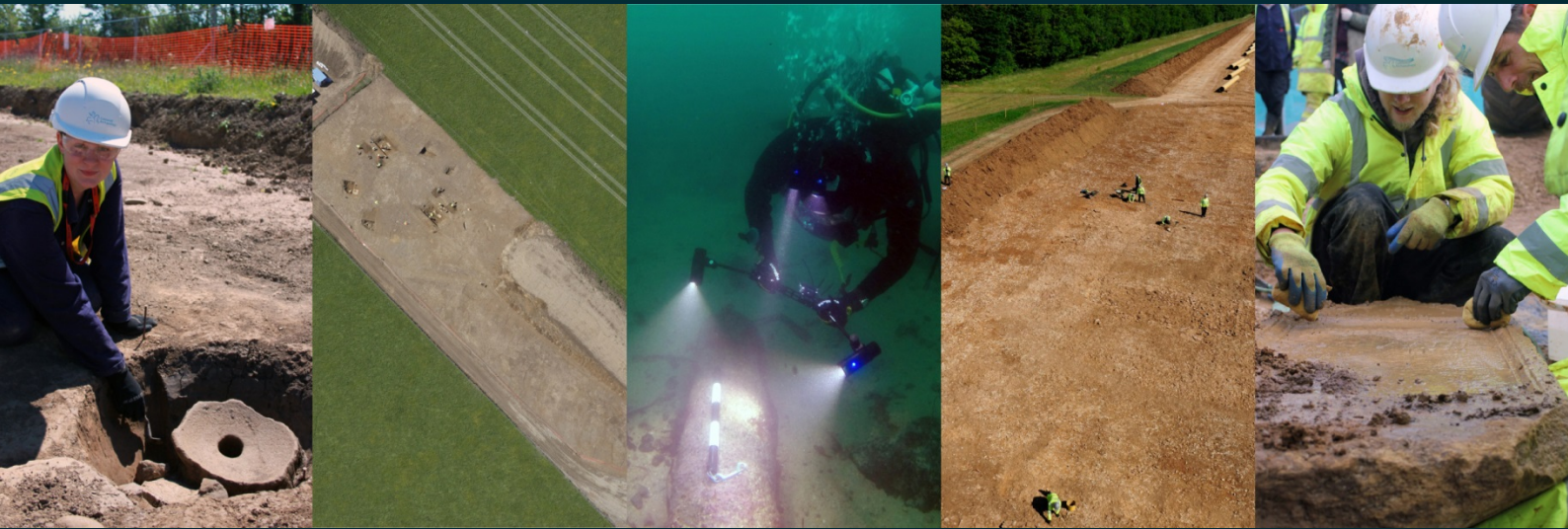


Cowdown Solar Farm Andover Hampshire

Archaeological Watching Brief



for
AGR Renewables Limited

CA Project: 770296
Report Number: 16109

March 2016



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SUMMARY

Project Name:	Cowdown Solar Farm
Location:	Andover Hampshire
NGR:	SU 37850 44200
Type:	Watching Brief
Date:	8 January to 10 February 2016
Planning Reference:	14/00949/FULLN
Location of Archive:	Hampshire Museums Services
Site Code:	CWSF16

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a Solar Farm at Cowdown Solar Farm, Andover, Hampshire.

Despite the archaeological potential of the application area the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The access roads were only topsoil stripped to a depth of less than 0.15m which did not impact any natural geology. A large portion of the cable trenches were excavated with a rotary chain which cut a trench less than 0.2m wide. Other observed cable trenches were 0.6m wide and varied in depth between 0.5m and 1m. Due to the limited nature of the ground works there was a low potential for observing any archaeology.



1. Introduction

1.1 In January and February 2016 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for AGR Renewables Limited ('the Client') at Cowdown Solar Farm, Andover, Hampshire, (centred on NGR: SU 37850 44200; (hereafter, 'the Site', Fig. 1).

