

T H A M E S V A L L E Y

ARCHAEOLOGICAL

S E R V I C E S

S O U T H

**Tangmere Solar Farm, Tangmere,
Chichester, West Sussex**

Archaeological Watching Brief

by Teresa Viera

Site Code: TAC15/69

(SU 7810 7380)

Tangmere Solar Farm, Tangmere, Chichester, West Sussex

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
For West Sussex County Council**

by Teresa Vieira

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code TAC15/69

September 2015

Summary

Site name: Tangmere Solar Farm, Tangmere, Chichester, West Sussex

Grid reference: SU 9200 0635

Planning reference: WSCC/074/14/TG

Site activity: Watching Brief

Date and duration of project: 12th August 2015

Project manager: Sean Wallis

Site supervisor: Teresa Vieira

Site code: TAC 15/69

Area of site: c. 1100 sq m

Summary of results: The watching brief successfully investigated the area of the site where a permanent access road was to be created. It became apparent that, due to the shallow depth of the ground reduction in respect of the road, any archaeological deposits which may be present on the site would not be adversely affected by the creation of the road.

Location and reference of archive: The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Novium Museum, Chichester, in due course.

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Tangmere Solar Farm, Tangmere, Chichester, West Sussex An Archaeological Watching Brief

by Teresa Vieira

Report 15/69b

Introduction

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Tangmere Solar Farm, Tangmere, West Sussex (SU 92000 0635) (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr John Mills, on behalf of West Sussex County Council, Northleigh House, Tower Street, Chichester, PO19 1RH.

Planning permission (WSCC/074/14/TG) had been gained from West Sussex Council to construct a new solar farm on part of the former Tangmere airfield. The permission was subject to a standard condition (8) relating to archaeology and the historic environment, requiring the implementation of a programme of archaeological works prior to the development, in accordance with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (NPPF 2012) and the County Council's policies on archaeology and the historic environment. As part of the programme of works required, a building survey has been reported separately (Elliott 2015).

As a consequence of the possibility of archaeological deposits on the site which may be damaged or destroyed by the building work, it was proposed to carry out a watching brief during the creation of a new access road. This approach had been recommended by Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council, and the watching brief was carried out in accordance with a written scheme of investigation approved by him. Where appropriate and relevant, the recommendations in *Sussex Archaeological Standards* (ESCC 2015) were to be followed. The fieldwork was undertaken by Teresa Vieira on 12th August 2015, and the site code is TAC 15/69.

The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be deposited at the Novium Museum, Chichester, in due course.

Location, topography and geology

The site is located on the eastern side of the former Tangmere Airfield, about 4km east of Chichester, West Sussex (Fig. 1). According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology consists of Aeolian Deposits (Brickearth), although the ground reduction in respect of the new access road was not deep enough to reveal this deposit (BGS 1996). The site is relatively flat and lies at a height of approximately 14m above Ordnance Datum.

Archaeological background

The Archaeological background of the site has been considered in a brief for the project prepared by Mr John Mills, Senior Archaeologist with West Sussex County Council (WSCC 2015). In summary, features dating from the Iron Age and Roman periods have been found to the north of the present site, along with a concentration of Mesolithic flintwork. The only archaeological find from the site itself is a single sherd of medieval pottery, which was recovered during the excavation of a pipe trench in 1997. The site is located within a former military airfield (RAF Tangmere) which opened during the First World War and was finally closed in the late 1970s. It is therefore possible that buried features relating to the airfield may be present.

Objectives and methodology

The aims of the watching brief were to excavate and record any archaeological deposits affected by the proposed groundworks. This was to involve the monitoring of ground reduction for a new access road. Where it was not possible or practicable to preserve archaeological remains *in-situ* the features were to be excavated by hand and fully recorded, to ensure their preservation by record. The watching brief was to be carried out in accordance with the relevant sections of Sussex Archaeological Standards (ESCC 2015) and the guidelines issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists.

