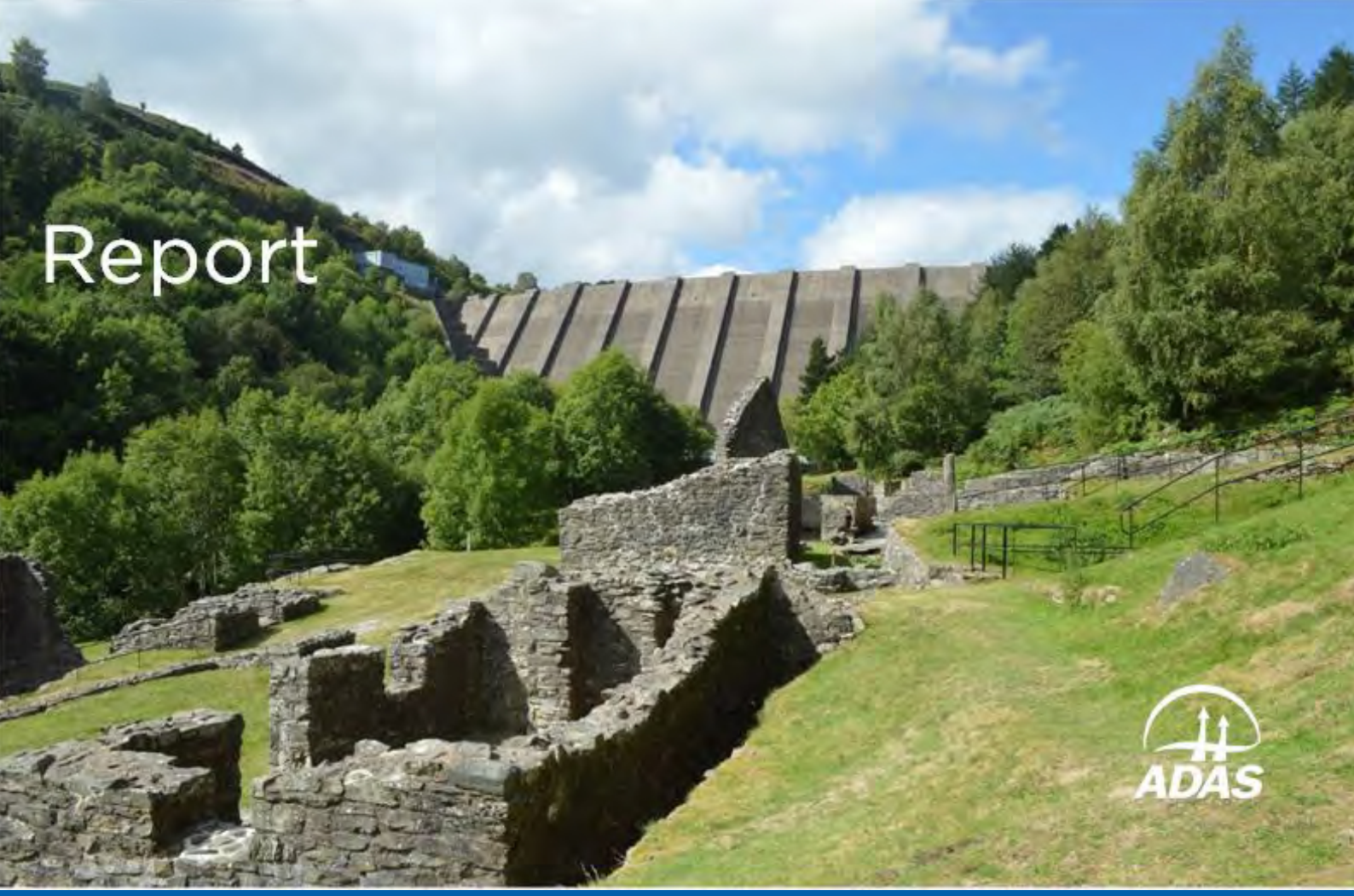

Archaeological Watching Brief Report: Innovations Project Site 10: Woodford, Wiltshire

