Wessex Archaeology

UGOH 85004 Diversion, Dinton, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Ref: 78910.03

December 2011

UGOH 85004 DIVERSION, DINTON, WILTSHIRE

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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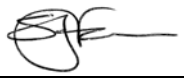
Watching Brief Report

DISCLAIMER

QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	**78910**	**ACCESSION CODE**		**CLIENT CODE**	
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		**NGR**	**401023 131292**		

VERSION	STATUS*	PREPARED BY	APPROVED BY	APPROVER'S SIGNATURE	DATE	FILE
1	I	MK	SF		1/12/11	X:\PROJECTS\78910\REPORT\78910_WB BRIEF REPORT_MKDRAFT220811.DOC
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I= INTERNAL DRAFT E= EXTERNAL DRAFT F= FINAL

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) Power Distribution to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a terminal H pole at land south of Catherine Ford Road, Dinton, Wiltshire centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 401023 131292.

Dinton has medieval origins and earthworks have been recorded from aerial photographs within the area of the proposed development. The Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council therefore advised an archaeological watching brief was maintained during the excavations to record anything of archaeological interest.

A 10m long cable trench and three additional trenches for an H pole and its associated support stays were machine excavated under constant archaeological supervision. No archaeological features or finds were noted during the works and the trenching resulted in only a minimal impact on extant earthworks within the field.

The fieldwork was carried out on the 11th and 22nd of August 2011.

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Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) Power Distribution and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Greg Moore in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Mick Reece (May Gurney) for his co-operation during the works. The advice of Clare King, Assistant County Archaeologist at Wiltshire Council is also acknowledged.

The fieldwork was carried out by Matt Kendall who also compiled this report. Illustrations were prepared by Linda Coleman. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

UGOH 85004 Diversion, Dinton, Wiltshire Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Electricity (SSE) Power Distribution (the Client), to maintain an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on land south of Catherine Ford Road, Dinton, Salisbury, Wiltshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 401023 131292 (hereafter 'the Site').

1.1.2 SSE Power Distribution planned to install a new underground 33kV electricity cable to replace an existing overhead line running from Salisbury to Teffont. A terminal H pole with 4 support stays was necessary in a field where earthworks had been identified from aerial photographs. The Wiltshire County Archaeology Service advised that an archaeological watching brief should be maintained during the works at the location of the earthworks.

1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2011) setting out the methodologies and standards to be implemented during the watching brief, was submitted to and approved by the Assistant County Archaeologist in advance of the fieldwork. In format and content it conformed with current best practice and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (*MoRPHE*, English Heritage 2006) and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).

1.2 Scope of Investigation

1.2.1 The proposed works, consisting of the excavation of a 10m long cable trench and three trenches for the instalment of the H pole and its associated support stays. These groundworks would have an impact on the indentified earthworks that are located within Site since the minimum depth these works were going to 1.2m below the current ground surface. The monitoring of the groundworks conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008) and the Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) set out for the works (WA 2011).

1.3 Site location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The Site is positioned on the south-western fringes of Dinton village approximately 12km west of Salisbury. It is bounded on the east by Catherine Ford Road and to the north by the B3089 and is within a pasture field. A small cluster of buildings are located on the southern edge of the Site, and open fields are to the west (**Figure 1**).

1.3.2 The British Geological Survey map for the area (1:50,000 Solid and Drift Series, sheet 298) indicates that the underlying geology of the Site consists of Gault and Lower Greensand.

1.3.3 The Site lies at an elevation of approximately 84m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.4 Archaeological background

1.4.1 Although there are no designated sites within the development area, Dinton Park (Philipps House) is positioned immediately to the north of the Site and is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden. In addition, Wick Ball Camp (Scheduled Monument no. WI 230), an Iron Age hillfort, is located approximately 1km to the north-west of the Site.

1.4.2 Dinton itself has medieval origins and earthworks have been recorded from aerial photography within the Site itself but not surveyed (pers. comm. Helena Cave-Penney).

