

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
on Land at Longwood Road and Baybridge Lane,
Owslebury**

(TQ 52650, 23800 to TQ 51865, 23760)

OASIS ID: archaeol6-18175

Project No. 2467

**by
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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Field Archaeology Unit. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted worldwide, Archaeology South-East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England Archaeology South-East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained on land at Longwood Road and Baybridge Lane, Owslebury (TQ 52650, 23800 to TQ 51865, 23760). The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a pipe trench (circa 1km) on agricultural land and during the digging of five 2.5 metre trenches on carriageways to be used for pipeline drilling. No archaeological remains were uncovered during the excavation of the road trenches, whilst three linear features were discovered in the trenches on the land at the north-most part of the site. These comprised a small gully and parallel ditch running north-west to south-east and one larger ditch running north-east to south-west. No relationships were established and no dating evidence was acquired. Features suggest a drainage and /or field system.

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SMR Summary Sheet

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by Atkins Heritage on behalf of Clancy DOCWRA to undertake an archaeological watching brief during construction of a c 1km mains water pipeline, on behalf of Southern Water, at Owslebury, Hampshire (TQ 52650, 23800 to TQ 51865, 23760) (Fig. 1).
- 1.2** The groundworks comprised two separate operations:
- 1) the stripping of topsoil from above and 1.5m either side of the pipeline route and the excavation of a 1.2 – 1.5m deep trench to receive a plastic mains water pipe (Fig.3).
 - 2) the excavation of six 2m x 1.5m test and access pits to enable drilling a pipeline underneath Longwood Road and Baybridge Lane (Fig.2).
- 1.3** Due to the archaeological potential of the site, Mr Stephen Appleby of Hampshire County Council requested Atkins Heritage to manage the archaeological and environmental issues arising. The recommended programme was in the form of a watching brief, which was carried out by Archaeology South-East.
- 1.4** A brief was prepared by Atkins Heritage requiring a full Written Scheme of Investigation which was prepared by Jon Sygrave of Archaeology South-East (2006).
- 1.5** The fieldwork was undertaken by Deon Whittaker during May and June 2006. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The site is located on farmland and two adjoining carriageways. (Figs. 2 & 3). There are two, Grade II listed, post-medieval buildings located 150 metres to the south of the most westerly point of the proposed route and a probable 18th century signpost is recorded close to the west-most extent of the pipeline (Sygrave 2006).
- 2.2** The site lies in an area of archaeological potential with prehistoric lithic artefacts 300m to the north-east, a possible barrow site 100m to the south of the most easterly part of the route and Iron Age/Roman remains c. 500m to the north at Bottom Pond Farm, excavated in 1962. Medieval remains are located 400m from the westerly point of the site, excavated in 1951 (ibid).
- 2.3** Apart from the excavations of 1951 and 1962 mentioned above (2.2) there is no indication of prior excavation on the proposed pipeline route.
- 2.4** Topographically the site rests on the gentle north slope of a ridge of high ground 100 -110m OD that runs south-west to north-east 5 km south-east of Winchester. There is a slight depression at the east end of the site which is crossed by trenches 6 and 7 through the fields (see Fig. 3).
- 2.5** The British Geological Survey map Sheet 315 (Southampton) Solid and Drift Edition (1:50,000 scale) indicates that the site lies on Cretaceous Upper Chalk.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** The objective of the archaeological watching brief was to record any archaeological remains exposed as a result of the groundworks. Particular attention was to be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 3.2** All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the specification using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets. Deposit colours were verified by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3** The groundworks comprised the excavation of six 2m x 1.5m test and access pits to enable drilling a pipeline underneath Longwood Road and Baybridge Lane, the stripping of topsoil from above and to 1.5m either side of the pipeline route and the excavation of a 1.2 – 1.5m deep trench to receive a plastic mains water pipe.
- 3.4** The spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest as was the surface of the plough soil at the edges of the crop fields.
- 3.5** A full photographic record of the work was kept using digital format and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditchling and will be offered to the Hampshire Museums Service.
- 3.6** All features were found by examining the section of the trenches after they had been partially or fully excavated. The proximity of the spoil and the extremely loose nature of the trench edges made it unfeasible to clean the top edges of the features and in some case unsafe to clean the sections. With this in mind the following results are presented.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 The natural is a hard Cretaceous Upper Chalk which is dominant in the immediate area and shows signs of weathering for approximately the first metre. Below this point the chalk is pristine and faultless dotted occasionally with small seams of coarse grained grey / black flint with a thick calcareous cortex. The interface between the chalk and the colluvium is distinct with limited signs of erosion in the form of chalk flecks.

