



Hannington BTS Cottington's Hill, Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief Report





**HANNINGTON BTS,
COTTINGTON'S HILL, HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological watching brief report

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PLANNING APPLICATION REF.		NGR		452740 156820	

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Archaeological watching brief report

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**HANNINGTON BTS,
COTTINGTON'S HILL, HAMPSHIRE****Archaeological watching brief report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Caip Limited, on behalf of Arqiva Limited, to carry out an archaeological watching brief. The monitoring took place during groundworks for improvements and new facilities at the Hannington Broadcasting Transmission Station (BTS), Cottington's Hill, Hampshire, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 452740 156820.

The watching brief was undertaken between the 30th November and 8th December 2010 (Areas 1 and 2), and on the 9th February 2011 (Area 3).

The Site lies within earthworks thought to be associated with a 13th century hunting lodge and deer park of King John. Later activity includes the insertion of a tree-lined avenue, or hollow-way. Archaeological investigations in the 1990s revealed probable medieval and post-medieval earthworks.

Under archaeological supervision, three areas were stripped of topsoil, overburden and subsoil, onto the natural chalk bedrock. Archaeological features comprised two, converging linear ditches, found in Area 1. Running north-west to south-east, the ditches are on the same alignment as a trackway, a few metres to the south and illustrated on the F.G. Aldsworth Survey (1967).

The apparent date of the ditches (c. 13th /14th century AD) places them around the time of King John's reign. They probably represent track-side drainage, or some form of boundary within the enclosed area of the deer park. This also suggests that the trackway was in existence during this period.

Finds from the ditches include pottery and roof tile of medieval date (c. 13th /14th century AD).

Although of local interest, the results of the watching brief do not warrant detailed publication. A summary will be submitted to *Hampshire Studies* (the journal of the *Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society*) for inclusion in the annual round-up of archaeology in the county.

**HANNINGTON BTS,
COTTINGTON'S HILL, HAMPSHIRE**

Archaeological watching brief report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Caip Ltd for commissioning the work. The help and assistance of Andy McBride, site manager of Caip Ltd. is acknowledged. Wessex Archaeology are also grateful to David Hopkins, The County Archaeological Officer, for his advice.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Vasilis Tsamis who compiled this report with Kirsten Egging Dinwiddy. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Paul McCulloch. The finds assessment was undertaken by Lorraine Mepham, and the illustrations were prepared by Kenneth Lymer.

HANNINGTON BTS, COTTINGTON'S HILL, HAMPSHIRE

Archaeological watching brief report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was appointed by Caip Limited, on behalf of Arqiva Limited, to carry out a watching brief during groundworks for an extension to a building, and adjustments to the immediate surround of the Site (including a new retaining wall). The Site is located at the Hannington Broadcasting Transmission Station (BTS) on Cottington's Hill, Hampshire (NGR 452740 156820), hereafter 'the Site' (**Figure 1**).

1.1.2 In accordance with the planning permission issued by Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council (Planning Ref: BDB72826), a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) (Wessex Archaeology, 2010) was submitted to, and approved by the County Archaeological Officer (CAO). The watching brief was executed as set out in the WSI.

1.2 Site location, topography and geology

1.2.1 Approximately halfway between Newbury, Berkshire and Basingstoke, Hampshire, the Site lies on the north-eastern side of Cottington's Hill, within the south-western perimeter of the Hannington BTS, a complex of buildings and transmission equipment. To the south-west, the land rises to the crest of the hill at 229m above Ordnance Datum (aOD). The land falls sharply to the north, where it overlooks Kingsclere. The village of Hannington lies to the south-east. The course of the Roman road (Portway) lies between Hannington and Cottington's Hill.

1.2.2 Cottington's Hill forms part of the northern escarpment of the Hampshire Downs. The Site lies on Clay-with-Flint drift geology, which caps Upper Chalk bedrock.

1.3 Archaeological background

1.3.1 The Site lies within a complex of archaeological remains. These are recorded in the Hampshire Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record, which is maintained by Hampshire County Council.

1.3.2 Earthworks and spotfinds, on or close to Cottington's Hill (also referred to as 'King John's Hill') are of particular relevance.

1.3.3 The roughly circular ditch and bank earthwork, partially encroached on from the east by the Hannington BTS, was surveyed by F.G. Aldsworth in 1967 (**Figure 2**). It encloses an area of approximately four hectares, and has previously been identified as an Iron Age hillfort, despite the lack of archaeological substantiation. Evidence from excavations in 1997 suggests that the ditch was approximately 7.5m wide (Winchester Museums Service 1999). No datable artefacts were recovered.

