



making sense of heritage

Land off Pigeon House Lane, Southwick, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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January 2015



**Land off Pigeon House Lane,
Southwick, Hampshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Land off Pigeon House Lane, Southwick, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Project background	1
1.2 The Site.....	1
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	1
2.1 Introduction	1
2.2 Designated heritage assets	1
2.3 Non Designated Heritage Assets.....	2
<i>Prehistoric</i>	2
<i>Romano British</i>	2
<i>Medieval</i>	2
2.4 Recent investigations in the area.....	2
3 METHODOLOGY.....	2
3.1 Aims and objectives	2
3.2 Fieldwork methodology	2
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	3
4.1 Natural deposits and soil sequences	3
4.2 Romano-British	3
5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE	3
6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE.....	3
7 CONCLUSION	4
8 STORAGE AND CURATION	4
8.1 Museum	4
8.2 Archive.....	4
8.3 Discard policy.....	4
8.4 Copyright.....	4
8.5 Security Copy.....	5



9	REFERENCES.....	5
9.1	Bibliography	5
9.2	Online Sources.....	5

Figures

Figure 1: Site Location and Plan

Plates

Plate 1: West facing representative section of trench.

Plate 2: Oblique shot of section through remnants of Roman road **102** view from the south east.



Land off Pigeon House Lane, Southwick, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Pegasus Group on behalf of Primrose Solar to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the excavation for a cable trench on land to the west of Pigeon House Lane, Southwick, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 464670, 108682. The archaeological watching brief comprised of monitoring the excavation of a 37.70m long by 1.6m wide trench, which was located along the line of a services trench running from a solar panel array.

The trench revealed a layer of gravels along the proposed alignment of the Roman road from Wickham to Chichester. The nature of the deposit suggests it had been the subject of truncation through agricultural practices within the field but was most likely the remnants of the Roman road. There was no evidence for associated features of a Roman road such as flanking ditches. The watching brief took place on the 12th and 13th of January 2015.



Land off Pigeon House Lane, Southwick, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

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Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Owen Horrell of Pegasus Group for commissioning the work on behalf of Primrose Solar. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful to Aaur Rahman of Primrose Solar for his assistance in this respect. The advice and support of Tracy Matthews, Winchester City Council Archaeologist, is also gratefully acknowledged.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Simon Flaherty. The report was written by Simon Flaherty. The report illustrations were drawn by Nancy Dixon. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Andy Crockett.



Land off Pigeon House Lane, Southwick, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) were commissioned by Pegasus Group on behalf of Primrose Solar to undertake an archaeological watching brief on land to the west of Pigeon House Lane, Southwick, Hampshire, Centre on National Grid Reference (NGR) 464670, 108682 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The associated development is a 15MW Solar Park, comprising of 50,000 panels over approximately 80 hectares. The Site being monitored comprised the service trench that connects the Solar Park to the National Grid, which passes across the line of the Roman road from Wickham to Chichester.
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was required in order to provide means of preservation by record of any archaeological remains which may exist in the area of archaeological potential, specifically the Roman road and any associated features. The watching brief was undertaken in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) *Standards and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (2014).
- 1.1.4 The fieldwork took place over the 12th and 13th of January 2015.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site is boarded on its eastern side by Pigeon House Lane, on its southern and western side by a tributary of Wallington River, and in a broader context is located towards to the south of Lyeheath Farm (**Figure 1**). The site is at height of 30m above Ordnance Datum (aOD), and the land is generally level, though sloping gently away to the west. The British Geological Survey¹ records the area as London Clay Formation- Clay, Silt and Sand. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 34 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The Site is located near a number of areas of archaeological interest in the near vicinity. A 1000m study area around the location of the investigations was established in order to provide the context for the discussion and interpretation.

2.2 Designated heritage assets

- 2.2.1 There are no designated heritage assets within the study area.

¹ www.bgs.ac.uk



2.3 Non Designated Heritage Assets

Prehistoric

- 2.3.1 There have been a handful of individual find spots near the site, mostly prehistoric in date. At a distance of approximately 400m to the south-east of the site OGS Crawford noted on a 6" OS map that it was the find spot of a Neolithic flint axe head. To the southwest of the site at a distance of approximately 200m, at the edge of Comphouse Common and Sawyers Wood, a Bronze Age palstave was found.

Romano British

- 2.3.2 Lying just outside the study area at a distance of approximately 1.25km to the north west, along the projected line of the Roman road from Wickham to Chichester, is the possible remnants of a Roman mansion, surviving as a sub rectangular earthen bank that was bisected by the Roman road; it is thought the southern side was destroyed by the construction of a football pitch.

Medieval

- 2.3.3 Wanstead Farm to the north-east of the site at a distance of approximately 700m is the location of Wanstead church dating to the medieval period; it is also the supposed location of a Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) that is considered to be associated with the church.