2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

2.1.1 The aims of the watching brief was to provide further information concerning the presence/absence, date, nature and extent of any buried archaeological remains and to investigate and record these within the proposed development areas.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (Wessex Archaeology 2011), the standards outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Briefs* (IfA 2008).

3.2 Health and Safety

3.2.1 The work was undertaken in accordance with the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992. A health and safety Risk Assessment was produced by Wessex Archaeology prior to the commencement of the watching brief.

3.3 Fieldwork

3.3.1 The watching brief comprised the mechanical excavation of four interconnecting trenches.

- **Trench 1:** Cable trench
- **Trenches 2 to 4:** Trenches required for the H pole and associated support stays.

3.3.2 Trench 1, the cable trench, was 10m in length and 1.8m wide, whilst Trenches 2-4 each measured 4m long and 1.8m wide and were located immediately to the north of, and perpendicular to, Trench 1 (**Figure 1**). Trenches 2-4 were necessary for stays/support.

3.3.3 All groundworks associated with the excavation of the cable trench and stays which impacted undisturbed ground within the agreed watching brief area were monitored. The groundworks were carried out under constant

archaeological supervision, using a JCB fitted with a toothless grading bucket.

3.3.4 Mechanical excavation proceeded in spits to the required depth for each of the trenches. The machine excavated arisings were stored in a central area and were scanned for artefacts at regular intervals.

3.3.5 Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system, without causing unreasonable delay to the groundworks programme. Due to Health and Safety considerations set out in the Risk Assessment (WA 2011), all recording was undertaken from the trench edge, as the depth of excavation and the instability of the overburden, precluded entry into each trench. Identified features and deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* record sheets and a unique numbering system for individual contexts. All principal strata and features were related to the Ordnance Survey datum.

3.3.6 A photographic record of the watching brief was maintained through digital images. The photographic record illustrated both the detail and general context of the features and deposits identified, and the Site as a whole.

4 FIELDWORK RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section includes information on the natural deposits identified and archaeological features and deposits recorded during the watching brief. Details of the excavated contexts and features are retained in the project archive and a detailed summary of the deposits encountered is included in **Appendix 1**.

4.2 Trenches 1 and 4

4.2.1 Trench 1 (the cable trench) extended from Catherine Ford Road, through the field bank and hedgerow in a westerly direction, under the pre-existing overhead power lines. The trench measured 10m in length and 0.60m wide and was excavated to a depth of 1.20m below the present ground surface.

4.2.2 Three further trenches (Trenches 2-4) associated with the H pole were excavated to the north of, and perpendicular to Trench 1. Trench 4 was excavated for the H pole and measured 4m long by 1.10m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 2.50m below the ground surface. Trenches 2 and 3 each measured 4m long by 0.60m wide and were required for the support stays which required excavation down to a maximum depth of 2m below the ground surface.

4.2.3 The locations of the trenches were designed to reduce the impact of the works on extant earthworks within the field, with only the cable and H pole trench clipping the edge of one of these features.

4.3 Deposit Sequence

4.3.1 The Site was covered by a mid-brown silty clay topsoil (**100**) which contained sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded flint and modern artefacts such as ceramic building material (CBM). The depth of topsoil ranged from 0.15m at the western extent of the excavations, to 0.30m at the eastern end of the Site adjacent to the hedgerow. This material overlay naturally derived

subsoil (**101**) which exhibited a clear horizon with the topsoil above. The subsoil consisted of a 0.30m thick mid-greyish yellow brown silty clay loam which contained occasional inclusions of sandstone and flint gravels, along with a small number of modern artefacts.

4.3.2 The majority of the natural geology seen was Lower Greensand (**102**) consisting of a mid-yellow brown sandy silt containing abundant sub-rounded flint inclusions which measured around 0.10m in width. The Lower Greensand was recorded at a depth of 2m below the ground surface and whilst it continued below this, patches of degraded Gault clay were also observed at this level.