Report by: Andrew Brown BA MSc PCIfA
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Quality Assurance

ADAS Project Code	Accession Code	Local Authority HER No.	Planning Application Ref.	OASIS Reference No.	Client Ref.
CEN3049-Innovation Project Site 10	*TBC*	*N/A*	*N/A*	*adasuklt1-245460*	*N/A*

Author	Checked	Approved
Andrew Brown BA MSc PCIfA	*Diarmuid O Seaneachain BA PhD MCIfA*	*Diarmuid O Seaneachain BA PhD MCIfA*

Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment

Summary

In March 2016 ADAS UK Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for SSE Power Distribution on land near Woodford, Wiltshire (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during groundworks to expose and remove an existing high voltage electricity cable between SU 13733663 and SU 14673623 along a farm trackway at this location.

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during monitoring of the groundworks to locate the existing high voltage electricity cable. In all three trial pits monitored the existing cable trench appeared to be cut into a subsoil or interface layer which sealed the undisturbed natural chalk substrate. The existing cable trench cut was sealed by the topsoil. The evidence from the trial pits monitored indicated with a high degree of certainty that no archaeological remains were likely to be impacted by the proposed groundworks and so monitoring of the remaining groundworks along the cable route was discontinued.

Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by SSE Power Distribution Ltd, and thanks are due in this regard. The report and supporting illustrations were prepared by Andrew Brown, and checked by Diarmuid O Seaneachain.

1 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 In March 2016 ADAS UK Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for SSE Power Distribution on land near Woodford, Wiltshire (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during groundworks to expose and remove an existing high voltage electricity cable electricity cable between SU 13733663 and SU 14673623 along a farm trackway at this location.

1.1.2 The works were carried out within the permitted development rights of SSE Distribution, and therefore were not subject to a planning application. However, a cultural heritage constraints report (ADAS 2015) identified that the proposed works were located within an area of archaeological potential.

1.1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) produced by ADAS (ADAS 2016).

1.1.4 The WSI was submitted for approval to the Wiltshire Local Authority Archaeologist, MS Clare King, in February 2016. The fieldwork followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014), *the Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MORPHE): *Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

1.1.5 In carrying out this work SSE Power Distribution complied with their obligations to the historic environment, as outlined in Section 38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989.

1.2 The Site, Location and Geology

1.2.1 The proposed works involved extracting an existing buried 11kV cable approximately 1.3km in length which runs between SU 13733663 and SU 14673623 along an existing farm trackway on land at Woodford, Wiltshire. The fields to the either side of the farm trackway are in arable use (Plates 1-2).

1.2.2 The underlying geology is recorded as chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation (BGS 2016). The nearest relevant borehole data (BGS ID 401210, REF: SU13NW26) records 1.2m of made ground overlying chalk bedrock. Borehole data recorded elsewhere in the landscape around the development (ID401185, REF: SU13NW1) indicates that there is a layer of clay with flint 0.6m thick overlying chalk bedrock in this area. These results suggested that the natural chalk substrate was likely to be encountered between 0.6m and 1.2m below present ground level

along the cable route. In areas where the natural chalk substrate has been truncated by modern development buried archaeological remains may also have been truncated or destroyed (ADAS 2015).

2 Objectives

2.1 Aims and Scope

2.1.1 The aims of this watching brief were:

- *To ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development were identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard;*
- *To ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence were recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard;*
- *To record and analyse any archaeological remains that were revealed during the course of the works;*
- *The specific aim of the fieldwork was to establish whether any archaeological remains that may be associated with the former World War II High Post airfield or any remains of prehistoric enclosures which were identified by the Wiltshire HER in the surrounding fields were impacted by the groundworks;;*
- *To ensure that the fieldwork takes place within, and contributes to the goals of the South West Archaeological Research Framework (Webster 2007);*
- *To report the results as appropriate;*

3 Copyright

4 Archaeological and Historical Context

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The proposed groundworks will be carried out on land at Woodford, Wiltshire along an existing 11kV cable route which runs adjacent to and underneath a farm trackway between SU 13733663 and SU 14673623. Ground level along this trackway is recorded as between 122m and 123m AOD (Figure 1). An archaeological constraints report (ADAS 2015) has been produced which assessed the historic environment potential of Woodford and the surrounding area. The results of this assessment are summarized below.

