

Report



Archaeological Watching Brief Report: Strettington, West Sussex OHL Replacement

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Contents

Summary	2
Acknowledgements.....	3
1 Introduction.....	4
1.1 <i>Project Background</i>	<i>4</i>
1.2 <i>The Site, Location and Geology</i>	<i>4</i>
2 Objectives.....	5
2.1 <i>Aims and Scope.....</i>	<i>5</i>
3 Copyright	5
4 Archaeological and Historical Context.....	6
5 Methodology	8
5.1 <i>Introduction.....</i>	<i>8</i>
5.2 <i>Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling</i>	<i>8</i>
5.3 <i>Post-Excavation Analysis</i>	<i>8</i>
5.4 <i>Archives and Deposition</i>	<i>8</i>
5.5 <i>ADAS Project Team.....</i>	<i>9</i>
6 Results.....	9
7 Discussion and Conclusions	10
8 References.....	11
8.1 <i>Online Resources</i>	<i>11</i>
Appendix A: Context Descriptions.....	xii
Appendix B: The Finds	xiv
Appendix C: Oasis Report Form.....	xv
Plates.....	xvii

List of Figures

Figure 1: Site Location

Figure 2: Location of the Groundworks

List of Plates

Plate 1: General shot of pole P33854 and the unfinished cable trench within the solar farm development, looking west-north-west.

Plate 2: General shot of the easement and watching brief area, looking north-east.

Plate 3: View of the south east facing section of Trench 1, looking north-west.

Plate 4: View of Trench 1, looking south west.

Plate 5: View of the east facing section of Trench 2, looking west.

Plate 6: View of Trench 2, looking south.

Plate 7: General shot looking north-west of Trench 3 being excavated.

Plate 8: General shot of the Trench 3 looking south towards Trench 1 and the new H pole.

Plate 9: General shot of the solar farm development, looking north-west.

Plate 10: General shot of the solar farm development, looking south

Quality Assurance

ADAS Project Code	Accession Code	Local Authority HER No.	Planning Application Ref.	OASIS Reference No.	Client Ref.
CEN3049- Strettington West Sussex OHL Replacement	TBC	N/A	N/A	adasuklt1- 246221	N/A

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment

Summary

In March 2016 ADAS UK Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for SSE Power Distribution for ground works for the replacement of part of an existing 33kV overhead line across a new solar farm development on land near Strettington, Chichester District, West Sussex. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during groundworks for pole replacement works between SU 89899, 07373 and SU 89557, 06940 (Figure 1).

No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during monitoring of the groundworks for the replacement of pole P33854 or for the extension of the cable trench within the watching brief area.

Previous archaeological evaluation trenching demonstrated the presence of probable enclosure/boundary ditches of Romano-British date, a modern field boundary and two Early Neolithic pits in the southern and far eastern areas of the surrounding field (Wessex Archaeology 2015). However, the two new pole trenches and the cable trench revealed only natural deposits at this particular part of the site, which is consistent with the findings of the previous trial trenching evaluation and geophysical survey.

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 of groundworks required for the replacement of part of an existing 33kV overhead line across a new solar farm development on land near Strettington, Chichester District, West Sussex. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during groundworks for the pole replacement works between SU 89899, 07373 and SU 89557, 06940 (Figure 1).
- 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, in the informative attached to the Section 37 Consent the Archaeology Officer for Chichester District Council, Mr James Kenny, recommended the following condition as a result of the archaeological sensitivity of the site: *‘the developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development and shall make suitable provision for the publication of the results.’* ADAS subsequently prepared a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to carry out the required archaeological works in accordance with Mr Kenny’s recommendation (ADAS 2016).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed Written Scheme of Investigation produced by ADAS (ADAS 2016). The WSI was approved by Mr Kenny in March 2016.
- 1.1.4 The fieldwork followed the *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), *the Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991) and 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 comprised the replacement of Pole P33854 on the existing Chichester to Hunston Tee 33kV overhead line (Black/Green circuit, near Strettington, West Sussex in the location shown on Figures 1-2. The replacement for pole P33854 was an ‘H’ pole as described within the WSI (ADAS 2016).
- 1.2.2 The underlying geology of this site was recorded as chalk of the Lewes, Nodular Chalk Formation, Seaford Chalk Formation, Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation (BGS 2016).

