



making sense of heritage

Land off Taplin's Farm Winchfield, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



Planning Reference: 14/00998/MAJOR
Ref: 103041.02
October 2015



**Land off Taplin's Farm,
Winchfield, Hampshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Quality Assurance

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Land off Taplin's Farm, Winchfield, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by TGC Renewables Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during works on land at Taplin's Farm, Winchfield, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 477975, 154962 (hereafter 'the Site').

Conditional planning permission (14/00998/MAJOR) was granted by Hart District Council, the local planning authority (LPA) for the development of a 5.8 megawatt solar PV (photovoltaic) park encompassing a 12 hectare area east of Winchfield.

A watching brief was maintained on groundworks relating to the development, specifically the access road, compounds and infrastructure including cable trenches. Particular emphasis was placed on a priority zone on the north side of the Site that had the potential to uncover remains relating to the medieval Wintney Priory located just 120m outside the Site boundary.

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief, and no finds were recovered from topsoil or subsoil layers.



Land off Taplin's Farm, Winchfield, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology is grateful to TGC Renewables for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, and to Frank Dekker, Operations Director for PS Renewables and Joaquin Ballesteros San Roman, Project Manager for SOLAER. WA would also like to thank David Hopkins, County Archaeological Officer for Hampshire County Council who monitored the Site on behalf of the LPA.

The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Manning. The fieldwork and reporting was undertaken by Lorrain Higbee and the illustrations were prepared by Elizabeth James.



Land off Taplin's Farm, Winchfield, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by TGC Renewables Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during works on land at Taplin's Farm, Winchfield, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 477975, 154962, hereafter 'the Site', (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Conditional planning permission (14/00998/MAJOR) has been granted by Hart District Council, the local planning authority (LPA) for the development of a 5.8 megawatt solar PV (photovoltaic) park encompassing a 12 hectare area east of Winchfield (**Figure 2**).
- 1.1.3 Condition 10 of the planning permission relates to archaeology and states:

No development shall take place until a Written Scheme of Investigation and implementation of a programme of archaeological work, and as a result of this work any required subsequent mitigation has been submitted to and approved in writing by the local planning authority.

Reason

To mitigate the effect of the works associated with the development upon any heritage assets and to ensure that information regarding these heritage assets is preserved by record for future generations in accordance with saved Policy CON 11 of the Hart District Local Plan and NPPF 2012.

- 1.1.4 In order to inform the planning application, prior to its approval, a desk-based assessment (or DBA, Wessex Archaeology 2014) was undertaken to establish the Sites potential. Once approval was confirmed a Written Scheme of Investigation (or WSI) for an archaeological watching brief was prepared (Wessex Archaeology 2015) and approved by the Client and the County Archaeological Officer (CAO) at Hampshire County Council prior to fieldwork commencing.
- 1.1.5 The watching brief was carried out during October 2015.

1.2 Scope of document

- 1.2.1 This document sets out the results of the watching brief which was carried out following the WSI and conforms with current best practise and to the guidance outlined in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment* (MoRPHE, English Heritage 2009), and the Chartered Institute of Field Archaeologists (CIfA) *Standard and Guidance: archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a).



1.3 Site location, geology and topography

- 1.3.1 The Site is located in north-east Hampshire within the Hart district and parishes of Winchfield and Elvetham (**Figure 1**). It lies approximately 1.2 km east of the village of Winchfield, 1.3 km south-east of the village of Hartley Wintney and 1.2 km west of Fleet. The nearest settlement to the Site is Winchfield Hurst, 0.6 km from the Site boundary.
- 1.3.2 The Site comprises an irregular parcel of land approximately 12 ha, situated over three agricultural fields: two larger fields with a smaller field in the north-west corner. It is delineated to the north by a trackway off Taplin's Farm Lane and by hedgerow, to the east by the River Hart, to the west by a tributary of the Hart and to the south by the London and South Western Railway. Oakfield Farm is just to the south-west of the Site boundary.
- 1.3.3 The Site is situated within the Thames Basin Heaths, where the landform is dominated by flat or gently sloping plateaux with numerous watercourses incising broad or sometimes steep-sided river valleys (Natural England) at a height of 59 m aOD. Within the Site itself the topography is flat and the area is delineated by watercourses on almost all sides. A water-filled ditch and large hedge also separate the two larger fields. The underlying geology is mapped as Windlesham Formation - Sand, Silt and Clay, Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period. The local environment was previously dominated by shallow seas (British Geological Survey).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background to the Site, along with its archaeological potential and the impact that the proposed development might have on any surviving archaeological remains, was set out in the DBA. A brief summary of this information is presented below.
- 2.1.2 The DBA established that there is archaeological potential within the development area; defined as the potential for the presence of buried archaeological remains. No previous archaeological investigations have taken place within the Site boundary; however various works have been undertaken within and just outside of the study area. These archaeological works have identified evidence of prehistoric, Romano-British and medieval activity.
- 2.1.3 Of particular note are the remains of the medieval Wintney Priory located at Wintney Farm, just 120 m north of the Site boundary. Lying approximately 1.5 km to the south-east of the Site at Hitches Lane, Fleet an archaeological evaluation (TVAS 2007) identified substantial evidence of Prehistoric, Romano-British activity and to a lesser extent activity relating to the medieval period (Wessex Archaeology 2014).