Results

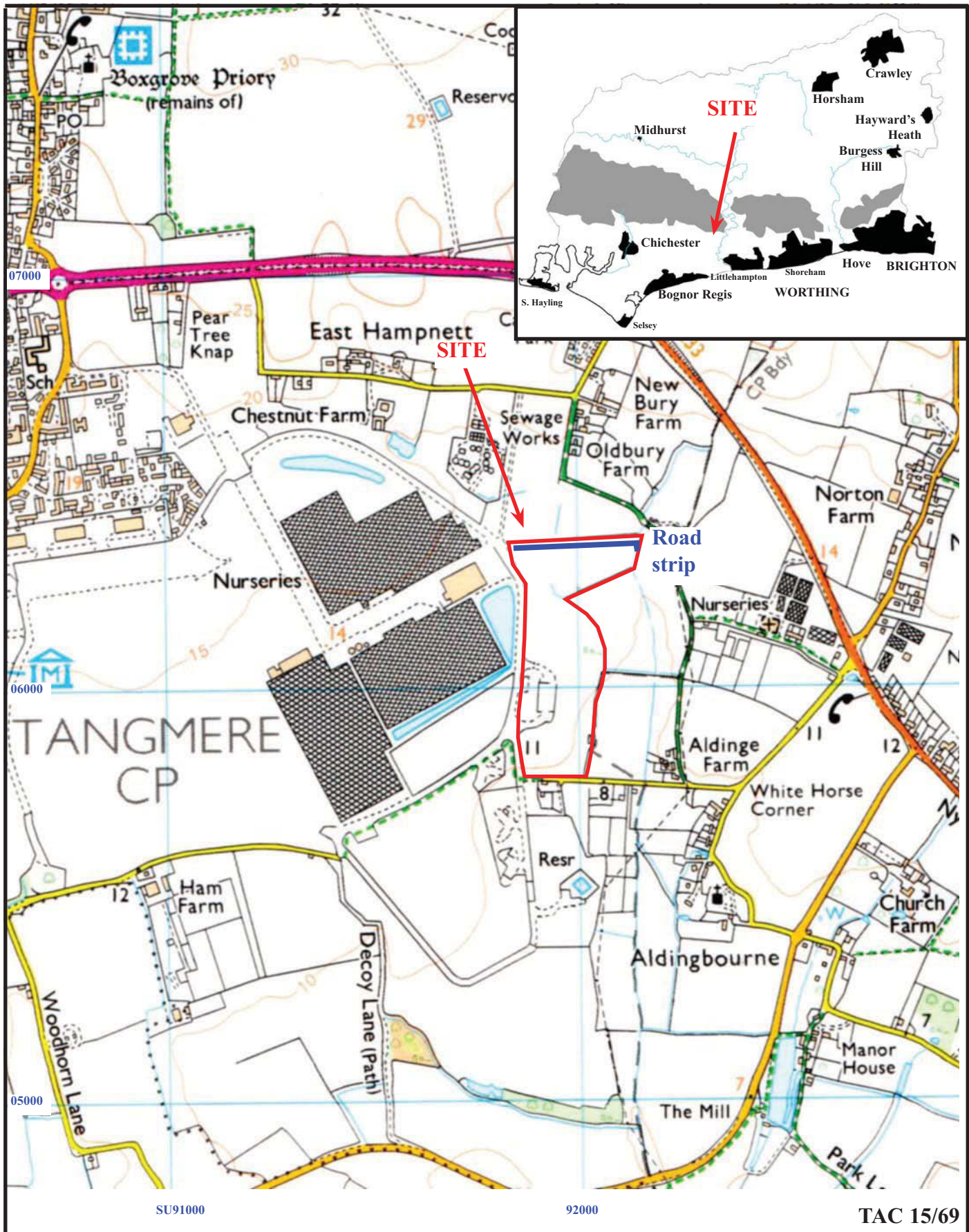
The area which was stripped in respect of the new road measured approximately 3.50m by 325m (Fig. 1). The area was stripped of turf and topsoil to a depth of approximately 0.15m. This ground reduction was not enough to expose or affect any archaeological levels (Pls 1 and 2) and accordingly no archaeological finds or features were observed. Progress was observed by the West Sussex County Council Archaeologist, who advised that further monitoring was not required.

Conclusion

The watching brief at this site successfully examined the area which was to be most affected by the new access road. Despite the archaeological potential of the surrounding area and the fact that the area does not appear to have been significantly disturbed in the past, no archaeological finds or features were observed.

References

- BGS, 1996, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 317/332, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth
- Elliott, G, 2015, 'Tangmere Airfield Nurseries, The Old Airfield, City Fields Way, Tangmere, Chichester, West Sussex: Building Recording', TVAS South unpubl rep **15/69**, Brighton
- ESCC, 2015, *Sussex Archaeological Standards*, East Sussex County Council, Lewes
- NPPF, 2012, *National Planning Policy Framework*, Dept Communities and Local Government, London
- Rudling, D, (ed) 2003, *The Archaeology of Sussex to AD2000*, King's Lynn



**Tangmere Solar Farm, Tangmere, Chichester,
West Sussex, 2015**

Archaeological Watching Brief

Figure 1. Location of site within Tangmere
and West Sussex, showing location of the stripped area.

