

# Archaeology, Excavation & Surveys.

**Ashfield Farm  
KEYSOE ROW EAST  
BEDFORDSHIRE  
MK44 2JD**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**Report No. AES/2014/10**



# **ASHFIELD FARM, KEYSOE ROW EAST BEDFORDSHIRE, MK44 2JD**

## **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF**

Written and compiled by

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January 2015

Site Code: **ASHKEY15**  
TL 509077 262229

Report No. AES/2014/10  
Event No: EBB874  
Oasis id: archaeol15-194735

Checked by: S. Bray

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## **Non-technical Summary**

*An archaeological watching brief was commissioned [REDACTED] on 30.25 square metres and associated cable trench for the construction of a wind turbine. The work was completed over two days, 20th and 22nd January 2015.*

*The work was completed following a project brief prepared by Vanessa Clarke BBHET and in accordance with a written scheme of investigation by Archaeology, Excavation & Surveys (AES).*

*Although the Proposed Development Area (PDA) was located in the middle of rectangular undated cropmarks, no archaeological features were found.*

*The weather was clear and dry and overall conditions were favourable to the recognition of archaeological remains.*

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## 1.0 Introduction

Archaeology, Excavation and Surveys (AES) were commissioned to carry out an archaeological Watching Brief by Rob Smythe of Ashfield Farm, Keysoe Row East for the development of a single Wind Turbine with associated development on farm land at Ashfield Farm at a location centred on NGR 509077 262229. The Proposed Development Area (PDA) is located within a large agricultural field to the northwest of the Ashfield Farm complex.

The proposed development consists of the installation of one 20kw wind turbine, with a rotor diameter of up to 13.1m and a maximum tip height of up to 27.13m, which will be used to power Ashfield Farm. The base of the turbine will measure approximately 5.5m x 5.5m and approximately 1m deep. In addition a cable trench will be required connecting the turbine to the farm and the National Grid.

AES compiled a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) in response to a Project Brief prepared by Vanessa Clarke, Senior Archaeologist of Bedford Borough Council Historic Environment Team (BBHET).

## 2.0 Compliance

When completing the work, Archaeology, Excavation and Surveys adhered to the requirements established by BBHET, and the Chartered Institute of Archaeologists (IFA). Standards as stated within the following documents: *Saved Policies BE24 & BE25 of the Bedford Borough Local Plan 2002*, *Policy CP23 of the Bedford Borough Core Strategy and Rural Issues Plan (2008)*, the EAA document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (2003)*, *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment: The MoRPHE Project Managers' Guide (2006)*, *Preparing Archaeological Archives for Deposition in Registered Museums in Bedfordshire (2010)* and the national policies contained in the *National Planning Policy Framework (March 2012)* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*, (IFA, updated Nov 2013).

## 3.0 Geology

Ashfield Farm is located on a bedrock geology of the Oxford Clay Formation, dating to the Jurassic period and is overlain by Oadby Member Diamicton from the Quaternary period.

(<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeologyofBritain/viewer.html>)

## 4.0 Archaeology and Historical background

The following provides an overview of the archaeological and historical background to the proposed development site, which lies to the northwest of the Ashfield Farm complex on the opposite side of Keysoe Row East (NGR 509077 262229).

There have been no archaeological investigations undertaken within the immediate area of the proposed development area to date.

Of particular archaeological and historical interest is the proposed location of the wind turbine, which lies within a locally designated area of archaeological interest based on an area of cropmarks identified from aerial photographs (BBHER15016). From the HER information the cropmarks recorded are in the form of a sub-rectangular enclosure (79m x 66m) with an internal circular feature. The enclosure

also appears to cut another similar circular feature. Of further archaeological interest in the area is that the present field boundary to the south appears to follow the alignment of the enclosure. A further circular feature of c 30m in diameter with a possible entrance to the south west is present c 25m to the northwest of the enclosure. Further curvilinear features are also present within the vicinity of the PDA representing enclosures or boundaries. A speculative date of prehistoric has been indicated due to the form of the cropmarks.