- 1.3.4 Much of the activity is considered to be connected with the use of the hill from the 13th century as a Royal hunting lodge, associated with King John. The remains of the Park Pale (the bank and ditch enclosing the deer park) survive to the west of the hill. The exact location of the hunting lodge is not known. To the east are a group of earthworks that have been identified as medieval fishponds (**Figure 2, inset**).
- 1.3.5 In the 17th century the park, and presumably the hunting lodge, passed from Royal ownership to the Cottington family. Appropriated under the Commonwealth, it was later returned to the Cottingtons, who possessed it until the 18th century. The site of the hunting lodge, or King John's House, was probably demolished in the late 18th century.
- 1.3.6 Aldsworth's survey also shows the line of a hollow-way passing across the circular enclosure, possibly leading to an '18th century house'. The 1997 excavations found the hollow-way to be a c. 10m wide linear depression. They also proved that the hollow-way post-dates the enclosure ditch (Winchester Museums Service 1999).

2 AIMS

- 2.1.1 The aim of the watching brief was to monitor the groundwork for the construction of the proposed extension, and a new retaining wall to the north and west of the extension.
- 2.1.2 The aim of this report is to provide evidence of the watching brief results. In particular, establish the date, nature, extent and character of the archaeological remains.

3 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1.1 All archaeological works followed Wessex Archaeology standard procedures and guidelines, which are in accordance with those recommended by the Institute for Archaeologists.

3.2 Excavation

- 3.2.1 All areas, including the retaining wall site, were mechanically stripped of topsoil, overburden and subsoils. Stripping ceased at the level at which archaeological features or natural geology were revealed, whichever was encountered first. It was necessary to remove a layer of brickearth to identify the archaeological features.
- 3.2.2 A tracked, 360 degree mechanical excavator, fitted with a wide, toothless bucket removed the deposits in a series of spits, in order to allow the recognition of any remains, and minimise any potential damage.
- 3.2.3 In accordance with the Written Scheme of Investigation, the process was carried out under constant archaeological supervision by a suitably qualified member of Wessex Archaeology staff.
- 3.2.4 An appropriate sample of the features and anomalies was hand-excavated, in order to fulfil the aims of the investigation.

3.3 Recording

- 3.3.1 Archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system. A complete drawn record of the excavated archaeological features and deposits was compiled. This includes both plans and sections, drawn to appropriate scales (1:20 for plans, 1:10 for sections). A record of the works and the archaeological features was made using digital photography.
- 3.3.2 Spoil generated by the works was scanned for artefacts, including the use of a metal detector.
- 3.3.3 The digital survey of the investigation areas, features and planning points, was carried out using a Leica TCRP1205 robotic total station with all data recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system. The control network was established using the total station in conjunction with a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS network through an RTK GPS network with a 3D accuracy of 0.03m or below.

4 RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Only a few archaeological features were revealed in the investigations. These comprise two ditches in Area 1, and two shrub boles in Area 2 (**Figure 3**). The features were only evident following the removal of the subsoil, and brickearth, though it is likely that the latter was cut by the features. Context summary tables are in **Appendix 1**, details are in the archive.

4.2 The soil sequence

- 4.2.1 In all Areas the topsoil was a dark-brown silty clay, with abundant rooty disturbance. The layer was c. 0.22m deep in Areas 1 and 2, and up to 0.41m deep in Area 3.
- 4.2.2 In the southern part of Area 1, a series of post-medieval overburden deposits (**1002-1004**), up to 2m deep, lay below the topsoil (**Plates 1 and 2**). In Areas 2 and 3, the deposit below the topsoil was a mid-yellowish brown subsoil c. 0.22m thick, comprising silt and degraded chalk (**Plates 3-6**).
- 4.2.3 Below the overburden in Area 1, and the subsoil in Area 3, lay a compact layer of reddish brown clay loam, c. 0.25 to 0.5m thick (**1005**), probably natural brickearth.
- 4.2.4 The natural chalk bedrock was encountered below the subsoil in Area 2, and below the brickearth in Areas 1 and 3. Chalk was revealed at varying depths due to the slope of the land (see **Appendix 1**). The chalk was cut by the archaeological features, the post-medieval disturbance and by some of the modern services.
- 4.2.5 Area 2 was substantially truncated by modern disturbances, including earth rod installations, a modern drain and a manhole.