4.2 The colluvium is a reddish brown clayey silt up to 400mm, containing chalk flecks and rounded flint pebbles at the base of the depression, with a more gravely component in the higher deposits in the features to the north of the site. The colluvium appears to have been completely eroded from the exposed slopes. The interfaces between the chalk and the topsoil, and the colluvium and the topsoil are generally disturbed by ploughing.

4.3 The topsoil (Contexts **8/01**, **7/01** and Trench 6 – **04**) is fine, slightly clayey silt generally made very dry by the thinness of the deposit and the high amount of chalk mixed in. The topsoil is thinnest at the higher elevations (circa 100 -150mm) but more silty and deeper (up to 400m) at the base of the depression. There is a large chalk component (20 – 30% of total) from chalk flecks through to chalk rubble appearing throughout the topsoil deposit which has a ploughed surface.

4.4 Three features were found, all at the north-most point of the excavation, in trenches 7 and 8 (Fig.3).

4.5 ROAD TRENCHES 1-5

4.6 Trenches 1-5 were devoid of archaeology and are not illustrated. Generally consisting of 150mm of tarmac (**Context 01**) laid upon 100mm of hogging (**Context 02**), which lies directly on the natural chalk (**Context 03**).

4.7 TRENCH 6

4.8 Trench 6 (157 m) occupied much of the north slope of the depression, revealed no archaeological remains and is therefore not illustrated.

4.9 TRENCH 7

4.10 **Cut 7/04** (3m wide by 2m deep) comprised a north-east to south-west running ditch (see Fig.4, Section 1) The west facing section shows the steep sided and asymmetric concave profile of the ditch. The east facing section visible on the opposite side of the trench was considerably shallower and less wide, suggesting either the ditch was rising and possibly truncated, or that it was approaching its terminus.

- 4.11** It was filled firstly with **Context 7/05**, clayey silt, sloping down south to north, reddish brown in colour, with chalk flecks and sub rounded flint gravel to a maximum depth of 400mm (see Fig.4).
- 4.12** Secondly **Context 7/06**, a level deposit of grey – brown silty soil with chalk flecks and rubble to a maximum depth of 300mm, but with its top level with that of the previous deposit (**7/05**) at the south side of the ditch (see Fig.4).
- 4.13** Lastly **Context 7/07**, a 400mm thick deposit of red – brown silty colluvium with occasional pieces of flint gravel and approximately 50% clean chalk rubble, which appeared to be re-deposited natural chalk. This feature was then sealed with approximately 200mm of topsoil (see Fig.4).
- 4.14** **Cut 7/08** (1500mm wide by 550mm deep) (see Fig. 4, Section 2) was a north-west to south-east running linear feature. Asymmetric with a flat base, truncated on the north side by trench collapse, the following contexts were recorded:
- 4.15** **Context 7/09**, a 250mm thick primary deposit of friable reddish- brown clayey silt with occasional flint gravel (see Fig. 4).
- 4.16** **Context 7/10**, a very mixed deposit of silty soil and approximately 30% chalk flecks and rubble, up to 150mm thick, sealed by **Context 7/01** which is a silty, chalky topsoil (see Fig. 4).
- 4.17** **TRENCH 8**
- 4.18** 50m east of **Cut 7/08** was **Cut 8/03** a small north-west to south-east running gully (550mm wide by 300mm deep), filled by **Context 8/04** a friable reddish- brown clayey silt with chalk flecks, frequent chalk rubble and occasional sub-rounded flint pebbles, again sealed by **Context 8/01** a silty, chalky topsoil (see Fig. 4, Section 3).