Further areas of archaeological interest have been identified within a 1km area surrounding the PDA, which appears to place the PDA within a prehistoric landscape. BBHER16683 denotes the cropmark of a sub rectangular enclosure and BBHER16687 a cropmark of a rectangular enclosure both of prehistoric date. (BBHER16683) lies to the west and (BBHER16687) to the southeast of the site.

To the east of the site another area of cropmarks (BBHER16686) show the outlines of a linear block of sub rectangular enclosures of Iron Age and Roman date. The area was investigated archaeologically (EBB720) to reveal an Iron Age settlement with an overlying Roman enclosure dated by late Iron Age to Roman/Romano British pottery sherds (FBD6902). A further cropmark on a east to south west alignment of the cropmarks BBHER16686, also of Roman date is of a rectangular ditched enclosure and possible building (BBHER13742). The cropmark lies to the southwest of the PDA .To the northeast of the PDA, from HER data a single coin of Anglo-Saxon date was found, namely Aethelred II (BBHER19899).

Ashfield Farm and the proposed PDA also lie in the midst of a medieval landscape, which from HER data, appears to follow a linear settlement pattern from Keysoe Row to West End and Little Staughton. Medieval sites on that line, south of the PDA, include two moats (BBHER350, 7945), a possible medieval settlement (BBHER11997) and earthworks (BBHER1809, 2506, 2944). Further to the northwest an area of medieval ridge and furrow has been recorded (BBHER4897). On a northwest to south east alignment lies a medieval track (BBHER7686), and to the north of the PDA an ancient wood known as the Lound (BBHER7966). To the northeast of the PDA, findspots in the form of a medieval strap end (BBHER19898) and coin, a silver farthing of Edward I of II (BBHER19899) were found.

Within the post medieval landscape and within a 1km radius of the proposed development site, approximately sixteen buildings are recorded in the BBHER of post medieval date ie 1540 to 1900 AD and of enough significant archaeological and historic interest to be recorded. The buildings included farms (BBHER7601, 7812, 7814, 7816, 7817, 12014), several demolished buildings (BBHER7616, 7813, 7815, 7818, 7819, 7925, 7946, 7947, 7948, 7949, 7964), a cottage (BBHER 12016) and Little Staughton Lodge (BBHER7962). A post medieval Brick kiln (BBHER8337) on the site of medieval brickworks was also present. A few buildings have gained listed building status and date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, all lie southwest of Ashfield Farm itself, to the south of the PDA and include two farmhouses (BBHER5598, 5600), a homestead (BBHER5599) and two cottages (BBHER5601, 5602). A few findspots have been located to the northeast of the PDA, the fragment of a silver hunting whistle (BBHER19790) and a James 1 coin (BBHER19897).

## **5.0 Aims and objectives**

The aims were to be achieved using the methodologies of a watching brief and scanning of open areas and spoil heaps by an experienced metal detectorist. This

report details the results of the investigation together with an assessment of the archaeological evidence discovered.

- A watching brief is required to enable the archaeological resource, both in quantity and extent, to be accurately quantified.
- Identify the date, approximate form and purpose of any archaeological deposits, together with its likely extent, localized depth and quality of preservation.
- To identify the potential for environmental deposits.
- To further elaborate on the nature, period and morphology of the cropmarks.
- To enhance the understanding of Keysoe Row East through the examination of the date, form and character within its local, and regional contexts as provided by Oake *et al* (2007), Glazebrook (1997), Brown and Glazebrook (2000) and Medlycott (2011).
- To produce a permanent record of the site in an archive that will be deposited with Bedford Borough HET.
- The site will be recorded under a new site code (ASHKEY15). An OASIS form will be initiated prior to the start of fieldwork (archaeol15-194735)

## 6.0 Methodology

All archaeological features, deposits and layers were recorded using AES *pro forma* context sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales and site photographs were taken of all trenches, profiles and any features using a Canon EOS 1100 SLR digital camera.

