

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
at Otterbourne Water Treatment Works,
Waterworks Road,
Otterbourne,
Winchester**

NGR: SU 46542 23196

**ASE Project No: 170211
Site Code: OTT17**



Tom Munnery

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East at Otterbourne Water Treatment Works (WTW), Waterworks Road, Otterbourne, Hampshire NGR 446542 123196, between the 3rd and 19th May 2017. The works were undertaken as a part of Southern Water's permitted development under their best practice policy.

Approximately 100 meters of cable trenching was observed. Small quantities of finds were recovered from two features, a medieval ditch and a pit of probable medieval date. The precise function of the ditch and pit is unclear, as is how they fit into their wider contemporary landscape.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) were commissioned by Southern Water to prepare a written scheme of investigation (WSI) in connection with undertaking an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a new solar farm at Otterbourne Water Treatment Works, Waterworks Road, Otterbourne, Winchester, SO21 2SW, hereafter 'the site' (NGR SU 446524 123236, Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 Subsequently ASE were commissioned by Southern Water to undertake the Watching Brief during the groundworks, comprising works associated with c.100m of cable trenching for the development.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The site consists of a c. 3.8 Ha site bounded to the north by open land associated with Otterbourne WTW and Otterbourne Football Club, to the east and south by open scrubland, and to the west by properties fronting onto Greenacres Drive.
- 1.2.2 The site is located upon Culver Chalk Formation, a sedimentary bedrock formed approximately 71 to 84 million years ago, in the Cretaceous Period, which is overlain by Clay-with-Flints at the northwest and Quaternary deposits of River Terrace Deposits of sand and gravel and Head Deposits of clay, silt sand and gravel, along the south and northeast ends of the site respectively. (BGS 2017).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 This scheme falls within the necessary parameters of the General Permitted Development Order benefitting from Southern Water's Permitted Development rights as a Statutory Undertaker. It is understood that no element of the scheme is subject to planning consent. The archaeological monitoring is being carried out as part of Southern Water's Best Practice Scheme.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological watching brief was to record archaeological deposits exposed by the groundworks associated with the laying of the new cables.
- 1.4.2 The watching brief may have the potential to address the following research objectives set out in the Solent-Thames Research Framework:
- Where did the majority of the flint used in the region come from, and how did people acquire it?
 - To investigate the impact of the Roman Road network on the distribution of different classes of material culture
 - To investigate the origins of dispersed settlement and the development of farmsteads in the medieval period

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This document presents the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken between 3rd and 19th May 2017. Fieldwork was directed by Tom Munnery and John Cook, Jon Sygrave project managed the watching brief and Jim Stevenson project managed the post-excavation process.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The following section summarises the known information relating to designated and non-designated heritage assets in the study area and is largely derived from a desk-based assessment prepared for the Testwood to Otterbourne Water Pipeline (ASE 2016).

2.1.2 The HER data is sparse for the immediate vicinity of the site, but this may be due to a lack of archaeological work, given the built-up character of the environs. A findspot of Roman and medieval pottery 300m to the south-west, and the proximity of a Roman road along the line of Otterbourne Road suggests that some potential may exist for this corridor between the road and the river. More generally, the margins of river valleys in this area were a favoured transit route for early prehistoric groups.

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 The Palaeolithic period was the earliest and longest phase of human history. A scatter of isolated finds of handaxes of Lower and Middle Palaeolithic date have been made from the sandy gravel deposits between the Test valley and the chalk, concentrating in the area around Ashfield and Crampmoor, south-east of Romsey and at Ampfield. These mostly represent secondary material, but they do suggest the presence of human groups exploiting the wider watershed plateau between the Test and Itchen valleys.

2.2.2 The Mesolithic saw the return of human communities to the area in response to improving post-glacial climatic conditions. The warming climate led to the spread of a succession of woodland types, culminating in a mixed broad-leaved forest dominated by oak but including elm, ash, alder, lime and hazel. Human communities exploited this woodland and the rich resources of the river valleys, with pollen analysis at Testwood charting the clearance of the woodland and the associated increase in alluviation within the valley deposits. Settlements comprised semi-permanent base camps occupied during the winter months and a series of seasonal hunting camps, although evidence for such settlements is scarce. However, an example is known outside the study area at Bowman's Farm. The bulk of the evidence for this period comprises flint scatters. Evidence for the later Mesolithic period is less forthcoming, although it is likely that small-scale clearance of the woodland, together with a certain level of manipulation of animal populations as part of an increasingly efficient hunting strategy laid the foundations for the adoption of agriculture. In terms of the study area, the floodplain at the southern end has a rich potential for containing archaeological and palaeo-environmental deposits based on fieldwork immediately to the west, and Mesolithic flintwork has been found on the valley slopes at Nursling and on the former heathland at Broadgate, where communities were positioned to exploit a variety of landscape zones from river valley up to chalk downland.

