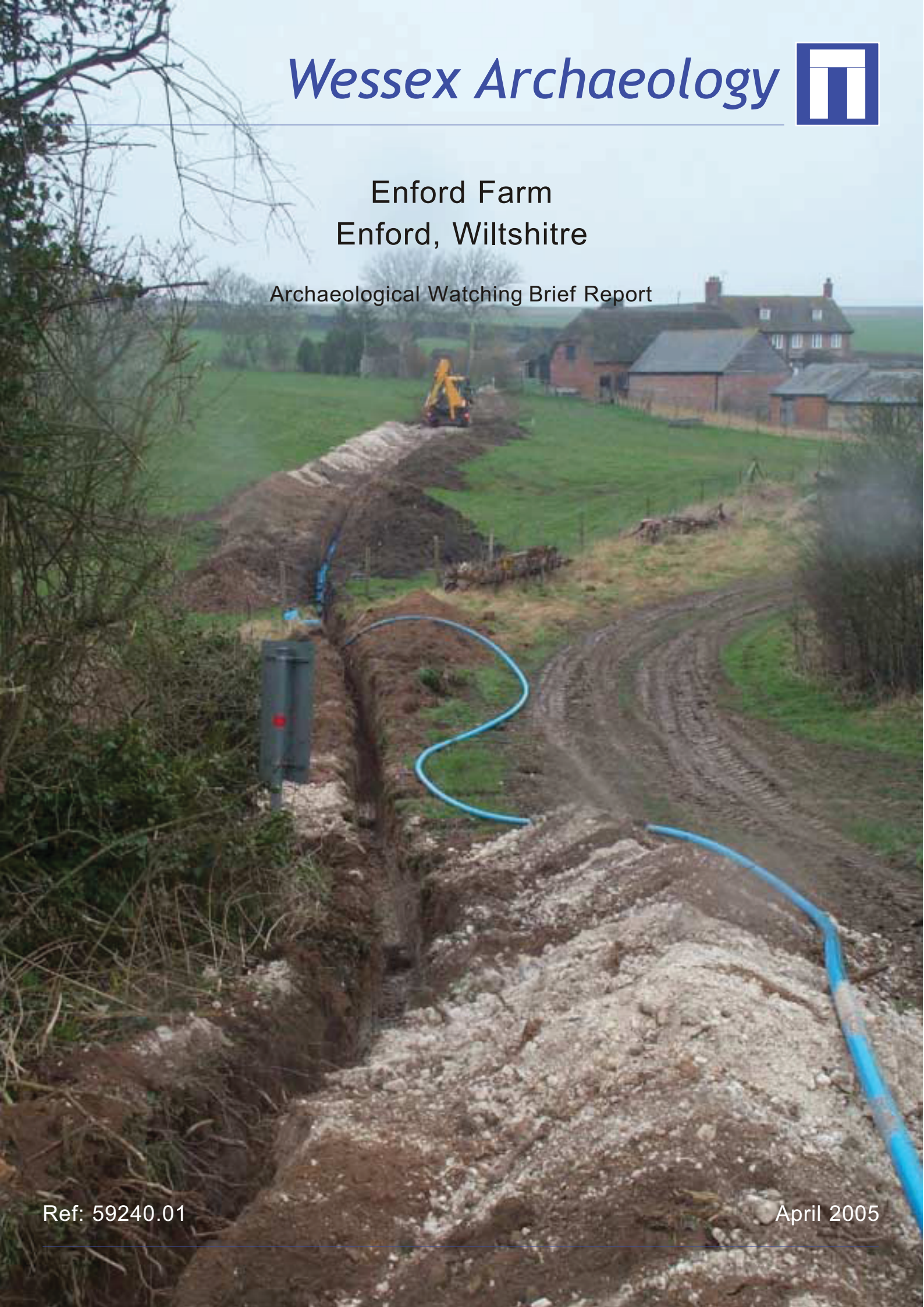




Enford Farm
Enford, Wiltshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report



**ENFORD FARM,
Enford, Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief Report

Prepared on behalf of:

ATE Salisbury Plain
West Down Camp
Tilshead
SP3 4RS
by

by

Wessex Archaeology

Portway House
Old Sarum Park
SALISBURY
SP4 6EB

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**ENFORD FARM,
ENFORD, WILTSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

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Plate 1 Looking north-east towards Enford Farm.

 Plate 2 Looking west along the route of the SPTA perimeter track.

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Landmarc Support Service (The Client) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a water pipe trench, to run from Enford Farm, approximately 850m south west to a group of water troughs. During the excavation of the pipe trench, a total of four probable linear features and one probable pit were recorded, all located on the north-facing slope, within the western half of the exposed area

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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology gratefully acknowledges the help and assistance of Ken Stout of Landmarc Support Services.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Garath Chaffey, Stephen George and Nick Best, and this report compiled by Stephen George with the illustrations prepared by Mathew McMurray. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Nick Truckle.

