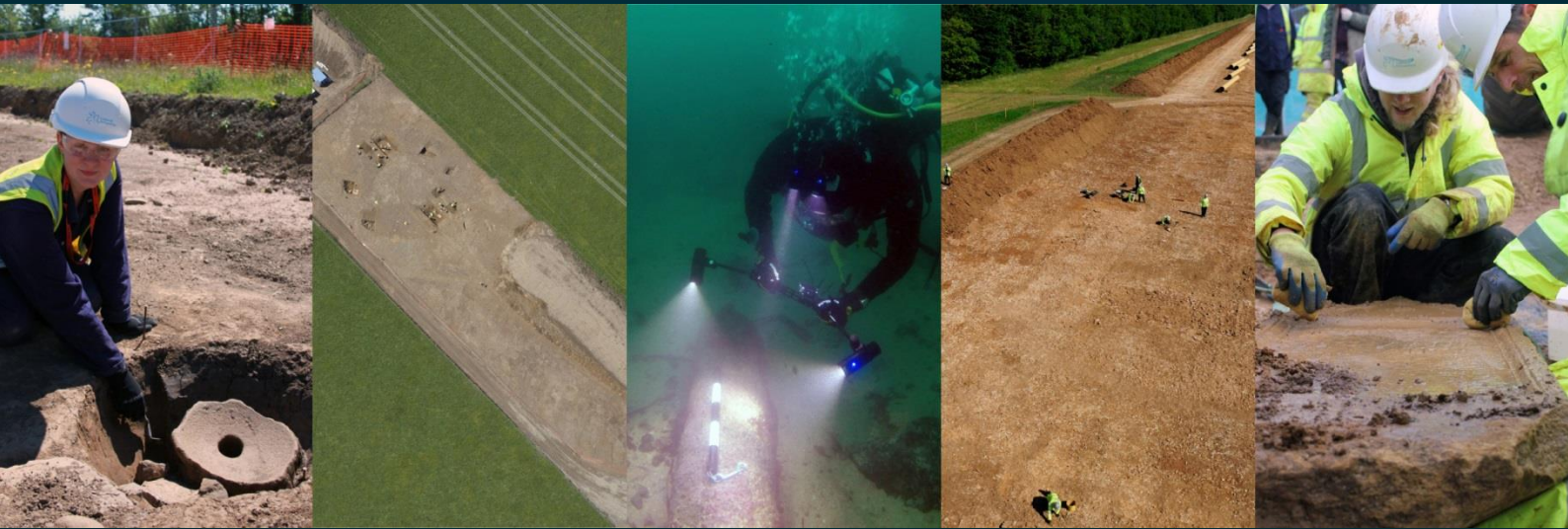


**BT Duct
Beacon Hill
Nr. Bulford Camp
Wiltshire**

Archaeological Watching Brief



for

BT Openreach

CA Project: 770174

CA Report: 15172

April 2015



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Beacon Hill
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SUMMARY

Project Name: BT Duct Beacon Hill
Location: Wiltshire
NGR: SU 19346 42490
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 24-25 March
Site Code: BTD15

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of a BT cable duct at Beacon Hill near Bulford Camp, Wiltshire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was present.



1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In March 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for BT Openreach at Beacon Hill near Bulford camp (NGR: 419346, 142490 to 419447, 142890; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The watching brief lies within land that is owned by the Ministry of Defence and they requested on the advice of their archaeological advisor Richard Osgood at Defence Estates that an archaeological contractor should be present to monitor the groundworks. The route of the Duct lies within a significant archaeological landscape with in particular remains of numerous Bronze Age burial sites (barrows).
- 1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2014) and approved by Richard Osgood of Defence Estates and Clare King at Wiltshire County Council prior to the commencement of fieldwork. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological watching brief* (ClfA 2014), and the *Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage 1991), the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (EH 2006).

The site

- 1.3 The route of the duct is located c.500m to the south east of Bulford Camp and c.2.5km to the west of Amesbury. The route is c.400m in length and runs north from the A303 to the Mast site on Beacon Hill.
- 1.5 The elevation within the site rises from c. 170m above Ordnance Datum (AOD) at the south end of the route on the A303 to c. 190m AOD at the Mast to the north. The underlying geology of the site is mapped as Chalk of the Newhaven Chalk Formation and Culver Chalk Formation, sedimentary bedrock formed c. 71 to 86 million years ago in the Cretaceous Period. No Superficial deposits overlying the bedrock are recorded (BGS: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>).



2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The route lies within a significant (ritual) archaeological landscape in particular dating to the prehistoric period. Stonehenge lies c.7km and Wood Henge and Durrington Walls c.4km to the west of the route. Consultation of the Wiltshire and Swindon Historic Environment Record online shows that within a 500m Radius of the site there are numerous archaeological records relating to burial ritual comprising of Prehistoric bowl and disc barrows, along with ring ditches and extensive prehistoric field systems. An inhumation dating to the Bronze Age period and an undated inhumation have previously been identified on Beacon Hill during excavation of a cable trench and construction of a pipe. Evidence of Roman activity has also been identified with finds of pottery and other evidence of occupation found on Beacon and Harradon Hill.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1 The objectives of the archaeological works were:

- to monitor groundworks, and to identify, investigate and record all significant buried archaeological deposits revealed on the site during the course of the development groundworks;
- at the conclusion of the project, to produce an integrated archive for the project work and a report setting out the results of the project and the archaeological conclusions that can be drawn from the recorded data.