2.2 Prehistoric and Romano-British

- 2.2.1 The closest prehistoric and Romano-British remains to the Site lie 1.5 km to the south-east at Hitches Lane in Fleet (TVAS 2007). The evidence came to light during an archaeological evaluation and included Bronze Age field systems and part of a mid-late Romano-British rural settlement or farmstead.
- 2.2.2 A prehistoric settlement is thought to exist at Bagwell Green c.1.8 km south-west of the Site boundary however no evidence has been found to substantiate.



2.3 Anglo-Saxon

- 2.3.1 Winchfield Hurst, the settlement nearest to the Site, is not listed in the Domesday Book but other nearby settlements such as Elvetham, Winchfield and Dogmersfield are mentioned.
- 2.3.2 The medieval church of St Mary in Hartley Wintney is thought to have been founded on the site of an earlier Saxon church. Indeed the name 'Wintney' originates from the Old English 'Winteneia', which appears to mean 'Winta's island', i.e. 'Winta's raised land in the marsh' (Coates 1989) which provides some indication of the character of the landscape at this time. Although it has also been suggested that 'Winta' was the name of a Saxon who resided in the area.

2.4 Medieval

- 2.4.1 The site of Wintney Priory is situated just 100 m north of the Site boundary at Wintney Farm. The small priory of Cistercian nuns was founded at Wintney in the 12th century and remained an active priory until the Dissolution in 1536. The priory buildings are visible as crop and/or soil marks and part of a wall was noted during a watching brief in 1969.
- 2.4.2 Human remains were recovered from a test pit dug by the Bagshot Archaeological Society on land just south of Wintney Farm during 2006. The remains are probably medieval and associated with the nearby priory.
- 2.4.3 The late 12th century church of St Mary Magdalene lies 1.1 km north-west of the priory and is a Grade I listed building within the registered rural settlement of Hartley Wintney Church. Elvetham Hall is located partially within the registered area to the north-east of the Site and is surrounded by English Heritage designated 14th century parkland. Traces of the park pale still survive 0.9 km north-east of the Site boundary and also 0.6 km further to the south. The park also includes a lake which originated as fish ponds during the medieval period.
- 2.4.4 Medieval pottery was recovered during the laying of a pipeline in 1994; 1 km east of the Site boundary and at Hitches Lane, Fleet to the south-east of the Site (TVAS 2007).

2.5 Post-medieval and modern

- 2.5.1 The landscape surrounding the Site remained rural in character during the post-medieval period. A number of post-medieval farmsteads are recorded in the vicinity, highlighting its rural character and many of these farms remain today. They include Wintney Farmhouse and barn c.130 m to the north, the barn at Vale Farm 0.75 m to the south-west, Pale Lane Farmhouse 0.80 m to the east and Boys School House 1 km to the north-east.
- 2.5.2 Further post-medieval buildings which although unlisted are recorded as Historic Buildings by the AHBR include the Dairy at Hurst Farm, agricultural buildings and a barn at Taplin's Farm, a barn at Palelane Farm, and a workhouse at Hartley Wintney.
- 2.5.3 Other post-medieval remains include part of a field system at Hitches Lane, Fleet (TVAS 2007), a possible brick kiln shown on the 1591 map of Hartley Wintney.
- 2.5.4 The settlement of Hartley Wintney expanded during this time as a halt on the London-Exeter coaching road (Bullen et. al. 1974) and the parkland at Elvetham was extended, improved and planted throughout the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.
- 2.5.5 The Basingstoke Canal completed in 1794 lies to the south-east at Winchfield Hurst, became an important transport and trade link for the surrounding area.