4.4 Archaeological Features

4.4.1 The groundworks resulted in a minimal impact on identified extant earthworks on the Site, with only two of the trenches cutting into the edges of one of the depressions. Although it was noted that the depth of the topsoil increased towards the base of these earthworks, due to the narrow width of the trenches, no further interpretation may be provided.

5 FINDS

5.1.1 Due to their clearly modern date, all artefacts recovered from the topsoil and subsoil in the monitored areas were not retained for further analysis.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

6.1.1 No material suitable for environmental analysis was present within the monitored areas.

7 CONCLUSIONS

7.1.1 The small scale groundwork excavations resulted in a limited impact on extant earthworks within the Site. No artefactual evidence was recovered to clarify the possible date or nature of these features.

7.1.2 Nevertheless, based on their morphology and general form, the earthworks are indicative of low level quarrying within the Site and it is feasible that the features represent small quarry pits, utilising perhaps on an *ad hoc* basis, the underlying greensand geology.

7.1.3 After the pits had fallen into disuse, the hollows would have slowly infilled, leading to the increased depths of the topsoil noted within the trenches. Additional work on the earthworks themselves would further elucidate their function and date which remains unclear.

8 ARCHIVE

8.1 Preparation and Deposition

8.1.1 The archive is currently held at Wessex Archaeology's office building under the site code **78910**. The complete archaeological project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and in accordance with *Archaeological Archives: a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (AAF 2007).

8.1.2 At a later date, the archive and artefacts will be deposited with the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.

8.1.3 The archive will be prepared in accordance with the museum's archive preparation standards. Deposition of the finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 The Archive

8.2.1 The project archive was prepared in accordance with the guidelines outlined in Appendix 3 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and in accordance with the *Guidelines for the preparation of excavation archives for long term storage* (UKIC 1990). It comprises a ring-bound file containing a watching brief attendance form, site 'day book', trench record sheets, photographic register and *Written Scheme of Investigation*.

8.3 Copyright

8.3.1 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. You are reminded that you remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report.

9 REFERENCES

Geological Survey of England and Wales, 1976, Salisbury, Solid and Drift Geology. Sheet 298, 1:50,000

IfA, 2008, Standards and guidance: for an archaeological watching brief

Wessex Archaeology, 2011, UGOH 85004 Diversion, Dinton, Wiltshire, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief, Unpublished Client Report ref. 78910.01, August 2011

Wessex Archaeology, 2011, UGOH 85004 Diversion, Dinton, Wiltshire, Project Health and Safety Risk Assessment, Unpublished Client Report ref. 78910.02, August 2011