2.2.3 The Neolithic saw the development of agriculture and the first evidence for large-scale communal activity. New ideas relating to the domestication of animals and, probably later, the cultivation of cereals, were adopted by indigenous human communities, together with new technologies such as

pottery. Environmental evidence indicates a major phase of woodland clearance taking place at this time, as land was opened up to provide fields and sacred spaces. Evidence for Neolithic settlements is sparse, and tends to be concentrated on the downland, with the lowland areas to the south through which the proposed pipeline runs less settled. Evidence within the study area is mainly limited to flintwork, concentrating at Nursling where it was revealed by gravel quarrying, and Ampfield, with a single findspot at Dean Copse to the east. These may represent occupation sites or losses by hunting parties. Hints at possible occupation sites are given by pottery found at Silkstead sandpit. Three cropmark enclosure sites at Nursling and Ampfield have been tentatively interpreted as Neolithic, although this has not been confirmed by excavation (and the Nursling sites have been destroyed).

- 2.2.4 The Bronze Age is characterized by the introduction of metals, firstly gold and copper and later bronze. The earliest metals are generally associated with a new type of pottery, Beaker Ware, as well as the construction of a new type of ceremonial site, the round barrow. These monuments heralded a new way of thinking about society as they represented the burial of individuals rather than the communal burials of the preceding period. This is probably linked with the emergence of social elites. The barrows are found in large numbers across the chalk downland, often forming linear cemeteries on ridges, but also across areas of former heathland where they may have represented an assertion of exploitation rights rather than formal settlement (Hantsweb 2017). Three are represented by cropmarks within the vicinity of the site, all on different landscape types: former heathland at Gosport, former medieval/early post-medieval enclosure near Lee and chalk downland near Compton, a fourth was destroyed by gravel digging at Nursling.
- 2.2.5 The Middle Bronze Age (from c.1500BC) saw a dramatic change in emphasis away from the ceremonial and monumental landscape. Large-scale evidence for farming appeared with the creation of field systems defined by earthwork banks and ditches (and probably hedges). Small settlements of round houses representing farmsteads set within groups of paddocks are found across the chalk downs and into the river valleys. The Late Bronze Age (from c.1000BC) saw further changes with the disappearance of the round barrow burial tradition, the development of a settlement pattern characterised by unenclosed settlements, the creation of major linear earthworks carving the landscape into territories (especially evident in the cross-ridge dykes found on the downland) and the appearance of large defended enclosures (hillforts). Settlement evidence within the wider study area is found in localised areas: burials and pottery at Ashfield; ditches, pits and a metal working mould around Nursling church and a ditch in the industrial estate; artefacts at Hursley and a palstave and flintwork at Ampfield. A varied collection of artefacts, including Beaker sherds, a palstave, a spearhead and a pot of Mediterranean origin were recovered at various times from Silkstead sandpit in the 1950s, but this entire assemblage is considered to be of suspect provenance. A series of timber structures interpreted as jetties, bridges or causeways have been excavated at Testwood Lakes to the southwest of the site. No early prehistoric features have been found within the environs of the site itself.
- 2.2.6 The Early and Middle Iron Age (up to c.100BC) saw a continuation of trends developed in the Late Bronze Age, with increasing numbers of open settlements and defended enclosures evident, the latter perhaps representing

focal points for a number of different activities rather than purely acting as military citadels or refuges. Known settlements are again largely confined to the chalklands and river valleys, with defended sites having a wider distribution, with examples in the wider vicinity of the site at Merdon Castle (Hursley) and Toot Hill (Rownhams). The Late Iron Age saw the abandonment of many of the hillforts, with a handful of major sites dominating the landscape, none of which lie within the Study Area (including an oppidum at Winchester). Increasing numbers of settlements are known from this period, including increasingly complex ditched enclosures and the distinctive 'banjo enclosures'. Increasing levels of trade with the Continent, both with native communities and with the expanding Roman Empire, brought a range of fine imports into the area, and the period saw the first evidence for centralized pottery production.

- 2.2.7 Isolated late prehistoric features around Otterbourne comprise an Iron Age midden (MWC3875) and a possible denehole (flint/chalk mine) (HCC25519/MWC3876) at Oakwood.

2.3 Romano-British Period (AD43-c.AD410)

- 2.3.1 The Roman invasion of AD43 saw little immediate change to the landscape of the area. The area was occupied by the Atrebates tribe, whose largely pro-Roman sympathies spared them the ferocious assault suffered by the tribes further west at the hands of Vespasian's legions. In fact, ordinary life appears to have changed little for the bulk of the population, with the field systems, roundhouses and farmsteads continuing in use, particularly on the downland. The process of Romanisation is largely evident further up the social scale, where people acquired those elements of the Roman lifestyle 'package' they felt most comfortable with, merging them with elements of their own culture to produce a Romano-British hybrid. This is manifested in the landscape in the appearance of rectangular stone or timber multi-roomed buildings, generally known as villas, and often developing on pre-existing settlement sites – several exist just north of the study area. The villa estates lay within extensive arable field systems, many surviving as terraced earthworks, interspersed with sheepwalk, and further pressure was put on woodland resources by the increased need for fuel, both for domestic use and to supply an increasing number of industrial concerns such as pottery kilns, some of which survive in the area around Hursley. The estates subsequently formed the basis of the later landscape, informing the boundaries and internal layouts of the Saxon and medieval manorial and parochial landscapes.