4.1.2 The earliest available detailed historic mapping consulted was the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) County Series 1877-1878 map for Wiltshire. This map showed the proposed cable is located along a farm track that was in existence at that time heading west from a road corresponding to the modern A345 (ADAS 2015). A farmstead is depicted along with two chalk pits. Four stones, which appear to form part of a field boundary are also marked on this map approximately 293m to the south of the development route. High Post Buildings, High Post and a milestone on the road which corresponds to the modern A345 are also shown on the map (ibid 2015). The landscape around the development appears to have been in use as undeveloped farmland into the early 20th century with no significant changes to any field boundaries or changes in the alignment of any roads or farm tracks around the Route indicated on historic maps. The farmstead south-west of High Post Buildings is marked as Coffee Farm on OS maps from 1925 but otherwise no significant changes to the layout of the farm are evident from earlier maps (ADAS 2015).

4.1.3 OS maps from 1939 indicate that the late 19th century field systems were sub-divided into smaller parcels of land by that time and the boundary stones are no longer shown. This may suggest that they were removed during changes made to the field boundary system around the site in the 1930s. There is a gap in historical mapping data for this area from 1939 to 1961-1962 as the Site was in use as an RAF airbase from 1931-1947 (Wessex Archaeology 2007). The OS County Series map from 1961-1962 shows the outline of the former High Post airfield to the north of the proposed development route and in use as a factory depicted where the modern Chemring Countermeasures site now stands. The High Post golf course also is first shown on this map to the north-east of High Post.

4.1.4 The Wiltshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and Historic England record one Scheduled Monument within 1km of the proposed development. This monument consists of two bowl barrows dating from the late Neolithic or early Bronze Age north west of Little Down. Both

barrows have central excavation hollows having been subject to partial excavation in 1731-1732 (Historic England Listing 2016). This monument is approximately 845m north of the proposed development and was not impacted.

4.1.5 The Wiltshire HER records thirty-three non-designated heritage assets within 600m of the proposed development (ADAS 2015). Two non-designated heritage assets are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the existing cable. These are the modern airfield at High Post and prehistoric field systems to the south and east of the proposed development.

4.1.6 The prehistoric ditches identified in the immediate vicinity of the cable development are part of a wider group of prehistoric field systems which have been identified to the south and east of the proposed development. They are described by the Wiltshire Historic Environment Record as a prehistoric or Roman field system is visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs, although parts of the system were visible as low earthworks in 1972. The system extends over an area measuring 810 metres by 440 metres and is possibly a continuation of the field system to the west. It is possible that this field system is also a continuation of one to the north. An oval enclosure is situated on the eastern edge of the system but it is not clear if they are contemporary features. A ditch which extends south from a possible settlement enclosure appears to follow, or is respected by parts of the field system but it is unclear if they are related in any more definite way (ADAS 2015).

