Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report: Melksham – Chippenham 132kV OHL Refurbishment Project

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	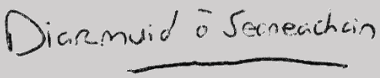	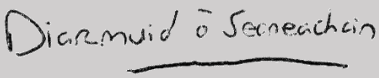
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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment

Summary

In October 2019, ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN). The groundworks were part of the FW and MC 132 kV Overhead Line (OHL) refurbishment project. They consisted of excavations around all four tower footings of MC32 (NGR: ST 93427 73808), one tower footing of MC 31 (NGR: ST 93644 73651), and two tower footings of MC 30 (NGR: ST 93858 73490). The aim of the groundworks was to reinforce the existing foundations of the tower pylons. This took place to the east of the town of Chippenham, Wiltshire (Figure 1). The groundworks lasted a total of four days, and thirteen trenches were excavated.

The works were carried out within the permitted development rights of the statutory undertaker SSEN, and therefore were not subject to a planning application. However, the groundworks were located in an area previously noted for containing Prehistoric, Medieval, and Roman archaeological features (Cotswold Archaeology 2010).

No archaeology was recorded throughout the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. The absence of archaeological features may be attributed to the relatively limited impact of the groundworks. These results indicate that the monitoring methodology used was effective in ensuring that the groundworks resulted in no harm to the historic environment.

Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Energy. Thanks are due in this regard. Fieldwork was carried out by Cameron Cleaver. The report and supporting illustrations were prepared by Cameron Cleaver, and quality checked by Diarmuid O Seaneachain. The archive was compiled by Cameron Cleaver.

1 Introduction

Project Background

1.1.1 In October 2019, ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for SSEN on groundworks to reinforce the foundations of three tower pylons as part of the wider Melksham to Chippenham (MC) overhead line refurbishment project. This took place to the east of the town of Chippenham, Wiltshire (Figure 1).

1.1.2 The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during all groundworks on towers MC 30, MC31 and MC 32.

1.1.3 The groundworks were carried out within the client's permitted development rights in accordance with Section 38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989, and therefore were not subject to a planning application. However, the groundworks were located in an area previously noted for containing Prehistoric, Medieval, and Roman archaeological features (Cotswold Archaeology 2010).

1.1.4 ADAS prepared and issued a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to address the archaeological requirements of the local authority archaeologist. The WSI detailed how ADAS would carry out the required archaeological works and record any archaeological remains during the monitoring of the groundworks (ADAS 2019).

1.1.5 The fieldwork followed the Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 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) and the RSK Technical Manual (RSK 2018).

The Site, Location and Geology

1.1.6 The groundworks comprised thirteen trenches which were dug to completely expose all four tower footing foundations of MC32 (NGR: ST 93427 73808), one tower footing foundation of MC 31 (NGR: ST 93644 73651), and two tower footing foundations of MC 30 (NGR: ST 93858 73490).

1.1.7 The location of the tower pylons can be seen in Figure 2. All towers are situated on pasture fields. Whilst MC 31 and MC 32 rest on flat ground, MC 30 is situated at the edge of a pasture field where the ground gently slopes downwards to the north-east.

1.1.8 The locations of the trenches monitored is shown on Figures 3, 4, and 5.

1.1.9 The underlying geology under Towers MC 30-32 is described as sandstone of the Kellaways Sand Member. This sedimentary bedrock was formed approximately 164 to 166 million years ago in the Jurassic Period. The local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas. Superficial deposits formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary Period are listed as being clay, silt, sand, and gravel (BGS 2019).

1.1.10 The nearest borehole data (ST97SW2) is located at NGR: ST 944744 and was excavated to a maximum depth of 91.25 m. The borehole data records alluvial type deposits to a depth of 4.30 m. This overlay Kellaways sand from a depth of 4.30 m to 6.95 m which comprises of a medium grey sandstone, with bivalve inclusions. This overlay Kellaways clay, which was recorded from depth of 6.95 m – 24.27 m. The clay is a greenish grey colour with inclusions of silty sand (BGS 2019).

2 Objectives

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 ensure that the fieldwork took place within, and contributes to the goals of the South West Archaeological Research Framework (SWARF) for the south-west of England (Grove J, Croft B. Eds. 2012)*
- *To report the results as appropriate.*

3 Copyright

4 Archaeological and Historical Context

Introduction

4.1.1 The archaeological background was detailed in Written Scheme of Investigation (ADAS, 2019). An online search of the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (HER) and Historic

England was conducted which assessed the historic environment potential around the proposed works. The results of this assessment are summarised below.

Summary of Archaeological and Historic Background

4.1.2 There are no World Heritage Sites, Scheduled Monuments, Grade I or II* Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Designated Wrecks, Designated Battlefields or Registered Parks and Gardens recorded within 300m of the groundworks.

4.1.3 There are three Grade II listed buildings within the Study Area. Rawlings Farmhouse (HE List Entry: 1199277), a 17th century building located approximately 600m from MC32. Avon house (HE List Entry: 1268116), dated to the 17th but now an office building is located approximately 1 km to the north-west of MC32. The final record is for Cocklebury Farmhouse (HE List Entry: 1268117). A 17th century farmhouse situated approximately 630 m to the north-west of MC32 (Historic England 2019).

4.1.4 A search of the Wiltshire and Swindon HER revealed a number of archaeological features dating from the Bronze Age up to the Modern Period within 300 m of the groundworks.

4.1.5 A possible Bronze Age pit was located approximately 370 m north-west of MC32. Possible Romano-British features, including two pits, were identified 540 m away from MC32. Two intercutting ditches were recorded 370 m north-west of MC32 and a Post-Medieval boundary was identified 474 m north-west of MC32. All these features were located through geophysical analysis of the landscape (Wiltshire and Swindon HER 2019).

4.1.6 The Wiltshire and Swindon HER records a number of Modern archaeological features, particularly from the Second World War.

