

**Archaeological Monitoring Report:  
Land at Bishops Place, London Road & Church Lane, Albourne,  
Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 9BL**

Site code: BPHM 16  
NGR: TQ 26276 15721 - TQ 26550 15337 &  
TQ 25744 16385 - TQ 25930 16239  
PCA Ref: 1703  
OASIS ref: preconst3-260463

Report prepared for

ADAS UK Ltd.

by

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## Summary

Archaeological monitoring and recording took place during the groundworks for a cable route at Bishops Place, Albourne, Hassocks. Two stretches of cable route were monitored, one to the south of Bishops Place, the other to the northwest, close to Church Lane, Albourne.

Bishops Place is a post-medieval farm, named for the medieval manor that once occupied this area to the east of Albourne. The main house at Bishops Place dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and is surrounded by 18<sup>th</sup> century farm buildings, which replaced medieval structures that stood on the site. Medieval documentary records show a small settlement associated with the manor, which has since contracted.

Medieval Albourne focused around the Church of St. Bartholomew at the west end of Church Lane. Albourne Street is probably an early post-medieval development on the more accessible roads, but retained its association with the existing village and may have had its origins as the Bishops Place settlement. Medieval and post-medieval remains may survive along Church Lane, linking Albourne and Albourne Street.

The archaeological monitoring identified no significant archaeological remains, although a small corpus of unstratified artefacts was recovered, including two pieces of worked flint and two sherds of pottery, one of 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century date. A fragment of ceramic roof tile of a similar date was also recovered.



**Figure 1:** Site location plan at scale 1:25,000. The area of the development site is marked in red. OS mapping © Crown copyright. All rights reserved. PCAS Licence No. 100049278.

## 1.0 Introduction

Pre-Construct Archaeological Services Ltd, were commissioned by ADAS UK Ltd. to undertake archaeological monitoring and recording during the groundworks associated with the installation of new electricity cables on land at Bishops Place, Albourne, Hassocks in West Sussex.

Two stretches of cable route were monitored; one to the south of Bishops Place Farm, and the other close to Church Lane, to the north of Bishops Place. Both areas lie in the vicinity of known heritage assets, therefore archaeological monitoring was undertaken to identify and record any archaeological remains that were encountered.

The archaeological monitoring and recording at the site was completed according to a Written Scheme of Investigation (Lane, 2016), and followed current best practice and appropriate national guidance, which at the time comprised:

- NPPF, National Planning Policy Framework, 2012;
- ClfA Code of Conduct (2014 as revised);
- ClfA Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief (2014);
- Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE v1.1, 2009, English Heritage).

## 2.0 Site Location and Description (Figs. 1 - 3)

Albourne Street is a village in the Mid Sussex district of West Sussex, lying on the west side of the A23 around 9km from the outskirts of Brighton. Albourne itself is a medieval village lying to the west along Church Street, now a shrunken village. Bishops Place is a former manor; now a farm on the south side of the village, to the west of the B2118 which extends southwards from Albourne Street towards Brighton Road. Two stretches of the cable route were identified for monitoring.

The southern end of this stretch of cable route (Fig. 2) lies at approximate NGR TQ 26550 15337, extending west parallel to the existing field boundary and turning north to continue following the field boundary towards Bishops Place. On meeting the metalled track the cable route branches; one extends east then north terminating alongside the Listed granary at approximate NGR TQ 26334 15681, the other extending west then north to follow the track for another c.90m before terminating at approximate NGR TQ 26276 15721.

The second stretch of cable route lies to the northwest of Bishops Place, south of Church Lane which extends west out from Albourne Street towards the historic settlement of Albourne, crossing the Cutlers Brook. The western most point of this stretch of the cable route lies at c.NGR TQ 25744 16385, from where it extends east towards Albourne through the field to the south of Church Lane, turning south before it meets the field boundary. It continues for a short distance in this direction, before turning west along existing overhead cables before turning south again and extending along the east bank of the Cutlers Brook, also along the line of an existing overhead cable. The southernmost NGR of this stretch of the cable is TQ 25930 16239. The total length of this second stretch is c.470m. (Fig. 3).