4. METHODOLOGY

4.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2014). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of a c.400m long by c.300mm wide BT cable duct from the A303 to the radio mast at the top of the hill (Fig. 2).

4.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: *Fieldwork Recording Manual*.

4.3 Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the aim will be to deposit the site archive with the Salisbury and South Wilts Museum, although they are currently not accepting archives for deposition. Until this has been resolved the archive from the evaluation will be held by CA at their offices in Andover.. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix B, will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. RESULTS (FIGS 2-5)

5.1 The natural geological substrate (2) consisting of a compact white chalk with frequent large irregular flint nodules, was revealed throughout the majority of the cable trench at an average depth of 0.25m below present ground level. A second natural geology was encountered at the top of the hill near the Mast Station, this comprised of a compact dark yellowy brown silty clay with frequent large irregular flint nodules (4) (Fig 4). This was sealed by (5) a possible colluvial deposit which was a dark brown compact silty clay with frequent subrounded chalk (0.15m thick). The topsoil (1) averaged 0.2m in thickness and in places directly overlay the natural chalk (2) and elsewhere deposit (5). The modern track way (4) consisted of a compact hard standing surface of gravel and flint which directly overlay the natural chalk (2) (Fig 3).

5.2 No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks and, despite visual scanning of spoil, no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was seen.

6. DISCUSSION

6.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks due to the limited impact of the exposed area.



7. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard. The report was written by Adam Howard. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Adam Howard, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

10. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2015 *Geology of Britain Viewer* <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 5 February 2015

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 BT Duct Beacon Hill, Nr. Bulford Camp Wiltshire, A Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Project Ref: 770174



APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type | Fill of | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth /thickness (m) | Spot-date |
|------------|-------------|-------|---------|------------------------|--|-------|-------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1 | 1 | Layer | | Topsoil | Dark greyish brown silty clay compact with frequent large irregular flint nodules | 150 | 0.15 | 0.25 | Modern |
| 1 | 2 | Layer | | Natural | White chalk compact with frequent large irregular flint nodules | 395 | 0.15 | 0.30 | |
| 1 | 3 | Layer | | Hard standing surface | Mid grey frequent large angular gravel very compact | 250 | 0.15 | 0.15 | Modern |
| 1 | 4 | Layer | | Natural | Dark yellowish brown silty clay frequent large irregular flint nodules | 5 | 0.15 | 0.35 | |
| 1 | 5 | Layer | | Natural | Colluvium dark brown silty clay compact with frequent medium sized sub rounded chalk | 6 | 0.15 | 0.15 | |

APPENDIX E: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | |
|--|--|---|
| Project Name | BT Duct Beacon Hill Nr. Bulford Camp Wiltshire | |
| Short description (250 words maximum) | An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the excavation of a BT cable duct at Beacon Hill near Bulford Camp, Wiltshire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks, and no artefactual material pre-dating the modern period was present | |
| Project dates | 24-25 March 2015 | |
| Project type | Watching Brief | |
| Previous work | None | |
| Future work | Unknown | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | |
| Site Location | Beacon Hill near Bulford Camp Wiltshire | |
| Study area (M ² /ha) | 60m ² | |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference) | SU 19346 42490 | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Brief originator | | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | |
| Project Manager | Damian De Rosa | |
| Project Supervisor | Adam Howard | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | none | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS | none | |
| PROJECT ARCHIVES | | |
| | Intended final location of archive (museum/Accession no.) | Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone etc) |
| Physical | | none |
| Paper | | Day Book Photo register Trench sheet |
| Digital | | Photographs |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | |
| Add reference this report only, for example: CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 BT Duct Beacon Hill Nr. Bulford Camp Wiltshire an Archaeological Watching Brief. CA typescript report | | |