5.0 SUMMARY

- 5.1** The watching brief was maintained on land at Longwood Road and Baybridge Lane, Owslebury during the excavation of a pipe trench (circa 1km) on agricultural land. The agricultural land occupies a depression which is filled at its lowest point with a colluvial deposit.
- 5.2** Geology consists of Cretaceous Upper Chalk deposits with a layer of silty topsoil throughout. In the road excavations a sandy gravel levelling deposit (Context **02**) has been laid up to 100mm thick directly on top of the chalk. At the lowest point of the fields and in surviving features further up the slope to the north, a layer of colluvium has survived, suggesting that the colluvium has been eroded from more exposed areas prior to the topsoil formation.
- 5.3** Five 2.5 metre trenches on carriageways and trench 6, revealed no archaeological remains. Three linear features were discovered in trenches 7 and 8 on the land at the north-most part of the site. These comprised a small gully running north-west to south-east with a parallel ditch and one larger ditch running north-east to south-west. All cut features contained similar colluvial deposits. No relationships were established and no dating evidence was acquired. Features suggest a drainage and/or field system.

6.0 REFERENCES

Sygrave, J. 2006 Owslebury Water Pipeline, Owslebury, Hampshire: *Archaeological Watching Brief, Written Scheme of Investigation*, Archaeology South-East.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	OWL06					
Identification Name and Address	Owslebury Water Pipeline, Owslebury, Hampshire Baybridge Lane, Longwood Road and adjoining land.					
County, District &/or Borough	Hampshire					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 52650, 23800 to TQ 51865, 23760					
Geology	Cretaceous Upper Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2467					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 15 May – 16 June 2006	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Atkins Heritage for Hampshire County Council					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a pipe trench (circa 1km) on agricultural land and during the digging of five 2.5 metre trenches on carriageways to be used for pipeline drilling. No archaeological remains were uncovered during the excavation of the road trenches, whilst three linear features were discovered in the trenches in the farmland at the north-most part of the site. These comprised a small gully and parallel ditch running north-west to south-east and one larger ditch running north-east to south-west. No relationships were established and no dating evidence was acquired. Features suggest a drainage and / or field system.</p>						

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OASIS ID: archaeol6-18175

Project details

Project name	Owslebury Pipeline
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained on land at Longwood Road and Baybridge Lane, Owslebury (TQ 52650, 23800 to TQ 51865, 23760). The watching brief was maintained during the excavation of a pipe trench (circa 1km) on agricultural land and during the digging of five 2.5 metre trenches on carriageways to be used for pipeline drilling. No archaeological remains were uncovered during the excavation of the road trenches, whilst three linear features were discovered in the trenches on the land at the north-most part of the site. These comprised a small gully and parallel ditch running north-west to south-east and one larger ditch running north-east to south-west. No relationships were established and no dating evidence was acquired. Features suggest a drainage and /or field system.
Project dates	Start: 01-05-2006 End: 01-07-2006
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
Position in the planning process	Not known / Not recorded

Project location

Country	England
Site location	HAMPSHIRE WINCHESTER OWSLEBURY Longwood Road and Baybridge Lane
Postcode	SO21 1XX
Study area	3.00 Kilometres
National grid reference	TQ 52650 23800 Line
National grid reference	TQ 51865 23760 Line

