

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
at Redfold Farm, Nutbourne,  
West Sussex**

**NGR: TQ 07265 19983**

**ASE Project No: 5282  
Site Code: RFN 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013085  
OASIS id: archaeol6-147541**



**Catherine Douglas**

**Illustrations by Rob Cole**

**April 2013**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by UK Power Networks to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013, at Redfold Farm, Nutbourne, West Sussex.*

*The watching brief involved monitoring the excavation of an underground high voltage cable route to a length of 179m by a width of 0.30m, with a maximum depth of 1m below the topsoil / surface level.*

*Natural sandy clay geology was encountered at a depth of 0.30m below topsoil surface level throughout most of the trench. No archaeological features were seen cutting into the natural geology, and there were no archaeological finds encountered in any of the contexts identified.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by UK Power Networks to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013, at Redfold Farm, Nutbourne, West Sussex.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey, 1:50.000 map the underlying geology of the area is sandstone bedrock. During this watching brief natural sandy clay geology was encountered underlying the subsoil.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 Although the excavations are not subject to standard planning regulations, UK Power Networks consulted the West Sussex County Archaeologist, Mark Taylor, regarding the impact of the proposed works. An archaeological watching brief was recommended because the development may have disturbed remains of archaeological interest.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

1.4.1 The watching brief set out to determine, as far as was reasonably possible, the location, form, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains, irrespective of period, liable to be threatened by the development.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological watching brief carried out at Redfold Farm, Nutbourne on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

1.5.2 The fieldwork was undertaken by Catherine Douglas. The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Overview**

2.1.1 Redfold Farm is situated within an area of considerable interest for Iron Age and Romano-British archaeology. The scheduled Roman villa site of Borough Farm lies just over half a kilometre to the west.

### **2.2 Recent Archaeological Investigation**

2.2.1 At Redfold farm an Iron Age gold coin was found in 1976 by the owner of Beedings. During a watching brief at Beedings, an Iron Age coin and Iron Age/Romano-British pottery were found together with pits and ditches of this date. A Roman cremation and occupation material were also identified. There have also been finds of very early Roman/late Iron Age pottery wasters to the south, which implies an important industry in the vicinity. (Pers comm Mark Taylor 05/08/11)

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

- 3.1.1 The watching brief involved monitoring the excavation of an underground high voltage cable route. All archaeological work was carried out in accordance with the WSCC Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork (2007).
- 3.1.2 The cable trench was excavated to a length of 179m and a width of 0.30m, with a maximum depth of 1m below the surface level. The location of the cable route can be seen on Figure 2. Prior to excavation a CAT scanner was used to establish the locations of any possible underground services.
- 3.1.3 The excavations were taken down to the top of the underlying geology, where it was inspected by an archaeologist to establish whether there were any existing archaeological deposits or features, before it was excavated further to reach the required depth for laying the electricity cable.
- 3.1.4 Topsoil and subsoil deposits were kept separate to ensure that they could be redeposited stratigraphically during the backfilling process for optimum reinstatement.
- 3.1.5 All contexts encountered were recorded on ASE context sheets, and a digital photographic record was maintained throughout the duration of the watching brief.

#### **3.2 The Site Archive**

- 3.2.1 ASE informed Horsham Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Horsham museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	18
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

## 4.0 RESULTS

### 4.1 Cable trench

4.1.1 The cable trench was excavated to a length of 179m by a width of 0.30m, with a maximum depth of 1m. The recorded contexts from have been tabulated and are summarised below (Table 2).

<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Max. Length m</b>	<b>Max. Width m</b>	<b>Deposit Thickness m</b>
01	Layer	Topsoil	>179	>0.30	0.15
02	Layer	Subsoil	>179	>0.30	0.15-0.85
03	Layer	Natural clay geology	>159	>0.30	>0.70

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.1.2 Natural sandy clay geology [03] was encountered at a depth of 0.30m below topsoil/surface level throughout most of the trench, except for the eastern most 20m of the trench, where the overlying subsoil [02] was much deeper and the clay geology was not encountered (Figures 3a, 3b). The colour varied slightly; the clay in the western end of the trench where the ground was slightly higher was a brighter yellow and more sandy than the clay encountered further east. There were also occasional sandstone inclusions within the clay at the west end.