### **3.0 Topography and Geology**

Albourne lies in an undulating agricultural landscape; levels around Church Street are between 20-25mOD, rising to the east, while levels at Bishops Place are between 35-40m OD, again rising to the east.

The bedrock geology of this area is varied, lying in bands on roughly east-west alignments approaching the coast. The bedrock of Bishops Place is recorded as Lower Greensand Group – silty sandstone. Overlying deposits of Alluvium and Head - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel may be encountered along this stretch of the monitoring. South of Church Lane the bedrock geology is recorded as Weald Clay Formation – Mudstone, and overlying Alluvium deposits may be encountered towards the west end of this part of the cable route (<http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).

### **4.0 Planning Background**

The application comes under Permitted Works and therefore did not require planning permission. The project replaced a number of existing telegraph poles and relocate some cables underground.

### **5.0 Archaeological and Historical Background**

Prehistoric activity around Bishops Place is largely represented by scatters of flint and stone tools, and rare instances of pottery being recovered, indicating activity in the area from the Mesolithic - Iron Age. The closest of these to the site is a concentration of Bronze Age pottery and flint lying between the A23 and the B2118 around 200m east of the southern end of the southern cable route, which may indicate an early occupation site. In the wider area lies Wolstonbury Camp, a Late Bronze Age Ram's Hill type enclosure usually interpreted as domestic settlement sites (List entry ID 1016153), c. 2.4km to the southeast, probably associated with the cross dyke and bowl barrow immediately to the east of the enclosure (List entry ID 1015226). A little over 4km to the southwest lies Devils Dyke Iron Age hillfort (List entry ID 1014953).

A scatter of Romano-British pottery has also been found in this area between the A23 and the B2118, but to date there are few recorded Roman features around Albourne. Hassocks is known to be a large Roman settlement where the cross roads between the London – Brighton road and the Barcombe Mills – Hardham road met, with a large Roman cemetery being recorded in the vicinity of the crossroads (Margary, 1973). The latter road, which linked the radial roads out of London to the south coast, is thought to lie c. 300m to the south of Bishops Place, in the vicinity of Shaves Wood. A scheduled Roman villa site lying adjacent to this road is recorded at Randolphins Farm, some 1.5km southeast of the southern cable route, which evidence indicates was occupied in the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries AD (List entry ID 1014948).

There are no recorded Saxon dated monuments in the vicinity of Albourne, however the place name is derived from the Old English *alor* and *burna*, meaning the stream where alders grow (Mills, 1998), suggesting there may have been a small farm or settlement in the area in this period. Albourne does not appear in the Domesday Book; the closest recorded settlement is Hurstpierpoint, which is recorded as large settlement of 35 villagers, 8 smallholders and 8 slaves, with three mills and a church in addition to the meadow and woodland for 50 pigs (<http://opendomesday.org/place/TQ2716/hurstpierpoint/>). The first documentary record of Albourne dates from 1177 when Aleburn is recorded in the records of the Bishops of Chichester; Bissopeshurst, in Aleburn is the first recording for Bishops Place



in documentary records in the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century, and probably represents a manor belonging to the Bishop of Chichester.

Albourne and Bishopshurst appear along side in medieval documentary records, indicating two closely linked manors. The settlement of Albourne is thought to have lain to the west of the modern village, focused around the Church of St. Bartholomew which dates from the early Norman period. The church lies around 200m from the northern stretch of the cable route (List entry ID 1354779), and Albourne Place is a 16<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup> century manor located c. 500m southwest of the church.

Bishopshurst is recorded as a manor lying to the east close to the London – Brighton road, and is commonly the smaller of the two manors. The early post-medieval manor house of Bishopshurst is recorded as standing to the southeast of the modern settlement of Albourne, although it had been demolished by 1840 (<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/sussex/vol6/pt3/pp125-127>).