Prior to the fieldwork an event code (EBB874) was obtained from the BBCHET Officer. This number is clearly marked on any documentation relating to the work and on any reports arising from the work.

At the commencement of works the location of the trench was tied in using a Leica 1200 GPS Smart Rover with a RTK differential correction giving global position accuracy to within 2cm.

### 6.1 Post fieldwork analyses and reports

All assessment and analytical work to be carried out by AES qualified and experienced staff. Levels of recording and analysis of artefacts were appropriate to that of a watching brief. Two hard copies and one digital PDF copy of the report to be submitted to the BBHER within six months of completion of the report, and as a minimum a site summary to be submitted within six months of completion of the fieldwork or earlier.

### 6.2 Monitoring

Monitoring procedures were in place and to be conducted by the BBHET.

If any archaeological finds of significance are found preservation is to be discussed with Vanessa Clarke of BBHET and the conservation office at Bedford, if appropriate, for any further archaeological works.

## **7.0 Archives, ownership and deposition**

A total of 1 context were recorded and recorded representing the ploughsoil. No artefacts were recovered. All documentary records and accompanying artefacts have been assembled into a catalogued archive in line with MoRPHE (2009) and are currently being stored at the AES offices. The archive is to be deposited with the appropriate Bedfordshire museum. The archive is to be treated and packaged, in accordance with the requirements of the appropriate museum and national guidelines (Museums and Galleries Commission 1992, UKIC 1983, 1984, 1988 and 1990 and Ferguson and Murray 1997).

### **7.1 Other considerations**

Copyright and ownership of the paper and digital archive remain with the originating body, Archaeology, Excavation and Surveys.

## **8.0 Results**

### **8.1 Overview of results**

The watching brief took place during the groundworks appertaining to building works of a single wind turbine at Ashfield Farm, Keysoe Row East. This involved the opening of a trench 5.5m x 5.5m and monitoring of a cable trench, 0.30m wide x c.1.0m deep x 263m long, connecting the turbine to the farm. The trench was 0.25m deep and the stratigraphy consisted of a single context (1), a light – mid olive grey firm silty clay with few angular stones and frequent fine roots. This layer has been interpreted as a ploughsoil.

### **9.0 Metal detectorist survey**

Excavated trench bases and spoil heaps were scanned by an experienced metal detectorist. No archaeological finds or artefacts were found.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

The watching brief revealed no archaeological features or dating evidence to help with the dating and interpretation of the cropmarks identified from aerial photographs (BBHER15016).

The work was completed in varied conditions from good, sunny and cold. Ground water was encountered on the second day of monitoring.



## **Acknowledgements**

Archaeology, Excavation & Surveys would like to thank [REDACTED].  
The assistance of Vanessa Clarke, Senior Archaeologist of Bedford Borough Historic Environment Team for producing the Project Brief, commenting on the Written Scheme of Investigation and final report.

Thanks must go to Jonathan House of Pre Construct Archaeology (Central) for completing the GPS survey.

The site work was completed under the direction of Simon Bray.

Thanks must go to Rob Parker for his diligence in completing a metal detecting survey of the site and for scanning the spoil heaps and exposed trench surfaces.

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Treasure Act 1996 - Code of Practice (2<sup>nd</sup> Revision) 2002, England and Wales

Treasure (Designation) Order 2002

### **Internet sources**

British Geological Survey Mapping ([www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/geology.htm](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/geoindex/geology.htm))