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLE

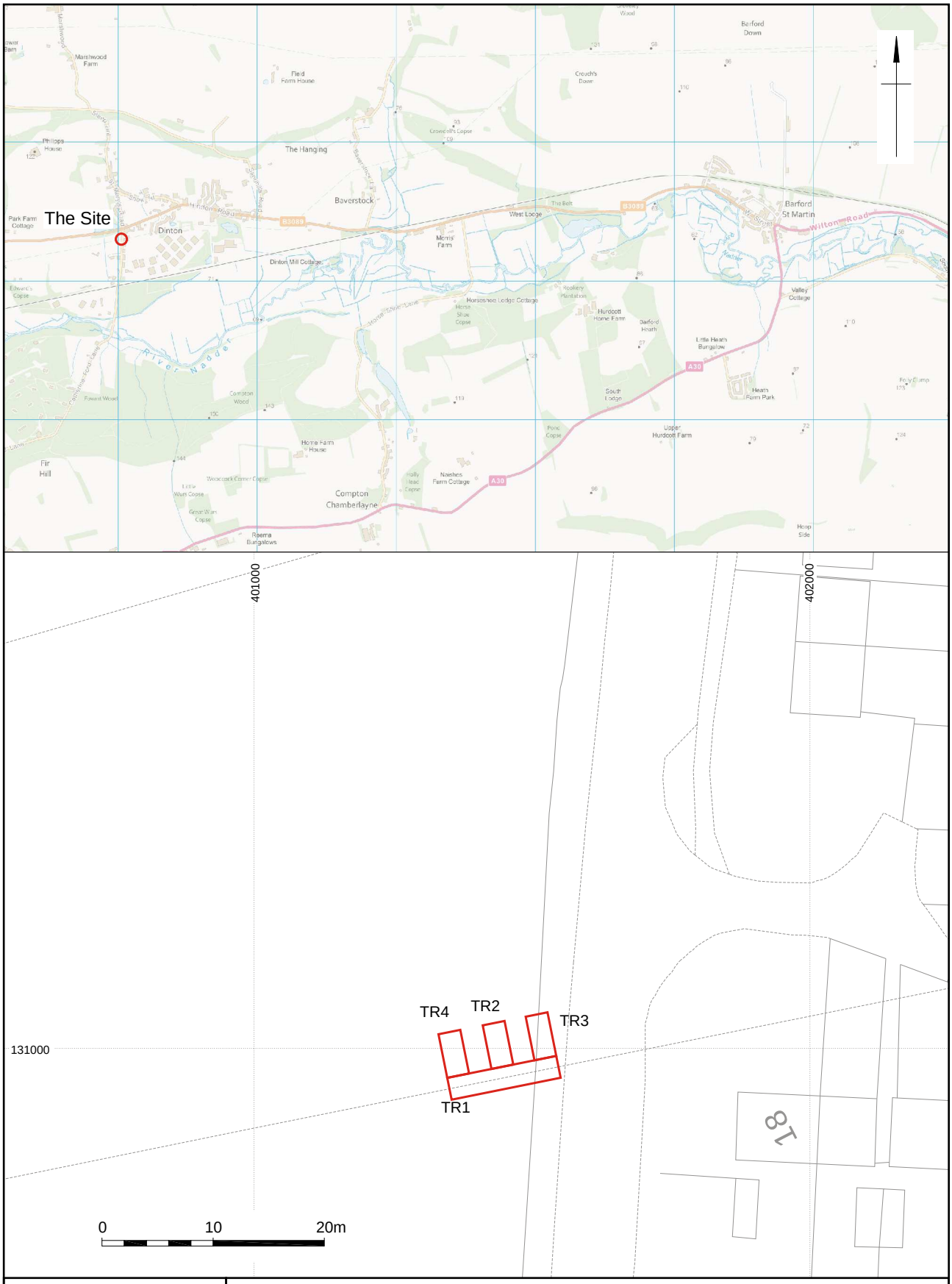
Context	Category	Description	Depth (m)
100	Layer	Topsoil: mid greyish brown silty clay	0 – 0.30
101	Layer	Subsoil: mid greyish yellow silty clay with sparse sandstone and flint gravel inclusions	0.30-0.60
102	Layer	Natural geology: lower greensand comprising a mid yellow brown sandy silt with abundant sub-rounded flint inclusions and patches of degraded Gault clay	0.60-2.0+

APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD FORM

9.1 UGOH 85004, Dinton, Salisbury, Wiltshire - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-115515

Versions				
View	**Version**	**Completed by**	**Email**	**Date**
View 1	1	S Farr	s.farr@wessexarch.co.uk	8 December 2011
Completed sections in current version				
Details	**Location**	**Creators**	**Archive**	**Publications**
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1
Validated sections in current version				
Details	**Location**	**Creators**	**Archive**	**Publications**
No	No	No	No	0/1
File submission and form progress				
Grey literature report submitted?		No	**Grey literature report filename/s**	
Images submitted?		No	**Image filename/s**	
Boundary file submitted?		No	**Boundary filename**	
HER signed off?			**NMR signed off?**	



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Site location plan

Figure 1

Plate 1: Cable trench following machine excavation

Plate 2: West facing representative section in Trench 2

Date:	08/12/11	Revision Number:	0
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