Bishops Place dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century (possibly earlier as a datestone is recorded over a fireplace within the building gives a date of 1597, although it is likely this was brought in from elsewhere), and is a Grade II Listed Building (List entry ID 1025822). It may have been a manor house in its own right in the early post-medieval period but by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century it was part of Bishops Place Farm, being briefly converted into three labourers cottages in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century. To the south of the house lies a barn and granary, both Listed (List entry ID 1096869; 1096870), and both dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, although the barn is constructed using stone from an earlier building that stood on the site and was demolished in the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century Civil War. Historic mapping shows a number of smaller buildings around the barn and granary, the foundations of which may be encountered during the planned works.

The modern village of Albourne Street develops in the post-medieval period on the more accessible road linking local villages, with the focus of occupation slowly moving away from the medieval settlement around the parish church to the modern village. The place name distinguishes it from Albourne Green to the north, another small hamlet on this more accessible road which has since been enveloped into Albourne Street. It is probable these place names derive from the association to the medieval village of Albourne to the west. Albourne Street only loses the suffix in the very late 20<sup>th</sup> century. Church Lane which links medieval Albourne with Albourne Street is not recorded as having any development along it throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but as very accessible land it may have been occupied or utilised for agricultural / industrial purposes throughout the medieval / post-medieval period.

## 6.0 Methodology

The archaeological monitoring took place in accordance with the WSI prepared by PCAS (Lane, 2016). It involved monitoring the new cable trench excavations to the west of Albourne, south of Church Lane to the location of the proposed new substation, west of Albourne. In a slight deviation from the original methodology a shorter length of open trenching was also monitored to the south of Culters Brook, which also formed part of the northern cable route. The southern cable route was monitored over its entire length apart from the final northwestern part which was adjusted to be excavated along the field edge.

Excavations were undertaken using a small 360 mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth bucket. The trench was generally c. 0.30m wide and 1.20m deep, which prevented access.

All deposits observed were recorded on standard PCAS context recording sheets, and the progress of the groundworks noted on a standard PCAS site diary sheet. Sample sections

were drawn at intervals at a scale of 1:20, and plotted on a base plan at scale 1:1250. A digital photographic record was maintained: a selection from this is reproduced in this report.

The monitoring took place intermittently between 6/06/16 until 24/6/16 and was undertaken by J. Coles, M. Rowe and S. Savage.

## 7.0 Results (Figs. 2-4)

### *The southern cable route*

The southern length of open trenching was located to the south of Bishops Place and effectively excavated in four sections starting at the lowest point, furthest away from Bishops Place.

The first leg of this trench was in a narrow valley floor with the ground rising sharply to the north. Natural bright orange silty sand (104) was encountered at 0.6m below the existing ground level at the southern end of the trench. This was sealed by c. 0.5m of water logged mottled grey/yellow-brown silty sand subsoil (103) towards the south, but also up to 0.8m of red-brown silt sand hillwash (102) to the north. These deposits were sealed by c. 0.2m of dark brown sandy-silt loam topsoil (101).

The second leg of this trench ran along the top of the break of slope at the foot of the arable field, but above the narrow valley, effectively cutting diagonally across the deep hillwash deposit at its east end and emerging higher up the slope to the west. The same sequence of natural sand (203), hillwash (202) and topsoil (201) was observed along its length. Four fragments of pottery and a single piece of worked flint was recovered from the topsoil along the field edge (see **Appendix 2 & 3** below).



Plate 1: Working shot of second leg of the southern cable route, looking west.



The third leg of this trench ascended the hill along the western edge of the field. The accumulated hillwash (302) was only present at the southern (downslope) end of this leg. Across most of the length of the trench c. 0.35m of plough soil (301) lay directly over the natural sand (303). An area of hard standing was present adjacent to the metalled farm track in the northwest corner of this field. This was made from imported hardcore which included modern (stamped) brick fragments, concrete and broken up tarmac (304).

Plate 2: Looking south down the natural slope along the route of leg 3 of the southern cable route.