- 2.3.2 The area around the site contains a variety of evidence for Romano-British activity. It lay along the watershed between the Test and Itchen valleys, the latter containing a regional civitas centre at Winchester, with major roads extending down the valley to the south towards the port at Bitterne and to the south-west to another port or trans-shipment point at Nursling on the Test. Finds of pottery (HCC57724) and a coin of Constantine at Otterbourne (HCC25604) are likely to be casual losses associated with the Roman road (HCC53442).

2.4 Early Medieval Period (ADc.410-AD1066)

- 2.4.1 The decline of Roman authority created a power vacuum in which the local Romanised elites competed for power. The chaotic situation coincided with

movements of people from the Germanic lands to the east (modern Germany and Denmark), who were able to settle in increasing numbers along the eastern and southern seaboard of England. Hampshire was traditionally targeted by the Jutes, penetrating via river valleys such as the Meon and Itchen. Early Saxon settlements are rare, with most evidence for this period derived from cemeteries, although work at Chalton suggests that the earliest settlements were established on the upper reaches of the chalk dip slope. By the 9th century, the original settlements had been abandoned, or had shrunk to individual farmsteads, and new daughter settlements were established in the river valleys, along the dip slope and as a string of villages along the Greensand, exploiting the spring line at the foot of the scarp slope. These villages were associated with an expanding system of common fields, and had become identified as manorial centres by the time of the Domesday Survey in the late 11th century. From the late 10th century, these estates began to be formalised into a developing system of ecclesiastical parishes, many of which comprised long strips of territory extending from the chalk ridge down into the Weald. Away from the chalk, the settlement pattern was more dispersed, with small individual scattered farmsteads set within patches of farmland cleared from the woodland. The area later fell under forest law, and it is likely that some level of pre-Conquest hunting took place on the heaths and woodlands, which may have been extensive.

- 2.4.2 Although many of the place-names include Anglo-Saxon elements and much of the structure of the landscape, such as trackways and older boundaries, undoubtedly dates back to at least this period, the only sure evidence for early medieval settlement in the wider study area exists around Nursling, where the church of St Boniface is traditionally believed to have a monastic origin in this period.

2.5 Medieval Period (AD1066-1540)

- 2.5.1 The Norman Conquest saw the imposition of a foreign nobility on England. Hampshire lay astride the strategic route linking London and Normandy and was subjected to tight royal control, with up to half the county covered by royal forests, including the Forest of Bere Ashley. Many of the major manors were retained in royal or ecclesiastical hands, particularly strategic locations like Winchester, the effective capital of England. Smaller market towns such as Romsey grew wealthy on the proceeds of agriculture, particularly the wool trade, and were soon transformed by the construction of well-appointed houses for merchants.
- 2.5.2 The settlement pattern in the study area is a mixed one characteristic of marginal land, with a woodland landscape of scattered farmsteads and assarts interspersed with nucleated settlements probably surrounded by small areas of open field, subsequently enclosed in the later medieval period (e.g. Lee and Hursley). Large expanses of common waste occupied the heathland areas along the southern margin of the central part of the study area. Large hunting parks developed at Hursley, with its surviving earthwork pale and Broadlands. A settlement centre is recorded at Nursling (with church, moated manor and buildings) c.730m to the south of the site (HCC29932).

2.6 Post-Medieval Period (AD1540-present)

- 2.6.1 The post-medieval period saw the emergence of a modern market economy. Major changes took place as a result of an increasing population and a more flexible land market, including the sale of former monastic land as a result of the Dissolution. The early open field parcels around settlements were enclosed in the 15th – 18th centuries to form irregular blocks of fields with sinuous boundaries, with the open heathlands enclosed later with a geometric pattern of quickthorn hedgerows. Most of the arable land had been enclosed piecemeal by the end of the 17th century, resulting in a distinctive landscape of small irregular fields enclosed by planted hedgerows, similar to, but usually thinner than, those of the Weald (the ‘shaws’). Many of the smaller farmsteads began to be amalgamated as landowners built up larger estates. Other land use included rabbit warrens, with a possible example at Warren Farm.
- 2.6.2 The later 18th century saw the development of ‘New Farming’. This saw the heyday of the sheep-corn husbandry system on the downland and river valleys, boosted by the buoyant economy resulting from the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. A further period of prosperity followed in the 1840s, lasting for thirty years and often referred to as the period of High Farming.
- 2.6.3 The 18th and 19th centuries also saw the development of large landscape parks, with a major example to the west of the site at Cranbury Park (1000860).
- 2.6.4 The agricultural changes of the later post-medieval period had little effect within the study area, as demonstrated by the survival of historic field patterns, and in contrast to the downland to the north.
- 2.6.5 Heritage assets of post-medieval date in the study area are varied. In addition to historic parkland and conservation areas, a cluster of 18th century and mid-19th century Grade II listed buildings are located to the immediate southwest of the site (1095752 -109573, 1350538 - 1350539), and two old pumping stations (HCC55976/ MWC3877) and (HCC56312) lie to the east and south respectively.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken during the excavation of the main cable trench necessary for the development.
- 3.1.2 The trench was approximately 1.20m wide and reached a depth of c.0.75m. It was excavated using a toothless grading bucket in spits of up to 0.15m.
- 3.1.3 All necessary work was monitored by an archaeologist and access to the excavations was provided at all times.
- 3.1.4 Spoil from the excavations was visually inspected for the recovery of archaeological artefacts.
- 3.1.5 All recording was undertaken using standard ASE recording sheets. A digital photographic record was kept throughout the watching brief. The site was planned by a combination of hand and GPS.