**ENFORD FARM,
ENFORD, WILTSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF REPORT**

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Landmarc Support Service (The Client) to prepare a Project Design for an archaeological watching brief during the excavation of a water pipe trench, to run from Enford Farm, approximately 850m south west to a group of water troughs. (**Figure 1**, hereafter ‘the Site’).
- 1.1.2 The watching brief was carried out on the recommendation of the Wiltshire County Council (archaeological advisors to the local planning authority).
- 1.1.3 The watching brief was undertaken to ensure that any archaeological remains or horizons were fully recorded during construction. The results of which would assist in defining the character and extent of any archaeological remains so that future work in the area of the site could be considered.
- 1.1.4 Fieldwork for the watching brief was carried out between the 22nd of February and the 4th of March 2005.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site comprised a 850 metre pipe trench, the line of which was stripped of topsoil to a width of approximately 2m in advance of the excavation of the pipe trench. This trench was approximately 0.3m wide and 1.m deep. The pipe trench ran from a point at Enford Farm to a group of 3 troughs located to the south west of the farmhouse. Enford Farm is located at NGR 412730 150785 (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The underlying natural is Upper Chalk, although in there are deposits soliflucted chalk and clay silt at the eastern end of the site where the ground slopes down toward the Avon Valley.

1.3 Archaeological Background

- 1.3.1 Like most of the Salisbury Plain area, a number of known sites relating to occupation and land use surround Enford Farm, dating from the Neolithic, through to the medieval periods. The Avon valley also formed an important communications route running north to south through the Plain, encouraging the development of settlement along the valley.
- 1.3.2 *Later Prehistoric Periods (c1500 BC-AD 43)* About 3km the north lies Casterly Camp, the largest of the hillforts on Salisbury plain. To the east and north-east lie extensive areas of ‘celtic field’ systems and later linear earthworks, marking boundary divisions.

- 1.3.3 *Romano-British Period (AD 43 – cAD 413)* A settlement from this period is located on Compton Down 2 km north-west, probably associated with existing field systems. At Compton, 1.5 km to the north-east in the 1960s, pipeline laying exposed quantities of Roman building materials, while air photography in 1995 appear to show part of a double ditched enclosure with internal stone structures.
- 1.3.4 *Post-Roman, Medieval and post-Medieval Periods (c AD413-1897)* The post-roman and medieval periods saw the development of settlements along the route of the Avon valley. Throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, wool and meat from sheep formed an important role in the economy, with their manure being used for the arable farming occurring in the lower valley slopes, and extensive pasture on the Plain. Following the Parliamentary Enclosures of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the region saw the extension of arable farming from the river valley, on to the adjacent downs.

2 METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims and objectives.

- 2.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to provide data, as far as was reasonably practical, on the *location, extent, date, character, condition, significance* and *quality* of any surviving archaeological remains within the Site.

2.2 Methods

- 2.2.1 The watching brief comprised the monitoring of groundworks as appropriate by a suitably qualified archaeologist. The pipe trench was excavated in sections, with the pipe laid and the excavated section backfilled at the end of each day. A full time professional member of Wessex Archaeology's staff attended the Site during the afternoon of each day that excavation took place in order to record any archaeological deposits that were present before backfilling commenced.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Features

- 3.1.1 During the excavation of the pipe trench, a total of four probable linear features and one probable pit were recorded, all located on the north-facing slope, within the western half of the exposed area. Representative sections of the features are illustrated on **Figure 1**.
- 3.1.2 Potential pit [101] was seen in the north-west facing section of the pipe trench. The feature measured 1.53 m wide, 0.64 m deep and consisted of four fills; (103) light reddish brown silty clay with moderate flint inclusions, (104) medium reddish brown silty clay with moderate gravels/flint inclusions, (105) mid-reddish brown silty clay with abundant chalk lumps

and flecking, and (106) reddish brown silty clay with moderate chalk lumps, and moderate gravel/flint inclusions. A moderately deep feature, bowl-shaped in section, this has been provisionally interpreted as a pit, although it is possible that it may represent the terminus of a linear feature as its full extent was not exposed. This feature cut a probable linear feature [102]. No identifiable finds were recovered from this feature.