- 2.5.6 The Tithe maps of Elvetham parish 1839 and Winchfield parish 1842 cover the area of the Site and present a landscape of fields and meadows, much the same as it appears today. Within the Site, the apportionment information related to the Tithe maps records the western field (now two fields) as 'arable' and the eastern field as 'grass'.
- 2.5.7 The maps also indicate that the Site was surrounded by woodland and might once have been wooded itself. A small area of designated ancient woodland exists today at Parkfield Copse, 0.44 km to the east of the Site boundary.
- 2.5.8 The Site is bounded to the south by the London and South Western Railway, which, after being extended from Woking reached its temporary but very important terminus at Winchfield in 1838. All mail brought from London was unloaded at Winchfield and distributed to the rest of the south by mail coach.
- 2.5.9 Three 19th century buildings within the Study Area are recorded on the AHBR as being heritage assets. Two of these are Grade II Listed Buildings: Rose Cottage, 0.76 km to the south-west within the historic rural settlement of Winchfield Hurst and The Boys School House, 1 km north-east of the Site Boundary. Additionally there is an unlisted but historically important dairy at Palelane Farm, 0.85 km east of the Site.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Development proposals and impact

- 3.1.1 The fieldwork consisted of the monitoring of groundworks focused on the main impacts from access routes, compounds and infrastructure (**Figure 2**). Service runs associated with cable trenching routes and any ground reduction through previously undisturbed soils associated with landscaping were subject to archaeological monitoring. This included any groundworks that might affect the stream on the northern side of the Site.

3.2 Project aim

- 3.2.1 The principle aim of the watching brief was to record the archaeological resource during development within a specified area using appropriate methods and practices, and in compliance with the *Code of conduct* and other relevant by-laws of ClfA.

3.3 Project objectives

- 3.3.1 In furtherance of the project aim, the following objectives are defined:

- *to allow, within the resources available, the preservation by record of archaeological deposits, the presence and nature of which could not be established (or established with sufficient accuracy) in advance of development or other potentially disruptive works; including*
 - *To ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;*
 - *To confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
 - *To determine or confirm the approximate extent of any remains;*
 - *To determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains; and*
 - *To determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present.*
- *to provide an opportunity, if needed, for the watching archaeologist to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an*



archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard; and

- *To prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

3.3.2 Specific aims and research questions of the watching brief will be to:

- *Assess the potential canalisation or modification of the watercourse sited along the northern extent of the development area which may be associated with Wintney Prior.*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The fieldwork methodology for the watching brief was detailed in the WSI and is summarised below:

4.2 Recording

4.2.1 All works were carried out in accordance with the ClfA's *Standard and guidance: archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014a), except where superseded by statements made below.

4.2.2 All recording was undertaken using WA's *pro forma* recording sheets and recording system, according to the WSI.

4.2.3 A complete drawn record of excavated and archaeological features and deposits was compiled, including plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales. The Site was surveyed by GNSS, and included heights above Ordnance Datum (Newlyn).

4.2.4 A full digital photographic record was maintained during the watching brief. Digital images are subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds collection

4.3.1 A finds collection policy was adopted throughout the evaluation and this is detailed in the WSI, however no finds were recovered.

4.4 Health and safety

4.4.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974* and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1992*, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

5 MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS

5.1 Monitoring

5.1.1 David Hopkins, County Archaeological Officer for Hampshire County Council was notified in advanced of the commencement of fieldwork, and was kept informed of progress on site.



6 RESULTS

6.1 Introduction

- 6.1.1 The groundworks observed in the watching brief included the excavation of the access road, the CCTV earthing trench, the main electrical cable trenches and the foundations for the substations and other small buildings (**Figure 2**).
- 6.1.2 No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed or recovered during the course of the watching brief.