Superficial head deposits of gravel, sand silt and clay are also recorded in this area (ibid, 2016). A borehole survey carried out adjacent to the site along the A27 Westhampnett Bypass recorded 0.2m of topsoil overlying a probable subsoil horizon of medium to dark greyish brown silty sandy clay with fine to coarse sub-angular and sub-rounded gravels 0.3m thick. This layer sealed a medium orange-brown slightly silty and clayey flint marine gravel layer 1.3m thick (SU80NE190 – A27 Westhampnett Bypass TP 23).

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 area 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 Prehistoric features identified during previous archaeological investigations carried out in the surrounding field were impacted by the development;*
- *To ensure that the fieldwork took place within, and contributes to the goals of the South East Research Framework and the Historic Environment Research Framework for East Sussex, Kent, Surrey and West Sussex (Kent County Council 2007);*
- *To report the results as appropriate.*

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4 Archaeological and Historical Context

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The proposed groundworks involved the replacement of part of an existing 33kV overhead line across a new solar farm development on land near Strettington, Chichester District, West Sussex. The pole replacement works were carried out between SU 89899, 07373 and SU 89557, 06940 (Figure 1).
- 4.1.2 The earliest available detailed historic mapping consulted was the First Edition Ordnance Survey (OS) County Series 1875 map of the area (Old Maps 2016; ADAS 2016). This map showed that the current area under development comprised two agricultural fields at that time. The pond/quarry that is still present in the centre of the site was present in 1875, and a north/south aligned field boundary ran through it. The development area was bordered by the 19th-century Stane Street to the north (which is marked as a Roman road), Strettington lane to the west and by the 19th-century road between Westhampnett and Boxgrove to the south. Historic maps show little significant change in the land use of the site until 1932, when the north/south aligned field boundary was removed. The next significant change to the development area depicted on historic maps occurred between 1961 and 1972, when the existing overhead line was constructed and the Westhampnett-Boxgrove road was widened. The construction of the Westhampnett bypass in the early 1990s resulted in the realignment of the roads to the south and west of the site (Old Maps 2016; ADAS 2016). The field containing the overhead line is currently being developed for a new solar farm.
- 4.1.3 There were five designated heritage assets recorded by Historic England within 500m of the proposed development. All five entries were Grade II Listed Buildings (the Old House; The Farmhouse Strettington; Richard Cottage and Sunrise Cottage; Strattone Cottage and Temple House). These five Listed Buildings were located outside to the development area to the north of the A285 and were not impacted by the development (ADAS 2016).
- 4.1.1 There were at least twenty-three entries for non-designated heritage assets recorded by the West Sussex Historic Environment Record within 500m of the site (Heritage Gateway 2016). The majority of these remains were identified during previous archaeological investigations carried out along the Westhampnett Bypass during the 1990s (Fitzpatrick *et al* 2008). The earliest remains encountered comprised an Early Post-Glacial Paleosol (HER No. MWS5927). This paleosol was centred on SU 8932 0655 and was present approximately 0.5m below present ground level (bpgl). The total area of the paleosol was 500m² and a peaty deposit survived up to 1m below the modern ground surface (Heritage Gateway 2016).