The final monitored leg of this trench cut through the metalled farm track (402) and extended across the broadly flat hill top to the last cable pole adjacent to the grounds of Bishops Place. The natural bright grey-orange sand with occasional flint nodules was encountered at c. 0.35m below the existing ground level seal only by the plough soil (401) of this arable field. A single fragment of ceramic roof tile and a piece of worked flint was recovered from the plough soil (401) (see **Appendix 2 & 3** below).

Plate 3: Cable trench crossing the metalled farm track to the south of Bishops Place





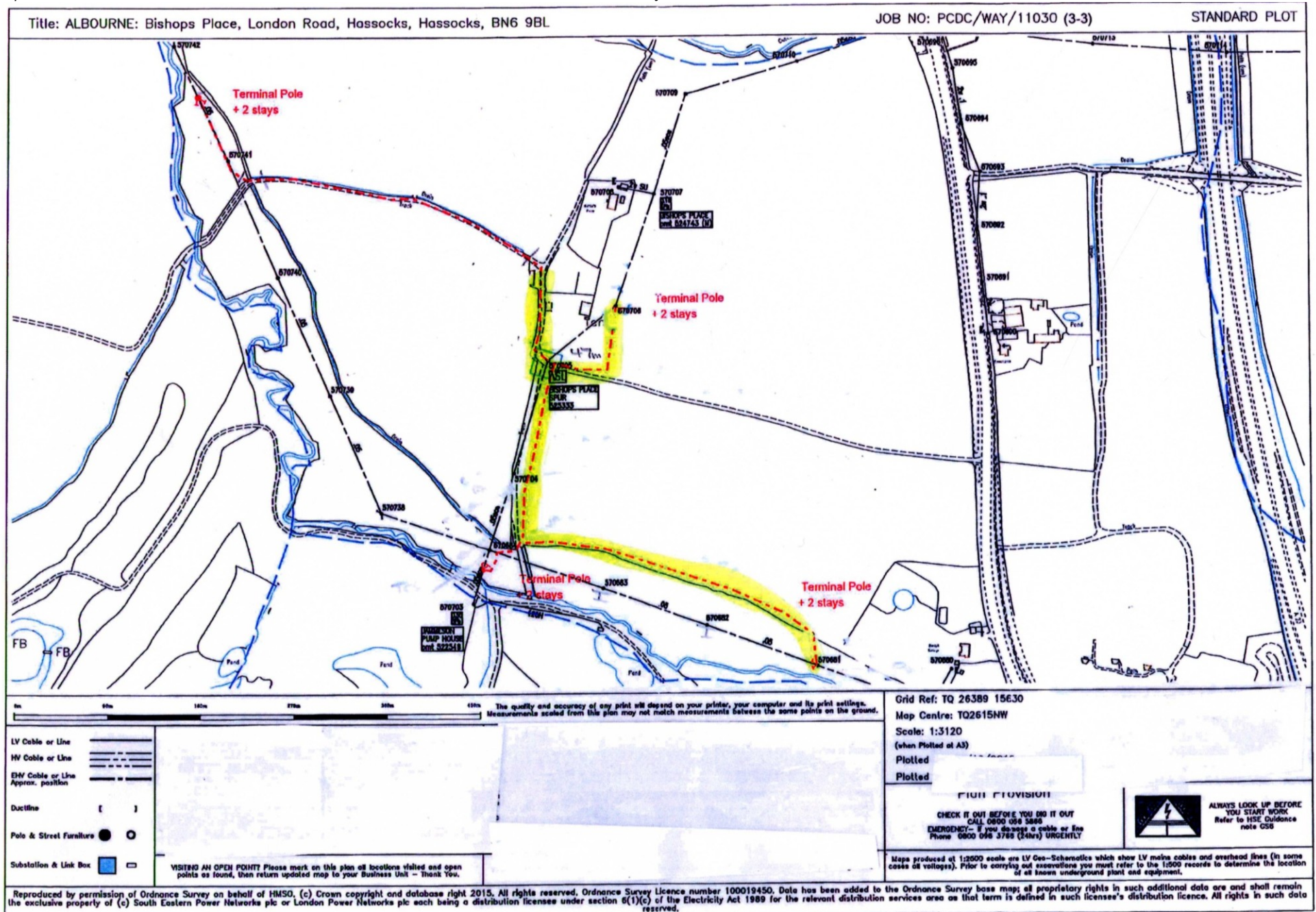
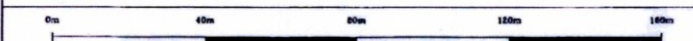
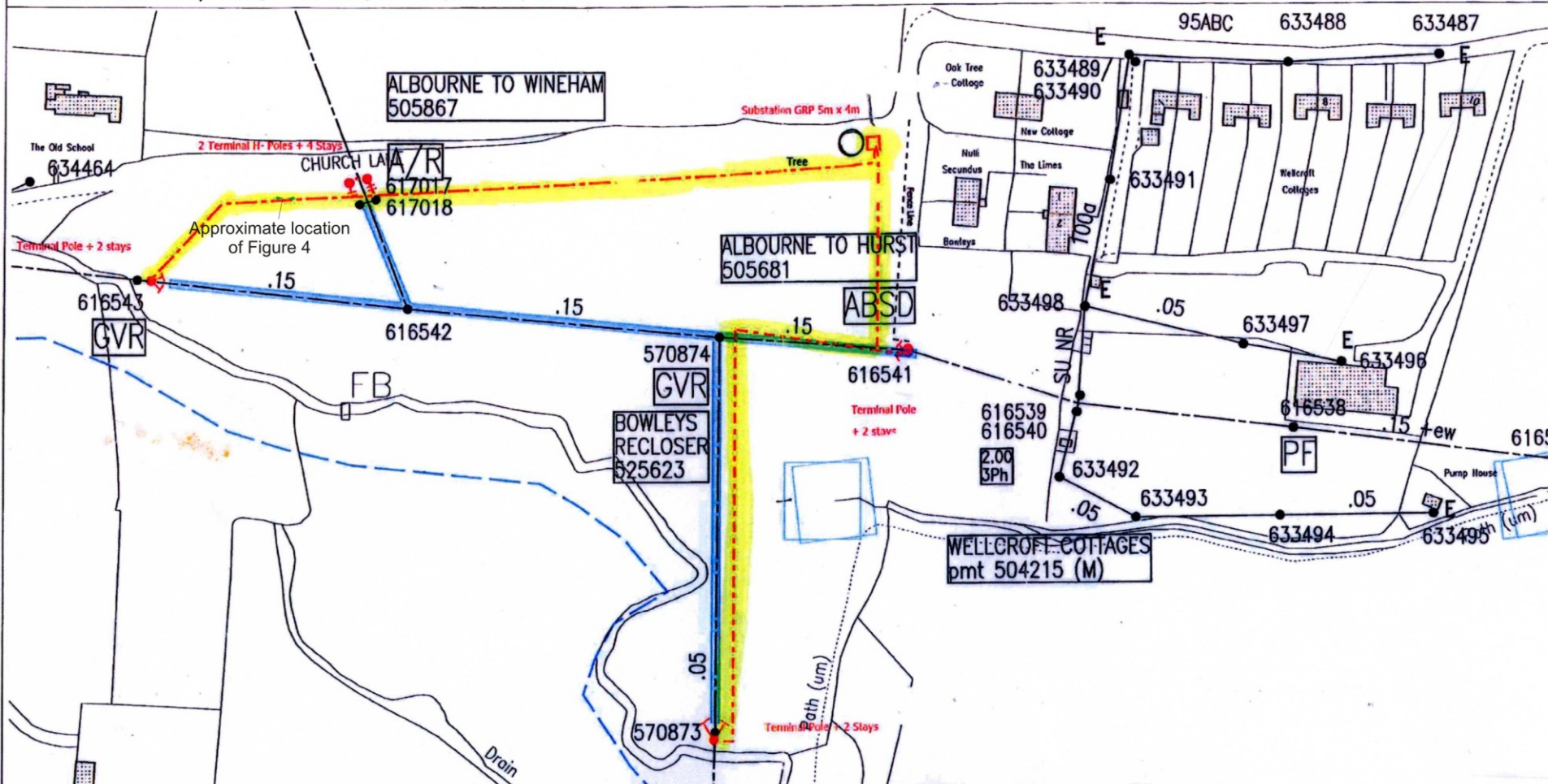


Figure 2: Plan of southern cable route south of Bishops Place. 1:5000 @ A4. Supplied by ADAS





The quality and accuracy of any print will depend on your printer, your computer and its print settings. Measurements scaled from this plan may not match measurements between the same points on the ground.