## APPENDIX 1: Site location maps and plans

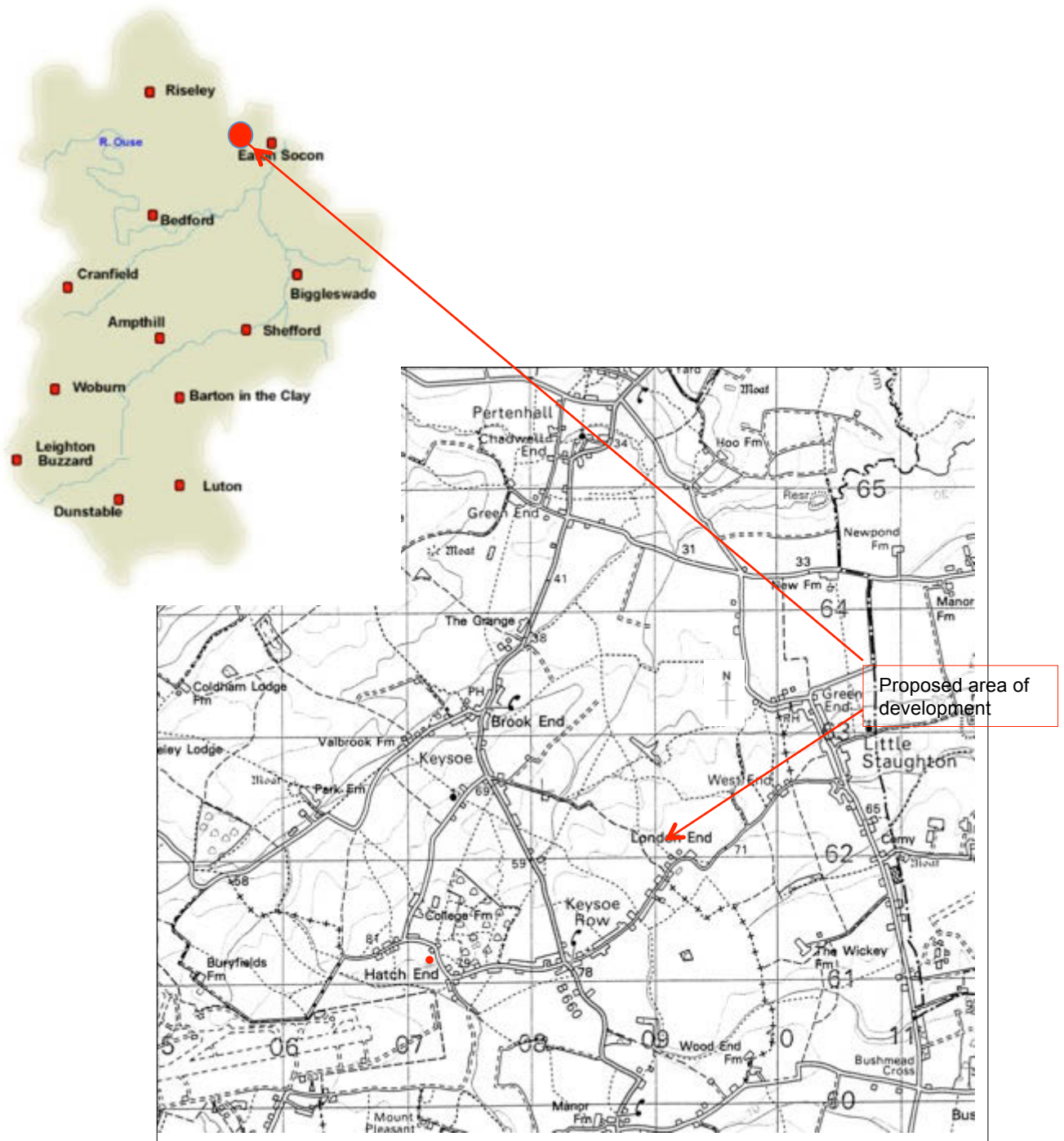


Figure 1: Site location plans for proposed Wind Turbine at Ashfield Farm, Keysoe Row East