4.1.3 Overlying the clay geology there was a layer of clayey silt subsoil [02]. The thickness varied slightly, but it was approximately 0.15m thick throughout most of the trench, and much thicker throughout the eastern 20m of the trench.

4.1.4 Overlying the subsoil there was a layer of clayey silt topsoil [01] covering the entire site.

4.1.5 No archaeology features were seen cutting into the natural geology, and there were no archaeological finds encountered in any of the contexts identified.



**5.0 THE FINDS**

**5.1 Summary**

5.1.1 No finds were encountered during this watching brief.

**6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

6.1 The watching brief at Redfold Farm did not provide evidence of activity or occupation from any period. There was nothing relating to the Iron Age coin found in 1976, and there is no new information to further the understanding of known Iron Age / Romano British settlements within the vicinity.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

West Sussex County Council 2007 *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork in West Sussex*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank UK Power Networks for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and West Sussex County Archaeologist Mark Taylor for his guidance and monitoring.

**HER Summary Form**

Site Code	RFN13					
Identification Name and Address	Redfold Farm, Nutbourne, West Sussex, RH20 2HS					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR: TQ 07265 19983					
Geology	Sandy clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5282					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>Watching Brief</b>	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	<b>Green Field</b>	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 04 <sup>th</sup> -05 <sup>th</sup> April 2013	Other		
Sponsor/Client	UK Power Networks					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard					
Project Supervisor	Catherine Douglas					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	<b>Other No archaeology encountered</b>		
<p>100 Word Summary</p> <p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by UK Power Networks to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013, at Redfold Farm, Nutbourne, West Sussex.</i></p> <p><i>The watching brief involved monitoring the excavation of an underground high voltage cable route to a length of 179m by a width of 0.30m, with a maximum depth of 1m below the topsoil / surface level.</i></p> <p><i>Natural sandy clay geology was encountered at a depth of 0.30m below topsoil surface level throughout most of the trench. No archaeological features were seen cutting into the natural geology, and there were no archaeological finds encountered in any of the contexts identified.</i></p> <p>.</p>						

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-147541**

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### Project details

Project name	Redfold Farm, Nutbourne, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) were commissioned by Paulo Coimbra of UK Power Networks to undertake an archaeological watching brief on the 4th April 2013, at Redfold Farm, Nutbourne, West Sussex. The watching brief involved monitoring the excavation of an underground high voltage cable route to a length of 179m by a width of 0.30m, with a maximum depth of 1m below the topsoil / surface level. Natural sandy clay geology (O3) was encountered at a depth of 0.30m below topsoil surface level throughout most of the trench. No archaeology features were seen cutting into the natural geology, and there were no archaeological finds encountered in any of the contexts identified.
Project dates	Start: 04-04-2013 End: 05-04-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Significant Finds	None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

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### Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM PULBOROUGH Redfold Farm, Nutbourne
Postcode	RH20 2HS
Study area	100.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 07265 19983 50 0 50 58 07 N 000 28 19 W Point

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief	West Sussex County Council

originator

Project design originator      west sussex county council

Project director/manager      Andy Leonard

Project supervisor      Catherine Douglas

Type of sponsor/funding body      UK Power Networks

Name of sponsor/funding body      UK Power Networks

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?      No

Physical Archive recipient      n/a

Digital Archive recipient      Horsham Museum

Digital Media available      "Images raster / digital photography", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient      Horsham Museum