4.1.7 The cable development is also located along the edge of the former High Post Airfield. A grass airfield at this location, opened by the Wiltshire School of Flying in 1931, was used during World War II. The first combat unit at the site was No. 112 (RCAF) squadron in June 1940 with Lysanders. In 1944 the old C292 road was closed as a new 2000 yard long main runway was constructed (Wiltshire HER 2015) Following the bombing of the Eastleigh factory, High Post was one of the sites where Spitfires were assembled and tested. The Supermarine prototype TS409 was initially test flown here but the grass strip was being eroded by the jet exhaust. The High Post Hotel was built in the 1930's and used as flats for factory workers during the war. The Wessex Aircraft Engineering Company Ltd (founded 1933) had premises at High Post and later had buildings on the airfield. The company made signalling equipment for aircraft and, during the war, ships. The airfield has been recorded on aerial photographs taken during and after World War Two. Details of the buildings, including defensive structures such as pillboxes, can be seen across the airfield and around the perimeter. Civil flying resumed at High Post in 1946 but the expansion of Boscombe Down put the airfield in an exclusion zone and flying ceased in 1947. The site continues in use as factory today (Wessex Archaeology 2007). Buried remains of other airfield services or infrastructure such as runway light cables, air raid shelters,

or defensive structures may still be preserved in situ in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development (ADAS 2015).

4.1.8 The Wiltshire HER records two other non-designated heritage assets in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development. These comprise Coffee Farm, which is located 39m south of the proposed development, and a prehistoric enclosure, which is located 31m to the south of the proposed development. Although this prehistoric enclosure will not be impacted by the proposed groundworks it indicates a high potential for prehistoric buried archaeological remains to be present in the immediate vicinity of the development. This potential is also indicated by the presence of extensive prehistoric field systems and enclosures, bowl barrows and a Roman road which have been identified within 1km of the development (ADAS 2015).

4.1.9 Previous archaeological monitoring carried out in 1995-1996 at Pains Wessex, High Post uncovered evidence for a Romano-British settlement as well as prehistoric activity within the wider landscape. Archaeological watching briefs carried out between 1998 and 2009 and archaeological evaluations carried out between 1999 and 2001 to the east of the proposed development revealed traces of prehistoric field systems and residual prehistoric finds (Wiltshire HER 2015). A field walking survey conducted in 1997 produced inconclusive results as no clear concentrations of artefacts were identified in the survey area (ADAS 2015).

4.1.10 In summary, the constraints report indicated that there was a moderate potential for currently unknown buried archaeological remains relating to the prehistoric period and to the former World War II High Post Airfield to be present in the landscape immediately around the proposed development.

5 Methodology

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (ADAS 2016). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks carried out for the location and identification of the existing high voltage cable that was to be removed.

5.1.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological watching brief 2014.*

5.2 Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

5.2.1 No artefacts or human remains were encountered during the watching brief. No archaeologically significant deposited were disturbed by the directional drilling works, so no environmental sampling was undertaken.

5.3 Post-Excavation Analysis

5.3.1 No archaeological artefacts or deposits were encountered during the watching brief, and therefore no post-excavation analysis was required.

5.4 Archives and Deposition

5.4.1 The archive is currently held by ADAS at their offices in Milton Park. No artefacts were recovered during the monitoring and therefore no artefacts will need to be deposited with the local museum. The paper archive will be deposited with the Wiltshire Heritage Museum within six months of the completion of fieldwork under an accession number to be confirmed. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS database of archaeological projects in Britain. An OASIS form, ID number 245460 has been provisionally completed and will be submitted at the time of deposition.

5.5 ADAS Project Team

5.5.1 Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Brown. The report was written by Andrew Brown. The illustrations were prepared by Andrew Brown. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Andrew Brown. The project was managed for ADAS by Diarmuid O Seaneachain.

6 Results

6.1.1 This section provides an overview of the monitoring results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.

6.1.2 The groundworks consisted of the excavation of three trial pits to locate an existing electricity cable along a 100m section of farm track within a pig farm near Woodford, Wiltshire (Figure 1 and Plates 1 and 2). The groundworks were carried out using a mechanical excavator with a flat 1.5m ditching bucket and hand digging by the contractors under archaeological supervision.