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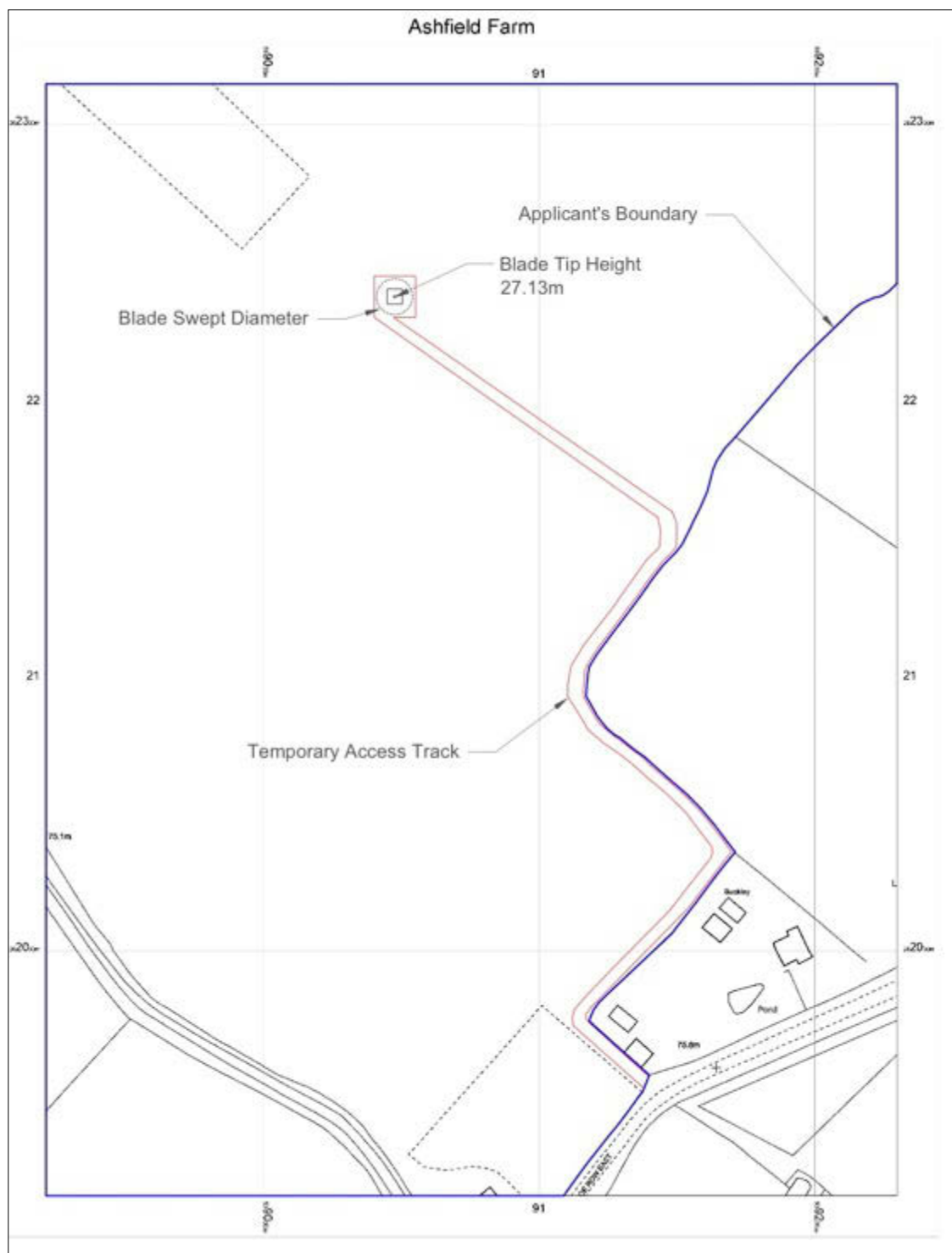