4.2.6 Area 3 was truncated by modern cable ditches and services running from east to west. The construction of a path and access road had heavily disturbed the southern edge of this area.

4.3 The archaeological features

4.3.1 Two well-defined linear ditches (**1007 and 1010**) were identified, extending approximately north-west – south-east in Area 1 (**Figure 2; Plates 7 to 9**). Both had moderately sloping sides and concave bases. A compact primary fill was identified in each (**1008 and 1011** respectively), as was a subsequent secondary fill (**1009 and 1012** respectively). Pottery sherds of 13th/14th century date were found in the secondary fills, with additional artefacts including burnt flint, worked flint flakes and animal bone from **1012**.

4.3.2 The slightly different alignments of the ditches (**Figure 2**) suggest they converge just to the northwest, beyond the limit of the excavation. From the available evidence, it is not possible to determine which ditch was constructed first; they may be broadly contemporaneous as indicated by the pottery.

4.3.3 The ditches are on a similar alignment to the trackway that traverses the circular enclosure (**Figure 2**) and heads towards the Winchester/Newbury Road to the north-west, and the Roman Portway road and Hannington to the south-east. This trackway is only several meters to the south of the ditches; the south-eastern portion is still extant, providing access to the BTS site.

4.3.4 Two small shrub boles (**1013 and 1015**; not illustrated) were located in Area 2. No datable evidence was recovered.

4.3.5 No archaeological features or deposits were exposed in Area 3.

5 FINDS

5.1.1 The watching brief produced a very small quantity of finds, deriving from three contexts – topsoil (context **1001**, common to all three Areas monitored), ditch (**1007**) (secondary fill **1009**) and ditch (**1010**) (secondary fill **1012**). The full quantification by context is given in **Table 1**.

5.1.2 Two waste flint flakes are of presumed prehistoric date. The datable material (pottery, ceramic building material) is entirely medieval.

5.1.3 The closest dating is provided by the pottery sherds; all but one of these are in similar, medium-grained sandy fabrics, some sherds glazed and two sherds carrying horizontal rilling. The only diagnostic sherd comes from the base of a tripod jug. The remaining sherd is in a relatively fine white-firing sandy fabric, and is glazed. On the grounds of fabric and form, this small group can be dated as 13th or 14th century, and provides dating for the backfilling of ditches (**1007**) and (**1010**). There are some similarities (e.g. the tripod jug) within assemblages from Newbury (Vince 1997, figs. 36-7), but the small group from Hannington has closer affinities, in terms of fabrics, with pottery from the Basingstoke area, for example from Brighton Hill South, Basingstoke (Rees 1995, fabrics 25 and 26), although the sources of supply for both sites are uncertain.

- 5.1.4 The six fragments of ceramic building material (CBM), all from the topsoil, are from roof tiles of medieval type.

Table 1: All finds by context (number / weight in grammes)

Context	Animal Bone	Burnt Flint	CBM	Worked Flint	Pottery
1001			6/114		3/48
1009		3/35		2/26	8/38
1012	2/6				5/115
Total	2/6	3/35	6/114	2/26	16/201

CBM = ceramic building material

6 POTENTIAL AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- 6.1.1 The archaeological evidence was limited, and cannot be linked directly to the findings of the previous excavation. However, the apparent dates of the features place them around the period when King John is reputed to have had a hunting lodge and deer park in the vicinity. It is possible that these features are related to track-side drainage and/or some form of boundary within the enclosed deer park.
- 6.1.2 By association, it is likely that the adjacent trackway depicted in Aldsworth's survey was in existence at this time.
- 6.1.3 No further work is recommended for the finds.
- 6.1.4 The results of the watching brief do not warrant detailed publication. A short summary will be submitted to *Hampshire Studies* (the journal of the *Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society*) for inclusion in the annual round-up of archaeology in the county.

7 ARCHIVE

7.1 Preparation and deposition

- 7.1.1 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the WA project code of **74230**. On completion of the project, the archive will be deposited with the Hampshire County Museums Service.
- 7.1.2 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance with Wessex Archaeology's *Guidelines for Archive Preparation*, and following the guidelines set out in Appendix 3 of English Heritage's *Management of Archaeological Projects*, (1991) and MoRPHE (2006), and by the Hampshire County Museums Service.
- 7.1.3 Details of the watching brief have been entered into the online "OASIS" database maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) (entry 92953).

