

Archaeological Observation

On behalf of

Southern Planning Practice Ltd

Concerning

Land at Oakland Farm
(Hadeeqatul Mehdi)
Green Street
East Worldham
Bordon
Hampshire GU34 3AU



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Cover: View southeast of completed trenching excavation.

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1 Executive Summary

Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Ian Ellis Esq of Southern Planning Practice Ltd on behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association to carry out a programme of archaeological observation of engineering groundworks associated with the undergrounding of a water supply pipe on land located within the South Downs National Park at Oakland Farm (Hadeeqatul Mehdi) Green Street East Worldham Bordon Hampshire GU34 3AU (Planning Refs: SDNP/15/00605/FUL; SDNP/15/02415/FUL[resubmission]) (NGR SU 7632237867) (fig. 1).

One 50m trench running northwest/southeast was opened on 6th July 2016 to a width of 0.50m and a depth of 1.00m. Some natural clay deposits were encountered along the trench, with topsoil and subsoil being present.

Five post-medieval land drains were seen within the trench but no features or deposits of archaeological significance were revealed.

2 Introduction

Border Archaeology Ltd (BA) was instructed by Ian Ellis Esq of Southern Planning Practice Ltd on behalf of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association to carry out a programme of archaeological observation of engineering groundworks associated with the undergrounding of a water supply pipe on land located with the South Downs National Park at Oakland Farm (Hadeeqatul Mehdi) Green Street East Worldham Bordon Hampshire GU34 3AU (Planning Refs: SDNP/15/00605/FUL; SDNP/15/02415/FUL[resubmission]) (NGR SU 7632237867) (*fig. 1*).

A trench measuring 50m × 0.50m × 1.00m was excavated on 6th July 2016 across farmland to replace buried pipework with a larger pipe connected on the surface (*fig. 1*). The groundworks extended some 130m SE of a Late Iron Age hillfort situated on the summit of King John's Hill (SAM No. 243207; AHBR No. 17217) (NGR: SU 75 37) and approximately 140m SW of the projected NW/SE alignment of the Roman road between Chichester and Silchester (AHBR No. 29776 'Roman Road 4'; Margary 155).

The work was conducted in accordance with BA's Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI ref: BA1616OFB) as approved on 19th February 2016 by Neil Adam Esq. Senior Archaeologist Hampshire County Council Specialist Environmental Services.

2.1 Aims

The aim of the archaeological observation was to locate and record any archaeological finds, features or deposits within the groundworks area and to confirm that no impact on the archaeological resource occurred during the course of the groundworks without the implementation of this programme of archaeological work.

Specifically, it was considered that the fieldwork results may produce evidence with the potential to address specific research themes and aims identified within the emergent *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment*, the present volume of which represents the results of the first two stages of a three-stage process (Hey & Hind 2014, 1). These themes include 'Landscape and land use' (Research Aim 10.4.5-8) (Lambrick 2014, 150) and 'Communications and trade' (Research Aim 12.12.10-14) (Fulford 2014, 184).

3 Site Description

3.1 Site Location

The pipeline is located approximately 140m SW of the projected NW/SE alignment of the Roman road extending for roughly 58km between Chichester and Silchester (AHBR No. 29776 'Roman Road 4'; Margary 155). The pipeline also ran approximately 130m SE of a Scheduled Late Iron Age hillfort situated on the summit of King John's Hill (SAM No. 243207; AHBR No. 17217) (NGR: SU 75 37) (*fig. 1*).