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 There were no constraints that were considered to affect the methodology or outcome of the archaeological watching brief.

3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited with the Winchester City Council Museum Service in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	11
Section sheets	1
Plans sheets	1
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	68
Context register	1
Drawing register	1
Watching brief forms	5
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 bag
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

- 3.3.2 The finds ultimately deposited as part of the archive are dependent on specialist recommendations and regional archive requirements.

4.0 RESULTS (Figure 2)

4.1 Cable trench monitored between 3rd and 19th May 2017

4.1.1 The cable trench was 1.20m wide and excavated to a depth of c.0.75m. The natural Head Deposit of clay, silt, sand [102] was overlain by subsoil [101], in turn overlain by topsoil [100].

4.1.2 The watching brief revealed two features along the course of the cable trench, ditch [103] and pit [107], both cut into natural [102].

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m	Height m AOD
100	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.10-0.15	
101	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.25-0.30	
102	Layer	Natural geology	Trench	Trench	-	
103	Cut	Ditch	Trench	1.37	0.93	
104	Fill	Fill of [103]	Trench	0.55	0.40	
105	Fill	Fill of [103]	Trench	1.20	0.70	
106	Fill	Fill of [103]	Trench	1.08	0.24	
107	Cut	Pit	1.40	0.50	0.70	
108	Fill	Fill of [107]	1.40	0.50	0.45	
109	Fill	Fill of [107]	1.40	0.50	0.20	
110	Fill	Fill of [107]	1.20	0.40	0.08	

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

4.1.3 Ditch [103] contained three fills. Basal fill [106] comprised a mid-dark grey silt clay from which no finds were recovered. The bulk of the ditch was filled with a mid grey-brown silt clay [105] with a localised dump of redeposited natural [104] towards the top. The ditch, which had near vertical sides and a flat base produced two sherds of mid- 11th to mid-12th century as well as a small assemblage of flint, animal bone and ceramic building material (CBM)

4.1.4 Approximately 5m to the east of ditch [103] was pit [107]. Only a portion of this feature was observed, with the remainder continuing into the southern baulk of the trench. The pit contained three fills. The primary fill [110] comprised a dark grey-brown clay and the secondary fill [109] a light yellow-brown clay. The final fill [108] was a mid grey-brown silt-clay. The pit contained a small assemblage of animal bone and slag.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief at Otterbourne WTW. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 4). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Lithics	Weight (g)	Pottery	Weight (g)	CBM	Weight (g)	Slag	Weight (g)	Bone	Weight (g)	Fire Cracked Flint	Weight (g)
101												
104			2	9								
105	3	109	26	156	1	11			9	43	7	155
108							1	402				
110									18	440		
Total	3	109	28	165	1	11	1	402	27	483	7	155

Table 4: Finds quantification

5.2 The Flintwork by Karine Le Hégarat

5.2.1 Three pieces of struck flint weighing 109g and seven fragments of unworked burnt flint weighing 155g were recovered from context [105]. The pieces of worked flint are made from a mid-brown flint. They display moderate to heavy edge damage, suggesting that they have been subject to successive re-depositions or that they were exposed for a long period prior to burial. The small assemblage comprises two flakes and a fragmentary core. While the flakes are only partially recorticated, the core fragment is entirely recorticated to a milky blue colour. It is difficult to date such a small assemblage, but based on morphological and technological trait, a broad Middle Neolithic to Late Bronze Age is most appropriate. The burnt flint fragments are heavily calcined to a white and light grey colour. Burnt flint are frequently associated with late prehistoric activities.

5.3 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.3.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered 28 sherds of post-Roman pottery, weighing 162g, from two individually numbered contexts. On the whole the material consists of small to medium-sized sherds (to c. 40mm across) that show only slight signs of abrasion. As such the material appears not to have been reworked to any great degree – its fragmented nature being more to do with its low firing temperature. The two sherds from context [104] (8g) are from the same vessel with bitone firing, tempered with common/abundant chalk to

0.5mm with occasional small flint inclusions. Context [105] produced a further 26 sherds (154g) of the same fabric, but this time the group clearly derives from cooking pots. At least three different vessels appear to be present, one of which may be the same as that noted in context [104], while another has an early simple flaring rim. The whole assemblage is best placed between c. 1050 and 1150. All of the post-Roman pottery has been retained for long-term curation.