- 4.1.2 Two Mesolithic settlement sites (HER Nos. MWS4083 and MWS1826) and an area of Mesolithic environmental potential (HER MWS4086) were also identified. Neolithic occupation in the immediate vicinity of the site is represented by two pits (HER Nos. MWS5950 and MWS4087) and two areas of sustained Prehistoric settlement activity from the Mesolithic to the Bronze Age period (HER No. MWS5944) which were recorded along the route of the bypass. Significant occupation of the area in the immediate vicinity of the current development continued into the Bronze Age and Iron Age, as evidenced by the discovery of a multi-period settlement site (HER No. MWS5917), a Bronze Age barrow (HER No. MWS4088) and Iron Age burials (MWS4084).
- 4.1.3 The area was also a focal point for settlement into the Romano-British period, as several significant areas of occupation were identified and recorded along the route of the Westhampnett Bypass (HER Nos. MWS4089, MWS4093) as well as smaller areas of settlement activity (MWS5951, MWS5925, MWS1335 and MWS1339) and a Roman cist burial (MWS1334).
- 4.1.4 Anglo-Saxon settlement identified to date in the vicinity of the proposed development includes a sunken-featured building recorded along the Westhampnett by-pass (HER No. MWS8321) and the findspot of a Saxon coin (MWS1340).
- 4.1.5 Archaeological evidence of later occupation and land-use of the 500m area around the proposed development was more limited, comprising a medieval ditch (HER No. MWS5926), a 13th-century seal matrix (MWS2255) and the site of an anti-aircraft artillery battery (MWS7122).
- 4.1.6 A detailed gradiometer geophysical survey was undertaken in February 2015 across the site with the aim of establishing the presence or otherwise of archaeological features on the site ahead of a proposed solar farm development. The gradiometer survey covered 20 hectares and demonstrated the presence of anomalies of probable and possible archaeological interest along with paleo-channels, ploughing trends and superficial geology (Wessex Archaeology 2015).
- 4.1.7 A subsequent trial trenching evaluation was carried out over the site with confirmed that the main focus of the archaeological remains are located in the far southern and central areas of the Site. A ditch identified in the south-eastern part of the Site has been interpreted as an enclosure ditch. A second smaller enclosure was also identified at the far eastern limit of the site. The ditches associated with the second smaller enclosure were found to contain pottery of Romano-British date (Wessex Archaeology 2015).
- 4.1.8 A third possible enclosure, also of Romano-British date was identified in the central region of the Site to the immediate south of the extant pond which occupies site area. This enclosure is characterised by a ditch orientated east/west by north/south which survives to a reasonable depth (Wessex Archaeology 2015). Two Early Neolithic pits located in the eastern area of the site within Trench 6 were revealed by the evaluation. A modern field boundary which corresponds to

a linear anomaly detected by the geophysical survey was also investigated during the evaluation (ibid, 2015).

- 4.1.9 Overall, the available archaeological evidence indicated that the area immediately around the proposed overhead line was likely to have a high potential for containing buried archaeological deposits and artefacts relating to the Prehistoric, Roman and Early Medieval periods and a low potential for all other periods.

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 all intrusive groundworks to remove pole P33854 and erect two further H poles. Archaeological monitoring was also carried out on an extension for a cable trench within the watching brief area.

- 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 groundworks, 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 Chichester Museum. A paper archive will be deposited with Chichester Museum within six months of the completion of the 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 reference adaslt1-246221 has been provisionally completed and will be submitted at the time of completion.

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 watching brief area was contained within an easement following a 33kV Overhead Line (OHL) through a new solar farm development (Figure 2; Plates 1, 2, 9, and 10). The ground works consisted of the digging of two trenches for the erection of two H poles, the removal of pole P33854 and the extension of a narrow cable trench within a defined work area. The removal of pole P33854 involved excavating around the base of the pole and pulling it over to remove it from the ground. The groundworks were carried out using a mechanical excavator with a flat bladed 1.5m bucket and hand digging by the contractors under constant archaeological supervision. The works were completed over two days (Wednesday 9th March and Tuesday 15th of March). The weather on the 9th of March was cold with persistent rain showers. The weather on the 15th March the weather consisted of sunshine and clouds (Plates 1, 2, 9, and 10).

Trench 1

- 6.1.3 Trench 1 measured 3.5m in length by 1.2m in width was 1.9m deep. It was located 10m to the west of the existing pole P33854 (Figure 2). The trench was orientated approximately east/west. The topsoil (1001) was approximately 0.6m deep and consisted of mid-grey brown sandy clay. This overlay a possible subsoil horizon (1002), approximately 0.7m thick, which consisted of a darker greyish brown sandy clay. The possible subsoil horizon 1002 in turn overlay a layer of gravelly sandy clay (1003) 0.6m thick, which sealed a light whitish grey chalky clay (1004) at a depth of 1.9m below present ground level (Plates 3 and 4). Layers 1003 and 1004 were interpreted as the undisturbed natural substrate. However, it is possible that 1002 may correspond to the natural horizon identified in the previous trial trenching evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2015). No archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from this trench.