1.2 The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for a Solar Farm (Planning ref: Ref 14/00949/FULLN). The watching brief was requested by David Hopkins, Senior Archaeologist at Hampshire County Council (SAHCC) as part of the Statement of Common Ground the condition states:

- *"No development shall take place until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written brief and specification for a scheme of investigation which has first been submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority"*

1.3 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2015) and approved by the Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC), acting on the advice of David Hopkins. 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

1.4 The Site (Fig. 1) is located to the south of Andover, with its northern edge bordered by the A303 and farmland to the south, east and west. The Site comprises approximately 65ha of agricultural land with Cowdown Farm buildings situated in the south-eastern corner, to the east of Cowdown Lane. The land within the site lies at between 95 and 115m AOD. The site is divided into four fields.

1.5 The underlying geology of the site comprises Cretaceous sedimentary chalks of the Seaford Formation, Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation and Newhaven Chalk Formation. There are no superficial deposits recorded within the Site (British Geological Survey).

2. ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In 2014, CA produced Chapter 7 of the ES, describing the cultural heritage and archaeology. The results of this assessment are summarised below.
- 2.2 There is considered to be a limited potential for Mesolithic and Neolithic activity within the Site. The evidence for Bronze Age activity within the surroundings of the Site is represented by barrows (burial mounds), however, there is no evidence for funerary activity within the Site.
- 2.3 Evidence of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity has been identified within the surroundings of the Site. Excavations at Cowdown Lane, c.600m to the south-west of the Site revealed a series of phases of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity, all of which appear to relate to the use of the area for agriculture. Further remains of this date are recorded within the wider environs of the Site and it is considered that there is the potential for the presence of such remains within the Site.
- 2.4 Evidence of extensive Iron Age activity is recorded within the landscape surroundings of the Site, including primarily settlement areas, field systems and enclosures. Field systems of possible Iron Age and Romano-British date are indicated by cropmarks within the western part of the Site, with the potential for associated remains to be located within the Site. The presence of Late Iron Age/Romano-British settlements within the surroundings of the Site has been indicated on aerial photographs. Whilst the presence of such remains within the Site cannot be ruled out, there is no evidence to suggest that settlement activity extended into the Site.
- 2.5 From the medieval period onwards, the Site is considered to have been located within agricultural land, with settlement focused in the areas of Upper Clatford, Goodworth Clatford and Andover. Evidence for medieval farming may survive as below ground features within the Site. The 1841-1850 Tithe Maps for Andover, Upper Clatford and Goodworth Clatford depict the Site and indicate it used to comprise a series of enclosed fields with a driveway across them. The historic parish boundaries are in places lined by hedgerows and hedgebanks.

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 2015). An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising cable trenches access roads, and compounds (Fig. 2). The substations were placed on piled footings with limited below ground impact.

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 The archive and artefacts from the watching brief are currently held by CA at their offices in Andover and Kemble respectively. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner all artefacts will be deposited with the Hampshire Cultural Trust along with the site archive. 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 2-6)

5.1 The geology of the site was predominantly a white chalk as recorded by the BGS. The chalk was mixed in places with solution hollows and undulations with topsoil and subsoil fills. However toward the north of the site a mid brownish red silty clay with abundant gravel was encountered. The topsoil was approximately 0.3m thick.

An intermittent subsoil was encountered with a maximum thickness of 0.2m which consisted of a light brown compact clayey silty.

- 5.2 The access roads were only topsoil stripped to a depth of less than 0.15m which did not impact any natural geology. A large portion of the cable trenches were excavated with a rotary chain which cut a trench less than 0.2m wide.
- 5.3 Observed trenches were excavated with a 0.6m wide machine bucket and varied in depth between 0.5m and 1m.
- 5.4 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. The excavations at Cowdown Lane (See 2 Archaeological Background above), revealed a series of phases of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age activity, this activity did not extend within the site boundary.

6. THE FINDS AND BIOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1 No finds or biological evidence were recovered.

7. Discussion

- 7.1 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. Due to the limited nature of the ground works there was a low potential for observing any archaeology.

8. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Adam Howard, assisted by Oliver Good and Tony Brown. 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.