5.4 The Ceramic Building Material (CBM) by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.4.1 A single piece of heavily abraded tile was recovered from context [105]. It was made from an orange fabric with cream and red silty deposits. It is most likely of post-medieval date but the size and poor condition of the tile make it difficult to date precisely. The CBM has since been discarded.

5.5 The Metallurgical Remains by Luke Barber

- 5.5.1 Context [108] produced a relatively fresh piece of dark grey dense slag with some aeration and some flow structure to its top surface (390g). The latter suggests it may be from smelting using the bloomery process, but a larger sample would be needed to confirm this. As such the piece is best categorised as iron slag, undiagnostic of process. A medieval or earlier date is suspected.

5.6 The Animal Bone by Hayley Forsyth-Magee

- 5.6.1 A small assemblage of animal bone containing 13 fragments weighing 483g was recovered from the watching brief. The bone was hand-collected from two contexts; [105] and [110] and is in a moderate-poor state of preservation with minimal-moderate signs of surface erosion present. No complete bones are present within the assemblage.
- 5.6.2 Context [105] produced a medium mammal distal humeral fragment, a large mammal long bone fragment and an unidentified fragment of faunal bone. Context [110] contained a medium mammal tibia shaft fragment, a sheep/goat metatarsal fragment, a cattle metapodial shaft fragment, a fragment of cattle first phalanx and a large mammal radius fragment as well as three large mammal long bone fragments. A fragmented cattle scapula and a large mammal distal tibia fragment were poorly preserved and heavily abraded.
- 5.6.3 Evidence of butchery was observed in a large mammal long bone fragment from context [105] and a large mammal long bone fragment from context [110]. Both exhibited signs of splitting, possibly for marrow extraction. Canid gnawing was observed in a large mammal radius fragment and fragment of cattle first phalanx from context [110]. This suggests that faunal remains may have been accessible once discarded. No evidence of burning, non-metric traits or pathology was observed.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 Where observed, the stratigraphic sequence of the site comprised the natural geology beneath subsoil and topsoil. Two features were observed along the length of the trench during the archaeological watching brief, a ditch and a pit.
- 6.1.2 The features were closely situated and both appear to date to the medieval period.
- 6.1.3 The broad width of the cable trench meant that methodology employed was successful in observing archaeological deposits and recovering material culture from within them. However, the relatively isolated nature of the features makes meaningful interpretation difficult.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 Previous activity does not appear to have significantly affected the archaeological deposits encountered, suggesting the archaeological horizon remains intact. The natural geology, and with it archaeological deposits, was sealed by around 0.40m of overburden and encountered at around 25.00m OD.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

Prehistoric

- 6.3.1 A very small quantity of residual flint, broadly dated to the Middle Neolithic to Late Bronze Age was recovered from the ditch [103]. This indicates relatively low-level activity relating to this period, and reinforces the notion that the area was used throughout prehistory, albeit often on the margins of more intensive activity.

Medieval

- 6.3.2 Ditch [103] was on an approximate north-south alignment. This alignment, and its location was similar to a field boundary noted on Ordnance Survey maps until 1880, after which time it is removed (Figure 3). This suggests that the ditch was in place and utilised as a field boundary for some time prior to its disuse.
- 6.3.3 The ditch most likely formed part of a field system originating from a medieval farmstead or manor, although where this was is unclear. The size of the ditch could indicate it was a relatively important boundary, but is more likely a consequence of the geology, which was clay rich in places making drainage necessary.
- 6.3.4 The function of the pit is unclear. It contained a quantity of animal bone and an undiagnostic piece of iron slag of probable medieval date. The finds suggest that some focus of activity relating to this period took place within close proximity of the site. However, what this activity was, and to what extent

it took place is unclear.

6.4 Consideration of research aims

6.4.1 The general aim of the watching brief was to record archaeological deposits exposed by the groundworks associated with the cable trench. The watching brief was successful in observing and recording features of archaeological interest.

6.4.2 The more specific research aims are considered below.

Where did the majority of the flint used in the region come from, and how did people acquire it?

6.4.3 A relatively small quantity of flintwork was recovered from the site. Too small a quantity was recovered to determine provenance or to gain any information on acquisition methodology.

To investigate the impact of the Roman Road network on the distribution of different classes of material culture

6.4.4 No evidence of Roman activity was encountered during the archaeological watching brief, precluding any further consideration of this research aim.

To investigate the origins of dispersed settlement and the development of farmsteads in the medieval period

6.4.5 The sparse nature of medieval features makes their interpretation difficult. How they fit into the wider context of either a dispersed settlement or farmstead is unclear without further comparable evidence.

6.5 Updated Research Agenda

6.5.1 A small number of medieval features were revealed during the watching brief, but it is not clear from the works precisely what function these had. Their relatively large dimensions might indicate a proximity to settlement or activity, but what form this took is unclear. It would be useful to understand how this site fits within its wider contemporary landscape.

6.6 Conclusions

6.6.1 The watching brief was successful in recording a small number of medieval features. However, the way that these fitted into their wider contemporary landscape is unclear. The occurrence of prehistoric worked flint indicates the area's, at least, intermittent use during this period, which complements previously recorded activity in the area.