7.2 The archive

- 7.2.1 The Watching Brief project archive currently consists of:

- 1 x A4 file containing the paper records
- Digital data (site photographs, illustrations, Word, Excel and PDF files)
- 1 x box artefacts

7.2.2 Geo-referenced Site, excavation area/trench locations, and main features/monuments will be supplied digitally to the County Archaeological Officer in a suitable format (e.g. currently ESRI shapefile or .dxf formats).

7.3 Copyright

7.3.1 This report 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 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.

7.3.2 The Trust for Wessex Archaeology shall retain full copyright of any report under the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with all rights reserved. Excepting that it hereby provides an exclusive licence to the client for the use of the report by the client in all matters directly relating to the project as described in the specification. Any document produced to meet planning requirements may be copied for planning purposes by the Local Planning Authority.

7.3.3 A licence will also be granted to the County Archaeological Officer, for the use of all documents arising from this project in all matters relating directly to the project, as well as for *bona fide* research purposes.

7.4 Security copy

7.4.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of microfilm. The master jackets and one diazo copy of the microfilm will be submitted to the National Monuments Record Centre (Swindon); a second diazo copy will be deposited with the paper records at the Museum, and a third diazo copy will be retained by Wessex Archaeology.

8 REFERENCES

- English Heritage, 1991, *Management of Archaeological Projects*, English Heritage
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Wessex Archaeology, 2010, Hannington BTS, Cottingtons Hill, Hampshire.
Written Scheme of Investigation: Project Design for Watching Brief

