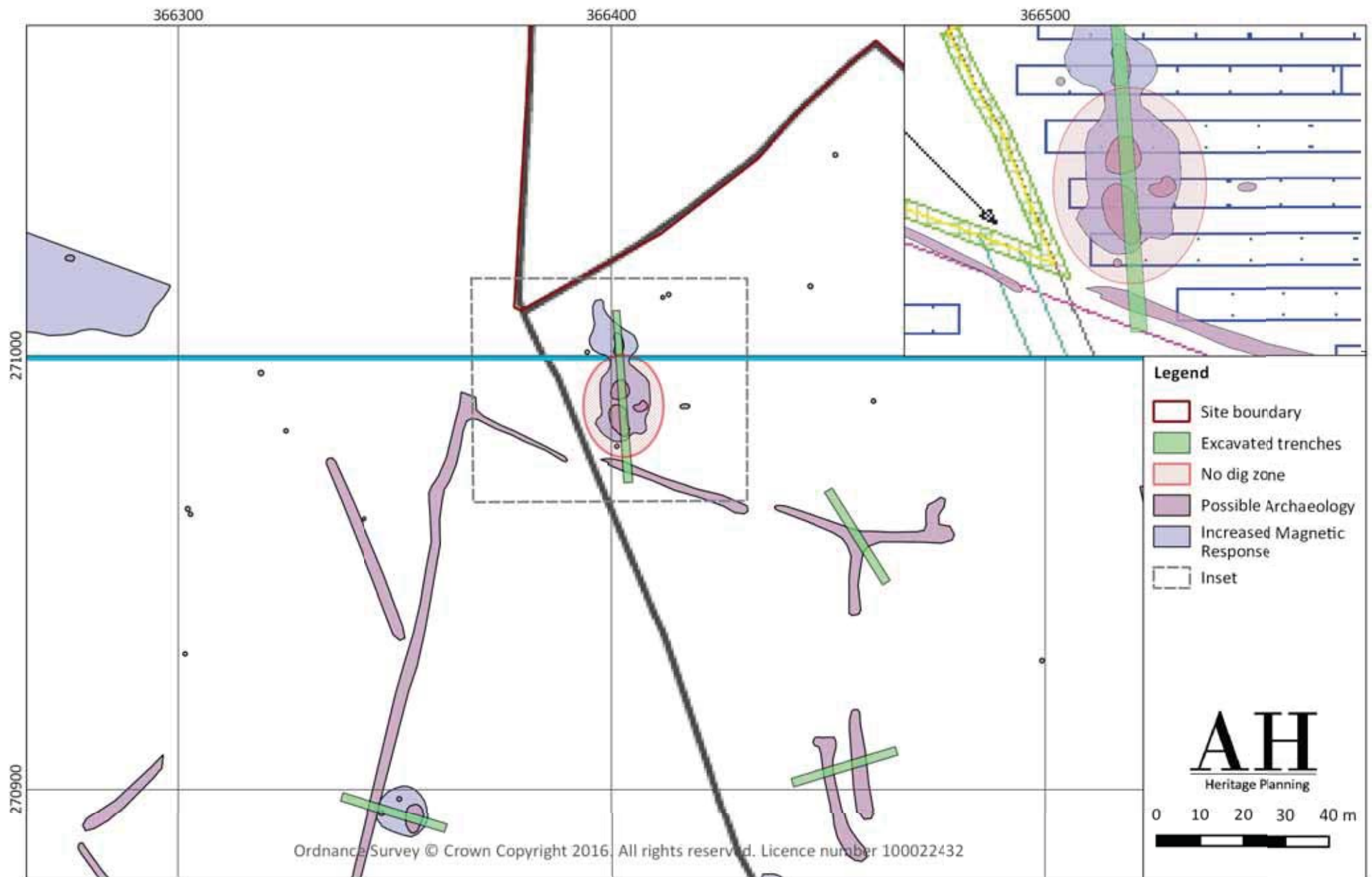


Fig. 2 Plan showing proposed 'no dig' zone to avoid possible archaeological feature

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APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

High Point Farm, Neen Sollars, Shropshire

Site Name:	Neen Sollars
Site Code:	NSS/17/WB
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	SJ 366397 270949
Site Type:	Greenfield
Project Type:	Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Mark Houliston
Project Dates:	March 2017
Categories Present:	Undated
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	OASIS (Ref no. archaeol26-265379)
Number of Finds Boxes:	-
Location of Finds:	-
Museum Reference:	-
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

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