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Plate 1. General view of stripping in progress.



Plate 2. Depth of stripping. Scale: 0.1m.

TAC 15/69

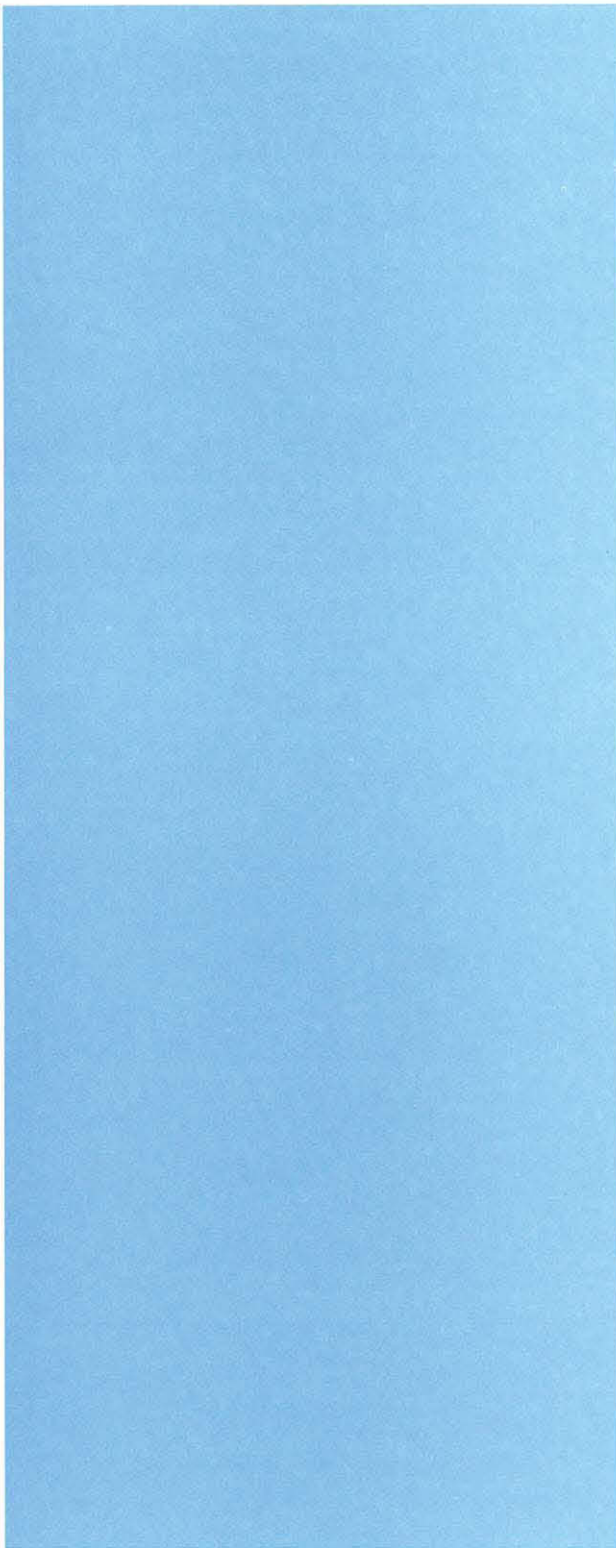
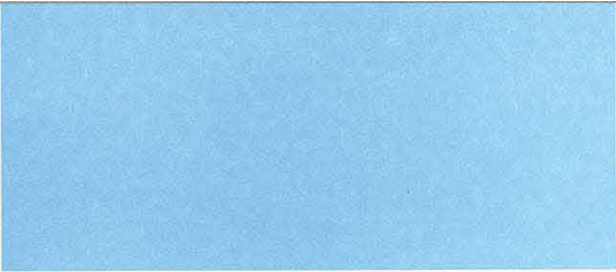
**Tangmere Solar Farm, Tangmere, Chichester,
West Sussex, 2015
Archaeological Watching Brief
Plates 1 - 2.**

**THAMES VALLEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SERVICES
SOUTH**

TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower	2,000,000 BC





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