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ASE would like to thank Southern Water for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Tracey Matthews, County Archaeologist Hampshire County Council for her guidance and monitoring.

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.	-				
Site code	OTT17				
Project code	170211				
Planning reference	-				
Site address	Otterbourne WTW, Waterworks Road, Otterbourne, Winchester				
District/Borough					
NGR (12 figures)	446542 123196				
Geology	Head deposits				
Fieldwork type			WB		
Date of fieldwork	3-19 th May 2017				
Sponsor/client	Southern Water				
Project manager	Jon Sygrave				
Project supervisor	Tom Munnery				
Period summary			Neolithic	Bronze Age	
			Medieval	Post-Medieval	
Project summary (100 word max)	An archaeological watching brief was conducted at Otterbourne WTW, Waterworks Road, Otterbourne, Hampshire NGR 446542 123196, between the 3rd and 19th May 2017. Approximately 100 meters of cable trenching was observed. Small quantities of finds were recovered from a medieval ditch and a pit of probable medieval date. The precise function of the ditch and pit is unclear, as is how they fit into their wider contemporary landscape.				
Museum/Accession No.					

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
Flintwork	Stone	Prehistoric	
Pottery	Ceramic	Medieval	
Animal bone	Bone	Medieval	

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-288237

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief at Otterbourne WTW, Otterbourne, Hampshire

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South-East at Otterbourne WTW, Waterworks Road, Otterbourne, Hampshire NGR 446542 123196, between the 3rd and 19th May 2017. The works were undertaken as a part of Southern Water's permitted development under their best practice policy. Approximately 100 meters of cable trenching was observed. Small quantities of finds were recovered from two features, a medieval ditch and a pit of probable medieval date. The precise function of the ditch and pit is unclear, as is how they fit into their wider contemporary landscape.

Project dates Start: 03-05-2017 End: 19-05-2017

Previous/future work Not known / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 170211 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes OTT17 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Investigation type "Watching Brief"

Prompt Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country England

Site location HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER OTTERBOURNE
 Otterbourne WTW

Postcode SO21 2SW

Study area 0 Square metres

Site coordinates SU 446524 123236 50.908100916614 -
 1.364840539422 50 54 29 N 001 21 53 W Point

Project creators

Name of Archaeology South-East

Organisation

Project originator brief Southern Water

Project originator design Southern Water

Project director/manager JON SYGRAVE

Project supervisor Tom Munnery

Type of sponsor/funding body Southern Water

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient Local Museum

Physical Contents "Animal Bones","Ceramics","Worked stone/lithics"

Digital Archive recipient Local Museum

Digital Contents "Survey"

Digital available Media "Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Survey"

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper available Media "Context sheet","Drawing","Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes"

Project bibliography
1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An Archaeological Watching Brief at Otterbourne WTW, Otterbourne, Hampshire