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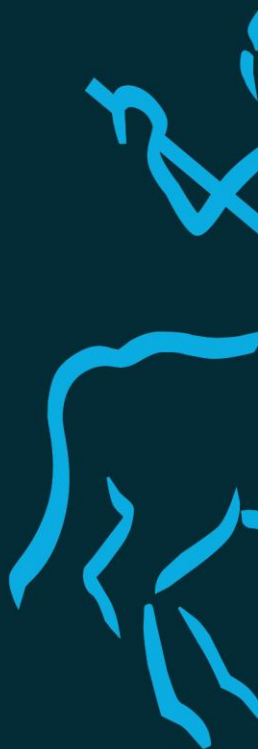
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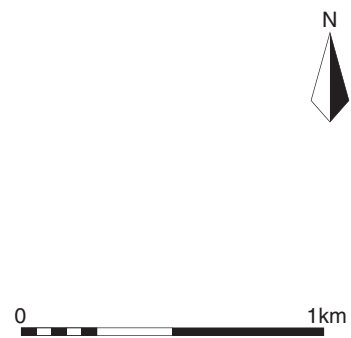
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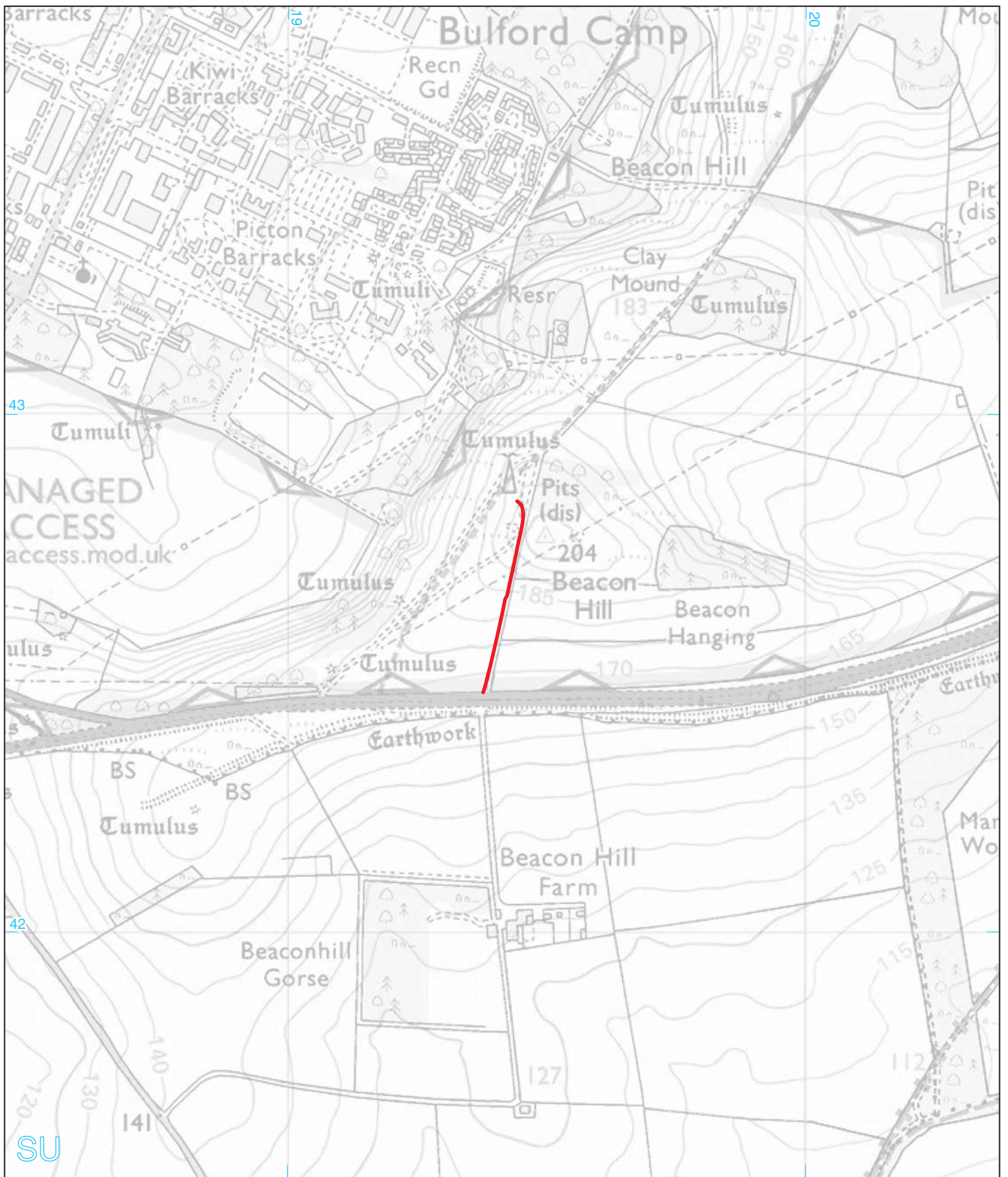
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PROJECT TITLE
 BT Duct, Beacon Hill, Nr. Bulford Camp
 Wiltshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

DRAWN BY LJH **PROJECT NO.** 770174 **FIGURE NO.**
CHECKED BY JB **DATE** 01/04/15
APPROVED BY DDR **SCALE@A4** 1:25,000 **1**



— route of cable trench



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FIGURE TITLE

Route of the cable trench





3



4

3 Section showing hardstanding and chalk, facing south-east (0.3m scale)

4 Section showing clay natural, facing south-west (0.3m scale)



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PROJECT TITLE

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FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NOS.

3 & 4



5 General view of site



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FIGURE TITLE

Photograph

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FIGURE NO.

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