Trial Pit 1

6.1.3 Trial Pit 1 was located at the eastern extent of the watching brief area (Figure 2). The trial pit measured 4.5m in length, 2.6m in width was 0.85m deep immediately adjacent to the existing farm trackway (Plate 3). The trial pit was orientated approximately east/west. The topsoil

(1001) was approximately 0.5m thick and consisted of a dark reddish brown clayey silt with 50% inclusions of sub-angular pebbles throughout. The backfill of the construction trench for the existing cable (1003) was indistinguishable from the topsoil layer. The construction trench for the cable [1004] was cut into a possible subsoil horizon (1002) approximately 0.35m thick, which consisted of white chalky clay with large flint nodules throughout. This layer became steadily stiffer towards the base of the trial pit to become chalk bedrock, which was interpreted as the natural substrate (1005). No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from this trial pit.

Trial Pit 2

6.1.4 Trial Pit 2 was located at the western extent of the watching brief area (Figure 2). The trial pit measured approximately 0.6m long by 0.5m wide and was 0.4m deep (Plate 4). The backfill (2002) of the construction trench for the existing cable (2003) was indistinguishable from the topsoil layer (2001). The natural substrate was not observed in this trial pit. No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded from this trial pit.

Trial Pit 3

6.1.5 Trial Pit 3 was located approximately 35m to the east of Trial Pit 2 along the cable route (Figure 2). The trial pit measured 4.6m long by 2.6m wide and was 0.9m deep and was located immediately adjacent to the existing farm trackway (Plate 5). The backfill of the construction trench for the existing cable (3003) was indistinguishable from the topsoil layer. The construction trench for the cable [3004] was cut into a possible subsoil (3002) approximately 0.35m thick, which consisted of white chalky clay with large flint nodules throughout. This layer became steadily stiffer towards the base of the trial pit to become chalk bedrock, which was interpreted as the natural substrate (3005) No archaeological features or artefacts were observed within this trial pit.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1.1 No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during monitoring of the groundworks to locate the existing high voltage electricity cable. In all three trial pits monitored the existing cable trench appeared to be cut into a subsoil or interface layer which sealed the undisturbed natural chalk substrate. The existing cable trench cut was sealed by the topsoil. The evidence from the trial pits monitored indicated with a high degree of certainty that no archaeological remains were likely to be impacted by the proposed

groundworks and so monitoring of the remaining groundworks along the cable route was discontinued.

8 References

ADAS 2015 *Site 10: Woodford, Wiltshire.* Unpublished Cultural Heritage Constraints Report.

ADAS 2016 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Site 10: Woodford.* Unpublished Written Scheme of Investigation.

CIfA 2014 *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological Watching Brief.*

English Heritage 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2.*

English Heritage 2006 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide.*

Webster, CJ (ed.) 2007 The Archaeology of South West England. *South West Archaeological Research Framework: Resource Assessment and Research Agenda.* Available at: http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/archives/hes/downloads/swarfweb.pdf [accessed March 2016].

8.1 Cartographic Sources

Ordnance Survey Maps:

OS County Series: Wiltshire 1877-1878 1:2500;

OS County Series Wiltshire 1887 1:10,560;

OS County Series Wiltshire 1901 1:2500;

OS County Series Wiltshire 1901 1:10,560;

OS County Series Wiltshire 1925 1:2500;

OS County Series Wiltshire 1926 1:10,560;

OS County Series Wiltshire 1939 1:2500.

Ordnance Survey Plans:

OS Plan Wiltshire 1961-1963 1:10,560;

OS Plan Wiltshire 1974-1975 1:2500;

OS Plan Wiltshire 1977-1983 1:10,000;

OS Plan Wiltshire 1977 1:10,000.

8.2 Online Resources

(BGS 2015) British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at: http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html [accessed March 2016].

(NLS 2015) National Library of Scotland Ordnance Survey Maps-Six-inch England and Wales 1842-1952. Available at: http://maps.nls.uk/os/6inch-england-and-wales/ [accessed March 2016].

(Historic England Listing 2016) Historic England National Heritage List 2016. Available at: https://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1005678 [accessed March 2016].

Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Trial Pit 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
1001	Layer	Topsoil	4.50	2.60	0.50	
1002	Layer	Subsoil white chalky clay with large flint nodules throughout			0.35	
1003	Fill	Fill of existing modern cable trench		0.5	0.85	modern
1004	Cut	Cut of existing modern cable trench		0.5	0.85	modern
1005	Layer	Natural chalk bedrock			➢ 0.85m	

Trial Pit 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
2001	Layer	Topsoil	0.60	0.50	➢ 0.40	
2002	Fill	Fill of existing modern cable trench		0.5	➢	modern
2003	Cut	Cut of existing modern cable trench		0.5	➢	modern

Trial Pit 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Spot-date
3001	Layer	Topsoil	4.60	2.60	0.5	
3002	Layer	Subsoil same as (1002)			0.35	
3003	Fill	Fill of existing modern cable trench			0.85	modern
1004	Cut	Cut of existing modern cable trench		0.5	0.85	modern
1005	Layer	Natural chalk bedrock			➢ 0.85m	

Appendix B: The Finds

No artefacts were identified during the course of the archaeological monitoring.

Appendix C: Oasis Report Form

Project Details	
Project Name	**SSE Innovation Underground Cable Project**
Short description (250 words maximum)	In March 2016 ADAS UK Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for SSE Power Distribution on land near Woodford, Wiltshire (Figure 1). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during groundworks to expose and remove an existing high voltage electricity cable between SU 13733663 and SU 14673623 along a farm trackway at this location. No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during monitoring of the groundworks to locate the existing high voltage electricity cable. In all three trial pits monitored the existing cable trench appeared to be cut into a subsoil or interface layer which sealed the undisturbed natural chalk substrate. The existing cable trench cut was sealed by the topsoil. The results from these trial pit monitoring indicated with a high degree of certainty that no archaeological remains were likely to be impacted by the proposed groundworks and so further monitoring was discontinued.
Project Dates	01.03.2016 to 02.03.2016
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc.)	ADAS 2016 *Archaeological Watching Brief Report, Site 10: Woodford*. Unpublished Client Report.
Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc.)	N/A
Future Work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Land at Woodford, Wiltshire
Study area (M2/ha)	N/A
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 41373366 and SU 14673623.

PROJECT CREATORS	
Name of organisation	ADAS UK Ltd
Project Brief originator	ADAS UK Ltd
Project Design (WSI) originator	ADAS UK Ltd
Project Manager	Diarmuid O Seaneachain
Project Supervisor	Andrew Brown

MONUMENT TYPE	N/A	
SIGNIFICANT FINDS	None	
PROJECT ARCHIVES	N/A	N/A
Physical		N/A
Paper		3 x trench sheets and 1 x photo register sheet
Digital		Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
ADAS 2016 *Archaeological Watching Brief Report, Innovation Project Site 10: Woodford*. Unpublished Client Report.		

