



Stapehill Solar Farm Canford bottom Wimborne Dorset



for Solstice Renewables Ltd

CA Project: 770236 CA Report: 15551

July 2015



Stapehill Solar Farm Canford Bottom Wimborne Dorset

Archaeological Evaluation

CA Project: 770236 CA Report: 15551













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Summary

Project Name: Stapehill Solar Farm

Location: Canford Bottom, Wimborne, Dorset

NGR: SU 04453 00795

Type: Evaluation

Date: 22 – 26 June 2015

Location of Archive: To be deposited with Dorchester County Museum

Site Code: STAP15

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology in June 2015 at Stapehill Farm, Wimborne.

Sixteen trenches were excavated, these revealed a ring ditch, which is probably the remains of a Bronze Age barrow, a second possible ring ditch, which could also be the remains of a barrow, and a pair of linear boundary / land division ditches which cross the site from the south to the north-east. At the southern end of the site the linear boundary ditches would appear to broaden out and respect the barrow and pass around it. A surviving stretch of medieval ridge and furrow, a number of undated field boundaries and an undated circular structure was also recorded. A small quantity of worked and burnt flint of broad prehistoric date was collected.

The finds and biological evidence indicate that there is little evidence of domestic activity on the site or within its immediate area. The biological evidence indicates that the site was heathland / rough grass and scrubland in the later prehistoric period

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In June 2015 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological evaluation for Solstice Renewables Ltd at Stapehill Farm, Canford Bottom, Wimborne, Dorset (centred on NGR: SU 04453 00795; Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in support of a planning application that is to be submitted to East Dorset District Council (EDDC), the local planning authority, for the development of a solar farm at the site.
- 1.3 Following consultation by Cotswold Archaeology with Steve Wallis the Senior Archaeologist at Dorset County Council (SADCC) the archaeological planning advisor to EDDC, it was recommended that a 2% sample of the site by evaluation trial trenching with a 1% contrigency if required should be undertaken.
- 1.4 To further inform the planning application a Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) has been prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2015) and a geophysical survey of the site has been undertaken (WA 2015).
- 1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by the SADCC prior to the commencement of any fieldwork. The fieldwork also followed *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014), the *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (English Heritage 2006).

The site

1.3 The proposed development area is approximately 7.6ha, and comprises pasture on a generally south facing slope. The site lies at approximately 55m aOD, to the north sloping down to 37m aOD to the south. The site is bounded by the A31 and agricultural land to the south and southeast with woodland to the north, residential properties to the west and further agricultural land to the east.

1.3 The underlying bedrock geology of the area is mapped as Sand, Silt and Clay. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 40 to 56 million years ago in the Palaeogene Period (BGS 2015).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A Heritage Desk-Based Assessment (DBA) of the site and within a 1km study area has been prepared by Cotswold Archaeology (CA 2015). A summary of these results is presented below.

Prehistoric (pre-AD 43)

- 2.2 There is probable evidence of prehistoric activity within the site in the form of cropmarks visible on aerial photographs (Fig. 2). These include three possible ring-ditches, probably representing Bronze Age barrows, which have been recorded in the southern and eastern part of the site. A number of other visible cropmarks appear to the respect the position of the possible ring ditch and therefore may be of a contemporary or earlier date.
- 2.3 A scheduled monument (MDO5710) formed by the group of three bowl barrows on Canon Hill lies to the immediate north and west of the site, with the central and eastern of the three being located immediately beyond the northern border of the site. An excavation is recorded at Canon Hill in 1845 although the results are unknown. A pronounced dip in the top of one of the barrows is likely the result of the 1845 Antiquarian investigations. A number of fragments of burnt flint were also noted on the surface during the site visit. A further scheduled monument formed by a dispersed grouping of two bowl barrows is located approximately 420m south east of the site.
- 2.4 A number of prehistoric find spots are also recorded within the study area, a possible Mesolithic tranchet flint pick is noted to have been found within the grounds of the Cistercian Abbey at Holy Cross, approximately 900m south east of the site. A lower Palaeolithic handaxe was found near Pilford approximately 950m north east of the site, with possible Bronze Age worked flint found in the area of Udders some 900m to the north of the site.

Romano-British (AD 43 – AD 410).

2.5 There is no recorded evidence for activity of the Romano-British period within the site or the study area.

Early medieval (AD 410 – AD 1066) and medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)

- 2.6 There is very little evidence of medieval activity within the study area, although it is possible that some of the less prominent cropmarks noted within the site during the aerial photography review are remnants of ridge and furrow formed through medieval agricultural practice.
- 2.7 The site of the 13th century deer park at Canford Great Park is recorded as being situated at the southern edge of the study area, south of the River Stour.
- 2.8 Although the buildings at Holy Cross Abbey approximately 900m south east of the site, are recorded as being of post medieval date, it is noted that the site was used as a refuge by the Jesuits since the 16th century.

Post-medieval (AD 1539 – 1800) and modern (AD 1801 - present)

- 2.9 A number of cottages, largely of cob wall and thatch, are noted within the village of Stapehill, to the south and east of the site, along with a milestone denoting distances to Wimborne and Ringwood. These heritage assets simply reflect the historic, post medieval character of Stapehill.
- 2.10 The line of the Southampton and Dorchester railway, constructed in 1847, passes the site approximately 300m to the south.

Unknown

2.11 The Fragments of a gold amulet of unknown date are recorded to have been found in 1864 at the very northern edge of the study area. No further details of the item are known although shortly after discovery it is recorded as having been in the British Museum.

Geophysical Survey

2.12 A Geophysical survey of the site was recently undertaken by Wessex Archaeology (WA 2015). The survey revealed surprisingly little evidence of potential below ground archaeology, although this is could be due to the geological conditions at the site, which may not be wholly conducive to effective detecting of potential archaeological features. Although WA did not highlight it on their interpretation plan due to its ephemeral nature, the ghost of a circular feature is visible where a ring ditch is visible on aerial photographs. The geophysical survey undoubtedly reflects the same feature.

3. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to provide information about the archaeological resource within the site, including its presence/absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality, in accordance *Standard and guidance: Archaeological field evaluation* (CIfA 2014). This information will enable the SADCC acting on behalf of East Dorset District Council to identify and assess the particular significance of any heritage asset, consider the impact of the proposed development upon it, and to avoid or minimise conflict between the heritage asset's conservation and any aspect of the development proposal, in line with the *National Planning Policy Framework* (DCLG 2012).
- 3.2 The DBA suggested there is aerial photographic evidence for a possible cursus monument running from the River Stour, south of the site and terminating within the site at a point close to the cropmarks of two possible ring ditches. Trenches 10 and 11 were located to investigate this possibility.

4. METHODOLOGY

- 4.1 The fieldwork comprised the excavation of 16 trenches (1 *no* x 10m, 1 *no* x 26m and 14 *no* x 50m) in the locations shown on the attached plan (Fig. 2). The location of trench 2 was moved slightly to the south to avoid an area of overgrown vegetation. Trenches 6 and 7 were not excavated at the request of the land owner, as they lay outside of a revised site development boundary. To compensate for this, two additional trenches, 17 and 18 were located to target visible cropmarks and further characterise and establish the nature of recorded archaeological features within the site to aid in their interpretation.
- 4.2 Trenches were located to target known cropmarks or geophysical anomalies on OS National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates using Leica GPS and surveyed in accordance with CA Technical Manual 4 Survey Manual.

- 4.3 Due to time constraints several ditches were recorded only in plan and were not excavated where they were shown to continue into other trenches and had already been excavated or were otherwise characterised.
- 4.4 All trenches were excavated by mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless grading bucket. All machine excavation was undertaken under constant archaeological supervision to the top of the first significant archaeological horizon or the natural substrate, whichever was encountered first.
- 4.5 Following machining, all archaeological features revealed were planned and recorded in accordance with Technical Manual 1 Fieldwork Recording Manual. Each context was recorded on a *pro-forma* context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits were recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20 or 1:50, or electronically using Leica GPS or Total Station (TST) as appropriate) and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). Where detailed feature planning was undertaken using GPS/TST this was carried out in accordance with Technical Manual 4 Survey Manual.
- 4.6 A digital photographic record of all features revealed as well as general site workshots and conditions was maintained.
- 4.7 Deposits were assessed for their palaeoenvironmental potential in accordance with CA Technical Manual 2: The Taking and Processing of Environmental and Other Samples from Archaeological Sites and were sampled and processed. All artefacts recovered were processed in accordance with Technical Manual 3 Treatment of Finds Immediately after Excavation.
- 4.8 The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefacts will be deposited with the designated archive depository, along with the site archive. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix D will be entered onto the OASIS online database of archaeological projects in Britain.