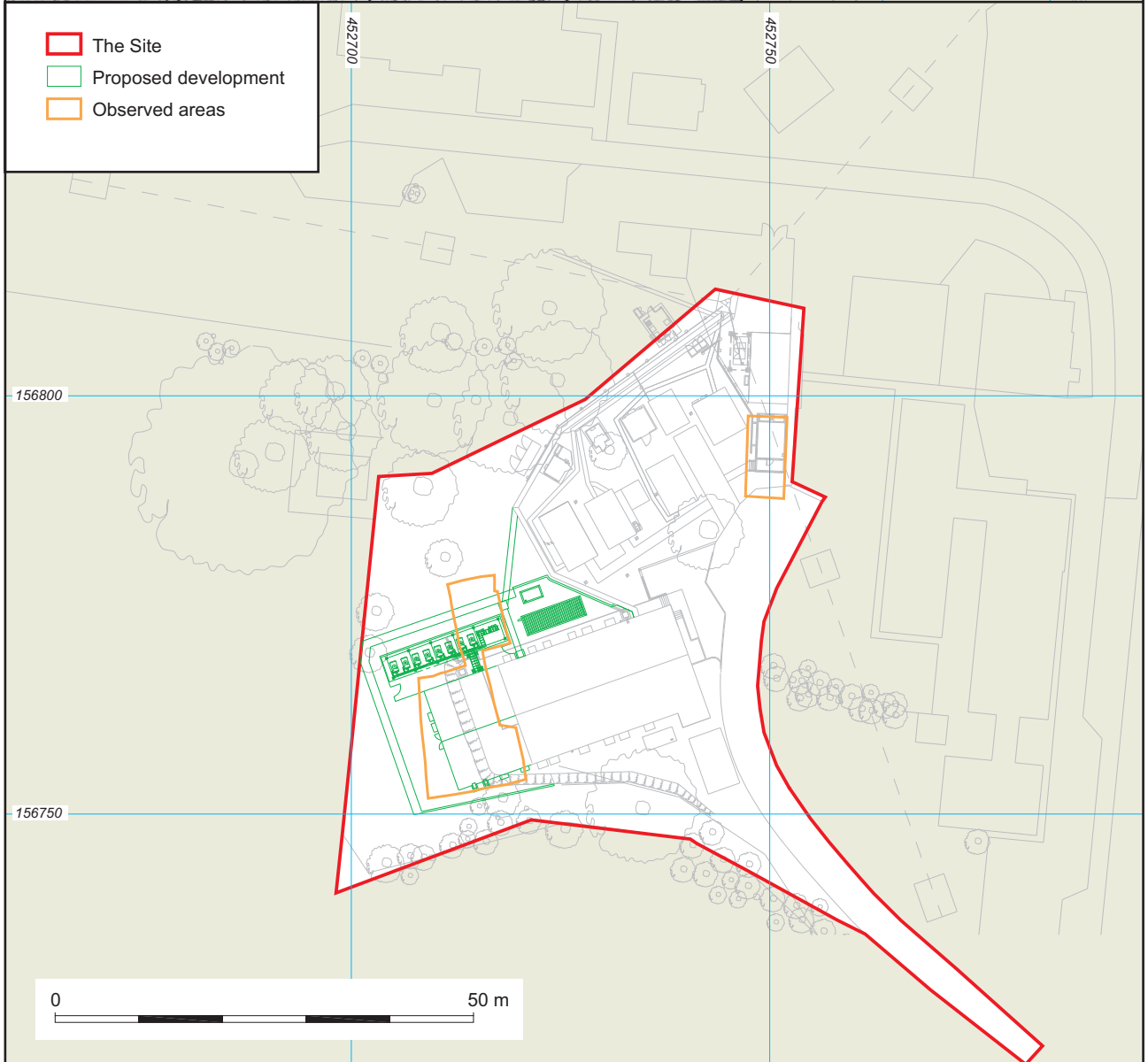
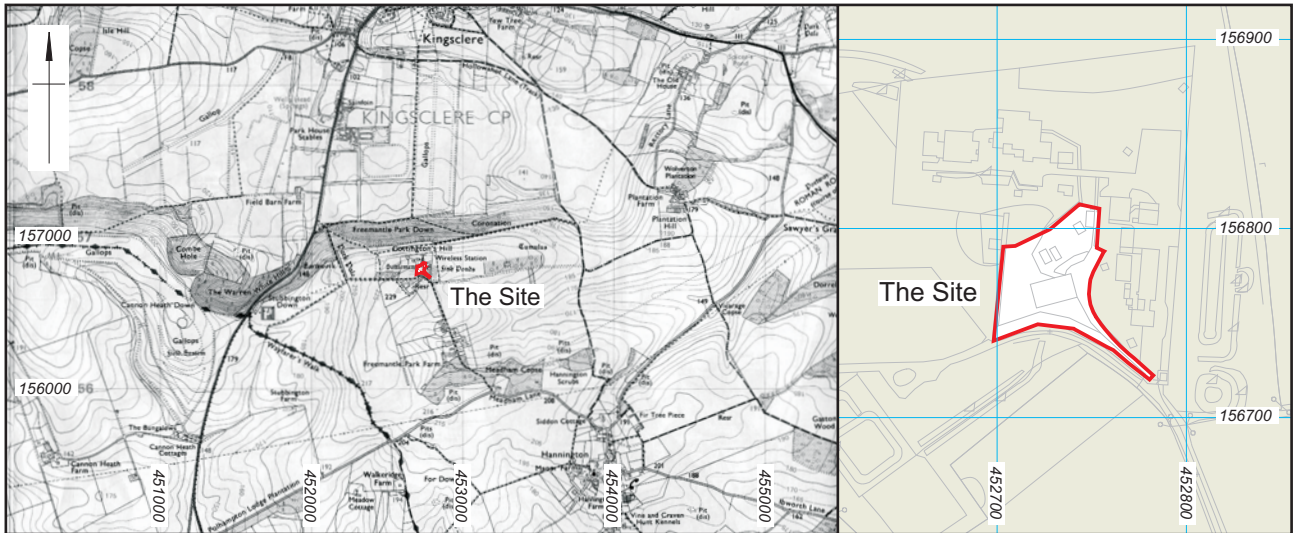
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Hannington, Nr Kingsclere, Hampshire, Archaeological Field
Assessment: Report on Archaeological Evaluation Excavation,
Winchester Museums Service.

APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT SUMMARY TABLES

Area 1		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
(1001)	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose; abundant root bioturbation.	0m-0.22m
(1002)	Overburden: mid yellowish-brown. Very compact layer. Degraded chalk & silt.	0.22m-0.44m
(1003)	Overburden: fairly loose layer (post-medieval). ?associated with construction of nearby building.	0.44m-0.80m
(1004)	Overburden: compact layer, located only at highest point of site.	0.80m-1.01m
(1005)	Subsoil: Very firm, homogeneous; dark reddish brown silty clay loam.	1.01m-1.51m
(1006)	Natural chalk: firm chalk with moderate flint nodules.	1.51m+
[1007]	Ditch cut: NW-SE, linear, ?boundary ditch (c. 13 th century AD).	0.38m
(1008)	Primary fill: compact, mid whitish brown fill.	0.11m
(1009)	Secondary fill: dark brown, silty clay, abundant chalk nodules; Pottery (13th/14th C).	0.27m
[1010]	Ditch cut: NW-SE, linear. ?boundary ditch; medieval	0.42m
(1011)	Primary fill: compact, mid whitish brown fill	0.14m
(1012)	Secondary fill: dark brown, silty clay, abundant chalk nodules. Pottery (13th/14th C AD).	0.28m