Plates

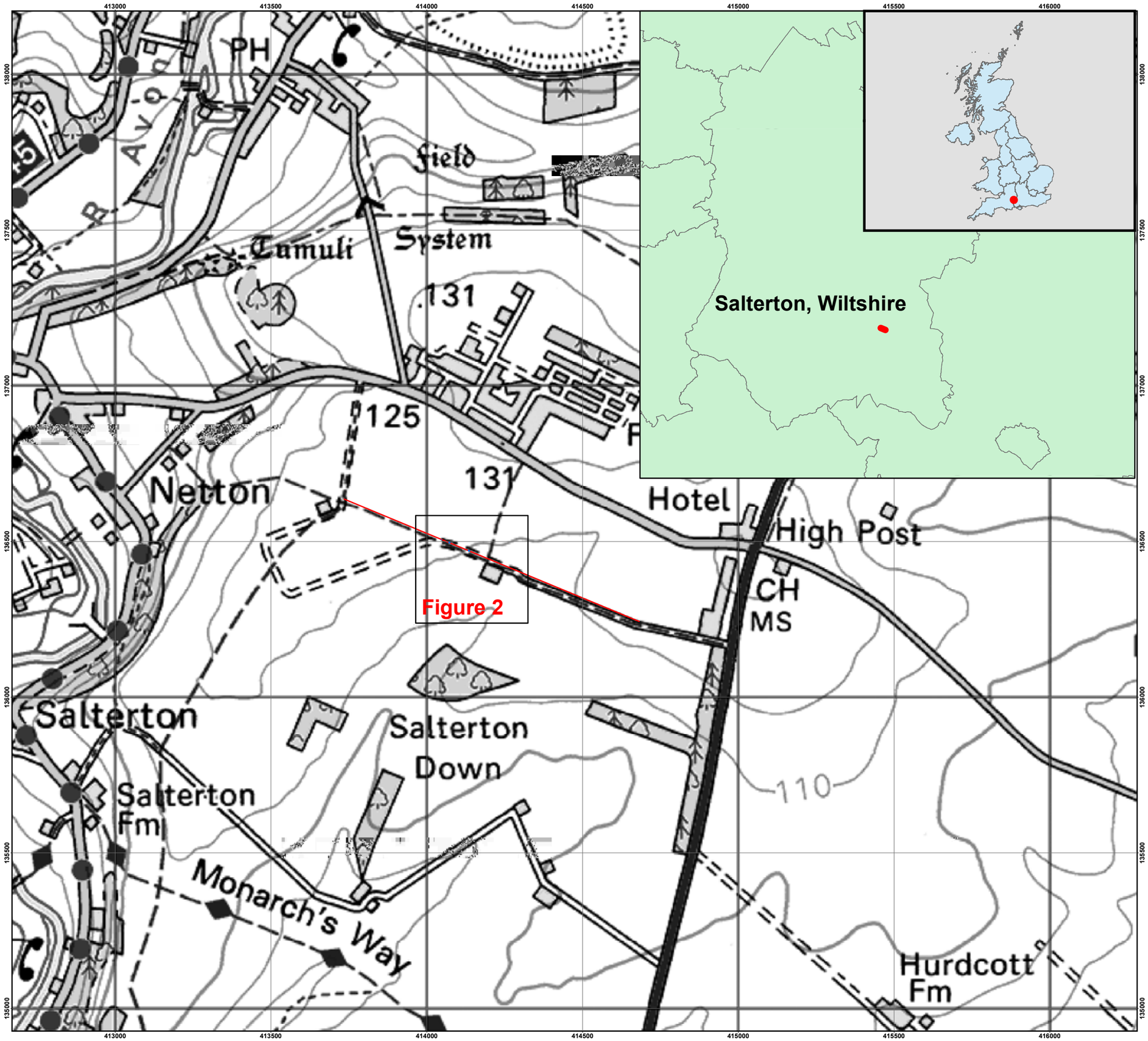
Plate 1: General shot of the cable route, looking east along the farm trackway.

Plate 2: General shot of the watching brief area looking north-west.

Plate 3: View of Trial Pit 1 during excavation, looking west.

Plate 4: View of Trial Pit 2, looking east.

Plate 5: North facing section photo of Trial Pit 3, looking south.



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SSE Innovations
Site 10: Woodford