2.4 Recent investigations in the area

- 2.4.1 To the east of the Site, at a distance of approximately 100m, prior to contractor works in 1973 a section was placed across the agger of the Roman road that ran from Wickham to Chichester. Results demonstrated the road consisted of a layer of brown gravel metalling that was 5m wide with a distinct camber. Located on the southern side of the metalled surface was a shallow ditch or scoop between 2 and 4m wide and to the north of the road at a distance of 7m was a second ditch that was 5m wide.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 With due regard to the ClfA *Standards and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), the generic aims of the project were to:

- *Determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains specifically the presence of the Roman road and associated features, and should remains be found to be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest standard;*
- *Determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the of the remains , by means of artefactual or other evidence;*
- *Determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains;*
- *Determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains;*
- *Determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present;*
- *Prepare a report on the results of the watching brief.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 All works were undertaken in accordance the guidance and standards set outlined in the ClfA' s *Standards and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014) and comprised



the monitoring and recording of a single 37.70m long by 1.6m wide trench across the proposed route of the Wickham to Chichester Roman road at Lyeheath.

3.2.2 The trench was excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical excavator employing a toothless ditching bucket.

3.2.3 All potential features of archaeological origin were partially excavated to ascertain their nature and function and were fully recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets. All deposits were assigned a unique number.

3.2.4 A photographic record was maintained using a digital photography that adhered to the National Monuments Records Digital Imaging Guidelines. A full graphic record was maintained. The site drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Natural deposits and soil sequences

4.1.1 Underlying modern ploughsoil, the natural stratigraphic sequence consisted of dark grey black silty clay up to a depth of 0.3m. This overlaid a mottled mid yellow grey clay natural (**Plate 1**).

4.2 Romano-British

4.2.1 During the excavation of the trench across the course of the Roman road a layer of flint gravels, **102**, up to a maximum depth of 0.18m was found (**Plate 1** and **2**). The spread of gravels had a width of 10.2m; this was better defined in section than plan. The diffuse spread correlated with the proposed route of the Roman road, following an approximate WNW to ESE alignment. No evidence for metalling, or indeed the previously recorded camber, was observed.

4.2.2 Furthermore, no evidence was recorded for the previously observed broad shallow flanking ditches for the road were found within the trench. The very shallow diffuse nature of the gravel spread, double the width of the road remains observed in 1973 to the south east, suggests that the original metalled surface had been badly truncated through the effects of modern agricultural activity within the field.

4.2.3 It is of note that earlier editions of Ordnance Survey mapping for the area (e.g. the MAGIC base-mapping²) indicate that formerly a visible earthwork existing in this location. It is therefore presumed that what survived of the road has now effectively been removed through ploughing.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1.1 No archaeological artefacts were recovered during the Archaeological watching brief.

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

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

² <http://www.magic.gov.uk/#>



7 CONCLUSION

- 7.1.1 The watching brief revealed a diffuse gravel deposit which is likely to represent the remnants of the agger of the Roman road that ran from Wickham to Chichester. No structure or obvious surfacing for the deposit was identifiable, most likely due to relatively recent agricultural practices within the field. No associated finds were found within the gravel layer, but it did correlate with the projected line of the Roman road.
- 7.1.2 No trace of the previously recorded shallow broad flanking ditches was observed; these were therefore either never present at this specific location, or along with the agger (recorded relatively recently on Ordnance Survey mapping as an earthwork) have been wholly truncated by modern ploughing.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Museum

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with **Winchester Museums Service**. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project **107630**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

8.2 Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics, artefacts, ecofacts and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by **Winchester Museums Service**, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the **107630**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- *01 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics*

8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

8.4 Copyright

- 8.4.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The Museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights* regulations 2003.



8.5 Security Copy

- 8.5.1 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.