Area 2		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
(1001)	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose, abundant root bioturbation.	0m-0.22m
(1002)	Subsoil: mid yellowish-brown. Very compact. Degraded chalk & silt.	0.22m-0.44m
(1006)	Natural chalk: Firm chalk with moderate flint nodules.	0.44m+
[1013]	Cut of shrub bole	0.17m
(1014)	Fill of shrub bole	0.17m
[1015]	Cut of shrub bole	0.30m
(1016)	Fill of shrub bole	0.30m

Area 3		
Context	Description	Depth (m)
(1001)	Topsoil: dark brown silty clay. Fairly loose, abundant root bioturbation.	0m-0.41m
(1002)	Subsoil: mid yellowish-brown. Very compact. Degraded chalk & silt.	0.41m-0.64m
(1005)	Natural clay: Very firm homogeneous dark reddish-brown silty clay loam.	0.64m-0.87m
(1006)	Natural chalk: Firm chalk with moderate flint nodules.	0.87m-0.93m+



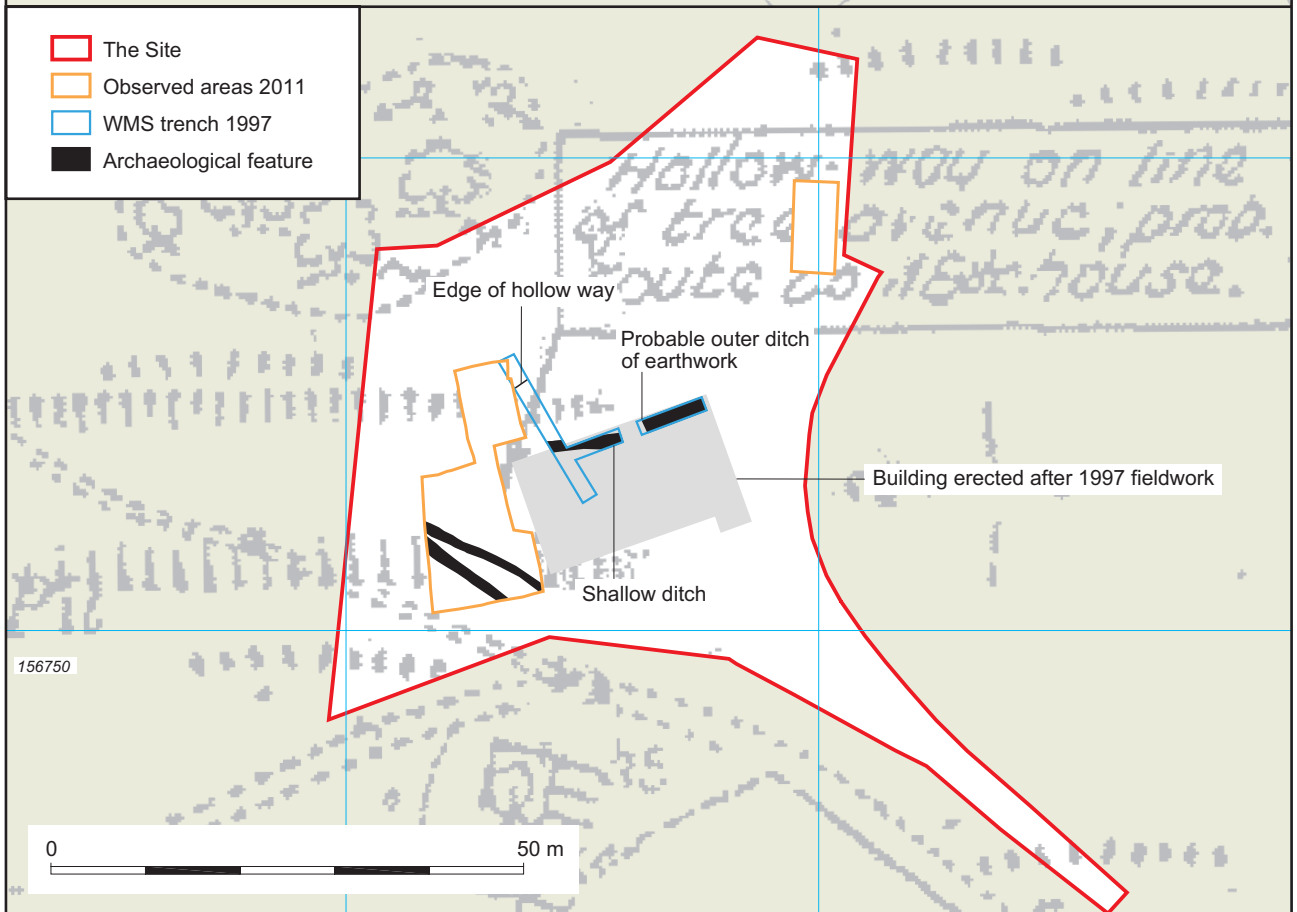
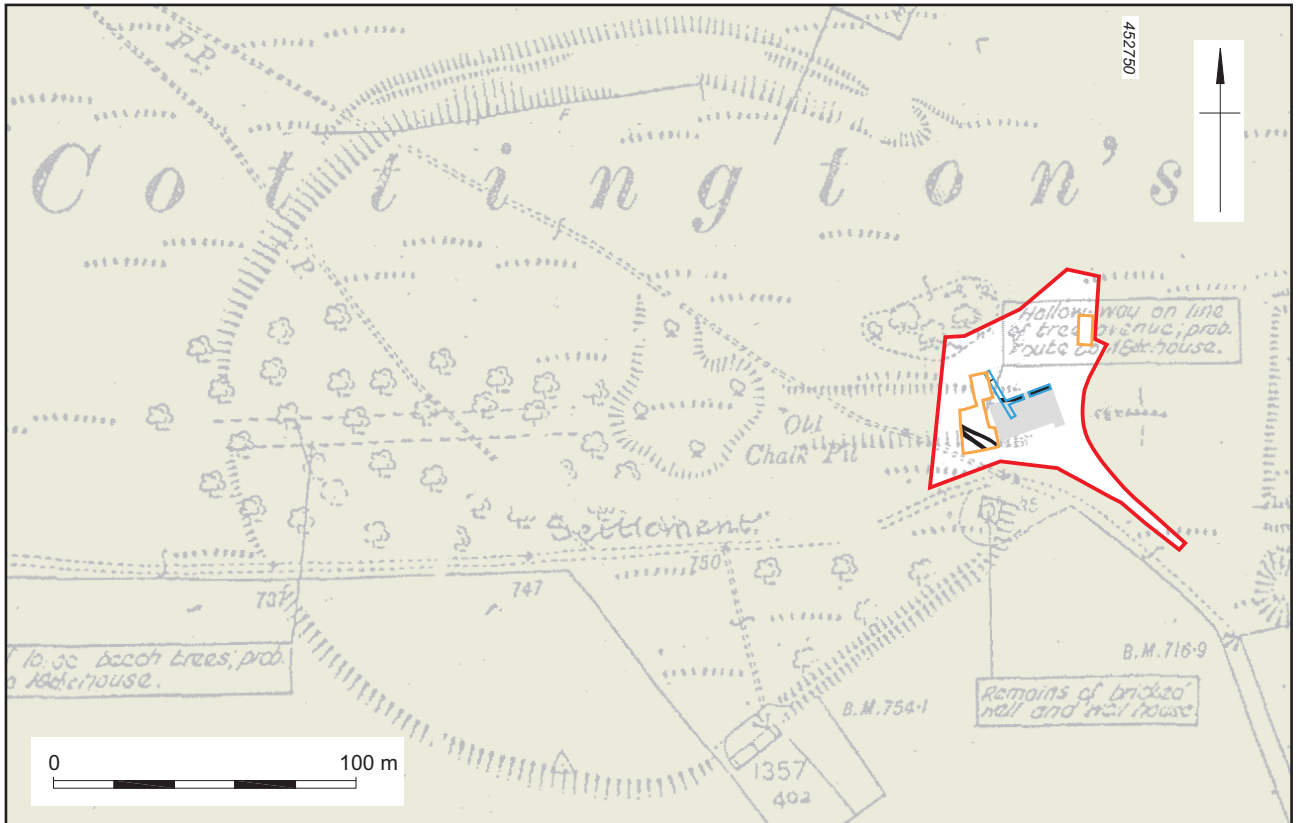
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Site location plan