4.1.7 The first being a Type 24 shell-proof pillbox on the North bank of the River Avon. The second record is for a plane crash at Rawlings Farm approximately 570 m north of MC32, and the third record is for a possible Second World War barrage balloon mooring site (Wiltshire and Swindon HER 2019).

4.1.8 There is one undated record within the Study Area, located 270 m to the north-west of MC32 and this is for pits identified by a geophysical survey (Wiltshire and Swindon HER 2019).

Summary of Previous Archaeological Events

4.1.9 There has only been one recorded archaeological investigation carried out within 300 m of the groundworks

4.1.10 An archaeological trial trenching evaluation was carried out from November 2008 to March 2009 (NGR: ST 9369 7339).

4.1.11 The evaluation was on land approximately 200 m to the south-west of M30. A total of 44 trenches were excavated and twenty-two of the trenches did not contain any archaeological features.

4.1.12 There were several artefacts recovered from the evaluation in the form of pottery, ceramic building material, animal bone, flint, fired clay, stone and metalwork (Joyce 2010).

4.1.13 The evaluation revealed limited evidence for Prehistoric activity (Joyce 2010).

4.1.14 There were some Roman features recorded. A trackway, pottery sherds, and several intercutting ditches all dated to the 3rd-4th century AD (Joyce 2010).

4.1.15 The trial trenching evaluation also recorded a limited number of features dating to the Medieval, Post-medieval and Modern Period (Joyce 2010).

Summary of Potential

4.1.16 The Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record and Historic England data, along with data collated from the previous archaeological trial trenching evaluation in the area indicated that there was a general potential for Bronze Age and Modern archaeological features to be present in the immediate vicinity of the groundworks.

5 Methodology

Introduction

5.1.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation (ADAS 2019). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks to carry out the archaeological monitoring of the investigative trenches.

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

Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

5.1.3 No human remains were encountered during the watching brief.

5.1.4 No artefacts were recovered from the monitoring.

5.1.5 No archaeological features were recorded during the watching brief.

Post-Excavation Analysis

5.1.6 No specialist post-excavation analysis is required as no artefacts were recovered from the monitoring.

Archives and Deposition

5.1.5 The archive is currently held by ADAS at their office in Milton Park. An ordered and indexed project archive of records will be processed and deposited with the Chippenham Museum in accordance with the Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre and the Guidelines for the Preparation of

Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC 1990) and Standards in the Museum Care of Archaeological Collections (Museum and Galleries Commission 1992).

5.1.6 The archive will be submitted within three to twelve months of the completion of the final publication report to the Chippenham Museum. The Chippenham Museum specifications were unavailable at the time of writing as they are currently under review. After telephone consultation with Melissa Barnett (see email dated 24.10.2019) the Wiltshire Museum Guidelines can be used in substitute (Wiltshire Archaeological &Natural History Society Collections Trust, 2019)).

5.1.7 A summary of information from this project, will be entered onto the OASIS database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5.1.8 The final report on the archaeological monitoring will be submitted to the Wiltshire and Swindon HER, within three months of the completion of the works.

ADAS Project Team

5.1.9 Fieldwork was undertaken by Cameron Cleaver. The report was written by Cameron Cleaver. The illustrations were prepared by Cameron Cleaver. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Cameron Cleaver. 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 are to be found in Appendix A.

6.1.2 The thirteen trenches can be seen on figures 3a, 3b, and 3c.

6.1.3 The groundworks lasted for a total of four days. Friday the 3rd of October, and then from Tuesday the 8th of October to Thursday the 10th of October.

6.1.4 Overall, the weather was overcast, with occasional heavy showers.

6.1.5 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were observed or recovered from any trenches.

Trench 1

6.1.6 Trench 1 was rectangular in plan, measuring 3.50 m long, by 2.0 m wide, by 1.80 m deep. The trench was located against the north side of the north-west footing of tower pylon MC32 (Figure 5).

6.1.7 The topsoil (1001) consisted of a mid to dark brown fine grained, very soft sand up to 0.45 m thick. This overlay a layer of previously backfilled ground from the original groundworks upon the

installation of the tower pylons (1002). Described as a mid to light brown fine grained, soft silty sand up to 1.35 m thick.

Trench 2

6.1.8 Trench 2 was rectangular in plan, measuring approximately 3.50 m in length, by 2.0 m wide and was 1.80 m deep. The trench was located on the south side of the south-east footing of MC32 (Figure 5).

6.1.9 The topsoil (2001) consisted of a mid to dark brown, fine grained, very soft sand up to 0.25 m thick. This overlay a backfill layer (2002) of mid-brown, fine grained, soft silty sand up to 1.55 m thick.

Trench 3

6.1.10 Trench 3 was rectangular in plan and measured 3.60 m long, by 2.0 m wide, and was 1.80 m deep. The trench was located on the north side of the north-east footing of MC32 (Figure 5).

6.1.11 The topsoil consisted of a fine-grained, friable sand. No inclusions were present and it was mid to dark brown in colour. The topsoil (3001) was recorded as 0.35 m thick.

6.1.12 The topsoil sealed a backfill layer (3002) consisting of a fine-grained, soft, silty sand. It was mid-to-light brown in colour with no inclusions present. This was recorded as 1.25m thick and overlay natural substrate (3003), which was 0.20 m thick to the base of the trench.

6.1.13 The natural geology was a fine-grained, soft, light reddish-brown, silty sand. This is consistent with the reported geology of the area (BGS 2019).

Trench 4

6.1.14 Trench 4 was rectangular in plan and measured 3.10 m long, by 2.0 m wide, and was 1.80 m deep. The trench was located against the south edge of the south-west footing of MC32 (Figure 5).

6.1.15 The topsoil consisted of a fine-grained, friable sand. No inclusions were present and it was mid to dark brown in colour. The topsoil (4001) was 0.25 m thick.