9. REFERENCES

BGS (British Geological Survey) 2016

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 'Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology', in
AGRenewables Cowdown Solar Park Environmental Statement

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2015 *Cowdown Solar Farm Andover: Written Scheme
of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*

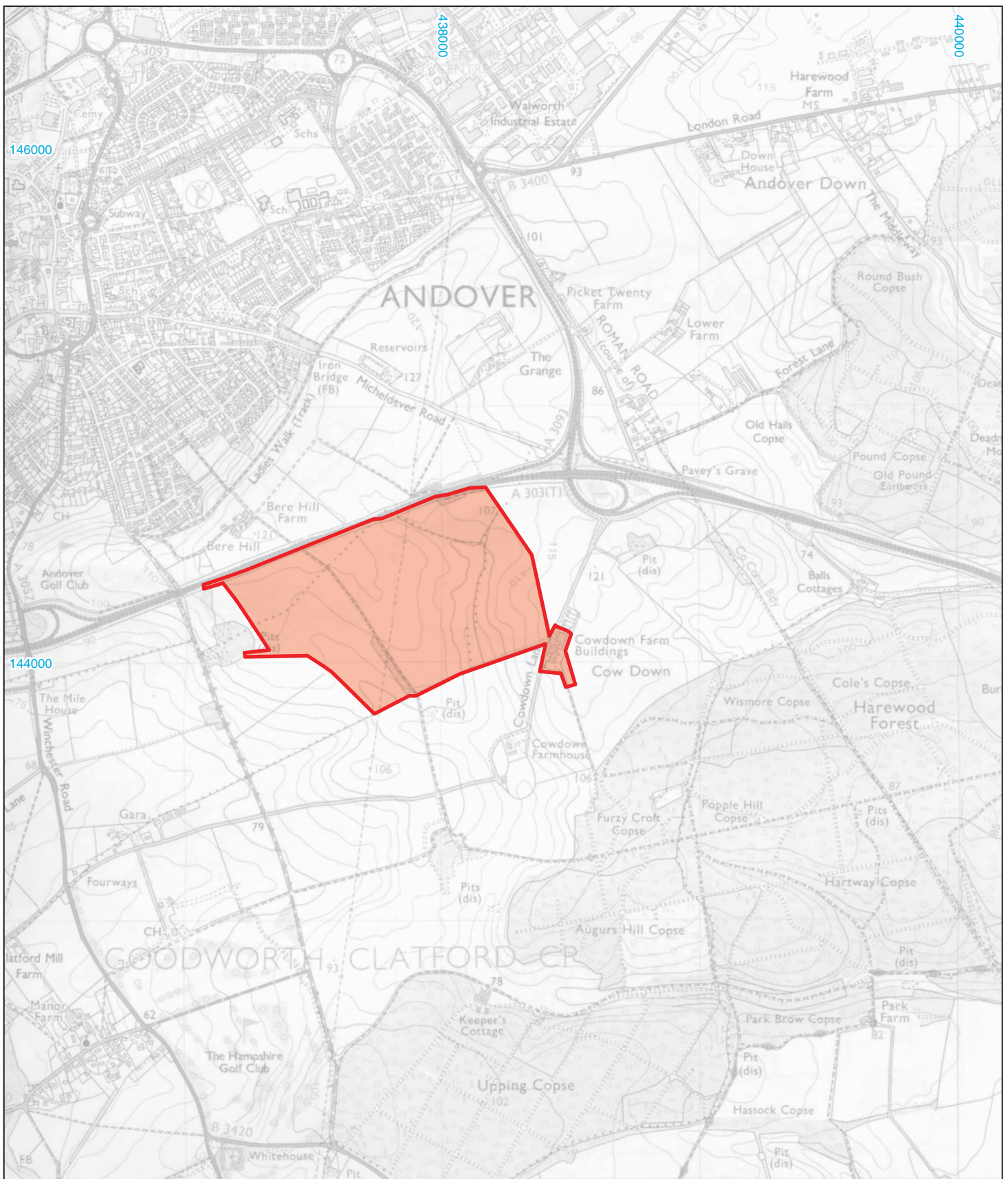


APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench No.	Context No.	Type	Context interpretation	Description	L (m)	W (m)	Depth/thickness (m)
1	100	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt	-	0.5	0 – 0.3
1	101	Layer	Subsoil	Light brown clayey silt compact	-	0.5	0.3 – 0.5
1	102	Layer	Natural	White chalk with occasional ingress of 100 and 101	-	0.5	0.5+
1	103	Cut	Geological Feature	Sub rounded steep sloping sides base was not excavated	1.2	0.4	0.4
1	104	Fill	Fill of 104	Dark brown clayey silt compact occasional chalk inclusions	1.2	0.4	0.4
2	200	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt compact	-	0.5 - 0.8	0 – 0.2
2	201	Layer	Natural	White chalk with irregular deposits of brown silty clay and dark brown sand	-	0.5 - 0.8	0.2+
3	300	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt compact	-	0.7	0 - 0.2
3	301	Layer	Natural	Whit chalk with irregular deposits of mid brown silty clay compact	-	0.7	0.2+
3	302	Cut	Geological Feature	Not visible in plan gently sloping sides slightly rounded base	1.4	NA	0.27
3	303	Fill	Of 302	Mid brown clayey silt compact occasional angular chalk	1.4	NA	0.22
3	304	Fill	Of 302	Dark brown clayey silt compact occasional angular chalk	0.98	NA	0.07
4	400	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clayey silt compact	-	-	0 – 0.45
4	401	Layer	Natural	White chalk compact	-	-	0.45+
5	500	Layer	Topsoil	Mid greyish brown clay silt compact		0.6	0.3
5	501	Layer	Natural	White chalk with irregular deposits of brown silty clay and dark brown sand		0.6	0.3 – 0.8