5. **RESULTS (FIGS 2-10)**

- 5.1 The natural geology across the site consisted of a mixed silvery grey / yellow brown slightly clayey sand with rare flint gravel inclusions. Localised small patches of yellow brown clay were also recorded in several trenches. The main exception being within trench 17, where the geology consisted of yellow brown silty clay with patchy sand. The natural was overlain in all trenches by greyish brown sandy silt topsoil with an average depth of 0.21m. Trench 9 contained a dark grey brown subsoil in addition to a broad palaeochannel. Trenches 12, 13 and 18 located close to a dewpond also contained a very dark grey brown clayey sand subsoil.
- Trenches 13 and 16 were devoid of any archaeological activity and are not further discussed. Summaries of the recorded contexts and environmental samples (palaeoenvironmental evidence) are to be found in Appendices A and B.

Trench 1 (Figs 2 & 3)

5.3 Trench 1 contained a semi-circular gully which extended north out of the trench. An extension to the trench measuring 5m x 3m was excavated to fully reveal the extent of the feature. The circular feature, 102 with breaks to the west and to the east was in effect composed of two semi-circular gullies 103 and 105 which measured 5.30m and 5m respectively. These undated shallow gullies up to 0.30m in width and up to a maximum of 0.10m in depth were filled with a dark silvery grey sand. No internal structure was identifiable although several areas of probable modern disturbance were noted within 102 and throughout this trench (contexts 107-114). These irregular features contained charcoal flecks and are the probable result of land reclamation in the early twentieth century (J. Burbidge *pers comm*).

Trench 2 (Figs 2 & 4)

5.4 Trench 2 contained a single north-west/south-east orientated ditch (202) located at the southern end of the trench. This undated ditch (202) was filled with 203, a dark brown silty sand. A single flint flake was recovered from the topsoil.

Trench 3 (Figs 2 & 4)

5.5 Three undated ditches were recorded at the eastern end of trench three. All three features were roughly orientated north-south. Ditches 303 and 305 were identified as cropmarks and were the target for the trenches location. The three ditches each measured between 0.60 - 0.70m in width by 0.20m in depth and were filled by a grey / brown silty sand. A probable tree-throw 307 was also recorded cutting ditch 309.

Trench 4 (Figs 2 & 4)

Two ditches and a probable area of ridge and furrow were recorded in trench 4. An undated ditch 402 located at the western end of the trench measured 1.8m in width by 0.35m and was filled with 403, with recut 404 being filled with 405 - 408. This feature is visible as a north-south aligned cropmark and probably represents a former field boundary. Within the centre of the trench three dark linears associated with visible earthen ridges were recorded. These three undated furrows, 410, 412 and 414 probably represent the remnants of medieval ploughing. Ditch 416, a continuation of both ditches 303 and 305 in trench 3, which measured 3.06m in width and which was located at the eastern end of the trench contained a flint scraper of probable Bronze Age date.

Trench 5 (Figs 2 & 5)

5.5 Two ditches visible as earthworks were recorded crossing trench 5 on a north-east/south-west alignment. Ditch 502 a broad u-shaped feature measured 7m in width by 0.55m in depth and was filled by contexts 503 to 505 and 512, dark grey and brown clayey silty sands. Ditch 509 measured 3.5m in width by 0.47m in depth and had two visible water-worn runnels within the base. The fills 506 to 508 were dark grey – brown clayey sands. Both of these undated ditches continue south into trench 14. Ditch 502 is also recorded in trench 15.

Trench 8 (Figs 2 & 6)

A curvilinear ditch, visible as a cropmark crossed trench 8 close to the northern end with a return in the centre of the trench. Composed of ditches 808 and 810, the ring ditch measured some 16m in diameter. 808 measured 1m in width by 0.17m in depth and was filled with contexts 806 and 807, dark grey brown silty sands 0.25m in depth. Ditch 810 measured 0.87m in width by 0.33m in depth and was filled with 811 and 812, brown and grey sands. Also, visible as an earthwork at the southern end of the trench was ditch 804, which measured 0.48m in width and 0.09m in depth and was filled with 805 a greyish brown sandy silt. This feature running north-south continued into trench 17.

Trench 9 (Figs 2 & 7)

5.5 Trench 9 was located across a narrow valley and contained a colluvium deposit up to 0.60m in depth. The paleochannel consisting of contexts 901, 902, 904 – 912 consisted of dark grey and brown silted sands. Undiagnostic worked flints of broad

prehistoric date were collected from the topsoil and from layer 909 within the channel.

Trench 10 (Figs 2 & 8)

- 5.5 Trench 10 targeted a ring ditch most probably representing a Bronze Age barrow lying within two linear ditches (1009 and 1021) with each ditch lying to the east and west of the ring ditch respectively. The ring ditch recorded within the trench as ditches 1002 and 1019 measured some 18m in diameter. Ditch 1002 had a broad U-shaped profile measuring 1.74m in width by 0.32m in depth and was filled with contexts 1003-1008, pale grey brown clayey sands. Undiagnostic worked flint broadly dated to the prehistoric was recovered from fill 1005. Ditch 1019 remained unexcavated as the profile and nature of the feature had been established through the excavation of ditch 1002.
- 5.6 The two outer linear ditches were recorded as ditch 1009 at the west end of the trench and ditch 1021 at the east end. A slot was excavated through ditch 1009 which showed that the feature measured 4.45m in width by 0.50m in depth and was filled with 1010 1018 a series of grey brown sands. Ditch 1021 remained unexcavated and continued into trench 11 as ditch 1105 through which a slot was excavated (see below).

Trench 11 (Figs 2 & 8)

5.5 Trench 11 targeted a second possible ring ditch within a pair of ditches visible as earthworks. Whilst the internal ring ditch was not observed or be identified as present the continuation of the two outer ditches (1009 and 1021) from trench 10 were recorded as 1103 at the western end of the trench (continuation of ditch 1009) and ditch 1105 to the east (continuation of ditch 1021). Ditch 1105 measured 5.54m in width by 0.56m in depth and was filled with contexts 1119 - 1121, yellowy brown and grey sands with silted lenses and weathered clay inclusions. Ditch 1103 continued north into trench 18 as ditch 1803, and remained unexcavated as its continuation had been recorded within trench 10 as ditch 1009.

Trench 12 (Fig 2)

5.5 Trench 12 was located to examine the cropmark of an enclosing return ditch to form what the DBA (CA 2015) had identified as a possible cursus monument associated with the ditches recorded in trenches 10 and 11. The return ditch was not noted or

present within the trench, and indicates that the linear ditches recorded in trenches 10, 11 continue northwards without an enclosing connecting ditch.

An undated ditch 1203 on a different alignment was recorded within the centre of the trench and measured 2.10m in width and was filled with 1204, a dark greyish brown clayey silty sand. A possible modern service trench measuring 0.70m in width was also recorded but was not excavated.

Trench 14 (Fig 2)

Two ditches previously identified in trench 5 continued into trench 14 as ditches 1403 and 1405. Ditch 1403 a continuation of 502 measured 4.09m in width and was filled with 1404 a dark yellowy brown silty sand. Ditch 1405 measured 1.08m in width and was filled with 1406, a dark yellowy brown silty sand.

Trench 15 (Figs 2 & 9)

5.5 Five undated ditches crossed trench 15, all roughly aligned north-south. Ditch 1502 in the centre of the trench measured 1.42m in width by 0.33m in depth and was filled with 1503 and 1504 comprising brown sands. Ditch 1505 measured 1.10 by 0.15 and was filled with 1506 and 1507 comprising yellowy grey and brown sands. Ditch 1510 measured 1.8m by 0.25m in depth and was filled with 1508 and 1509 comprising grey brown sands. Ditch 1513 measured 1.15m in width by 0.25m in depth and was filled with 1511 and 1512 grey brown sands. Ditch 1515 is a continuation of ditch 502 recorded in trench 5 and measured 1.04m in width.