Grid Ref: TQ 25950 16355  
 Map Centre: TQ2516CE  
 Scale: 1:1250  
 (when Plotted at A3)

- LV Cable or Line
- HV Cable or Line
- DHV Cable or Line
- DHV Cable or Line Approx. position
- Ductline
- Pole & Street Furniture
- Substation & Link Box

VISITING AN OPEN POINT? Please mark on this plan all locations visited and open points as found, then return updated map to your Business Unit - Thank You.

**Plan Provision**

CHECK IT OUT BEFORE YOU DIG IT OUT  
 CALL 0800 056 5066  
 EMERGENCY - If you damage a cable or line  
 Phone 0800 096 3766 (24hrs) URGENTLY

**ALWAYS LOOK UP BEFORE YOU START DIG**  
 Refer to HSE  
 Guidance note G56

Maps produced at 1:2500 scale are LV Geo-Schematics which show LV main cables and overhead lines (in some cases all voltages). Prior to carrying out excavations you must refer to the 1:500 records to determine the location of all known underground plant and equipment.

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Figure 3: Plan of northern cable route south of Church Lane, Albourne. 1:2500 @ A4. Supplied by ADAS



### The northern cable route

The northern length of open trenching was located south of Church Lane and excavated in two sections. The northern east-west leg of this cable route was located c. 8m south of Church Lane and mostly ran parallel with the lane. This trench was c. 140m long and excavated across a single uncultivated field. The trench was c. 1.2m deep and only c. 0.3m wide.



Plate 4: Looking east along the east-west leg of the northern cable route, towards the houses on the western periphery of Albourne

A consistent sequence of deposits was observed throughout this trench. The natural orange clay (1000) was recorded at c. 0.4m below the ground level. This was sealed by c. 0.2m of mid orange-brown sandy clay subsoil (1001) which in turn was sealed by c. 0.2m of mid grey-brown sandy silt topsoil (1002).

No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the excavation of this trench. A small amount of animal bone fragments and oyster shell were observed but not retained as they could not be dated.

The north-south leg of the southern cable route was located in a separate uncultivated field south of Cutlers Brook. Approximately 40m of this trench was monitored and a near identical sequence of deposits was recorded. No archaeological features or deposits were observed during the excavation of this trench.

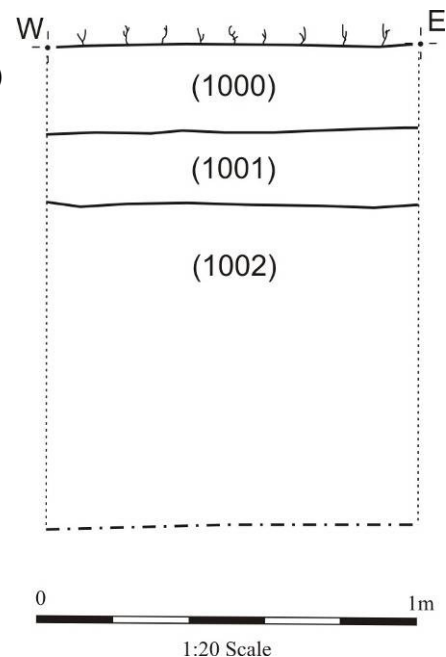


Figure 4: Representative section from northern cable route. 1:20

## 8.0 Conclusion

The archaeological monitoring did not identify any significant archaeological features or deposits.