6.1.16 The topsoil overlay (4002), which consisted of the same backfill layer encountered elsewhere at MC32. The backfill layer consisted of a fine-grained, soft, silty sand. It was mid brown in colour and there were no inclusions present. This layer was 1.55 m thick.

Trench 5

6.1.17 This trench was rectangular in plan and measured 3.10 m in length, by 2.0 m in width and was 1.50 m deep. This trench was located along the south edge of the south-west footing of MC30 (Figure 3).

6.1.18 The topsoil consisted of a fine-grained, soft, clayey sand. No inclusions were present and it was dark brown in colour. The topsoil (5001) was 0.30 m deep.

6.1.19 The topsoil sealed a backfilled fine-grained, firm, silty clay. It was mid brown in colour. No inclusions were present. This layer (5002) was 1.20 m thick.

Trench 6

6.1.20 Trench 6 was rectangular in plan and measured 2.70 m in length by 1.10m in width with a maximum depth of 0.90 m. The trench was located along the west edge of the south-east footing of MC30 (Figure 3).

6.1.21 The topsoil consisted of a fine-grained, soft, clayey sand. No inclusions were present and it was dark brown in colour. The topsoil (6001) was 0.10 m thick.

6.1.22 The underlying layer consisted of a fine-grained, firm, silty clay. It was mid brown in colour and did not contain any inclusions (6002). This was 1.40 m thick.

Trench 7

6.1.23 Trench 7 comprised three rectangular trenches which were subsequently joined together to form a U shape. Each trench measured approximately 4.0 m long, by 2.0 m in width with a maximum depth of 1.80 m. This trench excavated the three remaining sides of the north-west footing of MC32, which had not been exposed by Trench 1 (Figure 5).

6.1.24 The topsoil consisted of a fine-grained, soft silty sand. No inclusions were present and it was mid to dark brown in colour. The topsoil (7001) was 0.25 m thick.

6.1.25 The underlying layer (7002) consisted of a fine-grained, soft, silty clay. It was mid-to-light brown in colour with no inclusions present. This layer was again a backfill layer from the original groundworks when the towers were installed. This layer was 1.45 m thick.

6.1.26 The natural substrate (7003) was just slightly observed coming through at 1.70 m below ground level in the trench and was 0.10 m thick at the base of the trench. The natural substrate was a fine-grained, soft, light reddish-brown, silty sand. This is consistent with the reported geology of the area (BGS 2019).

Trench 8

6.1.27 This trench was U-shaped in plan comprising of three rectangular trenches each measuring 1.80 m deep, 2.0 m wide, and 4.0 m long. This trench fully exposed the rest of the footing of the south-east leg of MC32 that had not been previously excavated by Trench 2 (Figure 5).

6.1.28 The topsoil in this trench was comprised of a fine-grained, soft silty sand. It had no inclusions and it was mid to dark brown in colour. This layer (7001) was 0.30 m thick.

6.1.29 The underlying geology (7002) consisted of a fine-grained, soft, silty sand. It was mid brown in colour with no inclusions present. This layer was again a backfill layer from the original groundworks when the towers were installed. This layer was 1.30 m thick.

6.1.30 The natural substrate (7003) was just slightly observed at 1.60 m below present ground level (bpgl) in the trench floor and was 0.20 m thick at the base of the trench. The natural substrate was a fine-grained, soft, light reddish-brown, silty sand. This is consistent with the reported geology of the area (BGS 2019).

Trench 9

6.1.31 Trench 9 was U-shaped in plan comprising of three rectangular trenches each measuring 1.80 m deep, 2.0 m wide, and 5.0 m long. This trench fully exposed the rest of the footing of the north-east leg of MC32 that had not been previously excavated by Trench 3 (Figure 5).

6.1.32 The topsoil layer of this trench (9001) was a fine-grained, soft, silty sand. It was mid to dark brown in colour and 0.25 m thick. This overlay a layer of backfill (9002) measuring 1.45 m thick. This was described as a fine-grained, soft, silty sand that was coloured mid brown.

6.1.33 Again, the natural substrate was 0.10 m thick at the bottom of the trench and was fine-grained, soft, light reddish-brown, silty sand (9003).

Trench 10

6.1.34 Another U-shaped trench created by digging three rectangular trenches together. Each trench measured 1.80 m deep, 2.0 m wide, and 5.0 m in length. The extent of this trench fully exposed the footing of the south-west leg of MC32 that had not already been exposed by Trench 4 (Figure 5).

6.1.35 The topsoil here was 0.25 m thick and is described as a fine-grained, soft, silty sand with mid to dark brown colouration (10001). This overlay a previously backfilled layer that measured 1.45 m thick and was described as a fine-grained, soft, silty sand with mid brown colouration.

6.1.36 The underlying natural substrate measured 0.10 m thick at the base of the trench and was recorded as fine-grained, soft, light reddish-brown, silty sand (10’003).

Trench 11

6.1.37 This trench was also U-shaped in plan, created when three rectangular trenches were connected. Each trench was 4.0 m in length, 2.0 m in width, and 1.80 m in depth. Trench 11 was dug around

the footing of the south-west leg of MC30 but did not include the side that Trench 5 had already covered (Figure 3).

6.1.38 In this trench the topsoil (11001) was recorded as 0.30 m thick, and as a fine-grained, soft, clayey sand. No inclusions were present and it was dark brown in colour.

6.1.39 The next layer consisted of a backfilled fine-grained, firm, silty clay. It was mid brown in colour. No inclusions were present. This layer (11002) was 1.50 m thick.

Trench 12

6.1.40 Trench 12 was another U-shaped trench that extended all the way around the footing of the north-west leg of MC30 and consisted of three rectangular trenches joined together. Each trench was 4.0 m long, 2.0 m wide, and 1.80 m deep (Figure 3).

6.1.41 The topsoil consisted of a fine-grained, soft, clayey sand. No inclusions were present and it was dark brown in colour. The topsoil (12001) was 0.30 m thick.