6.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

- 6.2.1 The groundworks monitored in the watching brief were between 0.30 m to 1 m deep and went through a sequence of topsoil, subsoil and natural deposits. The topsoil, a dark brown silty clay with a firm consistency was between 0.20 m-0.30 m thick, while the subsoil, a mid-orange brown silty clay with moderate light blue-grey mottles, was between 0.50 m-0.60 m thick. The underlying natural deposits varied across the Site, on the north side the natural comprised alluvial sands and gravel, and on the south side, a light orange brown alluvial clay with frequent light blue-grey mottles.

6.3 Access road

- 6.3.1 As part of the initial Site preparations an access road was constructed. This ran from the end of a farm track through the farmyard of Oakfield Farm on the west side of the Site across to the south-east corner. This work involved the construction of a new bridge across the stream that forms the south and west boundaries of the Site and the removal of 0.30 m-0.40 m of topsoil and subsoil (**Plates 1**).
- 6.3.2 The cutting for the road started in a north-easterly direction from the bridge (**Plate 2**), before heading east and then south across the middle of the Site (**Plates 3 and 4**), and finally heading east again, terminating just in front of the communications building and inverter cabin in the south-east corner of the Site.

6.4 CCTV and main electrical cable trenches

- 6.4.1 The main electrical cable trenches were excavated to a depth of 1 m and their location is shown in **Figure 2**. A trench was dug around the periphery of the Site, c.8 m-10 m from the boundary (**Plate 5**). The CCTV earthing trenches were cut from the outer edge of the circuit and were dug to a depth of 0.80 m. Further main electrical cable trenches were dug across the central area of the Site (**Plate 6 and 7**).

6.5 Sub-stations

- 6.5.1 Groundworks for the two sub-station buildings on the south side of the Site adjacent to the access road, and a communications building and inverter cabin in the south-east corner, were also observed. The foundation trenches were dug to a depth of 0.50 m exposing the surface of the underlying alluvial clay (**Plates 8 and 9**).

7 CONCLUSIONS

- 7.1.1 A watching brief was maintained throughout groundworks and included the priority zone relating to the former nunnery on the north side of the Site.
- 7.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief, and no finds were recovered from topsoil and subsoil layers.



8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust. The museum will be contacted ahead of works starting on Site. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Preparation of archive

8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by the local museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

8.2.2 Until final deposition with the museum the archive will be stored at the offices of WA Southern Region in Salisbury.

8.2.3 All archive elements will be marked with the accession number and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- 1 file of paper records

8.3 Security copy

8.3.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.

8.4 Copyright

8.4.1 Wessex Archaeology shall retain full copyright of the commissioned report, under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved; excepting that it will provide an exclusive licence to the client for the use of such documents by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the Project Specification or Design (Wessex Archaeology 2015).

8.5 Oasis

8.5.1 An OASIS (<http://oasis.ac.uk>) online record has been initiated for the work and key fields have been completed on the details, location and creators forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to Hampshire Cultural Trust under the code (**wessexar1-227979**). This will include an uploaded Pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will be in the archive).

8.6 References

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

Brown, D. H., 2011. *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised)



Coates, R., 1989. *The Place Names of Hampshire*. Bradford Local History Series. B.T. Batsford Ltd. London.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists [CIfA], 2014a. 2014a. *Standard and guidance: archaeological watching brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

-- 2014b. *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

English Heritage 2009. *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Manager's Guide*, English Heritage, Kemble (version 1.1)

Society for Museum Archaeologists [SMA] 1995. *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists

Thames Valley Archaeological Services (TVAS). 2007. *Hitches Lane, Fleet: An Archaeological Evaluation for Berkley Homes (Southern) Limited*. Site Code: HLF07/82

Wessex Archaeology, 2014. *Land of Taplin's Farm, Winchfield, Hampshire: Archaeological Desk Based Assessment*. WA Report No. 103040

Wessex Archaeology, 2015. *Land off Taplin's Farm, Winchfield, Hampshire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. WA Rep. Ref.: 103041.01

