Ratfyn (RATF) E2L5 11kV Pole Replacement Works

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

Scheduled Ancient Monument: Ogbury Camp, NHLE 1005677
Ref: 277010.04
October 2023

wessexarchaeology

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Site location	Ogbury Camp, Great Durnford
County	Wiltshire
National grid reference (NGR)	414322 138290 (SU 14322 38290)
Statutory designations	Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1005677)
Planning authority	Historic England and Wiltshire Council
Museum name	The Salisbury Museum
Museum accession code	TBC
OASIS Id	wessexar1-519454

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (AMR) during the removal and replacement of four 11kV single electricity wooden poles (Poles 30, 31, 33, 34) at locations along a 500 m section of the powerline which extends across Scheduled Ancient Monument: Ogbury Camp (NHLE 1005677; NGR 414322 138290).

The archaeological investigation was undertaken as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent granted on 29th August 2023 (SMC S00244585).

The works comprised the lifting of the four identified defective wooden electricity poles and the cleaning of debris from the existing postholes and installation of the replacement poles at three of the locations (Poles 31, 33 and 34). At Pole 30 a new posthole was required and was augured to the immediate south of the existing pole. New stays were also installed by auger at Pole 30, with the old stays cut off below ground level.

All elements of the pole replacements were monitored by the attending archaeologist and each posthole and the associated works were subject to photographic record. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were identified during the AMR despite its location within the hilltop enclosure of Ogbury Camp (NHLE 1005677) and a landscape rich in prehistoric and historic activity. This is likely due to the methods employed for the replacement of the electricity poles, which were designed to be of limited impact for the purposes of preservation of the Scheduled Ancient Monument.

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks, for commissioning the archaeological watching brief, in particular John O'Reilly. Wessex Archaeology is also grateful to Melanie Barge, Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England for monitoring the archaeological investigation and providing consultee advice.

Ratfyn (RATF) E2L5 11kV Pole Replacement Works

Archaeological Monitoring and Recording

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Electricity Networks (SSEN) to undertake a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording (AMR) during the removal and replacement of four 11kV single electricity wooden poles (Poles 30, 31, 33, 34). The monitored works took place in four locations along a 500 m section of the powerline which extends across Scheduled Ancient Monument: Ogbury Camp (NHLE 1005677; NGR 414322 138290; Fig. 1). The NGR for each pole location is as follows:

- Pole 30 – 414343 138547
- Pole 31 – 414270 138497
- Pole 33 – 414102 138380
- Pole 34 – 414019 138323

1.1.2 Following a survey undertaken by SSEN these poles were identified as defective with a requirement for their replacement. The public benefits of these works will comprise a more reliable, essential and secure electricity supply as a result of part of the overhead network being rebuilt.

1.1.3 The AMR was carried out as a condition of Scheduled Monument Consent (SMC) granted by the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media & Sports (DCMS), advised by Historic England, on 29th August 2023 (SMC S00244585).

1.1.4 The AMR was undertaken in accordance with the conditions set out within the SMC and a written scheme of investigation (WSI) which detailed the aims, methodologies and standards to be employed (Wessex Archaeology 2023). The WSI was approved by the Inspector of Ancient Monuments at Historic England (HE) prior to the commencement of fieldwork.

1.1.5 The WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) provided for the replacement of the four defective poles whereby the new poles were instated into the existing postholes. Following the removal of the former pole each post hole was to be cleared of any debris to ensure a secure base for the installation of the replacement pole. At Pole 30 new stays were to be augured and the former stays cut below ground level.

1.1.6 The only variation to this methodology was on P30 at the eastern end of the works where, due to engineering issues and maintaining correct angles of the cables, a new posthole was required. Measuring 0.7 m x 0.8 m, this was augered to a depth of 1.8 m to the immediate south of the old posthole.

1.1.7 The watching brief was undertaken 7th September 2023.

1.2 Scope of the report

1.2.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the results of the AMR, to interpret the results within their local or regional context (or otherwise), and to assess their potential to address the aims outlined in the WSI, thereby making available information about the archaeological resource (a preservation by record).