Author(s)/Editor(s) Munnery, T

Other bibliographic details 2017281

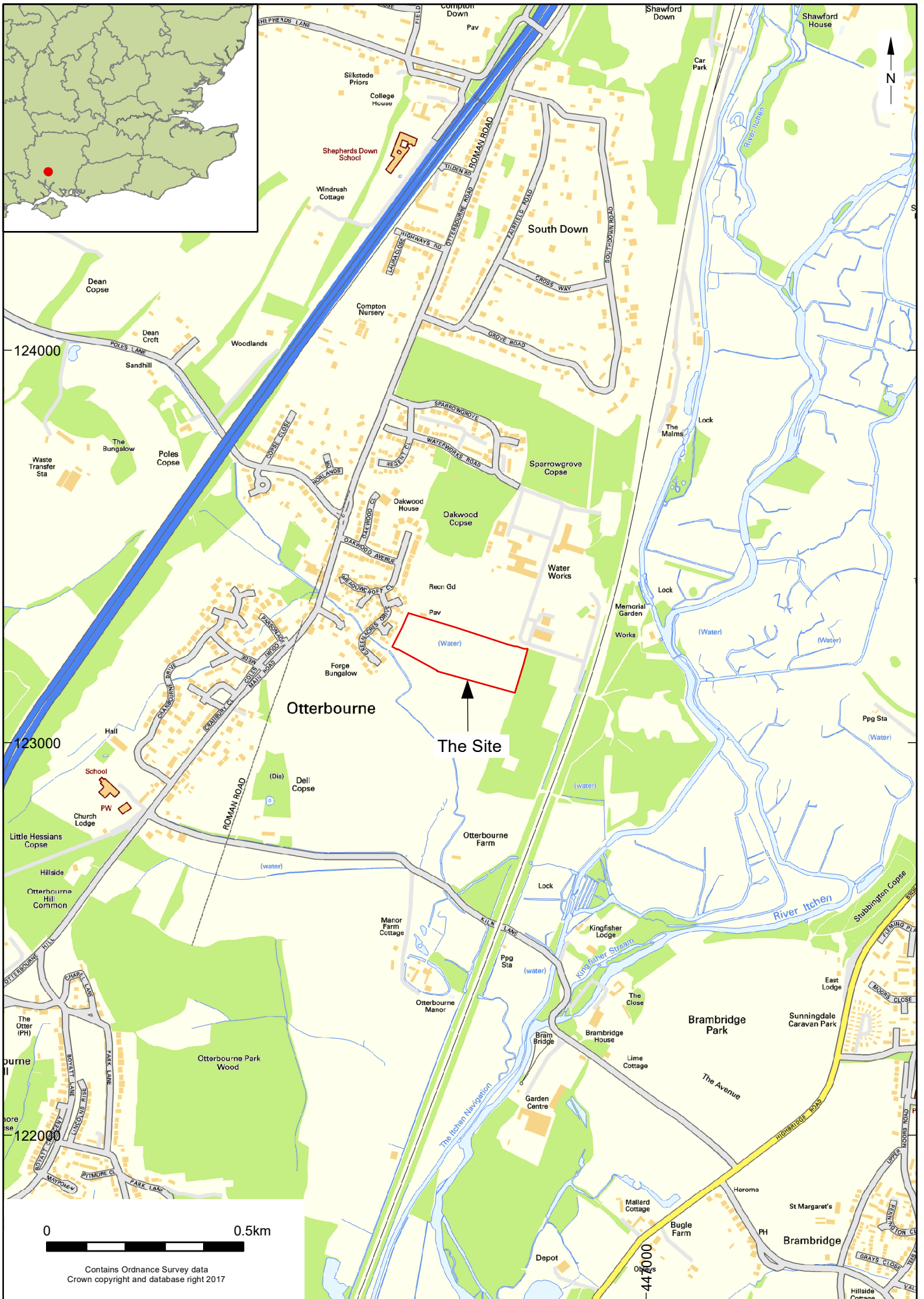
Date 2017

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or publication Hampshire HER