Figure 2; Site location plan for Ashfield Farm proposed Wind Turbine

## APPENDIX 2: Site photographs



Figure 3: Proposed Development Area with current Wind Turbine in the foreground



Figure 4: Layout of development area for proposed Wind Turbine



Figure 5: Site of open trench on site of proposed Wind Turbine facing North



Figure 6: Cable trench for proposed Wind Turbine facing South West



Figure 7: Layout of development area for proposed Wind Turbine facing South West



Figure 8: Layout of development area for proposed Wind Turbine facing South West



**APPENDIX 3: Archive qualification (Site Code: ASHKEY15)**

**Recorded Contexts:** 1 context

**Digital Photographic Archive:** 31 photographs

**Drawn Plans Archive:** 0

**Drawn Sections Archive:** 0

**Level Diary** GPS Survey Data

**FINDS**

**Small Finds:** N/A

**Bulk Finds:**

**Environmental Samples:** None Taken

## Level Diary and GPS data

No	Eastings	Northings	Height	Descriptor	
1	509059.901	262222.171	75.291	-----	
2	509055.973	262226.038	75.065	-----	
3	509052.076	262222.005	75.029	-----	
4	509055.975	262218.351	75.135	-----	
	493867.273	268596.296	50.314	-----	
5	509056.09	262223.514	72.884	-----	
6	509052.042	262219.569	72.88	-----	
7	509055.963	262215.963	73.117	-----	
8	509059.997	262219.628	73.086	-----	
9	509056.113	262215.857	73.095	LOE	1
10	509052.11	262219.558	72.877	LOE	1
11	509056.002	262223.535	72.899	LOE	1
12	509060.048	262219.828	73.069	LOE	1
13	509055.671	262208.686	73.219	LOE	1
14	509055.838	262195.184	73.51	LOE	1
15	509055.62	262181.18	73.84	LOE	1
16	509055.785	262166.307	74.089	LOE	1
17	509056.225	262152.016	74.389	LOE	1
18	509059.137	262136.739	74.849	LOE	1
19	509059.671	262117.529	75.197	LOE	1
20	509060.097	262096.779	75.487	LOE	1
21	509060.056	262076.232	75.582	LOE	1
22	509060.571	262060.067	75.772	LOE	1
23	509058.966	262044.575	75.902	LOE	1
24	509057.236	262022.71	76.143	LOE	1
25	509056.647	262003.076	76.367	LOE	1
26	509056.129	261983.143	76.433	LOE	1
27	509057.461	261965.357	76.488	LOE	1
28	509056.658	261951.688	76.529	LOE	1
29	509055.952	261940.496	76.468	LOE	1
30	509056.404	261928.551	76.416	LOE	1
31	509056.614	261928.029	76.432	LOE	1
32	509095.453	262164.319	74.813	SH	0

#### **APPENDIX 4: Context summary**

<b>Cxt No.</b>	<b>Tr. No.</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Interpretation</b>
1	All	Light-Mid Olive Grey firm silty clay	Ploughsoil