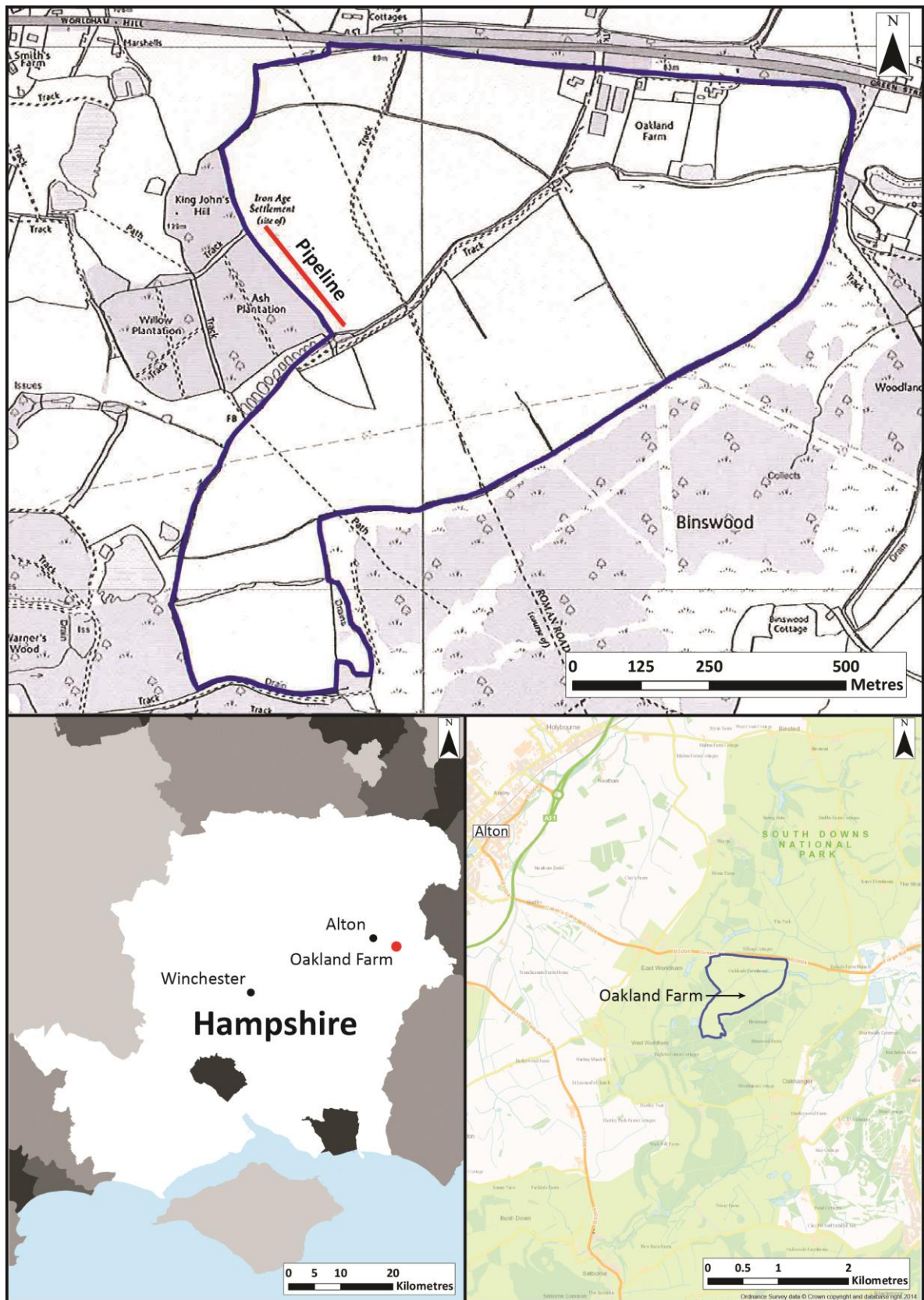


Fig. 1: Plan showing site location

3.2 Topography

The site lies within the South Downs National Park. The pipeline was located on the highest point of Oakland Farm within a species-poor improved grassland field of approximately 15ha to the S of Worldham Hill (the B3004 road). The site is located approximately 400m NW of Binswood, an area of open habitats and closed woodland extending over 62.5ha and a designated Site of Special Scientific Interest (Ref: 1080589).

The woodland located immediately adjacent to the W comprises Unit 3 (King John's Hill, Ash Plantation and Willow Plantation) of the Wickwood and Worldham Hangers Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) (Ref: 1011603), forming part of the East Hampshire Hangers Special Area of Conservation (SAC). There are ponds on the southern boundary of the SSSI and a drainage ditch extends along the southern field boundary. Mature hedgerows border the field to the N, S and E.

3.3 Soils and Geology

Local soils consist of humo-ferric podzols of the SHIRRELL HEATH 1 series (631c), these being well-drained very acid sandy soils with a bleached subsurface horizon, with some sandy and coarse loamy soils affected by groundwater, often with a humose surface horizon. The underlying geology consists of Cretaceous and Tertiary sand (SSEW 1983).



Plate. 1: Trench profile showing soils and geology

4 Historical and Archaeological Background

The pipeline ran approximately 130m SE of the Scheduled earthwork remains of King John's Hill (SAM ref: 243207; AHBR No. 17217) (NGR: SU 75 37), a small multivallate hillfort of Late Iron Age date. The defensive works enclose a flat, N/S aligned, roughly oval internal area of approximately 0.8ha, although later quarrying of the underlying greensand deposits for malmstone has removed the defences on the northern section of the monument. An investigation carried out in 1939 on behalf of Alton Museum yielded pottery dating to c. 100 BC, together with evidence relating to two infilled storage pits.