5	502	Layer	Natural	Mid brownish red silty clay with abundant gravel		0.6	0.3 – 0.8

PPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS		
Project Name	Cowdown Solar Farm Andover Hampshire	
Short description (250 words maximum)	<p>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the development of a Solar Farm at Cowdown Solar Farm, Andover, Hampshire.</p> <p>Despite the archaeological potential of the application area the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks. The access roads were only topsoil stripped to a depth of less than 0.15m which did not impact any natural geology. A large portion of the cable trenches were excavated with a rotary chain which cut a trench less than 0.2m wide. Other observed cable trenches were 0.6m wide and varied in depth between 0.5m and 1m. Due to the limited nature of the ground works there was a low potential for observing any archaeology</p>	
Project dates	8 January to 10 of February 2016	
Project type	Watching Brief	
Previous work	CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2014 'Chapter 7: Cultural Heritage and Archaeology', in AGRenewables Cowdown Solar Park Environmental Statement	
Future work	None	
PROJECT LOCATION		
Site Location	Cowdown Solar Farm Andover Hampshire	
Study area (M ² /ha)		
Site co-ordinates (8 Fig Grid Reference)	SU 37850 44200	
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
Physical		none
Paper	Hampshire Cultural Trust	Trench sheet, digital photographic register
Digital	Hampshire Cultural Trust	digital photos
BIBLIOGRAPHY		
<p>CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2016, <i>Cowdown Solar Farm, Hampshire: WSI for an Archaeological Watching Brief</i> CA typescript report 16109. Project No. 770296</p>		



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE
 Cowdown Solar Farm, Andover
 Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Site location plan