Trench 17 (Figs 2 & 10)

5.5 Trench 17 was an additional trench (and replaced trench 6) excavated to examine three visible earthworks west of trench 8. Feature 1702 may represent a possible hollow-way and measured 3.97m in width by 0.18m in depth and was filled with 1703 a grey clayey sandy silt. A second possible hollow-way 1706 measured a maximum of 0.10m in depth. At the east of the trench ditch 1704 was recorded running roughly north-south. This is a continuation of ditch 804 in trench 8.

Trench 18 (Fig 2)

5.5 Trench 18 was an additional short trench (and replaced trench 7) excavated to examine a cropmark, the possible continuation of a ditch recorded in trenches 10 and 11. The aim of the trench was to identify whether the ditches recorded in trenches 10 and 11 continued northwards across the site. An undated ditch 1803

was recorded crossing the trench in the expected location. The ditch (1803) measured 2.70m in width and was filled with 1804 a dark greyish brown clayey silt and is a direct continuation of ditches 1009 and 1103.

6. THE FINDS

6.1 Artefactual material from the evaluation was hand-recovered from six deposits: two ditch fills; a palaeochannel fill and topsoil. Quantities of the artefact types recovered, all of which are prehistoric in date, are given in Table 1.

Lithics

The lithics assemblage comprises six worked flints (46g) recovered as single items which are considered insufficient/unsuitable for dating the deposits. All are flakes with the exception of an end scraper made on a thickish flake recorded in fill 417 from ditch 416. The retouch on the scraper is rather irregular. Most of the flints are in good condition, suggesting they have not travelled far since deposition, and three demonstrate varying degrees of burning. The lithics can only be assigned a broad prehistoric date as no diagnostic types are present.

Table 1: Finds concordance

| Context | Category | Description | Count | Weight (g) | Spot-date |
|---------|--------------|-------------------|-------|------------|-----------|
| 200 | Worked flint | Flake | 1 | 3 | - |
| 417 | Worked flint | End scraper | 1 | 21 | - |
| 900 | Worked flint | Flake | 1 | 9 | - |
| 909 | Worked flint | Flake | 1 | 3 | - |
| 1005 | Worked flint | Flake (bladelike) | 1 | 5 | - |
| 1500 | Worked flint | Flake | 1 | 5 | - |

7. THE BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

7.1 Two environmental samples (20 litres of soil) were retrieved and processed with the intention of recovering evidence of industrial or domestic activity and material for radiocarbon dating. The samples were processed by standard flotation procedures (CA Technical Manual No. 2).

Undated

7.2 Second fill 504 and third fill 505 (sample 1 and 2 respectively) within ditch 502 contained a moderate assemblage of plant macrofossils. Unfortunately most of the

seeds were highly abraded which made identification very difficult, but appeared to represent a selection of grassland/scrub-type species including dock (*Rumex*), medick/clover (*Medicago/Trifolium*), vetch/peas (*Vicia/Lathyrus*), gorse/broom (*Ulex/Cytisus*) goosefoots, possible thistle (*Cirsium/Carduus*) and grass species stems (Table 2). Charcoal was moderately abundant and identified dominantly as gorse/broom and alder/hazel twigs (*Alnus glutinosa/Corylus avellana*) (Table 3). This type of assemblage suggests a deposit of burnt scrub vegetation, most likely from land clearance nearby. No burning *in-situ* was observed within the ditch therefore most likely the material was burnt elsewhere and charred debris dumped into the ditch.

Table 2 Plant macrofossil identifications

| Context | number | | | 504 | 505 | | |
|-----------------|--|------------------------------|------------------|------|--------|--|--|
| Feature | number | | | 502 | 502 | | |
| Sample | Sample number (SS) | | | | | | |
| Flot volu | Flot volume (ml) Sample volume processed (l) | | | | | | |
| Sample | | | | | | | |
| Soil rem | | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Period | UD | UD | | | | | |
| Plant ma | Poor | Poor | | | | | |
| Habitat Code | | Species | Common Name | | | | |
| D/A | Amaranthaceae | Chenopodium L. (Blitum L.) | Goosefoots | ?+ | ?++ | | |
| A/D | Asteraceae | Cirsium Mill./Carduus L. | İ | | | | |
| P/D | Fabaceae | Medicago L./Trifolium L. | Medicks/Clovers | ?+++ | ?+++ | | |
| D/A/P | | Vicia L./Lathyrus L. | Vetches/Peas | | ? ++++ | | |
| H/HSW | | cf Ulex L./ Cytisus Desf. | cf Gorses/Brooms | | + | | |
| P/D | | Poaceae | Grass stems | ++++ | ++++ | | |
| D/P/A | Polygonaceae | Rumex L. | Docks | | ?+ | | |

Table 3 Charcoal identifications

| Context nu | mber | | 504 | 505 | | | | |
|-------------|--|--------------------|----------|----------|--|--|--|--|
| Feature nui | mber | | 502 | 502 | | | | |
| Sample nur | Sample number (SS) | | | | | | | |
| Flot volume | 147 | 207 | | | | | | |
| Sample vol | 10 | 10 | | | | | | |
| Soil remain | ing (I) | | 0 | 0 | | | | |
| Period | | | UD | UD | | | | |
| Charcoal q | uantity | | +++++ | +++++ | | | | |
| Charcoal p | reservation | | Moderate | Moderate | | | | |
| Family | Species | Common Name | | | | | | |
| Betulaceae | Alnus glutinosa (L.) Gaertn./ Corylus avellana L. | Alder/Hazel twig | 1 | 3 | | | | |
| Fabaceae | Ulex L./Cytisus Desf. | Gorses/Brooms twig | 9 | 7 | | | | |
| | | Indeterminate | | | | | | |
| | | Total | 10 | 10 | | | | |

8. DISCUSSION

- Two ring ditches of probable Bronze Age date were recorded within trenches 8 and 10. The ring ditch in trench 8 was shallow and did not show evidence of an internal mound. The ring ditch in trench 10, a probable round barrow, still survives as a visible, circular, low mound located on the spur of a hill. A pair of ditches, visible as a cropmark extend from the south into the site area and flank the ring ditch. The DBA had previously studied the cropmarks on aerial photographs and suggested the pair of ditches identified in trenches 10 and 11 would enclose and terminate to the north of the ring ditch. In doing so they might be the northern terminal of a cursus. However, the possible enclosing end could not be identified in targeted trench 12 and the excavation of (additional) trench 17 recorded the presence of a ditch which confirmed the continuation of the ditches identified in trenches 10 and 11north-east, where they are visible as earthworks extending out of the site boundary to the north.
- 8.2 The two linear ditches that therefore extend all the way across the site are likely to be some form of land division of boundary rather than a cursus monument. However, it is likely that the linear ditches or boundary post-date the Bronze Age barrow identified in trench 10 as they broaden out around this feature, as indicated by the cropmarks, and are therefore respecting this monument in the landscape. The excavated slots through the linear ditches however have been unable to establish a date for these features beyond possibly broad prehistoric.
- 8.3 No internal features were identified within either of the ring ditches, although a Bronze date in particular for the possible barrow in trench 10 can be suggested. A third possible ring ditch identified as a cropmark was not revealed within trench 11.
- 8.4 The two ring ditches in trenches 8 and 10 are separated by a deep coombe. Trench 9 revealed this to be a naturally occurring channel.
- 8.5 An undated circular gully within trench 1 measured some 5m by 4m. It is possible this represents the base of a charcoal clamp, a kiln built for the production of charcoal. It is equally possible, due to the ephemeral nature of the two gullies, they represent drip-gullies associated with an unidentified structure. There appeared to be breaks to the west and east of the structure and these could represent entrance ways or for creating a draught through the feature if it is a charcoal clamp.