Project creators

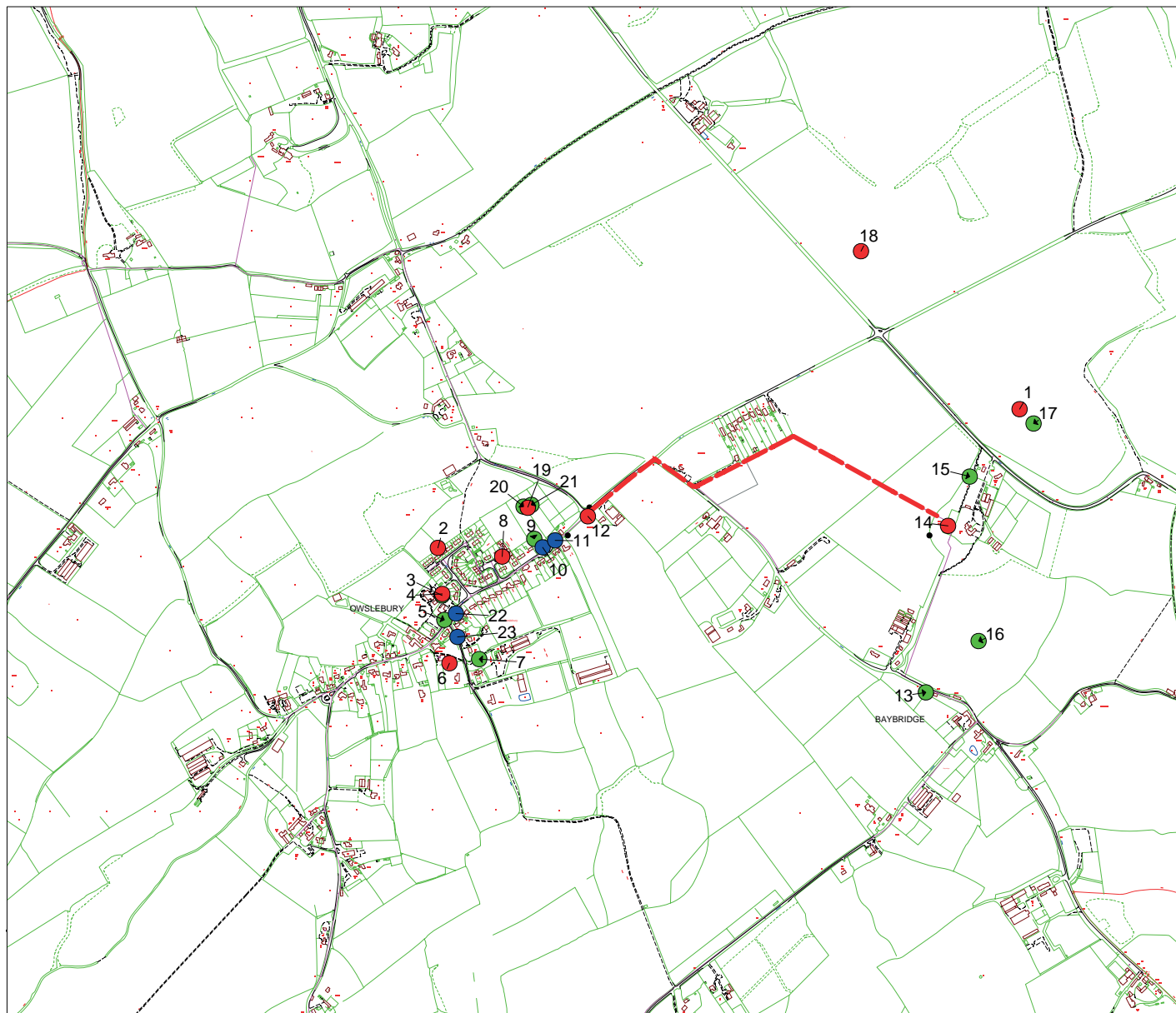
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
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Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	Deon Whittaker
Sponsor or funding body	Development Corporation