Trench 2

- 6.1.4 Trench 2 was located 5m north east of the existing pole P33854 within the watching brief area (Figure 2). The trench measured approximately 3.05m in length by 1.2m in width and was 2.1m

deep (Plates 5 and 6). The stratigraphic sequence was the same as in Trench 1. The topsoil (2001) was approximately 0.5m deep and consisted of mid-grey brown sandy clay. This overlay a possible subsoil horizon (2002), approximately 0.7m thick, which consisted of a darker greyish brown sandy clay. The possible subsoil horizon 2002 in turn overlay a layer of gravelly sandy clay (2003) 0.7m thick, which sealed a light whitish grey chalky clay (2004) at a depth of 2.1m below present ground level (Plates 5 and 6). Layers 2003 and 2004 were interpreted as the undisturbed natural substrate. Layers 2003 and 2004 were interpreted as the undisturbed natural substrate in this trench. However, it is possible that 2002 may correspond to the natural horizon identified in the previous trial trenching evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2015). No archaeological features or artefacts were recorded from this trench.

Trench 3

- 6.1.5 Trench 3 (the cable trench) was located approximately 2m west of pole P33854 and the new replacement H Pole (Figure 2). The trench was an extension to one that had been started during the construction of a new solar development on the site and Trench 2. The cable trench measured 16.1m in length by 1.2m in width at its eastern end narrowing to 0.68m in width at its western end. It was 1.1m deep (Plates 7 and 8). The stratigraphic sequence was broadly similar as that found in trenches 1 and 2. The topsoil (3001) was approximately 0.5m deep and consisted of mid-grey brown sandy clay. This overlay a possible subsoil horizon (3002), approximately 0.6m thick, which consisted of a darker greyish brown sandy clay. The possible subsoil horizon 3002 sealed a layer of gravelly sandy clay (3003) at a depth of 1.6m below present ground level (Plates 7 & 8). Layer 3003 was interpreted as the undisturbed natural substrate in this trench. However, it is possible that 3002 may correspond to the natural horizon identified in the previous trial trenching evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2015). Again no archaeological features or artefacts were observed or recovered from this trench.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1.1 No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during monitoring of the groundworks for the replacement of pole P33854 or for the extension of the cable trench within the watching brief area.
- 7.1.2 Previous archaeological evaluation trenching demonstrated the presence of probable enclosure/boundary ditches of Romano-British date, a modern field boundary and two Early Neolithic pits in the southern and far eastern areas of the surrounding field (Wessex Archaeology 2015). However, the two new pole trenches and the cable trench revealed only natural deposits

at this particular part of the site, which is consistent with the findings of the previous trial trenching evaluation and geophysical survey.

8 References

ADAS 2016 *Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching; Strettington, West Sussex OH Line Replacement*. Unpublished Written Scheme of Investigation.

ClfA 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*.

Fitzpatrick, A. P, Powell, A.B. and Allen, M. J. (eds.) 2008 *Archaeological Excavations on the Route of the A27 Westhampnett Bypass, West Sussex, 1992*. Wessex Archaeology.

Kent County Council 2007 *An Historic Environment Research Framework for East Sussex, Kent Surrey and West Sussex: Project Design*. East Sussex County Council, Kent County Council, Surrey County Council and West Sussex County Council.

Wessex Archaeology 2015 *Land at Strettington, Chichester, West Sussex, Archaeological Evaluation Report*. Unpublished Client Report No. 103263.

8.1 Online Resources

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

(NLS 2016) 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].

(Old Maps 2016) Oldmaps.co.uk. Available at: <https://www.old-maps.co.uk/#/Map/564500/30350.html> [accessed March 2016].

Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
1001	Layer	Topsoil	3.5	1.2	0.6	
1002	Layer	Dark greyish brown sandy clay			0.7	
1003	Layer	Mid brown gravelly sandy clay			0.6	
1004	Layer	Light whitish grey chalky clay			➤ 1.9	

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
2001	Layer	Topsoil	3.05	1.2	0.5	
2002	Layer	Dark greyish brown sandy clay			0.7	
2003	Layer	Mid brown gravelly sandy clay			0.7	
2004	Layer	Light whitish grey chalky clay			➤ 2.1	

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
3001	Layer	Topsoil	16.1	1.2	0.5	
3002	Layer	Dark greyish brown sandy clay			0.6	
3003	Layer	Mid brown gravelly sandy clay			➤ 1.1	

Appendix B: The Finds

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

Appendix C: Oasis Report Form

Project Details	
Project Name	Strettington, West Sussex OHL Replacement
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>In March 2016 ADAS UK Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief for SSE Power Distribution for ground works for the replacement of part of an existing 33kV overhead line across a new solar farm development on land near Strettington, Chichester District, West Sussex. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during groundworks for pole replacement works between SU 89899, 07373 and SU 89557, 06940 (Figure 1).</p> <p>No features or artefacts of archaeological significance were observed during monitoring of the groundworks for the replacement of pole P33854 or for the extension of a cable trench within the watching brief area.</p> <p>Previous archaeological evaluation trenching demonstrated the presence of probable enclosure/boundary ditches of Romano-British date, a modern field boundary and two Early Neolithic pits in the southern and far eastern areas of the surrounding field (Wessex Archaeology 2015). However, the two new pole trenches and the cable trench revealed only natural deposits at this particular part of the site, which is consistent with the findings of the previous trial trenching evaluation and geophysical survey.</p>
Project Dates	Wednesday 9 th March and Tuesday 15 th of March
Project type (e.g. desk-based, field evaluation etc.)	ADAS 2016 <i>Archaeological Watching Brief Report, Strettington West Sussex OHL Replacement</i> . Unpublished Client Report.
Previous work (Reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc.)	<p>Wessex Archaeology 2015 <i>Land at Strettington, Chichester, West Sussex, Archaeological Evaluation Report</i>. Unpublished Client Report No. 103263.</p> <p>Fitzpatrick, A. P, Powell, A.B. and Allen, M. J. (eds.) <i>2008 Archaeological Excavations on the Route of the A27 Westhampnett Bypass, West Sussex, 1992</i>. Wessex Archaeology.</p>

Future Work	Unknown
PROJECT LOCATION	
Site Location	Land near Strettington, Chichester District, West Sussex
Study area (M2/ha)	N/A
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 89899, 07373 and SU 89557, 06940
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		Trench Sheets and Photo register
Digital		Digital photographs
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>ADAS 2016 <i>Archaeological Watching Brief Report, Strettington, West Sussex OHL Replacement</i>. Unpublished Client Report.</p>		

Plates



Plate 1: General shot of pole P33854 and the unfinished cable trench within the solar farm development looking west-north-west.



Plate 2: General shot of the easement and watching brief area looking north-east.



Plate 3: View of the south east facing section of Trench 1 looking north-west.



Plate 4: View of Trench 1, looking south west.



Plate 5: View of the east facing section of Trench 2, looking west.



Plate 6: View of Trench 2 looking south.



Plate 7: General shot looking north-west of the new cable trench being excavated.