A small assemblage of worked flint and pottery was recovered from the topsoil along the cable route. Four sherds of pottery from Leg 2 of the southern route, one sherd identified as dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> century, one from the 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> century and the remaining two from modern vessels. The early dated sherds are probably the result of soil improvement using midden material in the medieval / early post-medieval period, while the latter are considered the result of modern activity. A prehistoric flint flake was also recovered from the topsoil in this area. A flint core which shows evidence of several working platforms and multiple uses was recovered from the topsoil in Leg 4 of the cable route. Together, these flints are considered evidence of low density, probably transient activity in the area in early prehistory.

## 9.0 Effectiveness of Methodology

The archaeological monitoring identified only natural geological deposits and top/plough soil. A small assemblage of pottery and flint was recovered. The methodology employed resulted in no delay to the planned sequence of construction works.

## 10.0 Acknowledgements

PCAS Ltd would like to thank ADAS UK Ltd. for commissioning this work. Thanks go also to Alex Thomas and team for their assistance on site.

## 11.0 Site Archive

The project archive is currently held at the offices of PCAS Ltd. in Saxilby, Lincolnshire while being prepared for deposition. At present there is no receiving archive for West Sussex, therefore the prepared archive will be retained at the PCAS offices until a suitable repository is found.

## 12.0 References/Bibliography

Lane, A, 2016, *Land at Bishops Place, Albourne, Hassocks, West Sussex, BN6 9BL: Specification for a Scheme of Archaeological Monitoring and Recording*. PCAS ref 1703

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[https://archive.org/stream/sussexarchaeolog28suss\\_0/sussexarchaeolog28suss\\_0\\_djvu.txt](https://archive.org/stream/sussexarchaeolog28suss_0/sussexarchaeolog28suss_0_djvu.txt)

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/sussex/vol6/pt3/pp125-127>

<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/sussex/vol6/pt3/pp127-129>



## Appendix 1: Context Summary

### Southern route at Bishops Place:

#### Leg 1

Context	Type	Description
101	Layer	Mid to dark brown sandy silt loam. <0.20m thick. Modern topsoil
102	Layer	Part of "valley slide" – mid red brown sandy silt. <0.80m. Hill wash down natural slope.
103	Layer	Waterlogged ground in valley base. Light mottled grey yellow brown silty sandy, loose. <0.50m thick.
104	Layer	Light bright orange silty sand becoming grey clay at depth. Natural geology.

#### Leg 2

Context	Type	Description
201	Layer	Mid to dark brown sandy silt loam. <0.30m thick. Modern topsoil. Same as 101  Pottery x 4; Flint x1
202	Layer	Part of "valley slide" – mid red brown sandy silt. <0.70m. Hill wash down natural slope. Same as 102
203	Layer	Light bright orange silty sand becoming grey clay at depth. Natural geology. Same as 103

#### Leg 3

Context	Type	Description
301	Layer	Mid to dark brown sandy silt loam, becoming former plough soil with lens' of natural mixed in. <0.35m thick. Modern topsoil. Same as 101.
302	Layer	Part of "valley slide" – mid red brown sandy silt. <0.02m. Hill wash down natural slope. Same as 102
303	Layer	Light bright orange silty sand becoming light grey mottled orange clay at depth. Natural geology. Same as 103

304	Layer	Hardcore rubble for trackway and foundation for tarmac road, including various fragments of modern brick, concrete and tarmac. <0.25m thick. Occurs at north end of Leg 3.
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#### Leg 4

Context	Type	Description
401	Layer	Mid to dark slightly grey brown sandy silt loam. <0.35m thick. Modern topsoil. Same as 101  CBM x 1; Flint x 1
402	Layer	Hardcore deposit forming part of the existing track, includes glass bottles and frogged bricks, but mostly flint nodules and chalk. <0.15m thick. Same as 304.
403	Layer	Mottled light grey and bright orange silty sane / fine sand with some flint at depth. Natural geology.