Project archives

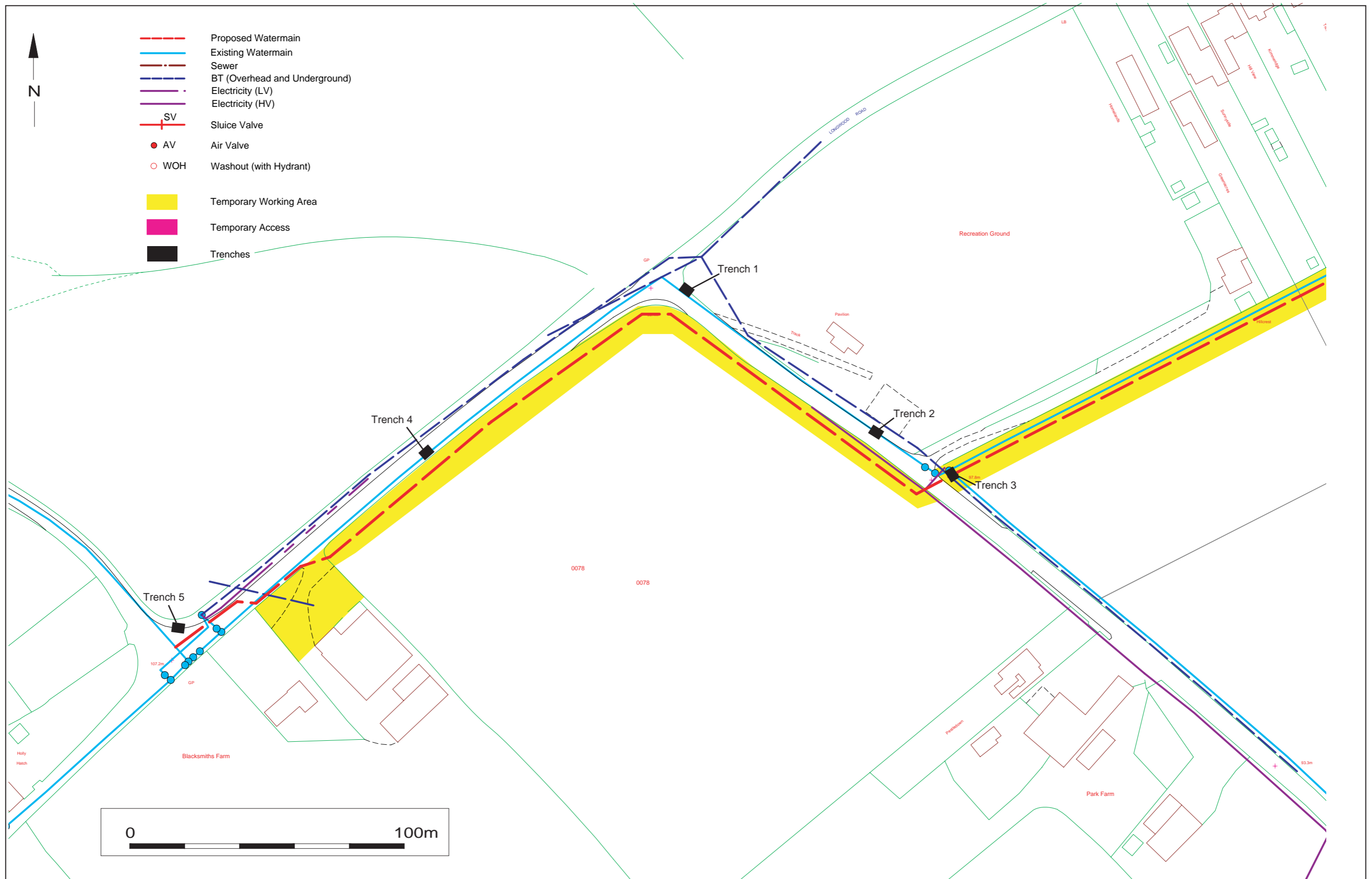
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Report','Section','Unpublished Text'