Figure 1: Site Location

Existing Cable Route

Trial Pit Locations

Drawn by: Andrew Brown Date: 18.03.2016

Verified By: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 18.03.2016

N
W E
S

0 500
Metres

Scale 1:12,000 at A3 size

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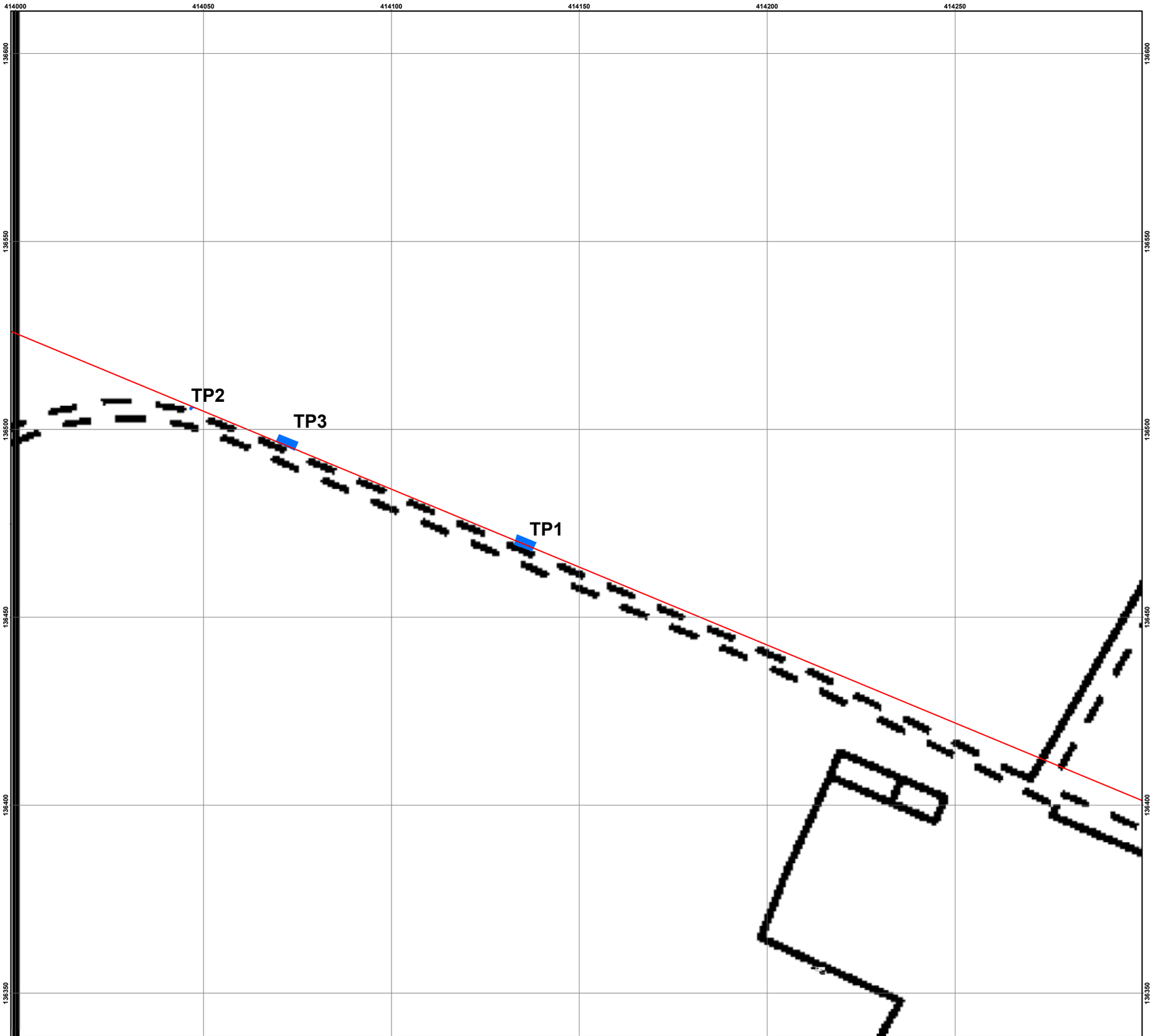
11d Park House,
Milton Park,
Abingdon
OX14 4RS



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SSE innovations
Site 10: Woodford

Figure 2: Plan of the Groundworks

Existing Cable Route

Trial Pits

Drawn by: Andrew Brown Date: 18.03.2016

Verified By: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 18.03.2016

N
W E
S

0 50

Metres

Scale 1:1,000 at A3 size

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