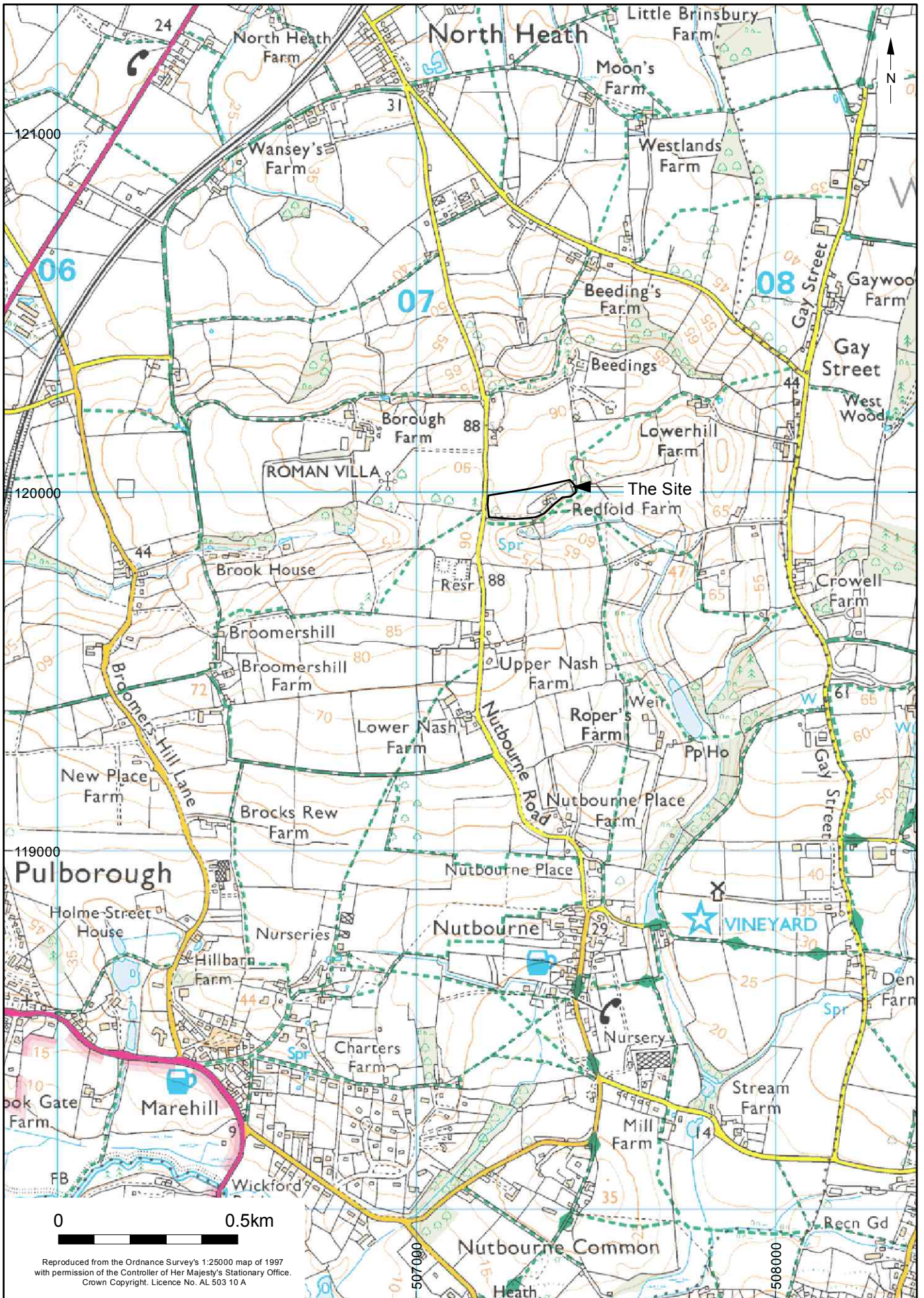
Paper Media available      "Context sheet", "Map", "Report"