9 REFERENCES

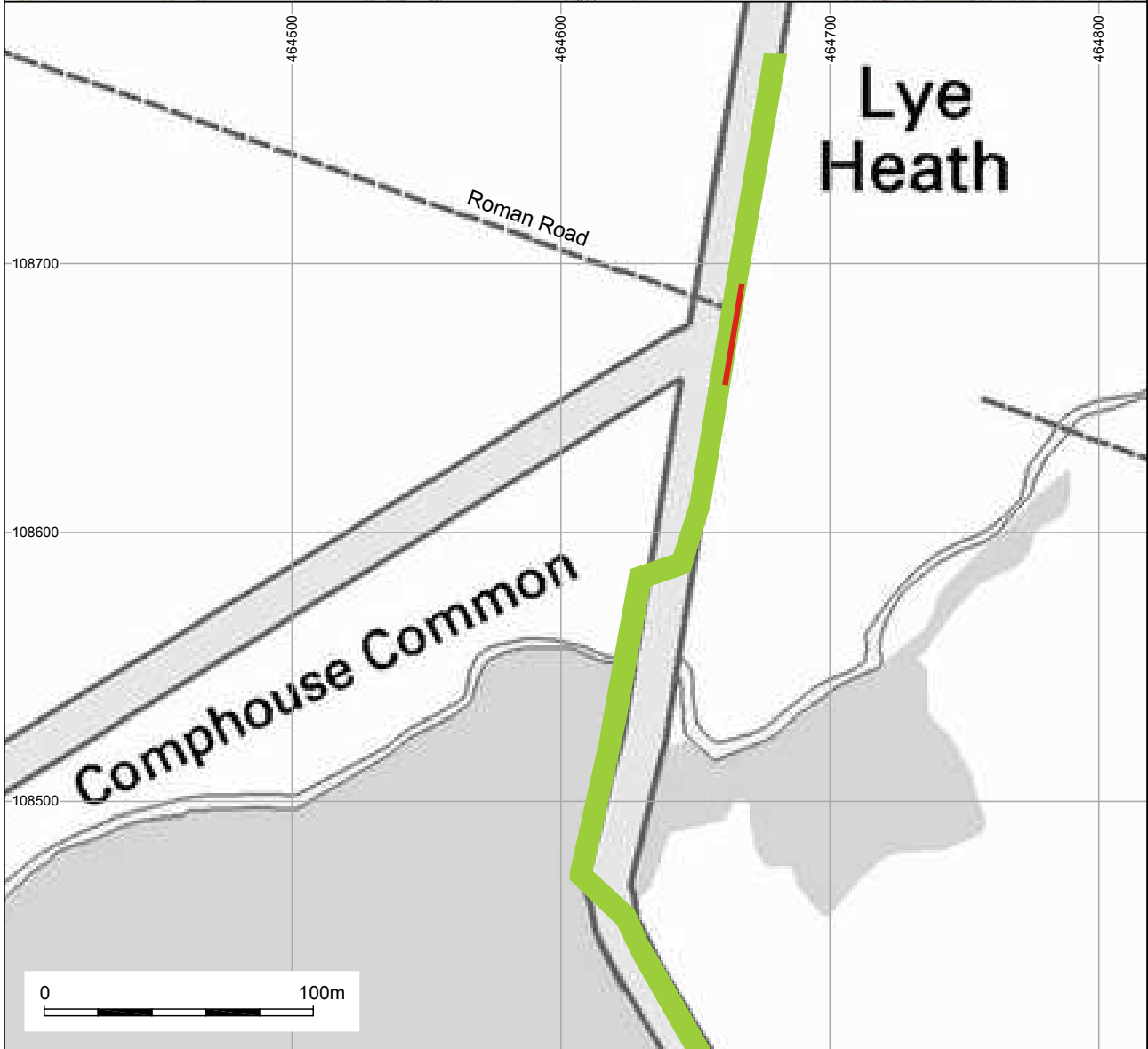
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Site location and plan

Figure 1

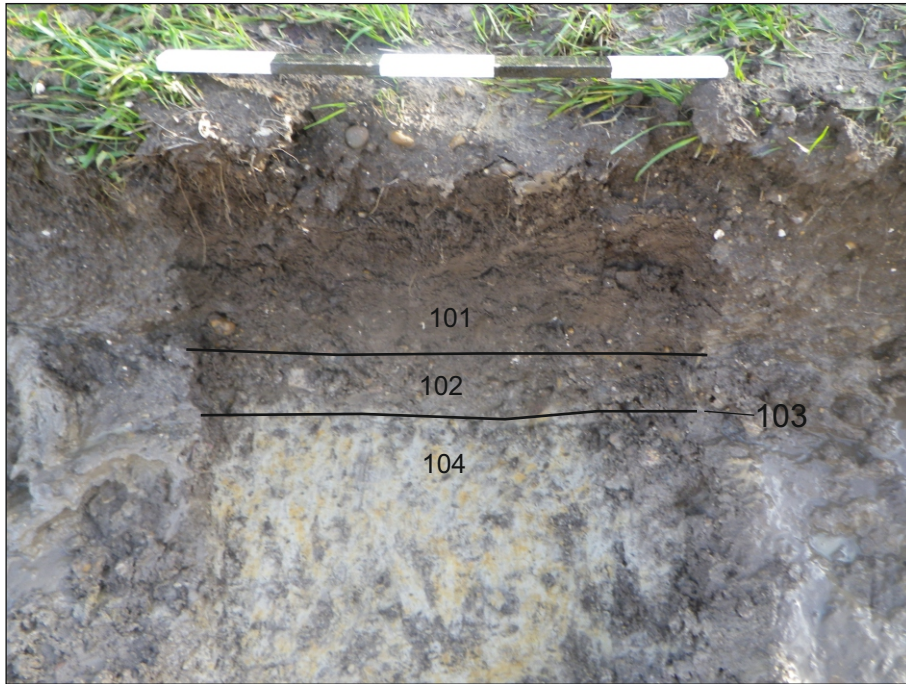



Plate 1: West facing representative section of trench



Plate 2: Oblique shot of section through remnants of Roman road 102 view from the south-east

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