Online Resources

<http://www.basingstoke-canal.org.uk/>

<http://british-history.ac.uk>

<http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk>

www.hart.gov.uk

<http://www.pastscape.org.uk/>



APPENDIX 1: OASIS SUMMARY

OASIS ID: wessexar1-227979

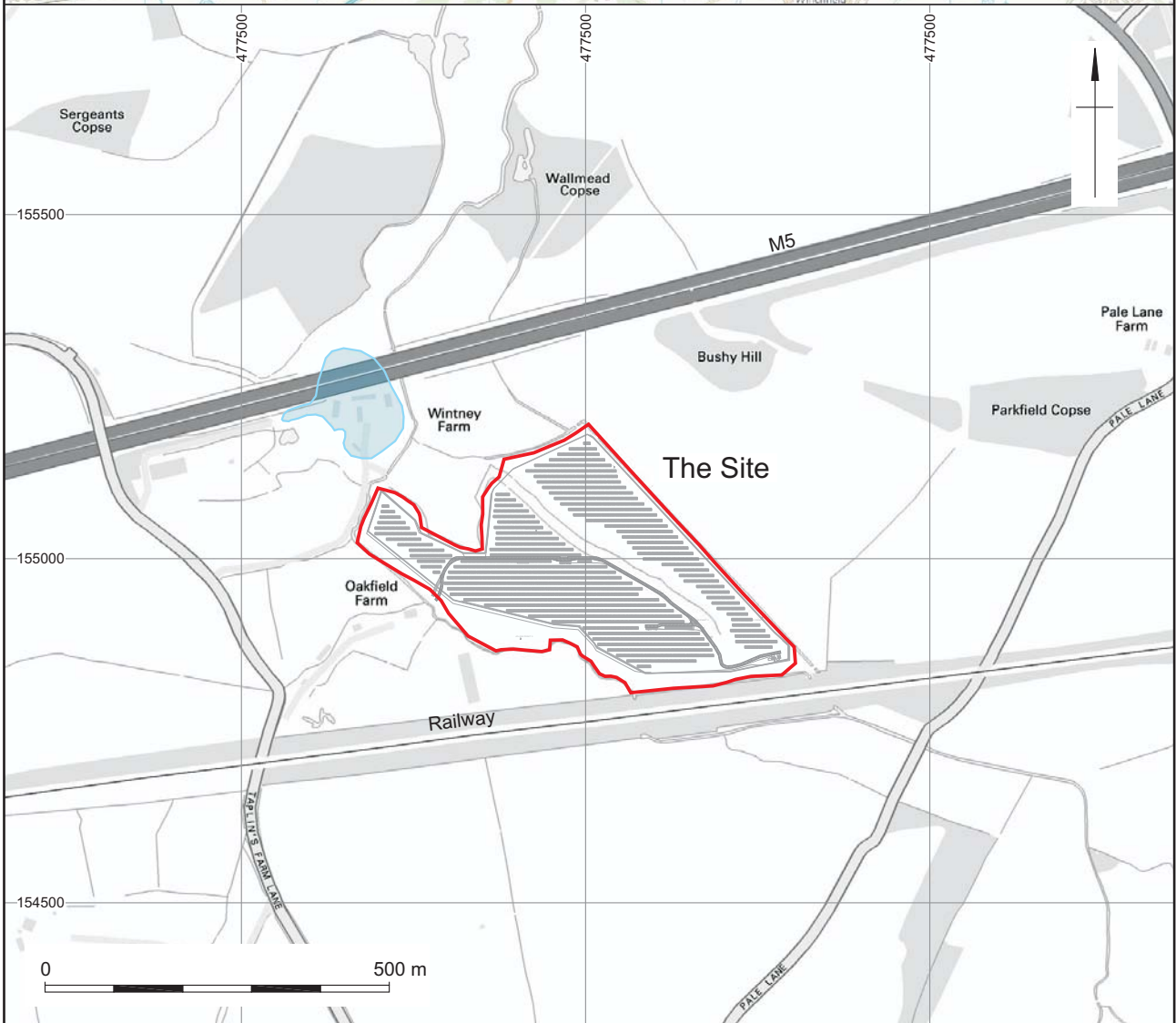
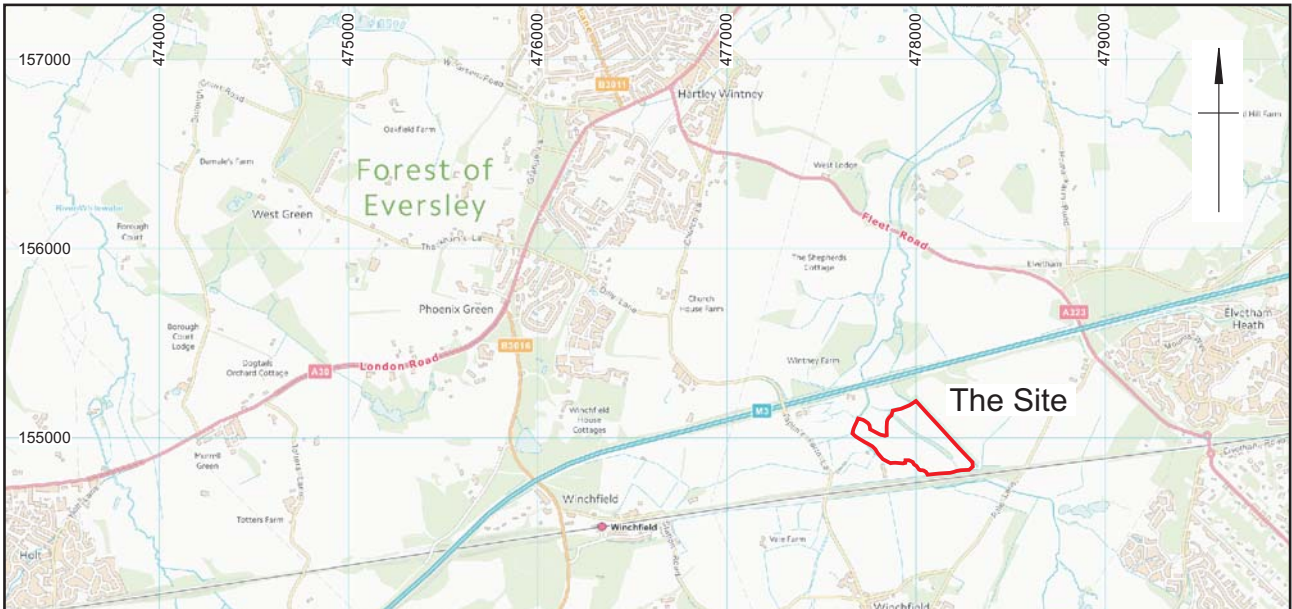
Project details