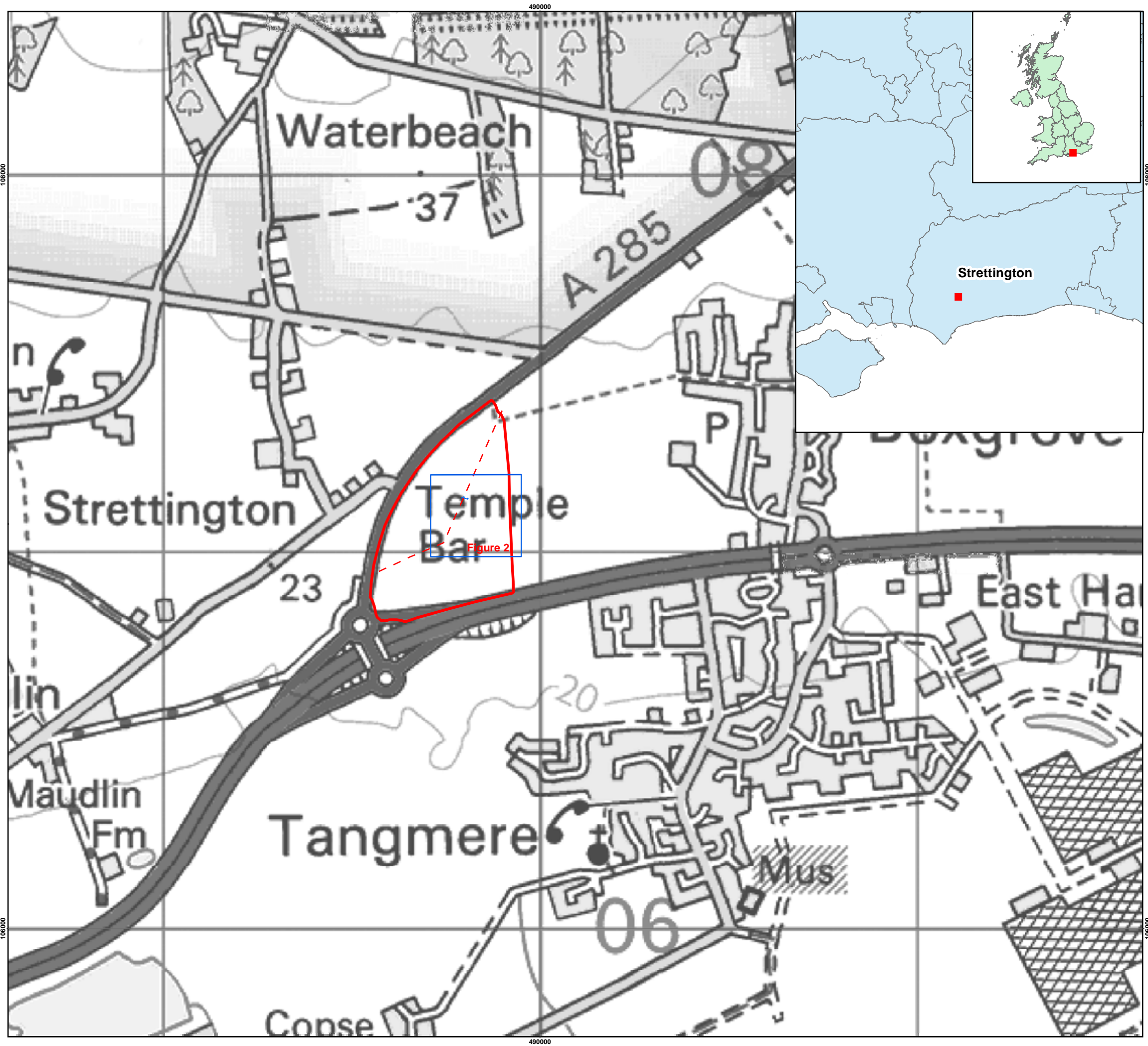
Plate 8: General shot of the new cable trench looking south towards Trench 1 and the new H pole.



Plate 9: General shot of the solar farm development looking north-west.



Plate 10: General shot of the solar farm development looking south.