- 8.6 Possible traces of medieval ridge and furrow appear to survive within trench 4 as a series of four visible low mounds, interspersed with three linear furrows crossing the trench. Several other undated ditches, probably representing former field boundaries were also recorded within the trenches.
- 8.7 There was a general lack of finds recovered from the excavated features with many simply recorded as undated. The finds assemblage consisted of only six worked / burnt flints, all of which are given a general prehistoric date. The majority of the features within the trenches were shallow and included plough scars suggesting truncation, although the possible barrow in trench 10, along with the northern pair of ditches identified in trench 5 do survive as visible earthworks.
- 8.8 The finds and biological evidence indicate that there is little evidence of domestic activity on the site or within its immediate area. The biological evidence indicates that the site was heathland / rough grass and scrubland in the later prehistoric period.

9. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Joe Whelan, assisted by Jerry Austin, Tony Brown, Steve Bush, Jeremy Clutterbuck and Mary Lutescu-Jones. The report was written by Joe Whelan. The finds and biological evidence reports were written by Jacky Sommerville and Sarah Cobain respectively. The illustrations were prepared by Leo Heatley. The archive has been compiled by Andrew Donald, and prepared for deposition by Hazel O'Neill. The project was managed for CA by Damian De Rosa.

10. REFERENCES

- BGS (British Geological Survey) 2011 *Geology of Britain Viewer*http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geology-viewer-google/googleviewer.html Accessed 12
 June 2015
- CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 Stapehill Solar Farm, Wimborne, Dorset. Heritage Desk Based Assessment, CA Report No. **15314**
- DCLG (Department of Communities and Local Government) 2012 National Planning Policy Framework

Wessex Archaeology (WA) 2015 Stapehill Solar Park Wimborne, Dorset – Detailed Gradiometer Survey Report **109250.02**

APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 1 | 100 | Layer | Topsoil | Grey Brown slightly clayey silty sand with rare flint gravel inclusions. | 50.0 | 1.9 | 0-0.29m |
| 1 | 101 | Layer | Natural | Silvery grey/yellow brown slightly clayey sand with flint gravel inclusions. | | | 0.29m+ |
| 1 | 102 | Structur e | Structure | Circular structure, possible drip gully. | 5.3 | 4m | 0.29-0.39 |
| 1 | 103 | Cut | Gully | Probable drip gully for structure 102. Semi-circular in plan with rounded corners, gently sloping sides and a flat base. | 5.3 | 0.3 | 0.29-0.39 |
| 1 | 104 | Fill | Secondary fill | Dark silvery grey loose sand with very rare flint gravel inclusions and a clear horizon. Fill of 103 | | | |
| 1 | 105 | Cut | Gully | Probable drip gully for structure 102. Semi-circular in plan with rounded corners, gently sloping sides and a flat base. | 5 | 0.3 | 0.07 |
| 1 | 106 | Fill | Secondary fill | Dark silvery grey loose sand with very rare flint gravel inclusions and a clear horizon. Fill of 105 | | | |
| 1 | 107 | Cut | Pit | Sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners, near vertical sides and a concave base. NW/SE orientation. | 1.4 | 0.37 | 0.29-0.4 |
| 1 | 108 | Fill | Secondary fill | Grey brown loose silty sand with occasional flint gravel inclusions. | | | |
| 1 | 109 | Cut | Pit | Sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners, near vertical sides and a concave base. NW/SE orientation. | 1.4 | 0.37 | 0.29-0.4 |
| 1 | 110 | Fill | Secondary fill | Grey brown loose silty sand with occasional flint gravel inclusions | | | |
| 1 | 111 | Cut | Pit | Sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners, near vertical sides and a concave base. NW/SE orientation. | 1.4 | 0.37 | 0.29-0.4 |
| 1 | 112 | Fill | Secondary fill | Grey brown loose silty sand with occasional flint gravel inclusions | | | |
| 1 | 113 | Cut | Pit | Sub-rectangular in plan with rounded corners, near vertical sides and a concave base. NW/SE orientation. | 1.4 | 0.37 | 0.29-0.4 |
| 1 | 114 | Fill | Secondary fill | Grey brown loose silty sand with occasional flint gravel inclusions | | | |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 2 | 200 | Layer | Topsoil | Mid blueish grey silty fine sand with occasional angular flint inclusions | 50 | 1.9 | 0-0.23 |
| 2 | 201 | Layer | Subsoil | Mid brown, black, light greenish grey and mid yellowish orange silty fine sand and occasional clay with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions | | | 0.23-0.3m |
| 2 | 202 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with shallow gently sloping sides and a flat base. NE/SW orientation | >2 | 1.28 | 0.3-0.44 |

| 2 | 203 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Dark brown firm silty fine sand with occasional sub-angular flint | | |
|---|-----|-------|----------------|--|--|-------|
| | | | | inclusions. Fill of 202 | | |
| 2 | 204 | Layer | Natural | Light yellowish orange and light grey clay with patches of silty sand, also rooting and occasional manganese inclusions | | 0.4m+ |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|--|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 3 | 300 | Layer | Topsoil | Light greyish brown silty clay with friable, with occasional flint and rare rounded pebble inclusions | 50 | 1.9 | 0-0.25 |
| 3 | 301 | Layer | Natural | Light yellow silty clay with frequent inclusions of dark and light grey chalky silt | | | 0.10-0.55m |
| 3 | 302 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid brown firm silty clay silt with rare sub-angular chert stone inclusions. Fill of 302 | | | |
| 3 | 303 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with slightly irregular sides and a slightly concaved base. | 2 | 0.71 | 0.55-0.75 |
| 3 | 304 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid brown firm silty clay with rare sib-angular and sub-rounded chert stone inclusions. Fill of 304 | | | |
| 3 | 305 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with straight moderate sides and a flat base. | 1.9 | 0.7 | 00.55-0.82 |
| 3 | 306 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid to light brown compact silty clay and no inclusions. Fill of 307 | | | |
| 3 | 307 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with moderately sloped sides and a flat base. | 1.3 | 0.66 | 0.55-0.67 |
| ഗ | 308 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid brown firmly compact silty sand with chalk lensing and rare sub-angular and sub-rounded chert stone inclusions. Fill of 309 | | | |
| 3 | 309 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with straight steep sides and a flat base. | 1.9 | 0.87 | 0.55-0.23 |
| 3 | 310 | Cut | | Land Drain | | | |
| 3 | 311 | Cut | | Land Drain | | | |
| 3 | 312 | Cut | | Land Drain | | | |
| 3 | 313 | Cut | | Land Drain | | | |
| 3 | 314 | Cut | | Land Drain | | | |
| 3 | 315 | Cut | | Land Drain | | | |
| 3 | 316 | Cut | | Land Drain | | | |
| 3 | 317 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid greyish brown friable silty sand with gravel inclusions. Fill of 309 | | | |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 4 | 400 | Layer | Topsoil | Mid blueish grey silty fine sand with occasional angular flint inclusions | 50 | 1.9 | 0-0.23 |
| 4 | 401 | Layer | Subsoil | Mid brown, black, light greenish grey and mid yellowish orange silty fine sand and occasional clay with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions | | | 0.23-0.36m |
| 4 | 402 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with shallow gently sloping sides. | >2 | 1.8 | 0.35-0.42 |