Entered by	Deon Whittaker (mushak@hotmail.co.uk)
Entered on	12 September 2006



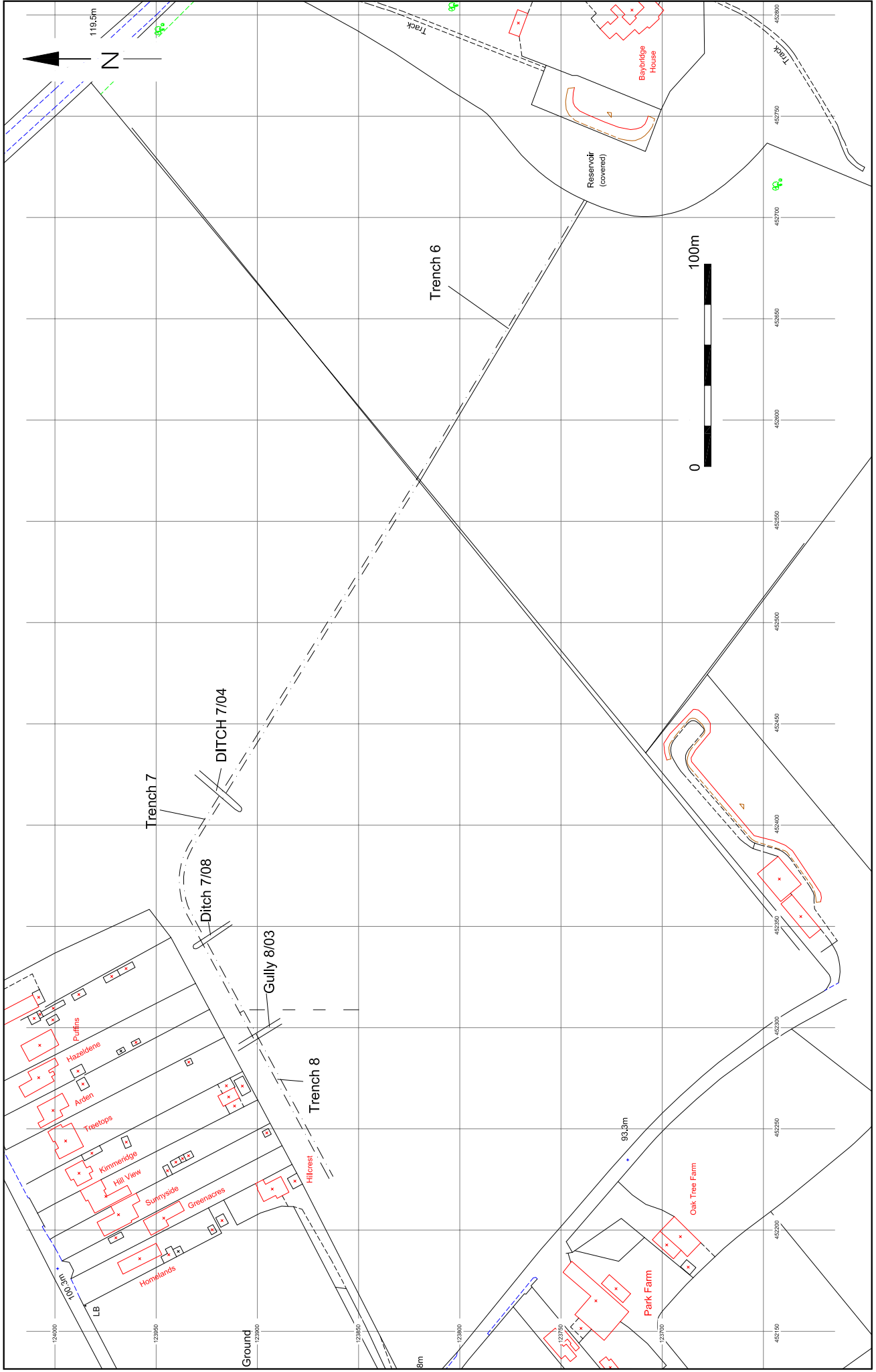
-  ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
-  LISTED BUILDING
-  ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIND SPOT
-  PROPOSED ROUTE OF PIPELINE

© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST			Owslebury Pipeline	Fig. 1
Ref: 2467	April 2006	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan	



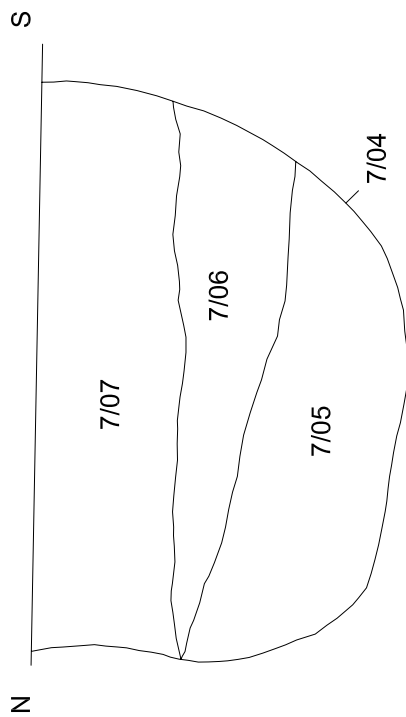
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© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST			Owslebury Water Pipeline	Fig. 2
Ref: 2467	July 2006	Drawn by: FEG	Plan Showing Road Trenches 1-5	

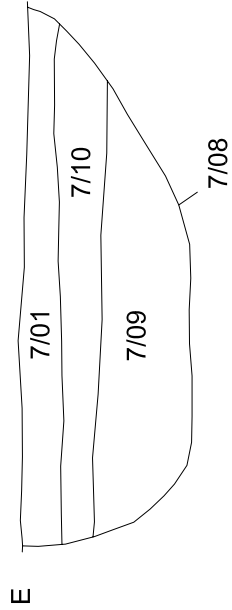


© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST		Owslebury Water Pipeline	
Ref: 2467	June 2006	Site Plan (showing field trenches 6-8)	
Drawn by: JLR/FEG		Fig. 3	

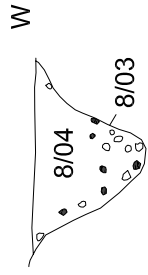
Section 1



Section 2



Section 3



■ Flint

□ Chalk