6.1.42 The backfill layer underneath consisted of a fine-grained, firm, silty clay. It was mid brown in colour and did not contain any inclusions (12002). This was 1.50 m thick.

Trench 13

6.1.43 This was the first and only trench dug at MC31. It extended all the way around the footing of the south-east leg and exposed every side of the foundations of the leg. Trench 13 was 3.50 m long on each side, 1.80 m deep, and 2.0 m wide (Figure 4).

6.1.44 The topsoil of this trench measured 0.20 m thick, and was recorded as a fine-grained, friable, mid brown silty sand (13001).

6.1.45 The topsoil covered a backfill layer from previous groundworks that was created when the tower was originally installed (13002). This layer was 1.60 m thick and was described as a fine-grained, soft, clayey sand with mid brown colouration.

6.1.46 Upon completion of the trench the sides began to subside and collapse. Consequently, digging around MC31 was immediately deemed a major health and safety risk and the digging ceased. This could be due to the heavy rainfall experienced in the area in the days leading up to the digging and also on the day of digging as the ground was quite heavily saturated.

6.1.47 No further digging took place around any of the other footings of MC31 or anywhere else in the area.

6.1.48 After consultation with Ms Rachel Foster, the local authority archaeologist, it was agreed that archaeological monitoring around the footings of MC30, MC31, and MC32 could be discontinued.

However, Ms Foster noted that should any digging take place anywhere else in the local area as part of this scheme or future schemes, that it should be monitored by a qualified archaeologist.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

7.1.1 Despite the noted concentration of Bronze Age and Modern archaeology within a 300 m vicinity of the groundworks, no archaeology was identified during the monitoring at MC 30, MC 31 and MC 32.

7.1.2 The absence of archaeological features and artefacts recorded during the archaeological monitoring of the thirteen trenches may be attributed to the relatively limited impact of the groundworks and the truncation resulting from the original construction of the existing towers.

7.1.3 These results indicate that the monitoring methodology used was effective in ensuring that the groundworks resulted in no harm to the historic environment.

8 References

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Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Trench 1 (NGR: ST 93427 73808)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
1001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, very soft sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-dark brown	3.50	2.0	0.45
1002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-light brown	3.50	2.0	1.35

Trench 2 (NGR: ST 93427 73808)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
2001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, very soft sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-dark brown	3.50	2.0	0.25
2002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid brown	3.50	2.0	1.55

Trench 3 (NGR: ST 93427 73808)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
3001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, friable sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-dark brown	3.60	2.0	0.35
3002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-light brown	3.60	2.0	1.25
3003	Layer	Natural: fine-grained, soft, light reddish-brown, silty sand. No inclusions were present.	3.60	2.0	0.20

Trench 4 (NGR: ST 93427 73808)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
4001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, friable, medium sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-dark brown	3.10	2.0	0.25
4002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-light brown	3.10	2.0	1.55

Trench 5 (NGR: ST 93858 73490)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
5001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, soft, clayey sand. No inclusions were present. Dark brown	3.10	2.0	0.30
5002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, firm, silty clay. No inclusions were present. Mid brown	3.10	2.0	1.20

Trench 6 (NGR: ST 93858 73490)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
6001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, soft, clayey sand. No inclusions were present. Dark brown	2.70	2.0	0.10
6002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, firm, silty clay. No inclusions were present. Mid brown	2.70	2.0	1.40

Trench 7 (NGR: ST 93427 73808)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
7001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-dark brown	4.0	2.0	0.25
7002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, soft, silty clay. No inclusions were present. Mid-light brown	4.0	2.0	1.45
7003	Layer	Natural: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Light reddish-brown	4.0	2.0	0.10

Trench 8 (NGR: ST 93427 73808)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
7001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-dark brown	4.0	2.0	0.30
7002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-light brown	4.0	2.0	1.30
7003	Layer	Natural: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Light reddish-brown	4.0	2.0	0.20

Trench 9 (NGR: ST 93427 73808)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
7001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-dark brown	2.20	2.0	0.25
7002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-light brown	2.20	2.0	1.45
7003	Layer	Natural: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Light reddish-brown	2.20	2.0	0.10

Trench 10 (NGR: ST 93427 73808)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
7001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-dark brown	5.0	2.0	0.25
7002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid-light brown	5.0	2.0	1.45
7003	Layer	Natural: fine-grained, soft, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Light reddish-brown	5.0	2.0	0.10

Trench 11 (NGR: ST 93858 73490)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
7001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, soft, clayey sand. No inclusions were present. Dark brown	4.0	2.0	0.30
7002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, firm, silty clay. No inclusions were present. Mid brown	4.0	2.0	1.50

Trench 12 (NGR: ST 93858 73490)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
7001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, soft, clayey sand. No inclusions were present. Dark brown	4.0	2.0	0.30
7002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, firm, silty clay. No inclusions were present. Mid brown	4.0	2.0	1.50

Trench 13 (NGR: ST 93644 73651)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Thickness (m)
7001	Layer	Topsoil: fine-grained, friable, silty sand. No inclusions were present. Mid brown	3.50	2.0	0.20
7002	Layer	Backfill: fine-grained, firm, silty clay. No inclusions were present. Mid brown	3.50	2.0	1.60

Appendix B: Oasis Report Form

ASIS ID: adasuklt1-366428

Project details

Project name	Melksham - Chippenham 132 kV OHL Refurbishment Project
Short description of the project	In October 2019, ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN). The groundworks were part of the FW and MC 132 kV Overhead Line (OHL) refurbishment project. They consisted of excavations around all four tower footings of MC32 (NGR: ST 93427 73808), one tower footing of MC 31 (NGR: ST 93644 73651), and two tower footings of MC 30 (NGR: ST 93858 73490). The aim of the groundworks was to reinforce the existing foundations of the tower pylons. This took place to the east of the town of Chippenham, Wiltshire (Figure 1). The groundworks lasted a total of four days, and thirteen trenches were excavated. The works were carried out within the permitted development rights of the statutory undertaker SSEN, and therefore were not subject to a planning application. However, the groundworks were located in an area previously noted for containing Prehistoric, Medieval, and Roman archaeological features (Cotswold Archaeology 2010). No archaeology was recorded throughout the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks. The absence of archaeological features may be attributed to the relatively limited impact of the groundworks.
Project dates	Start: 24-09-2019 End: 10-10-2019
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	MCLINE19 – Site code
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	NONE