| 4 | 403 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light greyish friable silty fine sand with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions. Fill of 402 | | | |
|---|-----|-------|---------------------|--|----|------|-----------|
| 4 | 404 | Cut | Re-cut | Linear in plan with moderate gently sloping sides and a flat base. | >2 | 1.3 | 0.35-0.56 |
| 4 | 405 | Fill | Primary Fill | Dark greenish brown firm sandy clay with occasional manganese inclusions. Fill of 404 | | | |
| 4 | 406 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Dark brown and black friable silty fine sand with occasional manganese inclusions. Fill of 404 | | | |
| 4 | 407 | Cut | Re-cut | Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a flat base. | >2 | 1.05 | 0.35-0.55 |
| 4 | 408 | Fill | Deliberate backfill | Light grey, dark brown and yellowish orange friable silty clay fine sand with occasional subangular flint inclusions. Fill of 407 | | | |
| 4 | 409 | Layer | Natural | Light yellowish orange and light grey clay with patches of silty sand, also rooting and occasional manganese inclusions | | | 0.35m+ |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 5 | 500 | Layer | Topsoil | Greyish brown friable silty clay with rare chert flint inclusions | 50 | 1.8 | 0-0.25 |
| 5 | 501 | Layer | Natural | Mottled yellow brown firmly compact silty sand | | | 0.25-0.7m |
| 5 | 502 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and concave. NE/SW orientation. | >2 | 7 | 0.7-1.4 |
| 5 | 503 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light to mid brown soft silty clay with rare sub-angular and sub-rounded chert inclusions. Fill of 502. | | | |
| 5 | 504 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Dark brown soft humic silty loam with frequent bioturbation. Fill of 502 . | | | |
| 5 | 505 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light grey brown loose silty sand with rare sub-angular and sub-rounded chert stone inclusions. Fill of 502 . | | | |
| 5 | 506 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light grey with patches of yellow lenses compact silty sand. Occasional struck flint inclusions. Fill of 509 . | | | |
| 5 | 507 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid greyish brown compact silty sand with rare inclusions of struck flint. Fill of 509 . | | | |
| 5 | 508 | Fill | Primary Fill | Dark reddish brown loose gravelly silt with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded flint inclusions. Fill of 509 . | | | |
| 5 | 509 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan, with irregular moderately sloped concave sides and an irregular flat base. | 1.8 | 3.5 | 0.7-1.17 |
| 5 | 510 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Fill of 511. | | | |
| 5 | 511 | Cut | Treethrow | Treethrow. | | | |
| 5 | 512 | Fill | Bank Slump | Yellow redeposited material with mid brown and light brown lenses, firm silty sand. Occasional sib-angular and sub-rounded chert inclusions | | | |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|------|------------------------|--|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 6 | | | | Trench 6 was not excavated as it was outside the red development line. | | | |
| 7 | | | | Trench 7 was not excavated as it was outside the red development line. | | | |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 8 | 800 | Layer | Topsoil | Light grey brown friable sandy silt. Occasional chert inclusions | 49.5 | 1.85 | 0-0.35 |
| 8 | 801 | Layer | Natural | Light yellow grey, with black mottling, sandy clay. | | | 0.35+ |
| 8 | 802 | Layer | Natural | Dark brown grey clayey sand with red brown mottling. | | | 0.35+ |
| 8 | 803 | Layer | Natural | Dark grey sand with light brown mottling. | | | 0.35+ |
| 8 | 804 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base. | 3.41 | 0.48 | 0.35-0.44 |
| 8 | 805 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light grey brown friable sandy silt with sub-angular flint inclusions. Fill of 804. | | | |
| 8 | 806 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Dark greyish brown compact silty sand with occasional flint inclusions. Fill of 808 . | | | |
| 8 | 807 | Fill | Primary Fill | Dark reddish brown compact silty clay with no inclusions. Fill of 808 . | | | |
| 8 | 808 | Cut | Ditch | Curvilinear in plan with gently concave sides and a concave base. NW/SE orientation. | 1 | 1 | 0.35-0.52 |
| 8 | 809 | Layer | Colluvium | Mixed mottled yellow and light grey firm silty sand with rare subangular and sub-rounded stone inclusions. | | | |
| 8 | 810 | Cut | Ditch | Curvilinear in plan with slightly stepped sides and a slightly concaved base. | 1.9 | 0.87 | 0.35-0.68 |
| 8 | 811 | Fill | Primary Fill | Dark brown loose silty sand with rare chert inclusions. Fill of 810 | | | |
| 8 | 812 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mixed deposit of white chalk and light grey loose silty sand with rare sub-angular and sub-rounded chert gravel inclusions. Fill of 810 | | | |
| 8 | 813 | Layer | Layer | Light grey loose silty sand with white chalk inclusions. | | | |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 9 | 900 | Layer | Topsoil | Light brownish grey friable silt with occasional flint inclusions | 50.6 | 1.85 | 0-0.84 |
| 9 | 901 | Layer | Subsoil | Mid brownish grey friable sandy silt. No inclusions | | | 0.2-0.4 |

| 9 | 902 | Layer | Colluvium | Dark grey with light brown patches soft sandy silt and no inclusions | 0.4-0.6 |
|---|-----|-------|---------------|--|-----------|
| 9 | 903 | Layer | Natural | Light greyish yellow silty sand with patches of grey silty sand. Occasional inclusions of flint. | |
| 9 | 904 | Layer | Paleo-channel | Dark grey silty sand. | 0.5-0.64 |
| 9 | 905 | Layer | Paleo-channel | Light yellow grey silty sand. | 0.5-0.62 |
| 9 | 906 | Layer | Paleo-channel | Mid grey sandy silt | 0.65-0.78 |
| 9 | 907 | Layer | Paleo-channel | Mid greyish yellow sandy clay | 0.71-0.75 |
| 9 | 908 | Layer | Paleo-channel | Dark grey sandy silt | 0.78-0.84 |
| 9 | 909 | Layer | Paleo-channel | Dark grey/black silty sand | 0.5-0.66 |
| 9 | 910 | Layer | Paleo-channel | Light yellowish clay. Possibly a re-deposit. | 0.44-0.64 |
| 9 | 911 | Layer | Paleo-channel | Dark grey silty sand. | 0.58-0.78 |
| 9 | 912 | Layer | Paleo-channel | Dark grey with mid orange patches sandy silt. | 0.54-0.6 |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|----------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 10 | 1000 | Layer | Topsoil | Light brownish grey friable sandy silt with rare sub-angular flint inclusions | 56.1 | 1.85 | 0-0.4 |
| 10 | 1001 | Layer | Natural | Mid yellow/grey sandy clay with patches of dark grey and light grey sand. | | | 0.31+ |
| 10 | 1002 | Cut | Ditch / Possible Barrow | Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base. Same as 1019 . | 1 | 1.74 | 0.31-0.63 |
| 10 | 1003 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Dark greyish brown friable silty sand with no inclusions. Fill of 1002 . | | | |
| 10 | 1004 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light yellowish grey friable silty sand with no inclusions. Fill of 1002 . | | | |
| 10 | 1005 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light grey, with mid brown patches, silty sand and no inclusions. Fill of 1002 . | | | |
| 10 | 1006 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light grey/white friable silty sand with no inclusions. Fill of 1002 . | | | |
| 10 | 1007 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid brownish grey friable silty sand with no inclusions. Fill of 1002 . | | | |
| 10 | 1008 | Fill | Tertiary Fill | Dark brown, with stripes of light grey, friable sandy silt with no inclusions. Fill of 1002 . | | | |
| 10 | 1009 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base. | 1 | 4.45 | 031-0.77 |
| 10 | 1010 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light grey with orange patches friable clayey sand with no inclusions. Fill of 1009 . | | | |
| 10 | 1011 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light brownish grey friable silty sand with no inclusions. Fill of 1009 . | | | |
| 10 | 1012 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Dark brown with light grey patches friable silty sand with rare sub-angular and sub-rounded flint inclusions. Fill of 1009 . | | | |
| 10 | 1013 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light grey friable sand with no inclusions. Fill of 1009 . | | | |
| 10 | 1014 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid greyish brown friable silty sand with rare sub-angular flint inclusions. Fill of 1009 . | | | |