1.3 Location, topography and geology

1.3.1 The AMR was located within a wooded area on Scheduled Ancient Monument: Ogbury Camp hilltop enclosure (NHLE 1005677), east of Great Durnford, Wiltshire. Ogbury Camp is situated within agricultural fields with the River Avon meandering across the landscape 500 m to the west.

1.3.2 Existing ground levels are recorded as 112 m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

1.3.3 The bedrock geology is chalk of the Seaford Chalk Formation. A sedimentary bedrock formed between 89.8 and 83.6 million years ago during the Cretaceous period (British Geological Survey 2023).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The archaeological and historical background was accessed within the WSI. A 500 m radius of the site was selected for the assessment and the results are reproduced below, with relevant entry numbers from the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record (WHER) and the National Heritage List for England (NHLE) included. Additional sources of information are referenced, as appropriate.

2.2 Archaeological and historical context

Ogbury Camp (NHLE 1005677)

2.2.1 The scheduled area (WSHER EWI960) within which Poles 30, 31, 33 and 34 are situated, comprises Ogbury Camp. This monument includes a hilltop enclosure situated on the summit of the western tip of a prominent ridge between two dry valleys overlooking the valley of the River Avon. Such monuments date to between the Bronze Age and Early Iron age. The hilltop enclosure survives as a roughly heart shaped enclosure covering approximately 25 ha. It is defined by a single rampart bank which survives differentially, but completely throughout the circuit and is at its best to the north where it is up to 3.9 m high externally and 0.9 m high internally, beyond which is a completely buried ditch. The interior contains traces of an extensive field system of rectangular fields which are visible on aerial photographs. The hilltop enclosure appears on the 1773 map by Andrews and Dury and a small rectangular internal structure was partly excavated by Colt Hoare although nothing notable was recorded. Over the years a Neolithic flint scraper and Iron Age pottery sherds have been discovered as stray surface finds.

Prehistoric (970,000 BC–AD 43)

2.2.2 Ogbury Camp lies in one of the richest archaeological landscapes in the country. The nationally significant Stonehenge, Avebury and Associated Sites World Heritage Site to the northwest of the study site has been designated to cover an archaeological landscape comprising complexes of Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial and funerary monuments and associated sites were constructed. Each area contains a focal stone circle and henge, together with many other nationally significant monuments. Associated with Stonehenge

such features include the Avenue, the Cursuses, Durrington Walls, Woodhenge, and the densest concentration of burial mounds in Britain.

2.2.3 The site of a bowl barrow, of Neolithic-Bronze Age date, is known c.700 m northwest of the site (NHLE 1010879). To the south of the site 1 km away lies the Little Down barrow group which consist of two bowl barrows excavated in 1731-2 revealing two urns, an inhumation and a spearhead (NHLE 1005678; WSHER EWI995-6). This barrow group also includes several other possible and undated bowl barrows.

2.2.4 Ditches dated to the Bronze Age were identified in archaeological work at Great Durnford Manor c. 150 m to the east of the site (WSHER MWI76392; EWI7816).

2.2.5 Artefactual discoveries of prehistoric date within the vicinity of the site recorded on the Portable Antiquities Database comprises material principally of Neolithic date, typically located to the north and south of the study site. The finds including axeheads (WILT-7B74F6, WILT-E544F7) flint flakes (WILT-654DF1; WILT-297B04-5; WILT-4447B6, WILT-443A04), a retouched flake (WILT-4412E7), flint endscrapers (WILT-2951F3, WILT45AA55, WILT-432EC3), scrapers (WILT-E34AE5, WILT-E74733, WILT-460D66, WILT-45DEF6, WILT-45C973), lithic implements (WILT-E70221, WILT-E6AF17, WILT-E68D4,WILT-462E00, WILT-43A717, WILT-439487, WILT-437EE5) and an arrowhead (WILT-43BD38).

2.2.6 Bronze Age material recorded on the Portable Antiquities Database includes an arrowhead (WILTE17754).

2.2.7 Undiagnostic worked flint has been identified at Church Farm, c. 450 m to the west of the study site (WSHER SU13NW553).

Romano-British (AD 43–410)

2.2.8 The sole records of Roman remains recorded within the vicinity of the site on the Wiltshire and Swindon HER comprise artefactual discoveries. A coin was found at Ogbury Camp (WSHER SU13NW301), and Romano-British pottery was identified during monitoring to the south-east of Lake House c. 1.2 km to the north west of the site (SWHER SU13NW305; EWI4013).

2.2.9 Artefactual discoveries within the vicinity of the site recorded on the Portable Antiquities Database, include coins (WILT-C3CF8D, WILTC39F54, WILT-592871, WILT-592495, WILT-5916AO, WILT-590877, WILT-58F2C7, WILT-42D3413); brooches (WILT-E109E7, WILT-46A227), a mount (WILT-0DAB11), a sherd of Samian pottery (WILTBE09B4), and an intaglio (WILT-43D827).

Anglo-Saxon to Medieval (410–1500)

2.2.10 The name Durnford is understood to have Anglo Saxon origins. Archaeological works at the Lake House c. 1.2 km to the northwest of the site revealed a human skeleton radiocarbon dated to the 5th-6th century (WSHER SU13NW401; EWI1331). An undated skeleton of possible Saxon or Roman date is recorded from Upper Woodford to the west of the site (WSHER SU13NW550). Ditches dated to the Saxon period were identified in archaeological work at Great Durnford Manor to the west of the site (WSHER MWI76393).

2.2.11 A deserted Medieval settlement is identified at Lake to the northwest of the site. The earthworks indicate village buildings laid out either side of a central track. The site comprises a nationally significant designated Scheduled Monument (NHLE 1010879; SU13NW450, EWI6818).

2.2.12 Artefactual discoveries of Medieval date within the vicinity of the site recorded on the Portable Antiquities Database include an early Medieval strap end (WILT-29B213), together with a Medieval coin (WILT-C3WF51), buckles (WILT-9D5877, WILT-DFC1F1), a strap fitting (WILT-1C2F01), a thimble (WILT-1C0136), a purse hanger (WILT-E9AC82), a book fitting (WILT-E96352), a clasp (WILT- 2A41E6), a harness pendant (WILT-0D96D0).

Post-medieval to modern (1500–present)

2.2.13 Historic mapping dating back to the 1773 Andrews and Dury Map of Wiltshire shows Ogbury Camp and it appears on the earliest OS Ordnance Survey drawing of 1807. Post medieval and modern development within the vicinity of the site and as shown on Ordnance Survey mapping to the current day relates to the development of Great Durnford, the expansion of Amesbury to the northeast and Boscombe Down airfield to the east.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 Aims

3.1.1 The aims of the AMR, as stated in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) and as defined in the CIfA *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2014a), were 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 the development or other works;
- 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
- guide, not replace, any requirement for contingent excavation or preservation of possible deposits.

3.2 Objectives

3.2.1 In order to achieve the above aims, the objectives of the AMR, also defined in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023), were to:

- determine the presence or absence of archaeological features, deposits, structures, artefacts or ecofacts within the specified works area;
- record and establish, within the constraints of the works, the extent, character, date, condition and quality of any surviving archaeological remains (a preservation by record);
- place any identified archaeological remains within a wider historical and archaeological context in order to assess their significance; and
- make available information about the archaeological resource on the site by preparing a report on the results of the AMR.

4 METHODS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were undertaken in accordance with the detailed methodology set out within the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023) and in general compliance with the standards outlined in CIfA guidance (CIfA 2014a). The methods employed are summarised below.

4.2 Fieldwork methods

General

4.2.1 The AMR monitored the removal of each pole (Pole 30, 31, 33 and 34) and the subsequent clearing of debris through re-auguring of the existing posthole to clear debris, and installation of new poles at locations Pole 31, 33 and 34 (Cover, Figs 2 – 3). At Pole 30, archaeological monitoring of the auguring of a new posthole measuring 0.7 m wide, 0.8 m long and 1.8 m deep (Figs 4 – 5). The installation of new stays was also monitored in association with Pole 30. The site of each pole was left in its original condition following the conclusion of the works (Figs 6 – 8).

4.2.2 The watching archaeologist monitored all work undertaken within the specified area.

4.2.3 The arisings from the auguring of the new posthole and stays at Pole 30 were scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. The remaining postholes and debris were also checked for artefacts. No archaeological material was observed.

Recording

4.2.4 A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.

4.3 Finds and environmental strategies

4.3.1 Strategies for the recovery, processing and assessment of finds and environmental samples were in line with those detailed in the WSI (Wessex Archaeology 2023). The treatment of artefacts and environmental remains was in general accordance with: *Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (CIfA 2014b), *Environmental Archaeology. A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Methods, from Sampling and Recovery to Post-excavation* (English Heritage 2011) and CIfA's *Toolkit for Specialist Reporting* (Type 1: Description).

4.4 Monitoring

4.4.1 The Inspector for Ancient Monuments (HE) monitored the watching brief and was informed of its progress and completion in email correspondence.

5 STRATIGRAPHIC EVIDENCE

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 During the AMR no archaeological features or deposits were identified. Each of the three existing postholes and the new posthole and stays at Pole 30 were subject to photographic recording.

5.2 Soil sequence and natural deposits

5.2.1 The posthole for Pole 30, measuring 0.7 m wide, 0.8 m long and 1.8 m deep, was augured through a mid-greyish brown friable sandy silt deposit, heavily affected by tree roots and with abundant calk inclusions. This overlay the natural chalk geology, the upper surface of which was heavily fragmented (Fig. 5).

5.2.2 The existing post-holes for Poles 31, 33 and 34 measured approximately 0.8 m in diameter and 1.8 m in depth. These were seen to have been augured through a similar soil sequence, though as the works progressed westwards, the overlying deposit became browner in appearance (Fig. 3).

6 FINDS EVIDENCE

6.1.1 No finds were encountered during the AMR.

7 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

7.1.1 No deposits suitable for environmental sampling were present during the AMR.

8 CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Summary

8.1.1 Despite the location of the works within the bounds of Ogbury Camp (NHLE 1005677) and in a landscape rich in archaeological and historical evidence, no archaeological remains were observed.

8.2 Discussion

8.2.1 The methods employed for the replacement of the 11kV electricity poles were designed to have minimal impact upon the SAM Ogbury Camp. As proved by the lack of archaeological signature present during the AMR, such methods were effective in achieving limited impact below the ground surface. However, the limited scope of the augured holes in order to achieve limited impact levels also results in tentative conclusions being drawn as to the precise analysis of the soil sequence and its accumulation.

9 ARCHIVE STORAGE AND CURATION

9.1 Museum

9.1.1 The archive resulting from the watching brief is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. The Salisbury Museum has agreed in principle to accept the archive on completion of the project. A notification of fieldwork was sent to the museum and an accession number will be generated in due course. Deposition of any finds with the museum will only be carried out with the full written agreement of the landowner to transfer title of all finds to the museum.

9.2 Preparation of the archive

Physical archive

9.2.1 The physical archive, which includes paper records will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by The Salisbury Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Brown 2011; CIfA 2014c; SMA 1995).

9.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the **site code**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive currently comprises the following:

- 1 files/document cases of paper records

Digital archive

9.2.3 The digital archive generated by the project, which comprises born-digital data (e.g., site records, photographs and reports), will be deposited with a Trusted Digital Repository, in this instance the Archaeology Data Service (ADS), to ensure its long-term curation. Digital data will be prepared following ADS guidelines (ADS 2013 and online guidance) and accompanied by metadata.

9.3 Selection strategy

9.3.1 It is widely accepted that not all the records and materials (artefacts and ecofacts) collected or created during the course of an archaeological project require preservation in perpetuity. These records and materials will be subject to selection in order to establish what will be retained for long-term curation, with the aim of ensuring that all elements selected to be retained are appropriate to establish the significance of the project and support future research, outreach, engagement, display and learning activities, i.e., the retained archive should fulfil the requirements of both future researchers and the receiving Museum.

9.3.2 The selection strategy, which details the project-specific selection process, is underpinned by national guidelines on selection and retention (Brown 2011, section 4) and generic selection policies (SMA 1993; Wessex Archaeology's internal selection policy) and follows CIfA's *Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives*. It should be agreed by all stakeholders (Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists, external specialists, local authority, museum) and fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.3 In this instance, given the relatively low level of finds recovery, the selection process has been deferred until after the fieldwork stage was completed. Project-specific proposals for selection are presented below. These proposals are based on recommendations by Wessex Archaeology's internal specialists and will be updated in line with any further comment by other stakeholders (museum, local authority). The selection strategy will be fully documented in the project archive.

9.3.4 Any material not selected for retention may be used for teaching or reference collections by Wessex Archaeology.

9.3.5 Given the very limited results of the fieldwork, it is considered that the site conforms to the definition of a 'sterile project' (i.e., one that produces nothing of evidential value), according to the *CIfA Toolkit for Selecting Archaeological Archives* (archaeological archives from sterile projects). It is therefore recommended that only selected digital data are deposited with ADS, an approach commensurate with the scale and significance of the project. Deposition will involve the uploading of the site report via OASIS only.

9.4 Security copy

9.4.1 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.

9.5 OASIS

9.5.1 An OASIS (online access to the index of archaeological investigations) record (http://oasis.ac.uk) has been initiated, with key fields completed (Appendix 1). A.pdf version of the final report will be submitted following approval by the Inspector for Ancient Monuments and the County Archaeologist on behalf of the LPA. Subject to any contractual requirements on confidentiality, copies of the OASIS record will be integrated into the relevant local and national records and published through the Archaeology Data Service (ADS) ArchSearch catalogue.

10 COPYRIGHT

10.1 Archive and report copyright

10.1.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative/digital archive relating to the project will be retained by Wessex Archaeology under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with all rights reserved. The client will be licenced to use each report for the purposes that it was produced in relation to the project as described in the specification. 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 conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations 2003*.

10.1.2 Information relating to the project will be deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER) where it can be freely copied without reference to Wessex Archaeology for the purposes of archaeological research or development control within the planning process.

10.2 Third party data copyright

10.2.1 This document and the project archive may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g., Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which Wessex Archaeology are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferable by Wessex Archaeology. Users remain bound by the conditions of the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988* with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of such material.

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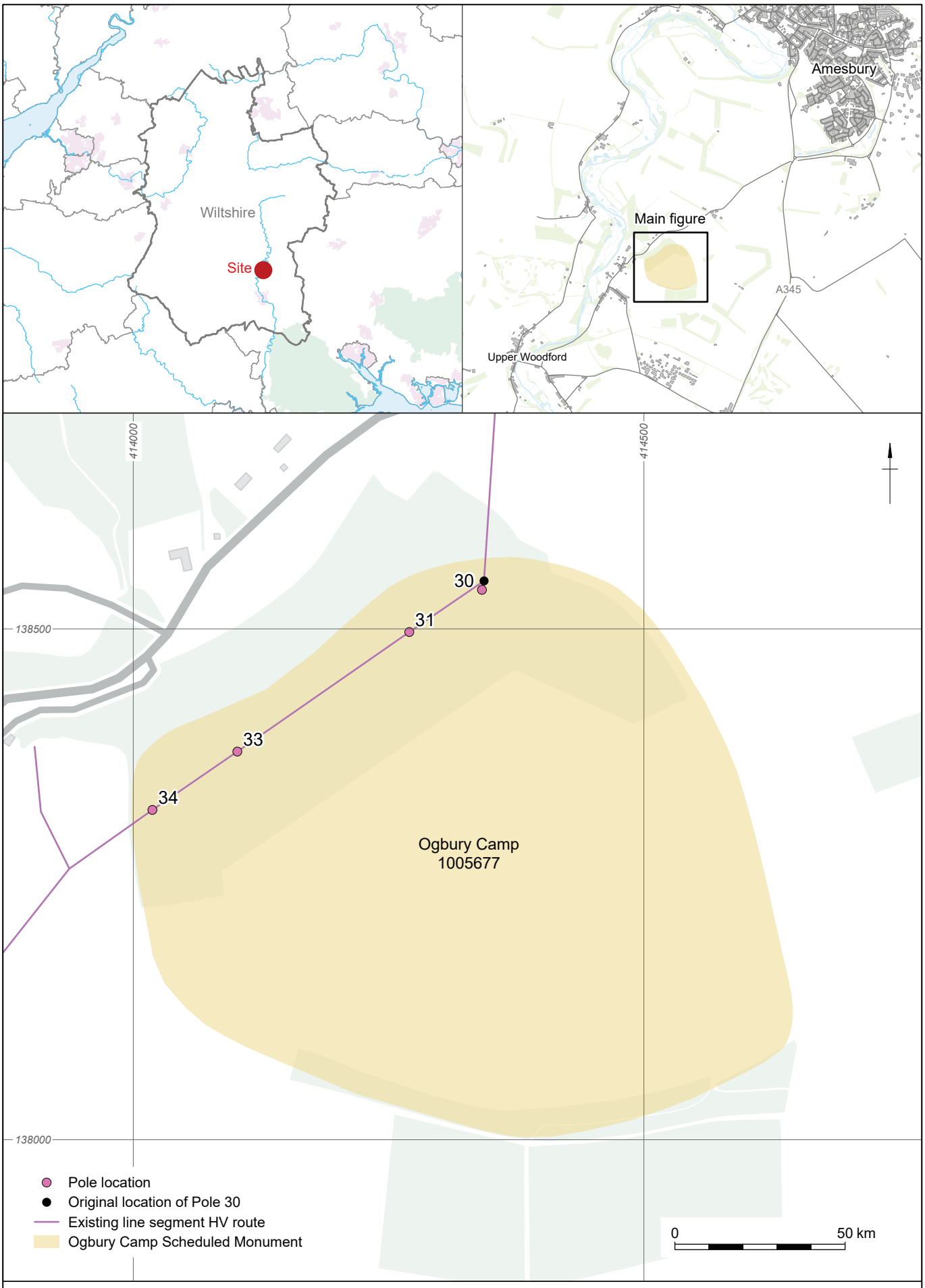
Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record https://services.wiltshire.gov.uk/HistoryEnvRecord/Home/Index (accessed July 2023)