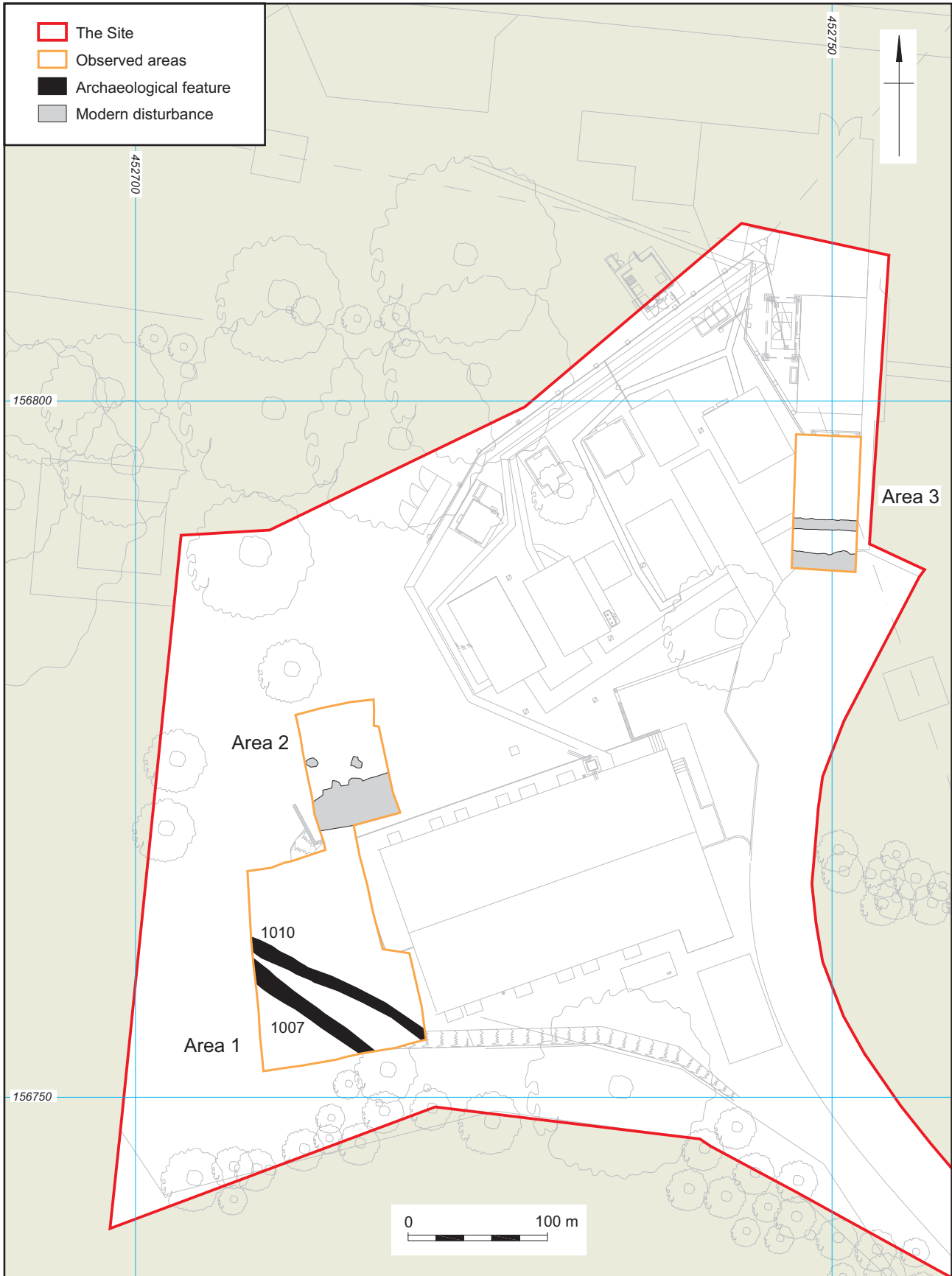
Figure 1



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Excavated areas in relation to previous WAS work and earthworks plan (F.G. Aldsworth 1967)

Figure 2



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Excavated areas 1, 2 & 3

Figure 3



Plate 1: Overview of Area 1 from the north



Plate 2: North facing representative section of Area 1


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Plate 3: Overview of Area 2 from the north



Plate 4: East facing representative section of Area 2


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Plate 5: Overview of Area 3 from the south



Plate 6: West facing representative section of Area 3


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Plate 7: Southwest facing section of ditch cut 1007



Plate 8: Southwest facing section of ditch cut 2010



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Plate 9: Plan view of ditch cuts 1007 and 1010

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