Significant Finds	NONE
Significant Finds	NONE
Investigation type	'"Watching Brief"'
Prompt	Electricity Act 1989 Section 36

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WILTSHIRE NORTH WILTSHIRE CHIPPENHAM Melksham – Chippenham 132 kV OHL Refurbishment Project
Postcode	SN15 3NA
Study area	100 Square metres
Site coordinates	ST 93868 73487 51.459837460118 -2.08827205474 51 27 35 N 002 05 17 W Point
Site coordinates	ST 93646 73648 51.46128281242 -2.091470703856 51 27 40 N 002 05 29 W Point
Site coordinates	ST 93426 73813 51.462764070457 -2.094640836994 51 27 45 N 002 05 40 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 49m Max: 58m

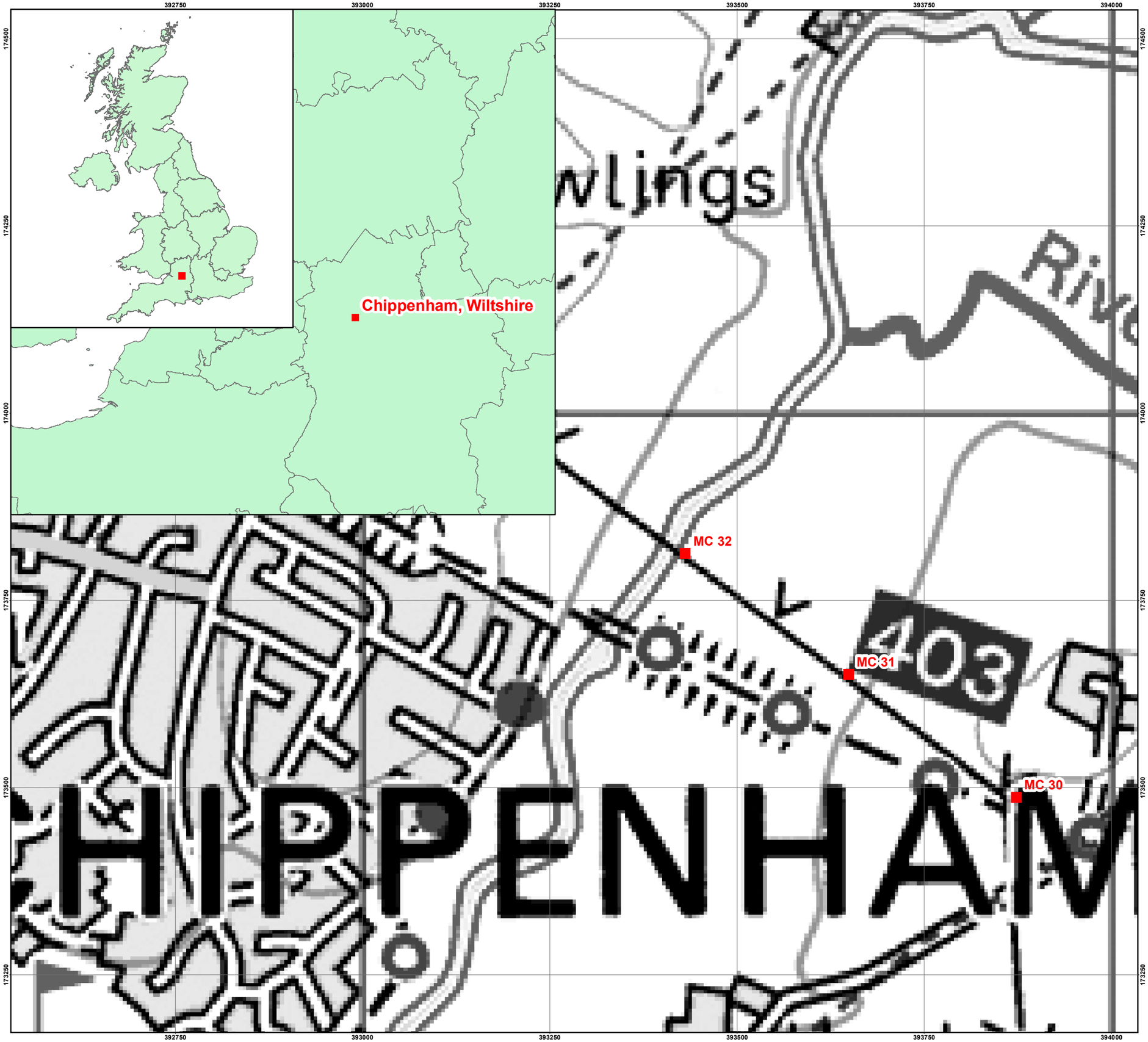
Project creators

Name of Organisation	RSK ADAS Ltd
Project director/manager	Diarmuid O Seaneachain

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Chippenham Museum
Physical Contents	"other"
Physical Archive notes	No Artefacts recovered

Digital Archive recipient	Chippenham Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Chippenham Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Drawing","Map","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes","Plan","Report","Section"



Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

Melksham to Chippenham 132 kV
OHL Refurbishment Project

Figure 1: Site Location

■ Site Location

Drawn by: Cameron Cleaver Date: 15/10/2019

Verified By: Diamuid O'Seaneachain Date: 15/10/2019

N
W E
S

0 250

Metres

Scale 1:5,000 at A3 size

RSK ADAS Ltd,
11d Park House,
Milton Park,
Abingdon
OX14 4RS

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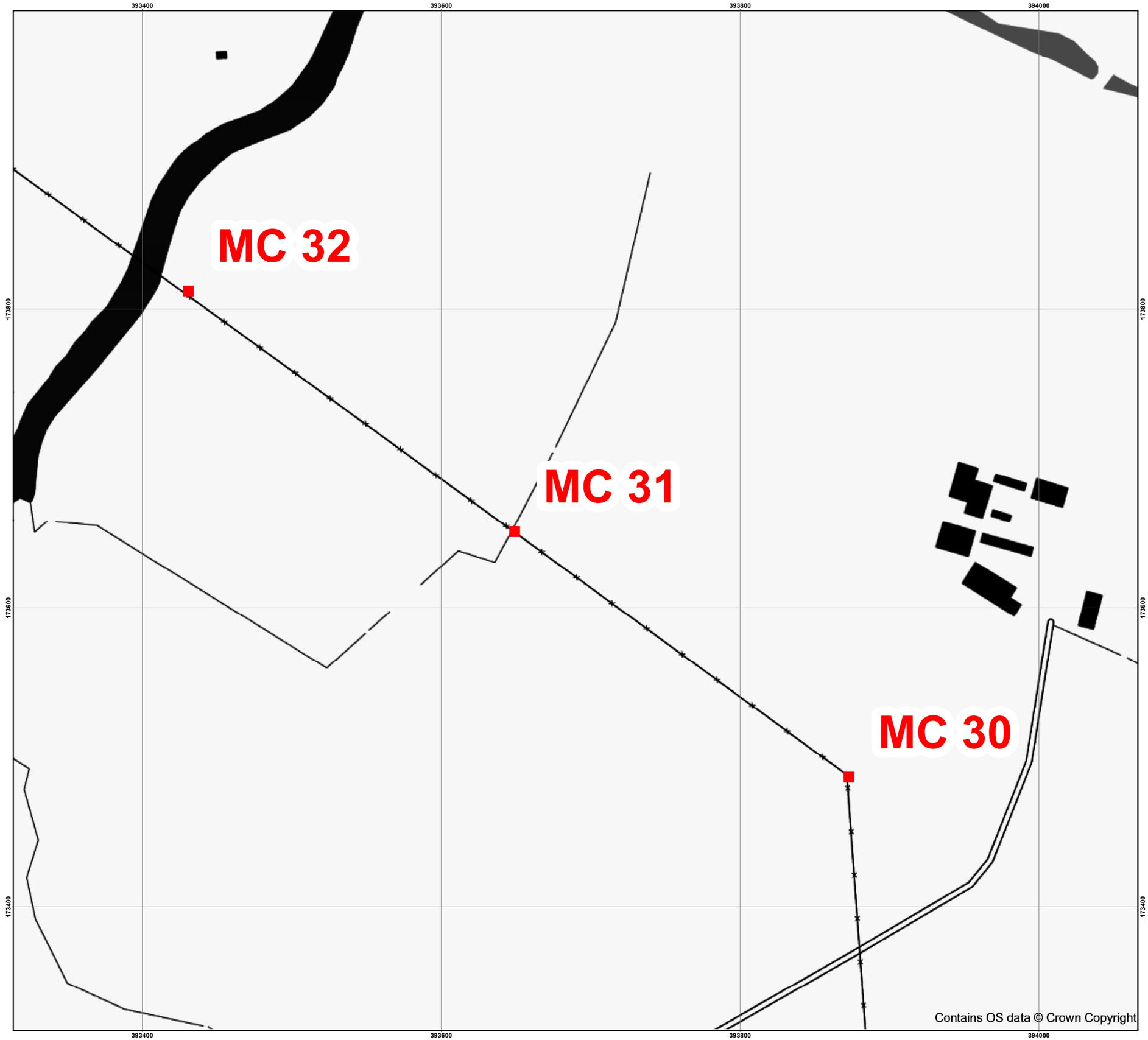