| 10 | 1015 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid grey friable silty sand with no inclusions. Fill of 1009 . | | | |
|----|------|------|-------------------------|---|-----|------|-----|
| 10 | 1016 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Very light grey friable silty sand with no inclusions. Fill of 1009 . | | | |
| 10 | 1017 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light greyish brown with friable silty sand with rare sub-angular stone inclusions. Fill of 1009 . | | | |
| 10 | 1018 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Very light greyish brown friable silty sand with no inclusions. Fill of 1009 . | | | |
| 10 | 1019 | Cut | Ditch / Possible Barrow | Linear in plan. Unexcavated. | N/A | 1.56 | N/A |
| 10 | 1020 | Fill | Secondary fill | Light brown friable silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions. Unexcavated. Fill of 1019 . | | | |
| 10 | 1021 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan. Unexcavated. | N/A | 3.80 | N/A |
| 10 | 1022 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid greyish brown friable silty sand with occasional sub-angular flint inclusions. Fill of 1021 . | | | |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|-------------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 11 | 1100 | Layer | Topsoil | Light brown friable sandy silt with occasional small flint inclusions | 49.3 | 1.85 | 0-0.21 |
| 11 | 1101 | Layer | Subsoil | Light brownish grey sandy silt with no inclusions | | | 0.21-0.38 |
| 11 | 1102 | Layer | Natural | Mid yellow/grey sandy clay with patches of dark grey and light grey sand. | | | 0.38+ |
| 11 | 1103 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan. Unexcavated. | N/A | 6.4 | N/A |
| 11 | 1104 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light greyish brown friable sandy silt with very rare sub-angular flint inclusions. Fill of 1103 . | | | |
| 11 | 1105 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base. | 1 | 5.54 | 0.31 |
| 11 | 1106 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1119 | Mid greyish brown friable silty sand with no inclusions. | | | |
| 11 | 1107 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1119 | Light yellowish grey friable sandy clay with no inclusions. | | | |
| 11 | 1108 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1119 | Light brownish grey friable sandy silt with no inclusions. | | | |
| 11 | 1109 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1119 | Light grey with mid brown patches friable sandy silt with no inclusions. | | | |
| 11 | 1110 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1119 | Dark brownish black friable silty sand with no inclusions. | | | |
| 11 | 1111 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1120 | Light yellowish grey friable sandy clay with no inclusions. | | | |
| 11 | 1112 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1120 | Dark grey with light grey patches friable sandy silt with no inclusions. | | | |
| 11 | 1113 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1120 | Light greyish brown friable silty sand with no inclusions. | | | |
| 11 | 1114 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1121 | Light yellowish grey friable sandy clay with no inclusions. | | | |
| 11 | 1115 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1121 | Mid brown friable silty sand with no inclusions. | | | |
| 11 | 1116 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1119 | Light to mid greyish brown friable silty sand with no inclusions. | | | |
| 11 | 1117 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1119 | Mid brownish grey friable silty sand with rare sub-angular stone inclusions. | | | |

| 11 | 1118 | Fill | Silted sandy lens within 1119 | Light greyish brown friable silty sand with no inclusions. | | |
|----|------|------|-------------------------------|--|--|--|
| 11 | 1119 | Fill | Tertiary fill of 1105 | Brown silted sands | | |
| 11 | 1120 | Fill | Secondary fill of 105 | Mixed yellowy brown / grey brown silted sands | | |
| 11 | 1121 | fill | Primary fill of 105 | Grey brown silted sands | | |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 12 | 1200 | Layer | Topsoil | Greyish brown clayey silt with rare flint inclusions. | 50.1 | 1.9 | 0-0.30 |
| 12 | 1201 | Layer | Subsoil | Very dark greyish brown/black clayey silt with no inclusions. | | | 0.30-0.36 |
| 12 | 1202 | Layer | Natural | Greyish brown sand with yellow brown clay patches. | | | 0.36+ |
| 12 | 1203 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan. Unexcavated. | 2 | 2.1 | U/E |
| 12 | 1205 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Dark greyish brown clayey silty sand. Unexcavated. | | | |
| 12 | 1204 | Cut | Service Trench | | | | |
| 12 | 1206 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Yellowy brown clay. Fill of 1204. | | | |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 13 | 1300 | Layer | Topsoil | Mid to light grey brown friable silty clay. | 49.5 | 1.85 | 0-0.26 |
| 13 | 1301 | Layer | Natural | Mixed dark brown silty clay. | | | |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 14 | 1400 | Layer | Topsoil | Mid to light grey brown friable silty clay with no inclusions. | 50 | 1.9 | 0-0.24 |
| 14 | 1401 | Layer | Sub-soil | Very dark greyish brown/black clayey sand with no inclusions. | | | 0.24-0.47 |
| 14 | 1402 | Layer | Natural | Silvery grey sand with rare flint gravel inclusions | | | 0.47 |
| 14 | 1403 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan. Not excavated | 2 | 4.09 | N/A |
| 14 | 1404 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Very dark yellowy brown loose silty clayey sand. Not excavated. Fill of 1403 . | | | |
| 14 | 1405 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan. Not excavated | 2 | 1.08 | N/A |
| 14 | 1406 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Very dark yellowy brown loose silty clayey sand. Not excavated. Fill of 1405 . | | | |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 15 | 1500 | Layer | Topsoil | Greyish brown silty clay with no inclusions | 49.2 | 1.9 | 0-0.35 |

| 15 | 1501 | Layer | Natural | Mottled yellow brown silty clay with no inclusions | | | 0.35 |
|----|------|-------|----------------|--|-----|------|-----------|
| 15 | 1502 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base. | 1.9 | 1.42 | 0.35-0.68 |
| 15 | 1503 | Fill | Primary Fill | Mid to light brown loose silty clay with no inclusions. Fill of 1502 . | | | |
| 15 | 1504 | Fill | Secondary | Mid to dark brown loose silty clay with no inclusions. Fill of 1502 . | | | |
| 15 | 1505 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with stepped gently sloped side and a flat base. | 2.2 | 1.1 | 0.35-0.5 |
| 15 | 1506 | Fill | Primary Fill | Mid yellow brown firm silty sand with occasional sub-angular and sub-rounded chert inclusions. Fill of 1505 . | | | |
| 15 | 1507 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light grey brown loose silty clay with no inclusions. Fill of 1505 . | | | |
| 15 | 1508 | Fill | Primary Fill | Dark greyish brown moderately compact silty sand with occasional flint inclusions. Fill of 1510. | | | |
| 15 | 1509 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid reddish brown compact silty sand with occasional flint inclusions. Fill of 1510 . | | | |
| 15 | 1510 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with irregular stepped sides and a concave base. | 1.8 | 1.8 | 0.35-0.6 |
| 15 | 1511 | Fill | Primary Fill | Dark greyish brown moderately compact silty sand with rare flint inclusions. Fill of 1513 . | | | |
| 15 | 1512 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Mid reddish brown compact silty clay. Fill of 1513. | | | |
| 15 | 1513 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base. | 1.8 | 1.15 | 0.35-0.6 |
| 15 | 1514 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light grey silty sand with some grey/white chalk inclusions. Unexcavated. Fill of 1515. | | | |
| 15 | 1515 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan. Unexcavated | N/A | N/A | N/A |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Type | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 16 | 1600 | Layer | Topsoil | Mid to light greyish brown silty clay | 49.9 | 1.90 | 0-0.32 |
| 16 | 1601 | Layer | Natural | Greyish white silty sand. Alluvial deposit. | | | 0.32+ |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 17 | 1700 | Layer | Topsoil | Mid grey friable sandy silt with rare irregular stones. | 26.1 | 1.85 | 0-0.16 |
| 17 | 1701 | Layer | Natural | Light yellowish brown compact silty clay with light grey mottling. | | | 0.16+ |
| 17 | 1702 | Cut | Natural Hollow | Linear in plan with gently sloping sides and a flat base. | >0.6 | 3.97 | 0.16-0.34 |
| 17 | 1703 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Dark grey compact sandy silt with rare irregular stone inclusions. Fill of 1702. | | | |

| 17 | 1704 | Cut | Gully | Linear in plan with moderate concave sides and a concave base. | 1 | 0.46 | 0.16-0.22 |
|----|------|------|----------------|---|---|------|-----------|
| 17 | 1705 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Light grey brown friable sandy silt with sub-angular flint inclusions. Fill of 1704. | | | |

| Trench No. | Context No. | Туре | Context interpretation | Description | L (m) | W (m) | Depth/ thickness (m) |
|---------------|----------------|-------|------------------------|---|-------|-------|----------------------------|
| 18 | 1800 | Layer | Topsoil | Mid grey friable sandy silt with rare irregular stones. | 10 | 1.9 | 0-0.22 |
| 18 | 1801 | Layer | Subsoil | Very dark brown clayey sand with no inclusions. | | | 0.22-0.34 |
| 18 | 1802 | Layer | Natural | Yellowy brown clayey sand with no inclusions. | | | 0.34+ |
| 18 | 1803 | Cut | Ditch | Linear in plan. Unexcavated. | 2 | 2.7 | N/A |
| 18 | 1804 | Fill | Secondary Fill | Dark greyish brown clayey silt with no inclusions. | | | |

APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

| PROJECT DETAILS | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| Project Name | Stapehill Solar Farm, Canford Bottom, W | Vimborne, Dorset | | | |
| Short description (250 words maximum) | Sixteen trenches were excavated, these revealed a ring ditch, which is probably the remains of a Bronze Age barrow, a second possible ring ditch, which could also be the remains of a barrow, a pair of boundary ditches which cross the site from the south to the north-east and respecting the barrow pass around it, a surviving stretch of medieval ridge and furrow, a number of undated field boundaries and an undated circular structure. A small quantity of worked and burnt flint was collected. | | | | |
| Project dates | 22 - 26 June 2015 | | | | |
| Project type | Field Evaluation | | | | |
| Previous work (reference to organisation or SMR numbers etc) | Geophysical Survey (WA 2015) | | | | |
| Future work | Unknown | | | | |
| PROJECT LOCATION | | | | | |
| Site Location | Stapehill Farm, Canford Bottom, Wimborne, Dorset | | | | |
| tudy area (M²/ha) 7.6ha | | | | | |
| Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference) | SU 04453 00795 | | | | |
| PROJECT CREATORS | | | | | |
| Name of organisation | Cotswold Archaeology | | | | |
| Project Brief originator | | | | | |
| Project Design (WSI) originator | Cotswold Archaeology | | | | |
| Project Manager | Damian De Rosa | | | | |
| Project Supervisor | Joe Whelan | | | | |
| MONUMENT TYPE | none | | | | |
| SIGNIFICANT FINDS PROJECT ARCHIVES | Intended final location of archive Dorchester Museum | Content | | | |
| Physical | | Flint | | | |
| Paper | | Context sheets, trench sheets and registers | | | |
| Digital | | Digital photos | | | |
| BIBLIOGRAPHY | | 3.co. p | | | |
| CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 Stapehi Evaluation. CA typescript report | ll Solar Farm, Canford Bottom, Wimborn | ne, Dorset: Archaeological | | | |



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1:01285 771022

Exeter Office

Unit 8
Basepoint Business Centre
Yeoford Way
Marsh Barton Trading Estate
Exeter
EX2 8LB

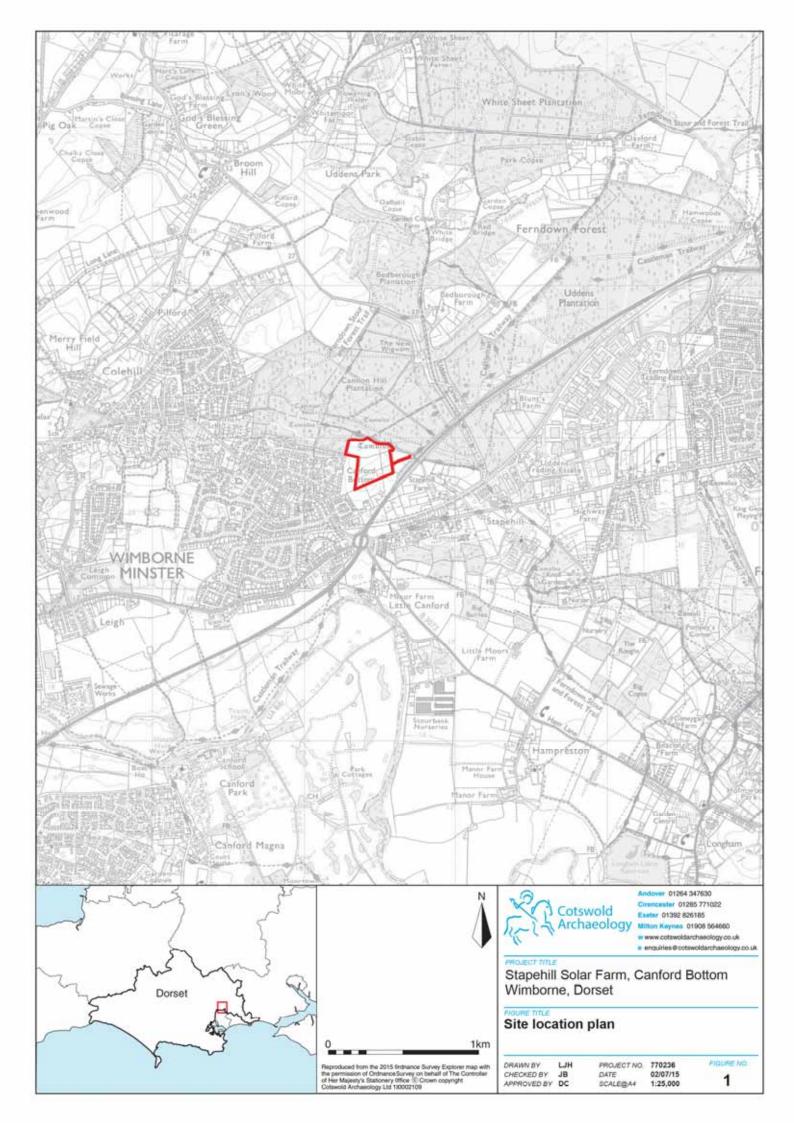
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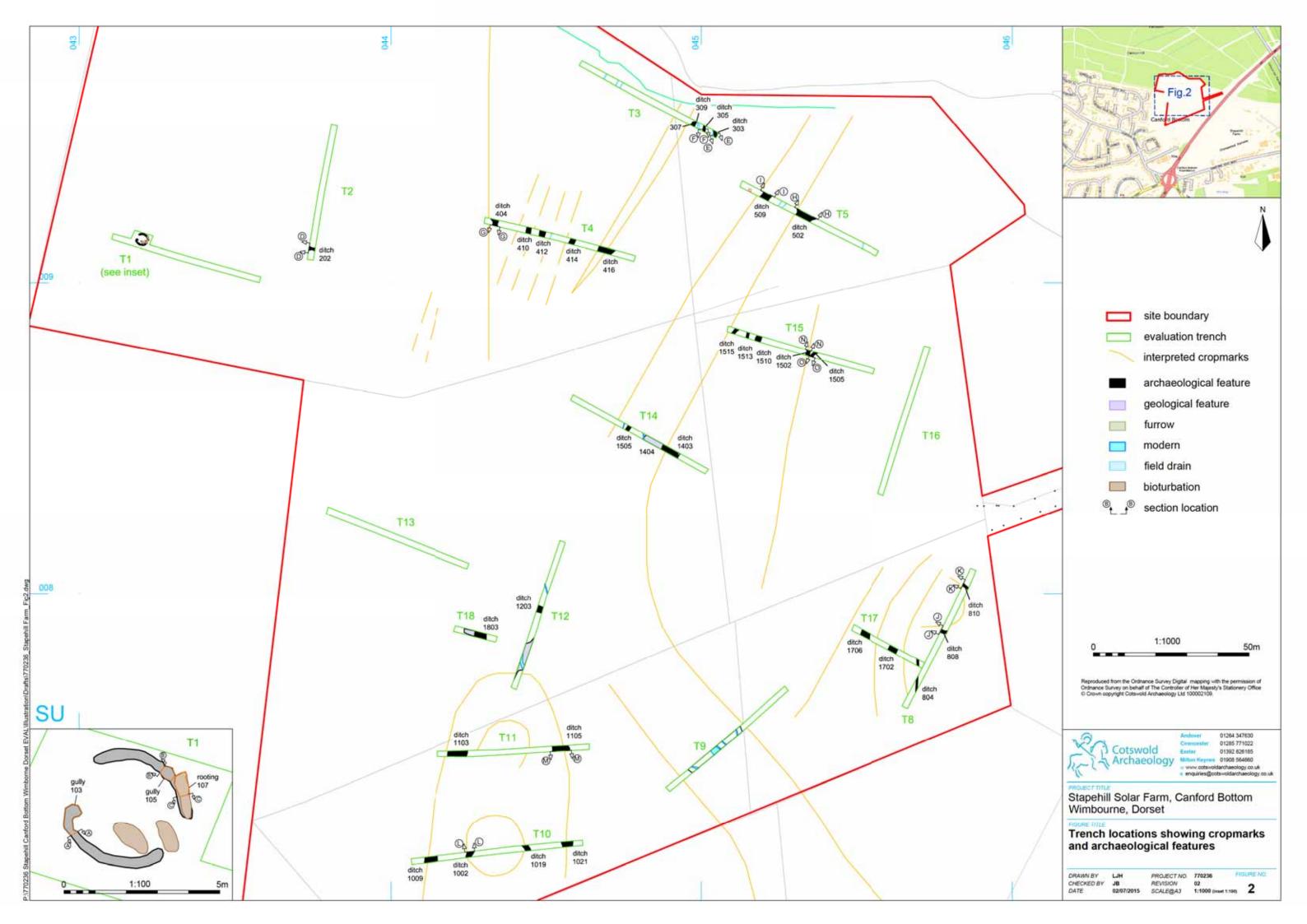
Milton Keynes Office