#### Northern cable route adjacent to Church Lane, Albourne

Context	Type	Description
1000	Layer	Mid greyish brown sandy clay. Soft with some rooting and small stone inclusions. <0.22m thick. Modern topsoil. Oyster shell and pebbles were noted in this horizon, but not retained.
1001	Layer	Mid orange brown sandy clay. Soft with some rooting. <0.30m. Subsoil
1002	Layer	Orange clay, becoming blue grey with depth. Natural geology. Same as 103

## Appendix 2

# Land at Bishops Place, London Road, Albourne, West Sussex: ceramics

Sue Anderson, July 2016.

## Pottery

Four pottery sherds (126g) were recovered from one context. The pottery quantification is shown in Table 1.

Context	Fabric	No.	Wt/g	Description	Spotdate
201	MCW	1	2	abraded body sherd; brown fabric with clear quartz sand, mostly fine, but some pieces up to 2mm across, also sparse soft red argillaceous clay pellets and ferrous particles	12th-14th c.
	PMRW	1	117	base fragment of large fine red earthenware vessel (reduced core and internal surface of base only), green glazed internally with brownish glaze spot externally	16th-17th c.?
	LPME	1	5	plantpot body sherd	19th-20th c.
	LPME?	1	2	outer flake of slightly corrugated vessel, or possibly part of a drainpipe	19th-20th c.
<b>Totals</b>		<b>4</b>	<b>126</b>		

Table 1. Pottery catalogue.

Key: MCW –medieval sandy coarseware; PMRW – post-medieval redware; LPME – late post-medieval unglazed earthenwares.

One heavily abraded sherd was of medieval date, but was a residual find in context (201); similar wares have been found at nearby Hurstpierpoint (e.g. Lyne 2004, fabric 3). This context also contained a base sherd of a post-medieval redware, similar to fabric PM3 from Shoreham-by-Sea (Barber 2011, ADS1), which is dated to the 16th-17th century. These sherds were associated with 19th/20th-century unglazed earthenwares, at least one of which was a plantpot fragment.

## Ceramic building material

A fragment of plain roof tile was recovered from context (401). The fragment is in an orange fabric with a fine silty matrix and few visible inclusions, but the surface and base are covered in fine sand. The fragment is probably of late medieval or early post-medieval date.

## Reference

Barber, L., 'The post-medieval assemblage', in Stevens, S., 'Archaeological investigations at the Ropetackle site, Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex', *Sussex Archaeological Collections* 149, ADS 1–32.

Lyne, M., 2004, 'Pottery', in Ford, S., *Orchard Way, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex. An Archaeological Evaluation for Persimmon Homes Ltd.* TVAS Report 04/75, unpublished.

## Appendix 3

### Flint

By Tom Lane

#### Introduction

Two pieces of flint were submitted for Assessment.

#### Condition

Both pieces are slightly abraded. No conservation measures are required before submitting to museum

#### Results

Cxt No	Description	No	Wt(g)	Date
201	Irregular Flake. Suggestion of limited secondary working on one face where there is a fault in the flint. Possibly the result of edge damage. No patination. Some cortex remaining. 35 x 32 x 5mm	1	10	Prehistoric
401	Multi-platform core with considerable edge damage. Slight patination. 34 x 35 x 16mm	1	22	Later Neolithic

#### Provenance

Both items are from the topsoil.

#### Range

A core and a possibly utilized flake were recovered. Only the core is dateable (to the Later Neolithic).

#### Potential

The items indicate one or more instances of flint working in the area.



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OASIS ID - preconst3-260463

### Versions

View	Version	Completed by	Email	Date
<a href="#">View 1</a>	1	Alison Lane	<a href="mailto:alison@pre-construct.co.uk">alison@pre-construct.co.uk</a>	18 August 2016
<a href="#">View 2</a>	2	Alison Lane	<a href="mailto:alison@pre-construct.co.uk">alison@pre-construct.co.uk</a>	18 August 2016

### Completed sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	<a href="#">Yes</a>	1/1

### Validated sections in current version

Details	Location	Creators	Archive	Publications
<a href="#">No</a>	<a href="#">No</a>	<a href="#">No</a>	<a href="#">No</a>	0/1

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