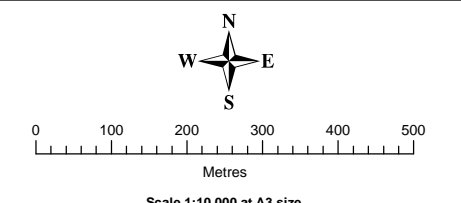


Strettington, West Sussex
OH line replacement

Figure 1: Site Location

- - - OH Line to be replaced
- Solar Farm Boundary
- Groundworks Location

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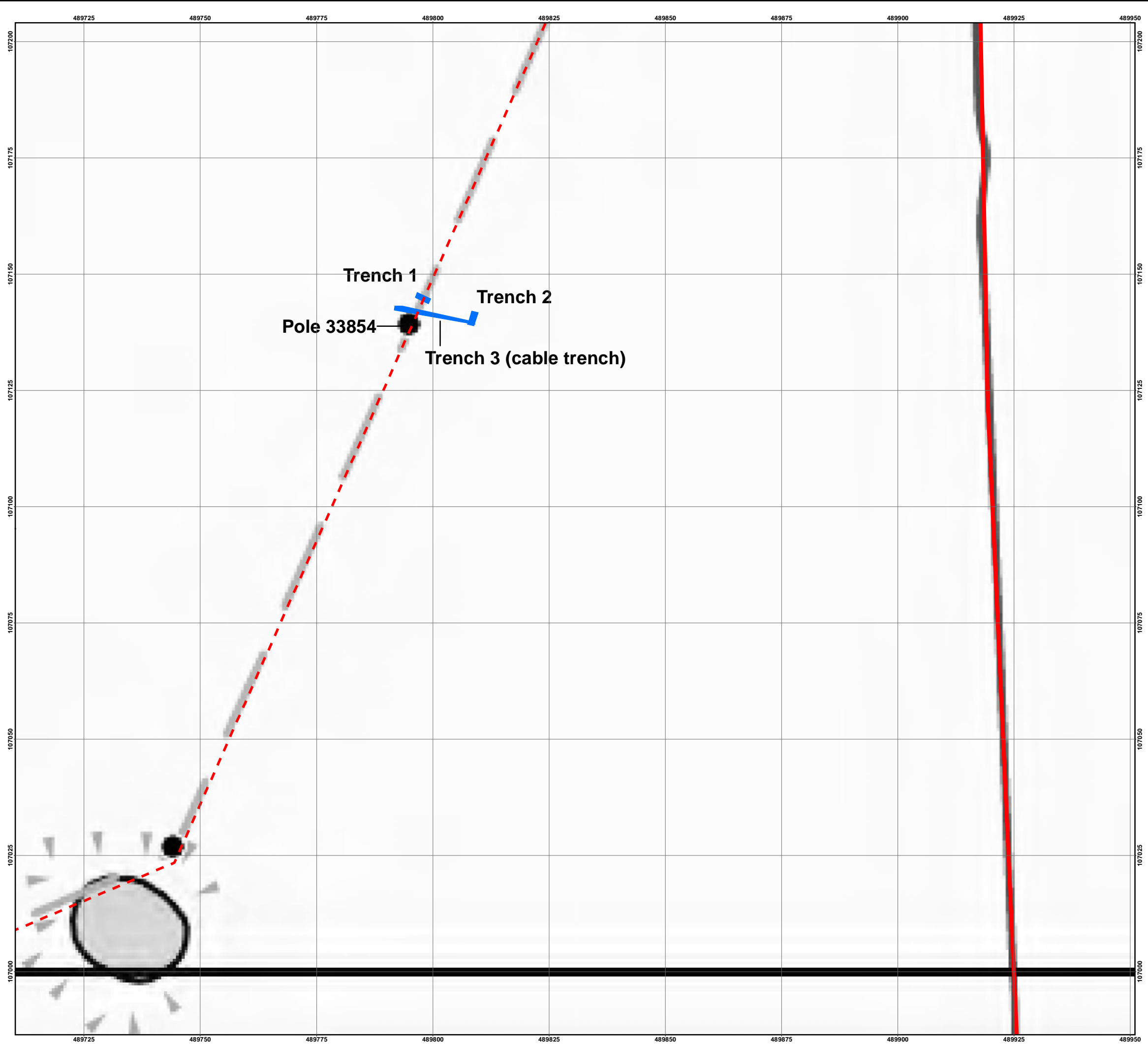




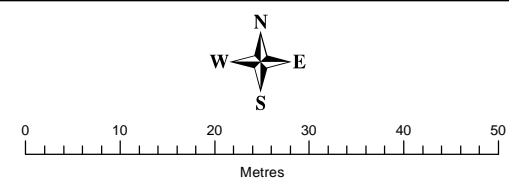
Strettington, West Sussex OH line replacement

Figure 2: Plan of the Groundworks

-  OH Line to be replaced
-  Solar Farm Boundary
-  Trench Locations



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