Further investigation in 1947 established a sequence of occupation extending into the post-medieval period. Evidence of at least two occupation phases was revealed, including 13th -to 14th -century pottery, together with a schist hone and reused, diagonally-tooled masonry and other building materials. Several short lengths of rough stone walling were also recorded, together with rammed malm floors and a stoke-hole measuring roughly 6ft (1.82m) in length and 3ft (0.91m) across, terminating at an oven, c.3ft (0.91m) × 3ft (0.91m), constructed of squared masonry bearing traces of charcoal and evidence of burning, together with brick, tile and other building materials ranging in date from the Tudor to the post-medieval period. A sherd of a Bellarmine jug was also found.

The finds and structural remains would appear to support a local tradition that King John had a royal hunting lodge built on the summit of the hill. Documentary evidence, which records the existence of a deer park at East Worldham from at least 1372, offers further corroboration. However, whilst a documentary reference of 1374 relating to the conveyance of East Worldham to the Crown by John de Burghersh refers to minor works affecting the manor house, no mention is made of a hunting lodge (Allen Brown, Colvin & Taylor 1963, 929).

The site also lies close to the projected line of the Roman road which runs for a distance of some 58km between Chichester and Silchester (AHBR No. 29776 Roman Road 4; Magary 155). The road emerges from Binswood SSSI to the SE of the site, a fragment of the old Royal Forest of Woolmer that remains under pasture woodland management, with common rights of grazing. Evidence of the *agger* and flint-metalling associated with the road have been recorded in this area (Magary 1973, 80). From this point, the line of the road continues NW/SE, passing roughly 140m NE of the ground works area.

5 Methodology

Archaeological procedures conformed to *Standard and Guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials* (ClfA 2014) and *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014). Border Archaeology adheres to the *ClfA Code of Conduct* (2014) and to project management advice set out in *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MORPHE Project Managers Guide* (Lee 2015).

5.1 Archaeological observation

The programme of archaeological observation was carried out where ground works comprised a NW/SE -aligned trench linking with the site water network and measuring 50m × 0.50m × 1.00m (*fig. 1*). The trench was opened by machine using a toothless 0.50m -wide bucket and topsoil, subsoil and excavated natural spoil were routinely checked.

Engineering levelling equipment was used during the course of the ground works to ensure a consistent 1.00m depth along the full 50m length of the trench. Pea gravels were laid in the bottom of the trench prior to the installation of the water pipe, as well as covering the laid pipe, where the excavated soil was then returned to the trench. Approximately 0.15m of sand then covered the pipeline before the water storage tanks were assembled.

6 Results

Topsoil and subsoil deposits were present throughout the entirety of the trench, with small areas of natural clay exposed in places. No features or deposits of archaeological or palaeoenvironmental significance were identified and no significant artefactual evidence was present. Post-medieval land drains were encountered (*Plate 2*), with occasional fragments of modern glass noted within the topsoil.



Plate 2: Profile of trench showing truncated land drain (centre)

Topsoil and subsoil were generally c.0.36m and c.0.34m thick, respectively; however, where the trench turned slightly towards its northern extent (*Plates 3 & 4*) there was a marginal fall in the ground level, reflecting the downward sloping topography at this point, and topsoil and subsoil were shallower.



Plate 3: N end of trench showing bend to accommodate pipeline



Plate 4: View showing downward slope towards N end of the trench, at bend location

7 Conclusion

The trench was located at the highest point of Oakland Farm (*Plate 5*). No features or deposits of archaeological or palaeoenvironmental significance were encountered during the course of the ground works excavations, with topsoil and subsoil present throughout the entirety of the trenching; thus, no potential was identified to address specific research themes and aims identified within the emergent *Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment* (Hey & Hind 2014).

A consistent depth of 1.00m was maintained and the natural geology was revealed at or above this depth in places.

The area has been subject to extensive cultivation, with clear evidence of ploughing and land drainage noted. Five post-medieval land drains were encountered at irregularly spaced points along the trench at depths of 0.60-0.80m, where evidence of plough disturbance had additionally resulted in mixed topsoil/subsoil deposits.



Plate 5: Post-excavation view NW showing extent of pipeline trench

8 Copyright

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9 Bibliography

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