## APPENDIX 5: Photographic register

Photo reg no.	Digital No	Direction taken from	Description of shot	Initials/date
1	DSCF0005	East	West facing view of PDA	DK 20/01/2015
2	DSCF0007	East	West facing view of marked out PDA	DK 20/01/2015
3	DSCF0014	West	East facing view of stripped PDA	DK 20/01/2015
4	DSCF0016	East	West facing view with PDA in background	DK 20/01/2015
5	4007	North West	South East facing view with PDA in foreground	DK 20/01/2015
6	4009	North	South facing view of stripped PDA	DK 20/01/2015
7	4012	North West	South East facing view of stripped PDA	DK 20/01/2015
8	4016	South West	North East facing view of stripped PDA	DK 20/01/2015
9	4017	South West	North East facing view of stripped PDA	DK 20/01/2015
10	4018	South	North facing view from centre of stripped PDA	DK 20/01/2015
11	4019	West	East facing view from centre of stripped PDA	DK 20/01/2015
12	4020	North	South facing view from centre of stripped PDA	DK 20/01/2015
13	4021	East	West facing view from centre of stripped PDA	DK 20/01/2015
14	4044	East	West facing section of cable trench junction with stripped wind turbine trench	DK 20/01/2015
15	4045	East	West facing section of cable trench junction with stripped wind turbine trench	DK 22/01/2015
16	4046	East	West facing section of cable trench junction with stripped wind turbine trench	DK 22/01/2015
17	4048	South East	North West facing view of cable trench	DK 22/01/2015
18	4051	East	West facing section of cable trench – 50m (l)	DK 22/01/2015
19	4053	East	West facing section of cable trench – 50m (l)	DK 22/01/2015
20	4055	East	West facing section of cable trench – 100m (l)	DK 22/01/2015
21	4059	East	West facing section of cable trench – 150m (l)	DK 22/01/2015
22	4060	East	West facing section of cable trench – 150m (l)	DK 22/01/2015
23	4061	East	West facing section of cable trench – 200m (l)	DK 22/01/2015
24	4063	East	West facing section of cable trench – 250m (l)	DK 22/01/2015
25	4064	East	West facing section of cable trench – 250m (l)	DK 22/01/2015
26	4065	East	West facing section of cable trench end – 264m (l)	DK 22/01/2015
27	4066	East	West facing section of cable trench end – 264m (l)	DK 22/01/2015
28	4067	South East	North West facing view of cable trench	DK 22/01/2015
29	4069	South East	North West facing view of cable trench	DK 22/01/2015
30	4071	North West	South East facing view of cable trench	DK 22/01/2015
31	4072	North West	South East facing view of Wind Turbine and cable trench	DK 22/01/2015

**APPENDIX 6: AES OASIS Report Form**

**OASIS ID Number:** archaeol15-194735

PROJECT DETAILS				
Project Name:		ASHFIELD FARM, KEYSOE ROW EAST: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF		
Short Description:		<p><i>An archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Rob Smyth of G.C. James and Co. on 30.25 square metres and associated cable trench for the construction of a wind turbine. The work was completed over two days, 20th and 22nd January 2015.</i></p> <p><i>The work was completed following a project brief prepared by Vanessa Clarke (BBCHET) and in accordance with a written scheme of investigation by Archaeology, Excavation &amp; Surveys (AES).</i></p> <p><i>Although the Proposed Development Area (PDA) was located in the middle of rectangular undated cropmarks, no archaeological features were found.</i></p> <p><i>The weather was clear and dry and overall conditions were favourable to the recognition of archaeological remains.</i></p>		
Project Dates:	Start	Completed over two days: 20 <sup>th</sup> and 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2015	End	22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2015
Previous work:	No	Future work:	No	
Associated Project Reference Codes:		ASHKEY15		
Type of Project:		Archaeological Watching Brief		
Site Status:		None		
Current land use: (list all that apply)		Agriculture		
Planned development:		Wind Turbine		
Monument types/period (list all that apply)		Undated Cropmarks		
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (List all that apply)		None		
PROJECT LOCATION				
County:	Bedfordshire		Parish:	Keysoe Row East
HER for region:	Bedford Borough Council			
Site address: (including postcode)	Ashfield Farm, Keysoe Row East, Keysoe, Bedford MK44 2JD			
Study area (sq m or ha)	30.25 square metre			
<b>National Grid Reference</b>	Easting (6 figures)	509077	Northing (6 figures)	262229
<b>Height OD</b>	Max OD		Min OD	
PROJECT ORIGINATORS				
Organisation:	Archaeology, Excavation & Surveys			
Project brief originator:	Vanessa Clarke			
Project design originator:	Dawn Keen			
Sponsor or funding body:	Developer			
ARCHIVES	Location and accession number		Content (eg. Pottery, animal bone, database, context sheet etc)	
Physical			None	
Paper			Watching Brief	
Digital	AES		Report, illustrations	

Ashfield Farm, Keysoe Row East  
An archaeological investigation: Watching Brief

<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>	
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