Project name	Land off Taplin's Farm, Winchfield, Hampshire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by TGC Renewables Ltd to carry out an archaeological watching brief during works on land at Taplin's Farm, Winchfield, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 477975, 154962. Conditional planning permission (14/00998/MAJOR) was granted by Hart District Council, the local planning authority (LPA) for the development of a 5.8 megawatt solar PV (photovoltaic) park encompassing a 12 hectare area east of Winchfield. A watching brief was maintained on groundworks relating to the development, specifically the access road, compounds and infrastructure including cable trenches. Particular emphasis was placed on a priority zone on the north side of the Site that had the potential to uncover remains relating to the medieval Wintney Priory located just 120m outside the Site boundary. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the watching brief, and no finds were recovered from topsoil or subsoil layers.
Project dates	Start: 01-10-2015 End: 14-10-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	103041 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE HART WINCHFIELD Land off Taplin's Farm, Winchfield, Hampshire
Postcode	RG27 8SH
Study area	12 Hectares
Site coordinates	SU 477975 154962 50.936379366453 -1.319690263533 50 56 10 N 001 19 10 W Point
Lat/Long Datum	Unknown
Height OD / Depth	Min: 58m Max: 59m



Project creators

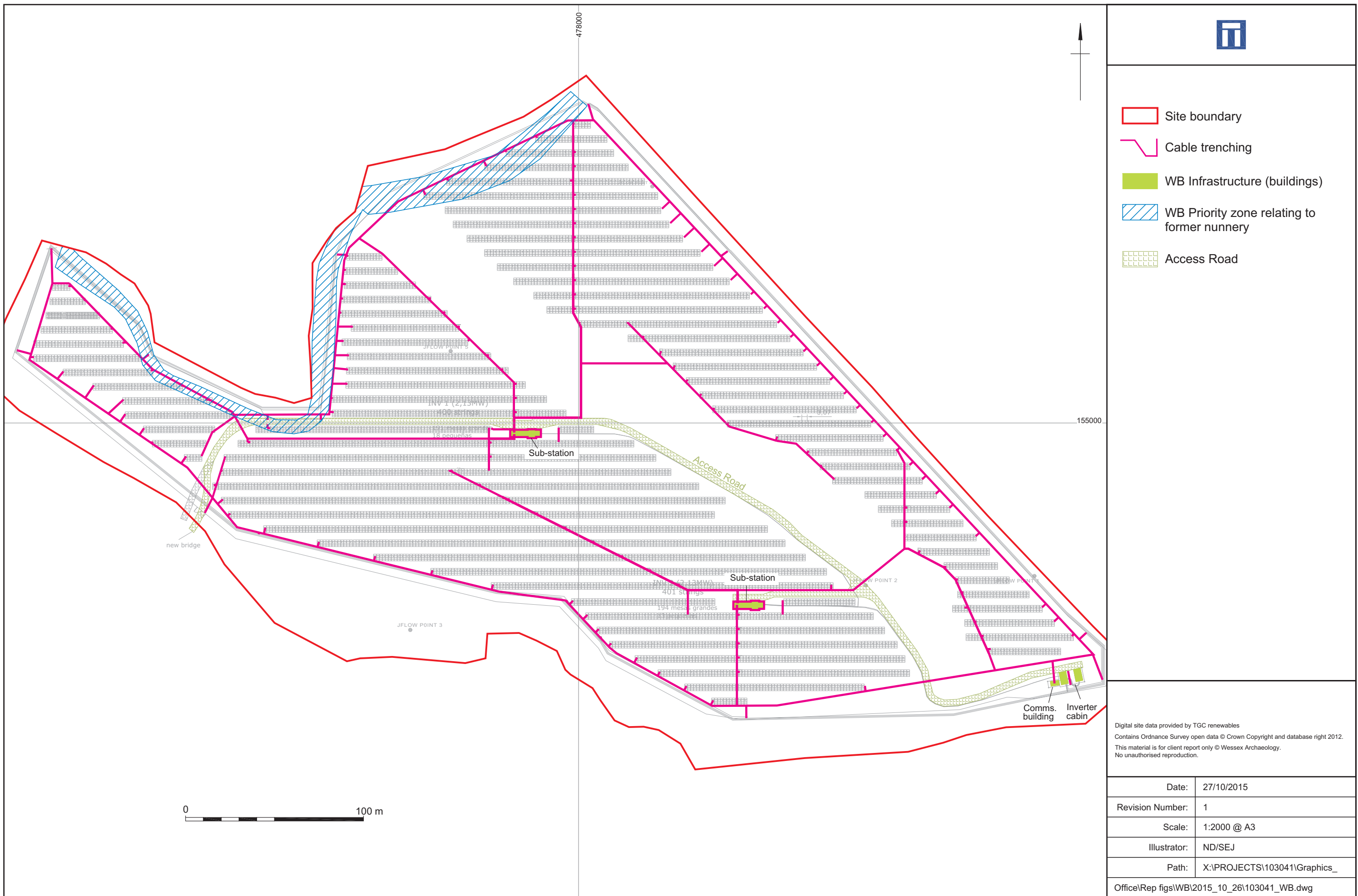
Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Hampshire County Council
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	A Manning
Project supervisor	Lorrain Higbee
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	TGC Renewables Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Hampshire Cultural Trust
Paper Media available	"Diary","Report","Unpublished Text"
Entered by	Lorrain Higbee (l.higbee@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	28 October 2015



	 Site Boundary	Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2012. This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.	
	 Land over 60m OD		
	Date: 27/10/2015	Revision Number: 1	
	Scale: 1:40,000; 1:10,000 @ A4	Illustrator: ND/SEJ	
Path: X:\PROJECTS\103041\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2015_0_26\103041_WB.dwg			

Site location plan

Figure 1



- Site boundary
- Cable trenching
- WB Infrastructure (buildings)
- WB Priority zone relating to former nunnery
- Access Road

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Revision Number:	1
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Site showing Watching Brief areas

Figure 2



Plate 1: South-east facing section access road adjacent to new bridge



Plate 2: Strip for access road adjacent to new bridge, viewed from the north


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Plate 3: Strip for access road through middle of Site, viewed from the east



Plate 4: Strip for access road alongside central ditch/hedge, viewed from the northwest


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Plate 5: Main electrical cable trench within priority zone, viewed from the east



Plate 6: Main electrical cable trench through northern field, viewed from the south-east


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Plate 7: Main electrical cable trench from across northern field, viewed from the south



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Plate 8: Foundation trenches for communications building and inverter cabin, viewed from the east



Plate 9: East facing section foundation trench for inverter cabin

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