- 3.1.3 Linear feature [102] was seen in both sections of the pipe trench. The feature measured 1.14 m wide, 0.48 m deep, running north-west to south-east, with only one fill (107), cut by potential pit [101]. No identifiable finds were recovered from this feature
- 3.1.4 Linear [108] was a medium sized ditch running north-west to south-east, measuring 2.78 m wide, 0.96 m deep. Four separate fills were recorded, (109), (110), (111) and (112). No identifiable finds recovered.
- 3.1.5 Linear feature [113] represented the remains of a substantial ditch running north-east to south-east and measuring 3.72 m wide and 0.96 m deep. Four fills were recorded, (114), (115), (116) and (117). No identifiable finds recovered. This linear appears to have been open for a relatively short time, before being deliberately backfilled with material that had been banked on the north-eastern side. This feature cuts an earlier feature [118].
- 3.1.6 Linear feature [118] represented a medium sized ditch running north to south and measuring 0.78 m deep, and 1.86 m wide. The feature contained two fills, (119) lower fill, light yellowish brown silt with 20% well rounded fragments of chalk and upper fill (120), which was a light yellowish brown silty clay with 10% subangular chalk. No identifiable finds were recovered from this feature.

3.2 Finds

- 3.2.1 No finds were pre-dating the modern period were recovered from the features exposed within the pipe trench.

3.3 Conclusions

- 3.3.1 Although not known in the immediate area of Enford Farm, the presence of Prehistoric and Roman activity elsewhere in the surrounding area suggests that features dating to these periods may have been obscured by the present-day field enclosures and modern agricultural practices.
- 3.3.2 Due to the absence of datable artefacts retrieved from the recorded features, it is not possible to give a date or function to them. However, it is probable that they represent the remnants of field boundaries or ditches and may date from the prehistoric to medieval periods. The watching brief has demonstrated that archaeological deposits are present and survive in the area of the pipe trench and therefore any future work in the area should be subject to archaeological monitoring.

4 THE ARCHIVE

- 4.1.1 The project archive, consisting of an A4 ringbinder and a collection of digital photographs, is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology at Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wiltshire under the project code 59240.

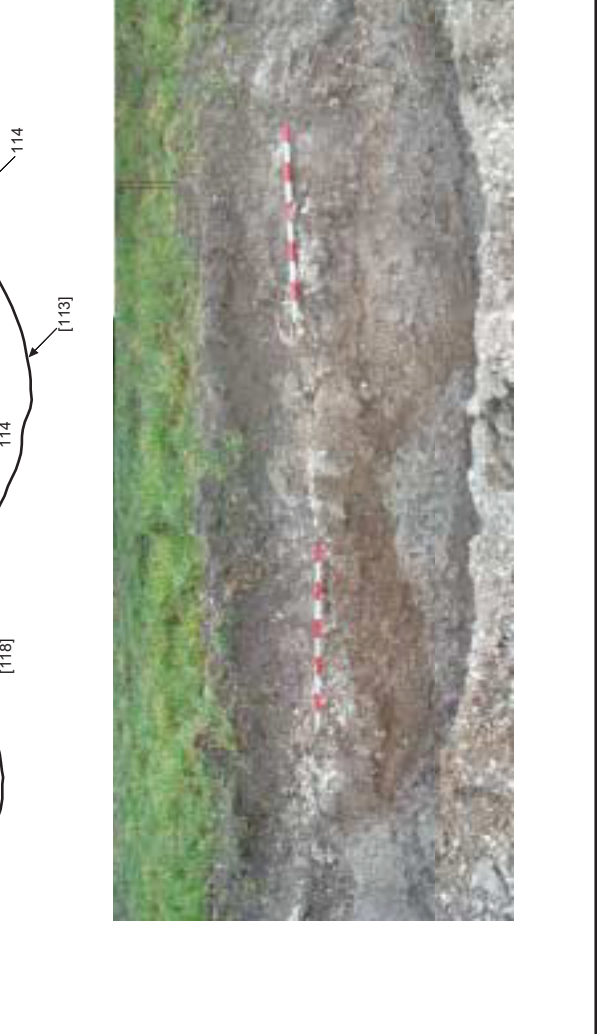
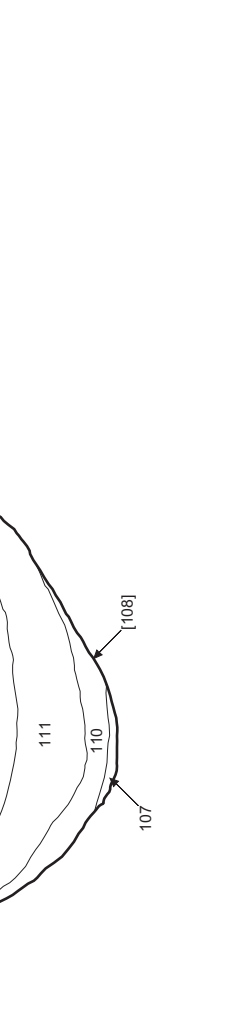
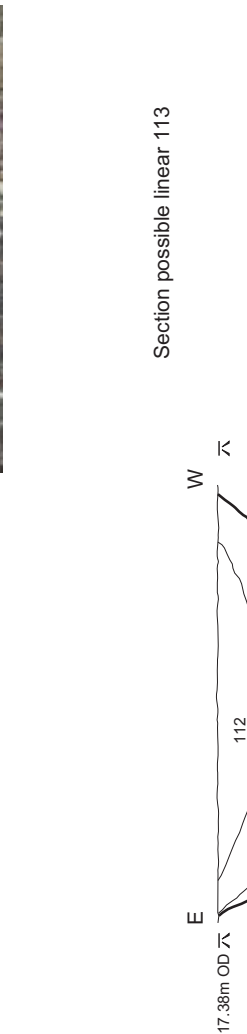
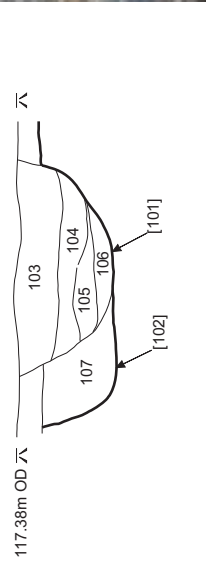
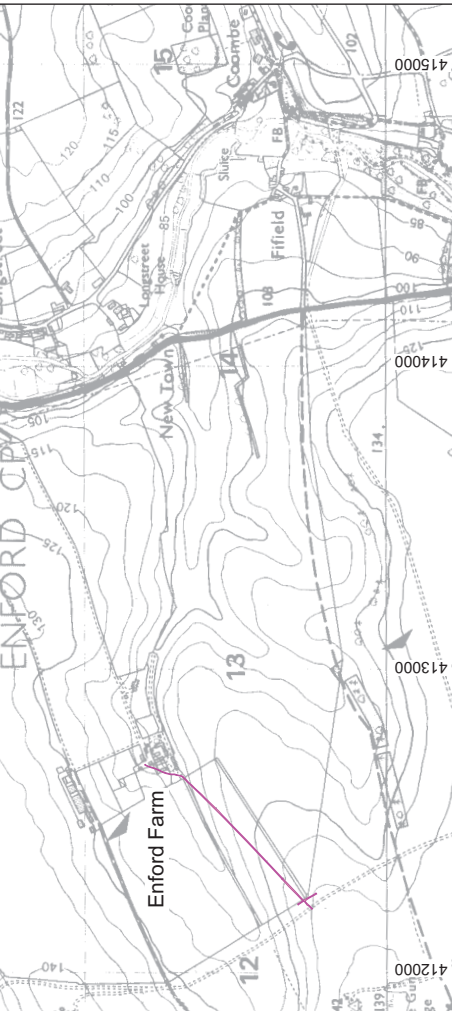
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6 APPENDIX: SUMMARY CONTEXT DETAILS