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OHL Refurbishment Project

Figure 2: Location of Tower Pylons MC30, MC31, MC32

■ MC Tower Pylons

Drawn by: Cameron Cleaver Date: 15/10/2019

Verified By: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 15/10/2019

N
W E
S

0 100
Metres

Scale 1:2,500 at A3 size

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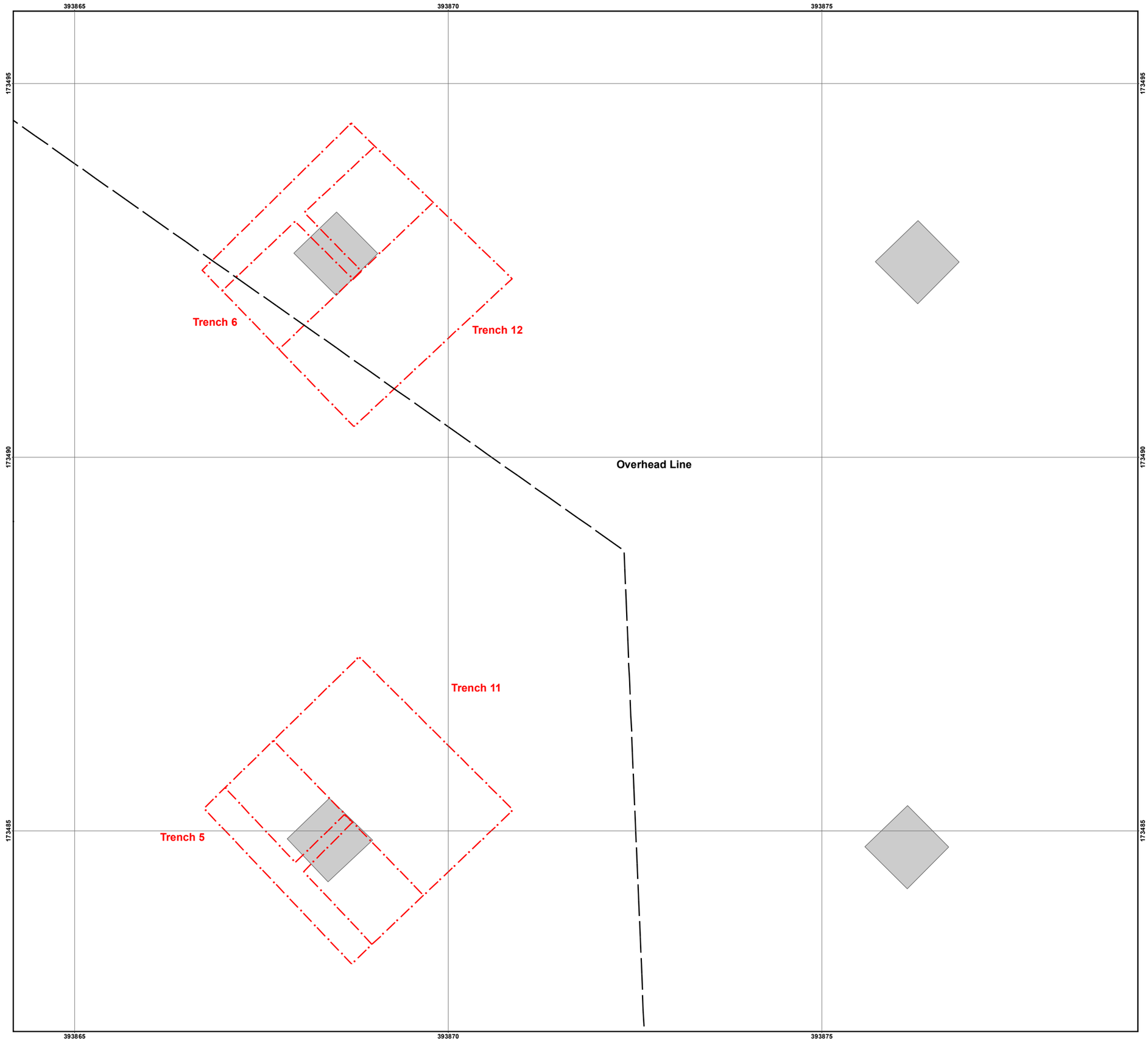
Abingdon
OX14 4RS

ADAS



Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

Melksham to Chippenham 132 kV
OHL Refurbishment Project

Figure 3: MC30 and Trenches 5, 6, 11 & 12

Trenches

Modern Foundations

Drawn by: Cameron Cleaver Date: 16/10/2019

Verified By: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 16/10/2019

N
W E
S

0 2

Metres

Scale 1:50 at A3 size

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Milton Park,
Abingdon
OX14 4RS

ADAS

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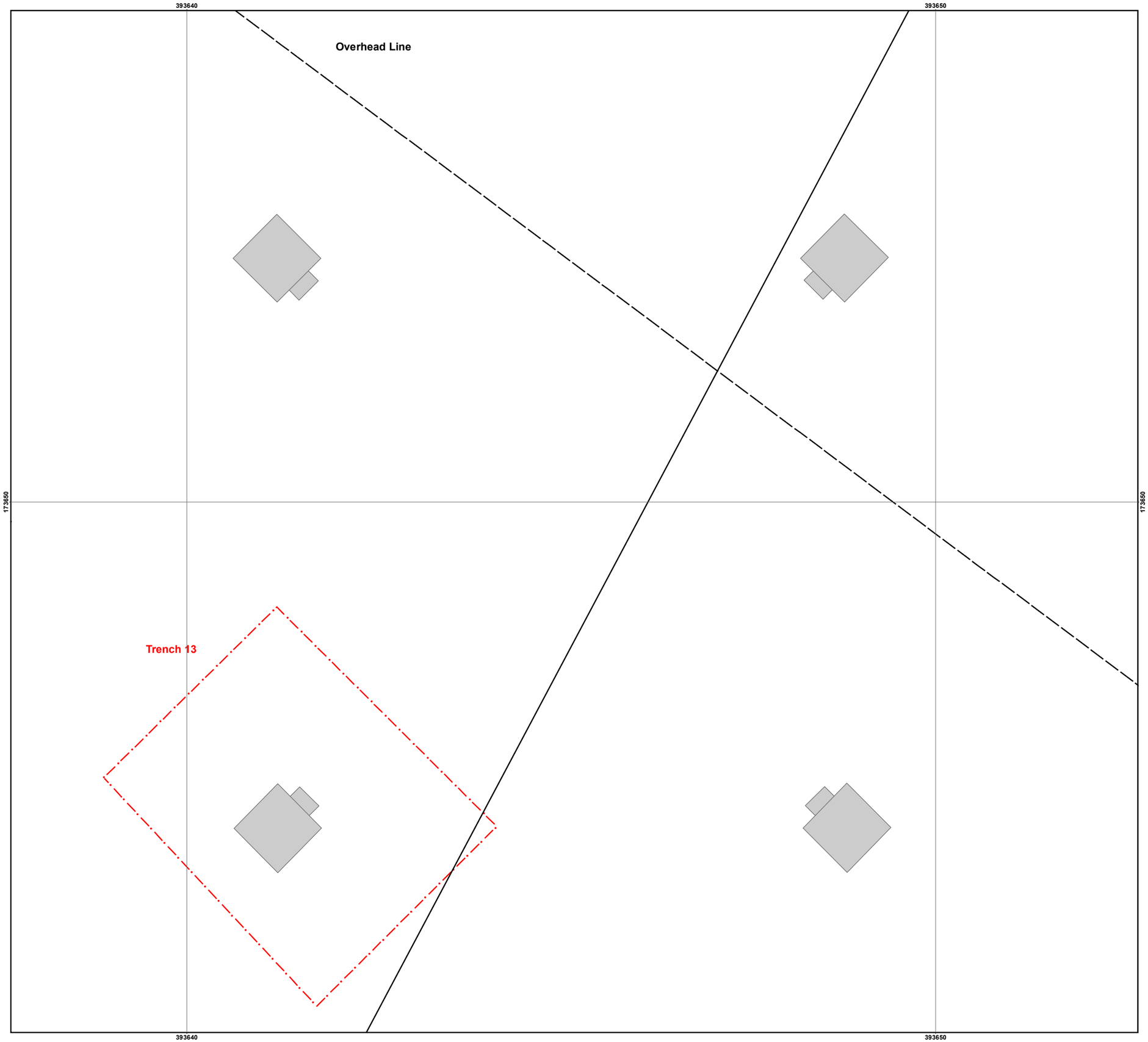