APPENDICES

Appendix 1 OASIS summary

OASIS ID (UID)	wessexar1-519454
Project Name	Ratfyn (RATF) E2L5 11kV Pole Replacement Works, Ogbury Camp, Great Durnford
Sitename	Ogbury Camp, Great Durnford
Sitecode	277010
Project Identifier(s)	277010
Activity type	Watching Brief
Planning Id	
Reason For Investigation	Scheduled monument consent
Organisation Responsible for work	Wessex Archaeology
Project Dates	07-Sep-2023 - 07-Sep-2023
Location	Ogbury Camp, Great Durnford NGR : SU 14322 38290 LL : 51.143698745629, -1.796646582597088 12 Fig : 414322,138290
Administrative Areas	Country : England County : Wiltshire District : Wiltshire Parish : Durnford

Project Methodology	The watching brief monitored the removal of each defective pole (Pole 30, 31, 33 and 34) and the subsequent clearing of debris through re- auguring of the posthole, and installation of new poles at locations Pole 31, 33 and 34. At Pole 30, archaeological monitoring of the auguring of a new posthole measuring 0.7 m wide, 0.8 m long and 1.8 m deep. The installation of new stays was also monitored in association with Pole 30. The site of each pole was left in its original condition following the conclusion of the works. The watching archaeologist monitored all work undertaken within the specified area. The arisings from the auguring of the new posthole and stays at Pole 30 were scanned for the purposes of finds retrieval. The remaining postholes and debris were also checked for artefacts. No archaeological material was observed. A full photographic record was made using digital cameras equipped with an image sensor of not less than 10 megapixels. Digital images have been subject to managed quality control and curation processes, which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and will ensure long term accessibility of the image set.



Coordinate system: OSGB 1936 British National Grid

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Date: 02/10/2023	Created by: KJF	Revision: 0	Scale: 1:5,000 at A4

Figure 1: Site location plan

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Figure 2: Installation of new Pole 33

Figure 3: Posthole following removal of defective pole and debris at Pole 34, scale: 1 m

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Figure 4: Installation of Pole 30, working shot

Figure 5: View of newly augured posthole for Pole 30 from the south, scale: 1 m

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Figure 6: View of Pole 30 and stays following completion of works

Figure 7: View of Pole 31 following completion of works

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Figure 8: View of Pole 34 following completion of works

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