Context			
No.	Type	Description	Depth
101	Cut	Possible pit	0.0m-0.64m
102	Cut	Possible Linear: Runs NW to SE	0.0m-0.48m
103	Layer	Fill (Silty Clay): Light reddish brown	0.0m-0.27m
104	Layer	Fill (Silty Clay): Medium reddish brown	0.27m-0.43m
105	Layer	Fill (Silty Clay): Mid reddish brown	0.43m-0.54m
106	Layer	Fill (Silty Clay): Reddish brown	0.54m-0.64m
107	Layer	Fill (Silty Clay): Mid reddish brown	0.0m-0.64m
108	Cut	Possible Linear: Runs NW to SE	0.0m-0.96m
109	Layer	Primary Fill (Silty Clay): Light yellowish brown	0.90m-0.96
110	Layer	Backfill (Silty Clay): Light yellowish brown	0.76m-0.90m
111	Layer	Secondary Fill (Silt): Light yellowish brown	0.29m-0.76m
112	Layer	Secondary Fill (Silty Clay): Light Yellowish brown	0.0m-0.29m
113	Cut	Possible Linear: Runs NW to SE	0.0m-0.96m
114	Layer	Backfill (Silty Clay): Light yellowish brown	0.64m-0.96m
115	Layer	Backfill (Silt Chalk): Very pale brown	0.28m-0.48m
116	Layer	Backfill (Silty Clay): Light yellowish brown	0.22m-0.28m
117	Layer	Secondary Fill (Silty Clay): Light orange brown	0.0m-0.62m
118	Cut	Possible Linear: Runs N to S	0.0m-0.78m
119	Layer	Secondary Fill (Silt): Light yellowish brown	0.48m-0.78m
120	Layer	Secondary Fill (Silty Clay): Light Yellowish brown	0.0m-0.48m



Scale 1:10,000



Plate 1. Looking northeast toward Enford farm



Plate 2. Looking west along the route of the SPTA perimeter track.



WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY LIMITED.

Head Office: Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.

Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

London Office: Unit 701, The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY.

Tel: 020 7953 7494 Fax: 020 7953 7499 london-info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk