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Melksham to Chippenham 132 kV
OHL Refurbishment Project

Figure 4: MC31 and Trench 13

Trenches

Modern Foundations

Drawn by: Cameron Cleaver Date: 16/10/2019

Verified By: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 16/10/2019

N
W E
S

0 2

Metres

Scale 1:50 at A3 size

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Milton Park,
Abingdon
OX14 4RS

ADAS

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393425
393430
393435
173815
173810
173805

Trench 1
Trench 7
Trench 3
Trench 9
Overhead Line
Trench 10
Trench 8
SP2
SP1
Trench 4
Trench 2

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Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

Melksham to Chippenham 132 kV OHL Refurbishment Project

Figure 3: MC32 and Trenches 1-4 & 7-10

Trenches

Modern Foundations

Drawn by: Cameron Cleaver Date: 16/10/2019

Verified By: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 16/10/2019

N
W E
S

0 2

Metres

Scale 1:50 at A3 size

RSK ADAS Ltd,
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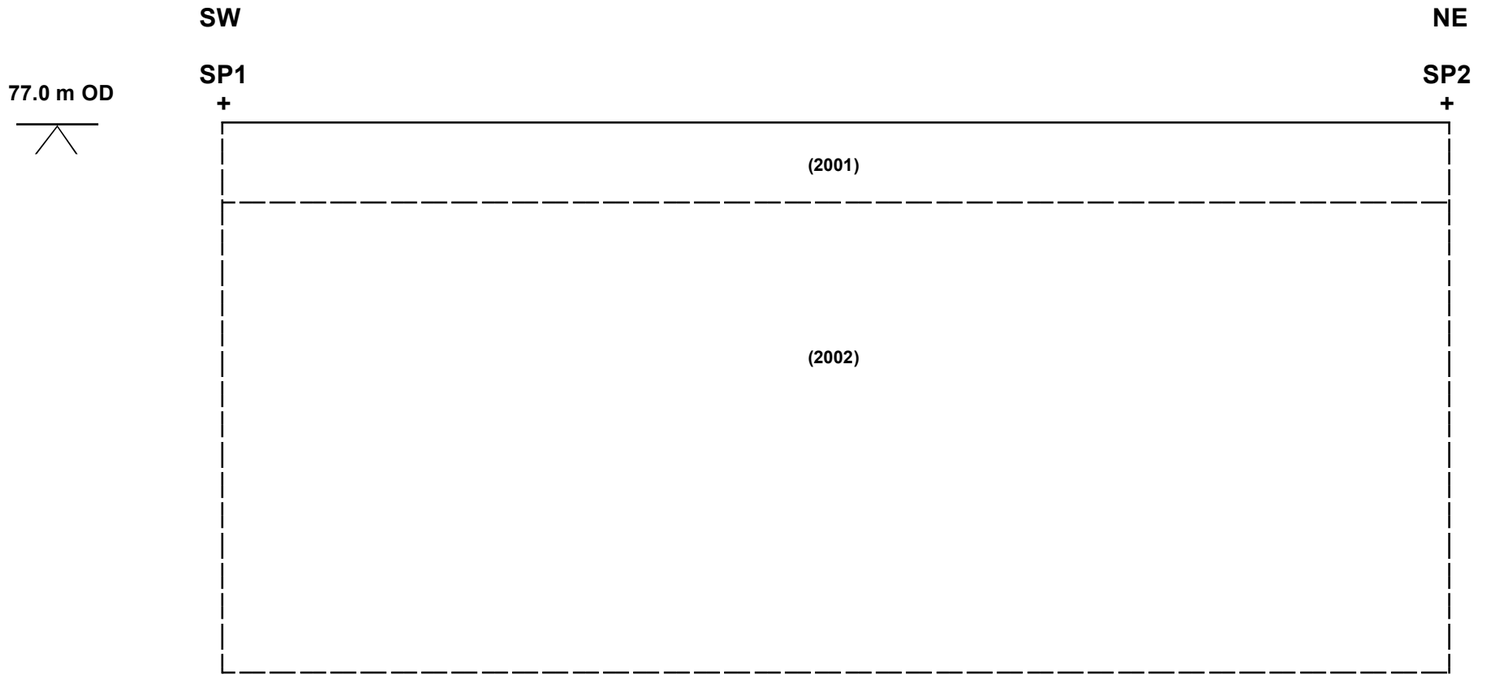
Milton Park,
Abingdon
OX14 4RS

ADAS



Section 2000

Scottish & Southern Electricity Networks

Melksham to Chippenham 132 kV OHL Refurbishment Project

Figure 6: South-East Facing Section of Trench 2 (MC32)

Drawn by: Cameron Cleaver Date: 17/10/2019

Verified By: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 17/10/2019

N
W E
S

0 1

Metres

Scale 1:20 at A3 size

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Appendix C: Plates

Plate 1: North facing view of tower pylon MC32.

Plate 2: North facing section of Trench 2 at MC32.

Plate 3: East facing section of Trench 11 at MC30.

Plate 4: North facing section of Trench 3 at MC32.

Plate 5: Oblique view of collapsed Trench 13 at MC31.