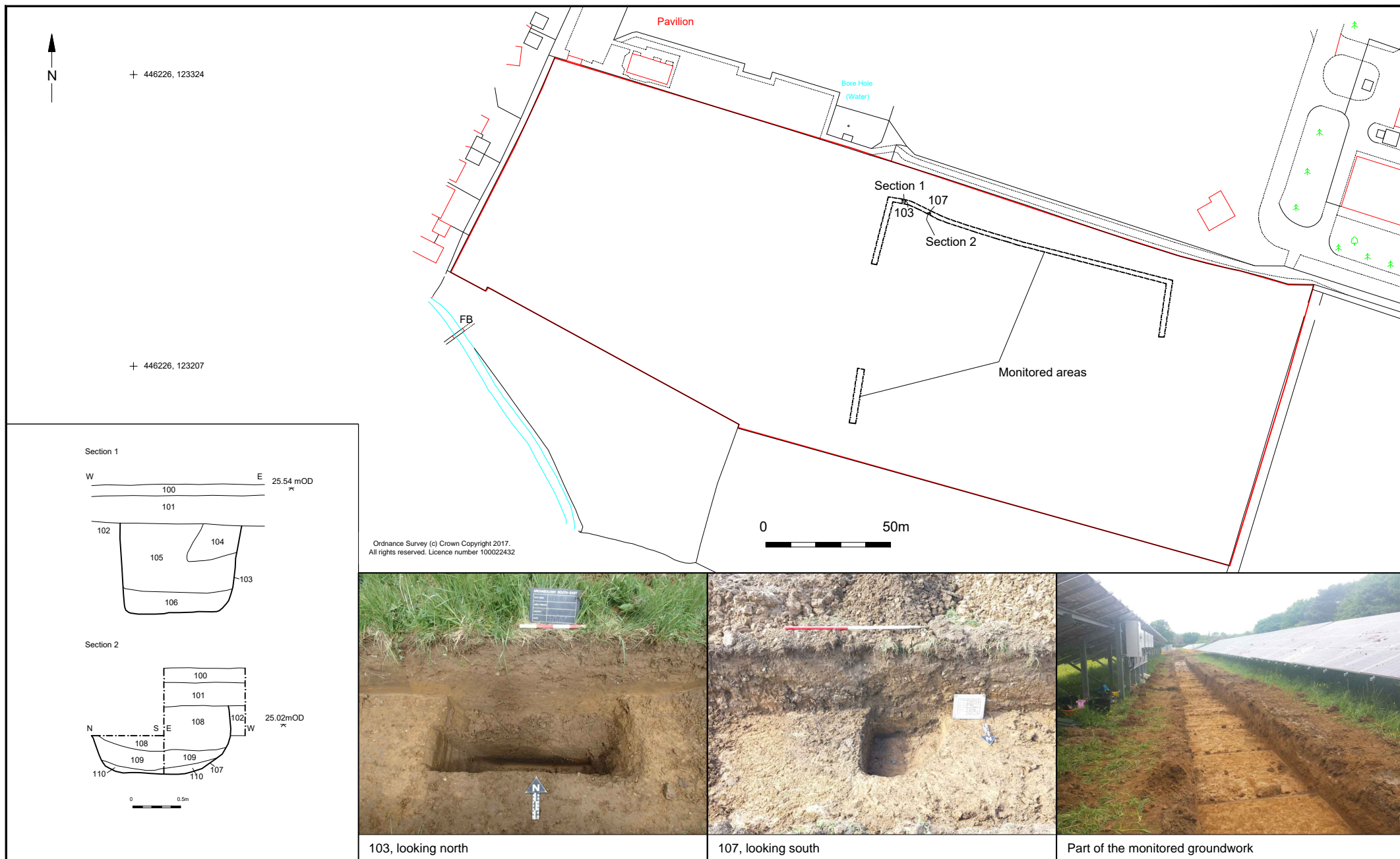
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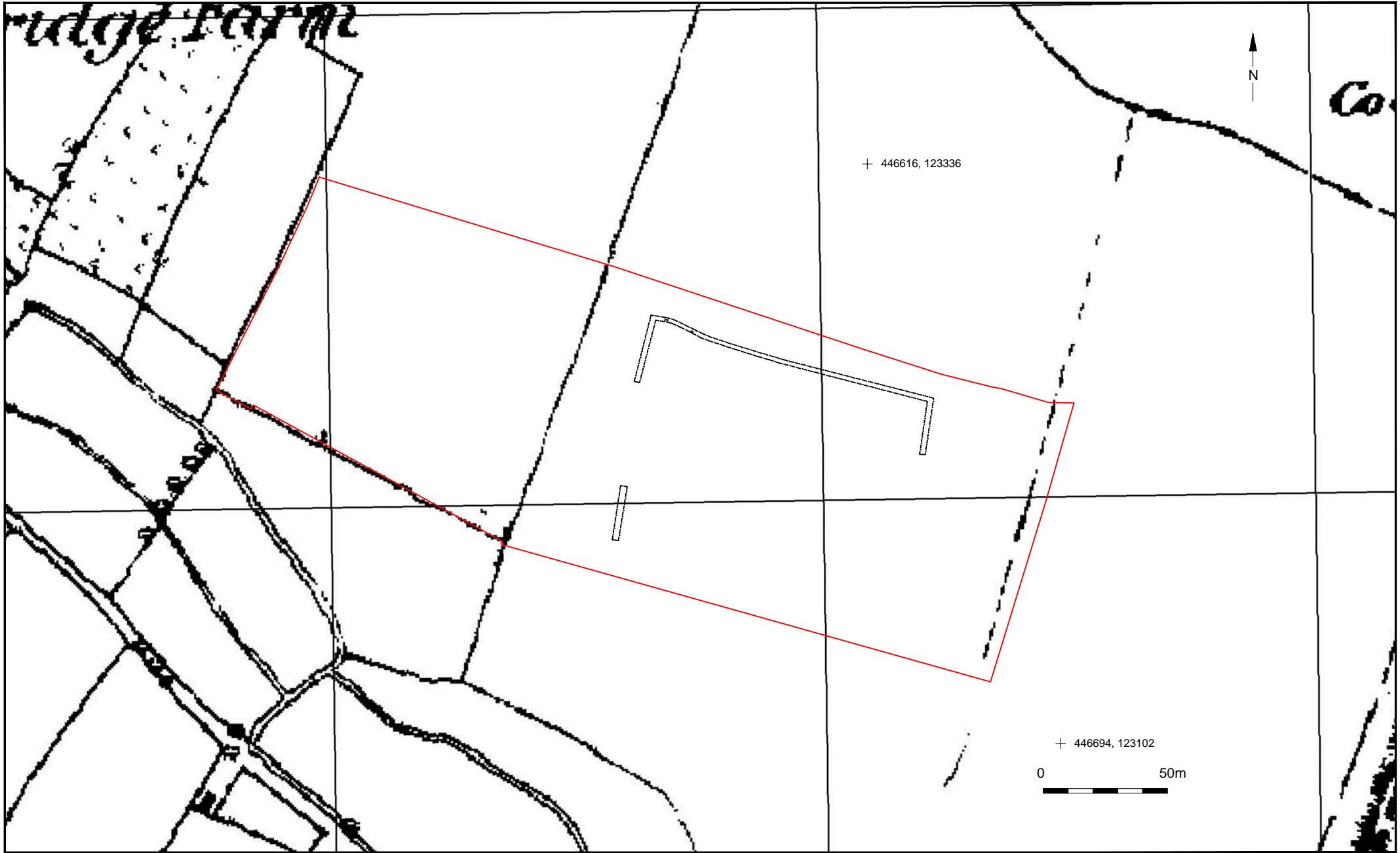


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Project Ref: 170211	June 2017	Site location		
Report Ref: 2017281	Drawn by: AR			



© Archaeology South-East		Otterbourne WSW	Fig.2
Project Ref: 170211	June 2017	Site plan with sections and photographs	
Report Ref: 2017281	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Otterbourne WSW	Fig.3
Project Ref: 170211	June 2017	Site Plan overlaid on 1872 1:10,560 OS map	
Report Ref: 2017281	Drawn by: AR		

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