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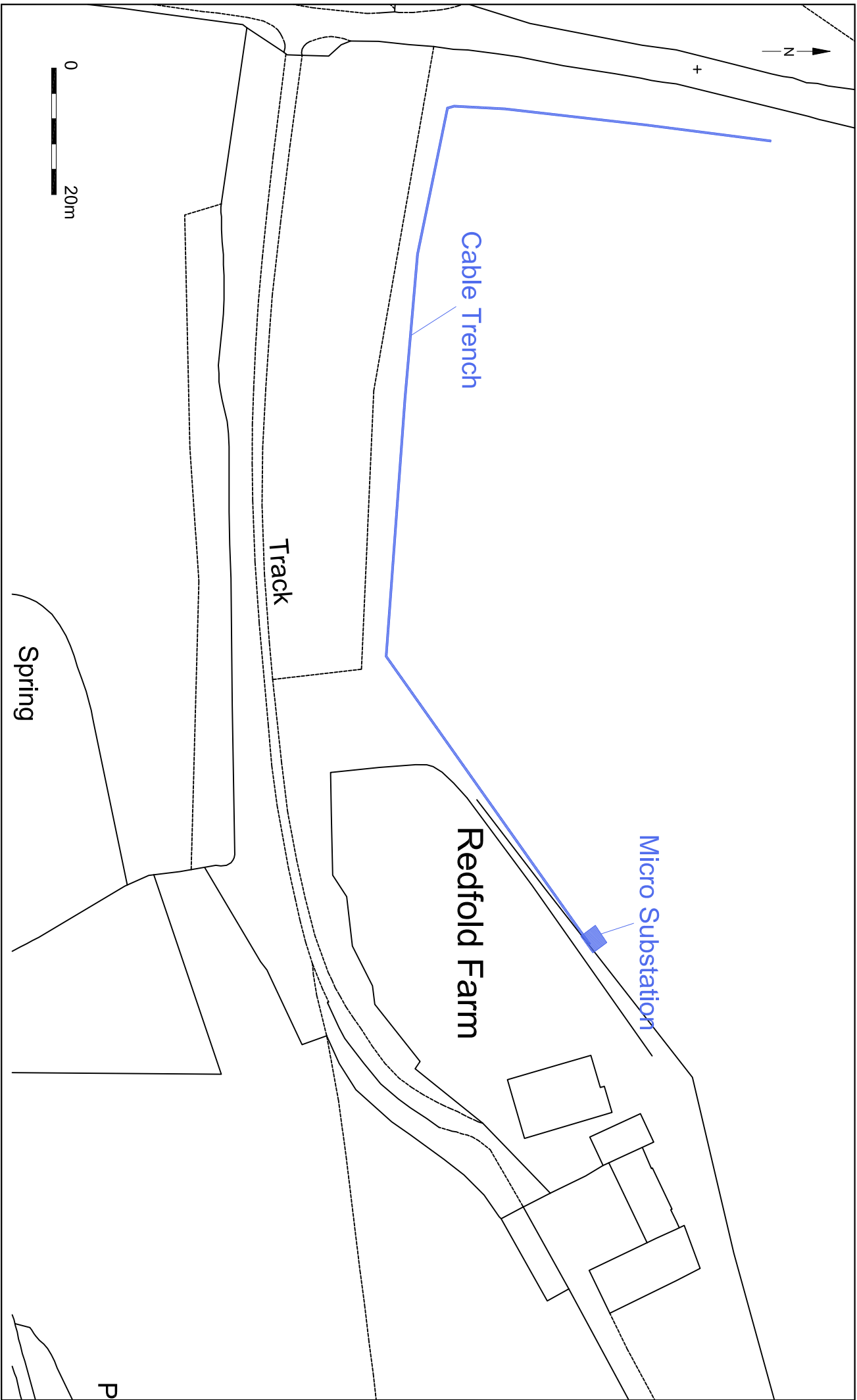
Entered by      Catherine Douglas (catherine.douglas@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on      8 April 2013





© Archaeology South-East		Redfold Farm, Nutbourne		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5282	April 2013	Site location		
2013085	Drawn by: RHC			



<b>© Archaeology South-East</b>		Redfold Farm, Nutbourne	
Project Ref: 5282	April 2013		
Report Ref: 2013085	Drawn by: RHC	Site Plan	
			Fig. 2





Fig. 3.a Underground HV Route Facing South



Fig. 3.b Micro Substation Area Facing East



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