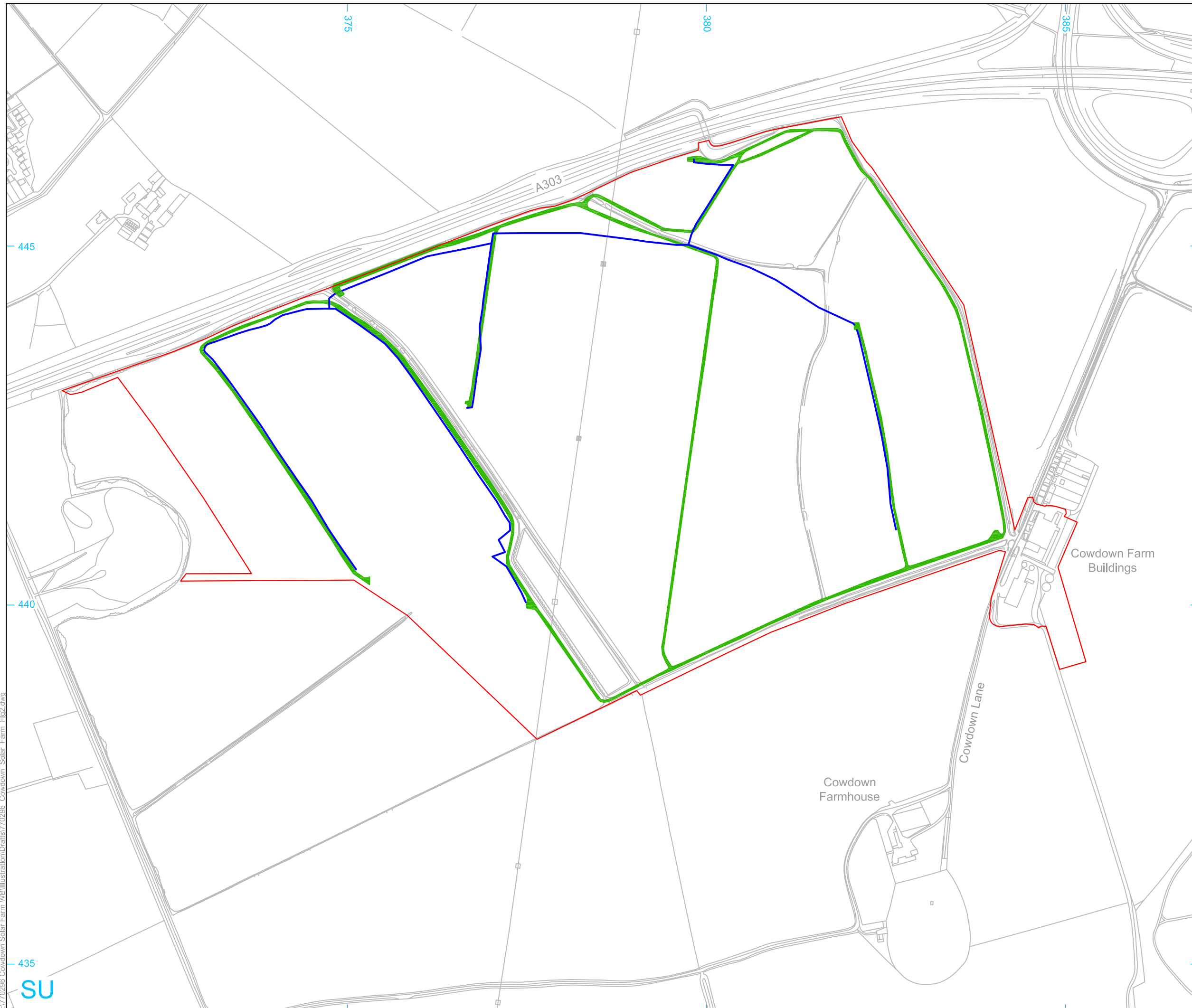


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CHECKED BY DJB **DATE** 03/03/16
APPROVED BY DDR **SCALE@A4** 1:20,000

FIGURE NO.

1



- site boundary
- observed groundworks**
- high voltage cable route
- access road



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 Cotswold Archaeology

Andover	01264 347630
Cirencester	01285 771022
Exeter	01392 826185
Milton Keynes	01908 564660
www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	
enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk	

PROJECT TITLE
 Cowdown Solar Farm, Andover
 Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE
 Location of observed groundworks

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APPROVED BY	DDR	SCALE@A3	1:5000	

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SU



3



4

3 Access Road

4 Photograph showing topsoil, subsoil and natural chalk (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

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 Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NOS.

3 & 4



5



6

5 Photograph showing topsoil and brownish red silty-clay natural (1m scale)

6 Working shot of trench excavation (1m scale)



Andover 01264 347630
 Cirencester 01285 771022
 Exeter 01392 826185
 Milton Keynes 01908 564660
 www.cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
 enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk

PROJECT TITLE

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 Hampshire

FIGURE TITLE

Photographs

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FIGURE NOS.

5 & 6

Andover Office

Stanley House
Walworth Road
Andover
Hampshire
SP10 5LH

t: 01264 347630

Cirencester Office

Building 11
Kemble Enterprise Park
Cirencester
Gloucestershire
GL7 6BQ

t: 01285 771022

Exeter Office

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

t: 01392 826185

Milton Keynes Office

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

t: 01908 564660