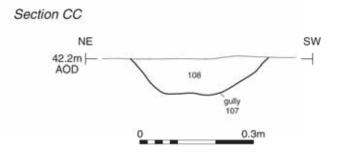
41 Burners Lane South Kiln Farm Milton Keynes Buckinghamshire MK1 3HA

1: 01908 564660







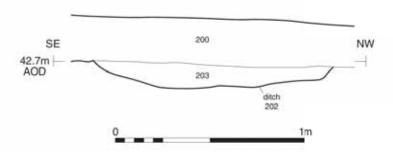




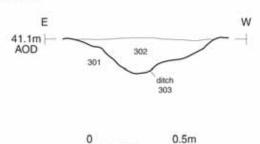
Pre-excavation view of gully 102, looking north west (1m scales)



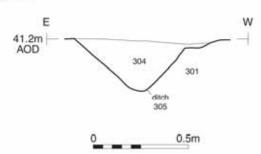
Section DD



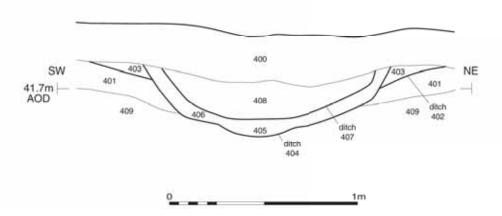
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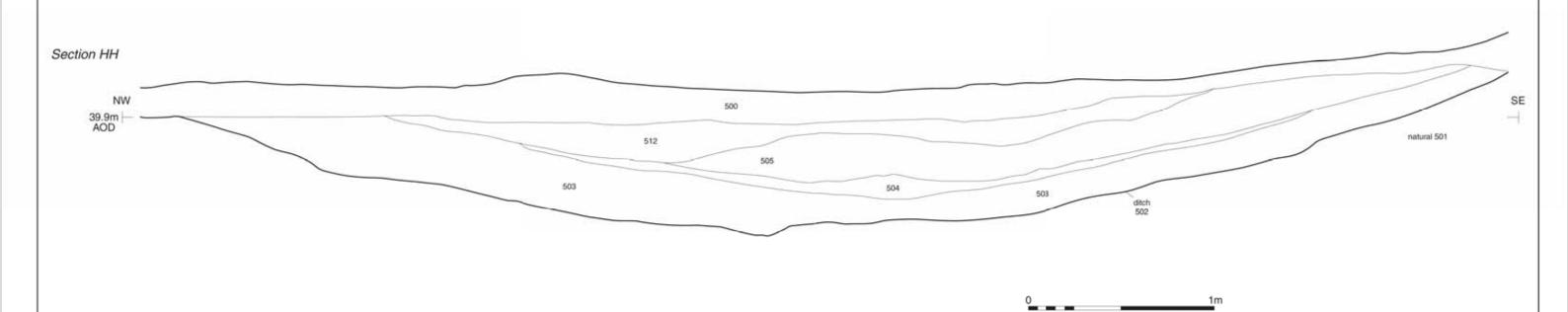
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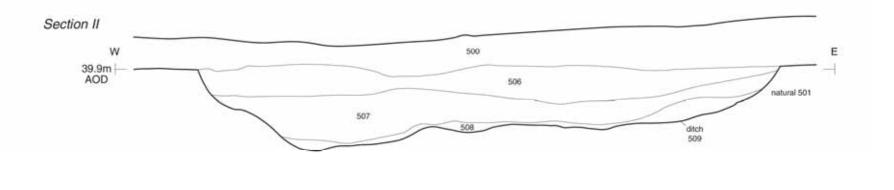


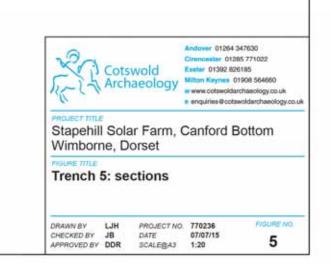
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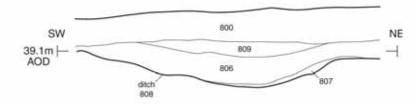






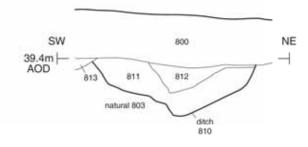


Section JJ





Section KK







Ditch 808, looking south east (1m scale)



Ditch 810, looking north west (1m scale)



Stapehill Solar Farm, Canford Bottom Wimborne, Dorset

Trench 8: sections and photographs

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6



7 Trench 9, looking north east (1m scales)



Andover 01284 347630
Cirencester 01285 771022
Easter 01392 826185
Milton Keynes 01908 564660
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e enquiries@cotawoldarchaeology.co.uk

SPOJECT DO I

Stapehill Solar Farm, Canford Bottom Wimborne, Dorset

PIGURE TITLE

Photograph

 DRAWN BY
 LJH
 PROJECT NO.
 770236

 CHECKED BY
 JB
 DATE
 08/07/15

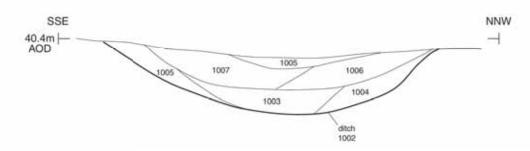
 APPROVED BY
 DDR
 SCALE@A4
 n/a

FIGURE NO.

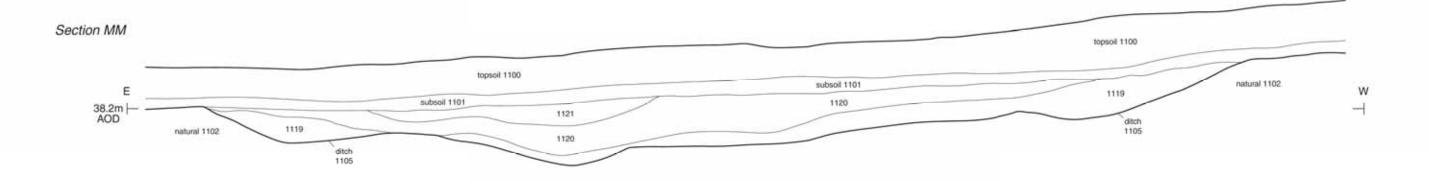


Trench 10, pre-excavation view looking west (1m scales)

Section LL







Andover 01264 347630 Cirencester 01285 771022 Exeter 01392 826185

Stapehill Solar Farm, Canford Bottom Wimborne, Dorset

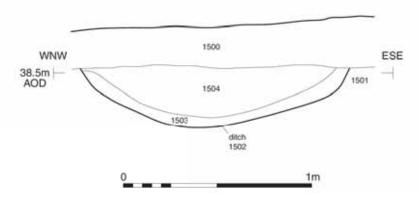
Trenches 10 & 11: sections and photograph

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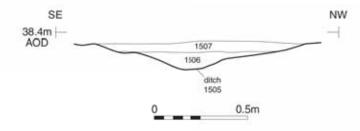
PROJECT NO. 770236 DATE 08/07/15 SCALEBAJ 1:20

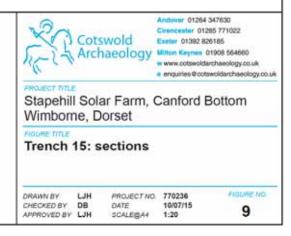
FIGURE NO. 8

Section NN



Section 00

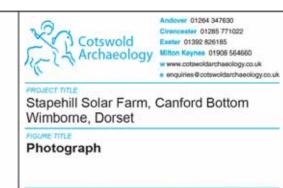








10 Trench 17, section of ditch 1702, looking south east (1m scale)



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10

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