

**Report on an Archaeological Watching Brief on  
Land at Warley Farm Cottage  
Hammerpond Road, West Sussex**

**NGR 523676 128756 to 523620 128597  
HORSHAM: Lower Beeding**

**Site Code: WFC 08  
Project no. 3066  
Report No. 2008037**



**April 2008  
Prepared by Dan Swift BA (Hons), MIFA**

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**Oasis No. archaeol6-40512**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the, University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by EDF Energy Networks Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works on Land at Warley Farm Cottage, West Sussex, hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The works were associated with the installation of a new underground mains electricity cable to replace an existing overhead cable.*

*The archaeological watching brief was required by Mark Taylor, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council.*

*The work monitored in the watching brief consisted of the mechanical excavation of a 170 metre long trench for electrical cabling to replace the existing overhead cabling.*

*No archaeological features or finds were seen in the watching brief.*

*The watching brief took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2008.*

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## **1.0 Introduction**

The archaeological watching brief took place on land at Warley Farm Cottages, Hammerpond Road, West Sussex (centred NGR 523676 128756 to 523620 128597; Fig 1) hitherto called 'the site'.

Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), were commissioned by EDF Energy Networks Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works associated with the installation of a new underground mains electricity cable to replace an existing overhead cable (see Fig 2).

Due to the archaeological potential of the site (see below) Mark Taylor, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council informed EDF Energy Networks Ltd. that an approved archaeological contractor would be required to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works.

A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the works was prepared by Archaeology South East (Swift 2008) and approved by the county council before work commenced.

The work monitored in the watching brief consisted of the mechanical excavation of a c. 170 metre long trench for electrical cabling to replace the existing overhead cabling.

The watching brief took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> March, and the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> of April 2008 and was conducted by ASE Senior Archaeologists, David Jamieson and Dan Swift.

## **1.1 Geology and Topography**

The site is in The High Weald. The underlying geology at the site is Tunbridge Wells Sand (Leslie and Short, eds, 1999). The route of the cable trench followed a slight incline from c. 102.5m OD at the southern end to c. 104.8m at the northern end.

## **1.2 Archaeological and Historical Background**

There are no known archaeological sites along the proposed route of the cable trench, but a barrow known as The Money Mound lies c. 100m north east of Warley Farm Cottage.

Although the main structure of the mound is construed as being of a Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age date, earlier (Mesolithic and Neolithic) and later (Iron Age and Roman) finds buried within the structure

suggest that the site was of importance both before and after this implied construction phase (Beckensall 1965).

It is not unlikely that the monument was part of a larger complex during one, several or all of these periods. Indeed the area is rich in find-spots of flint implements dating from the Palaeolithic to the Bronze Age, and particularly from the Mesolithic and Bronze Age (source: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>).

Hammerpond Road itself almost certainly gains its name from the location of two 16<sup>th</sup> century two pondbays, the remains of iron forges, probably dating from c.1533 (source: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

Mark Taylor, West Sussex County Council Senior Archaeologist advised that the described trenching could have archaeological impact and advised that an archaeological watching brief would be necessary to ensure that finds and features of archaeological interest were properly examined and recorded.

### **1.4 Aims and Objectives**

The main objective of the watching brief was to monitor the ground works specified below in order to ensure that any archaeological features and artefacts or ecofacts exposed were recorded, interpreted and reported to appropriate standards.

Additionally, should the findings warrant it, it was an aim of the watching brief that West Sussex County Council archaeologists be kept informed of any significant findings so that further archaeological work could be facilitated should it be needed.

### **1.5 Archaeological Methodology**

The archaeologists monitored the excavations for the ground works which were undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 300mm wide flat bladed bucket. The cable trench was 1m deep.

The archaeologists inspected the surfaces and sections revealed.

Any structures, deposits and finds uncovered were to be hand cleaned and recorded according to accepted professional standards.

All recording points used were to be accurately tied into the National Grid, and located on to the 1:1250 map of the area.

Plans indicating the location of all archaeological features encountered were to be drawn at an appropriate scale, located on the site plan and levelled with respect to OD. An overall site plan was to be maintained at a scale of 1:100.

All plans were to be accurately tied in to the site grid. All plans and sections were to be drawn on polyester based drafting film and clearly labelled.

There were no archaeological contexts to record individually on context record sheets. A further more general record of the work comprising a description and discussion of the archaeology was maintained as appropriate.

The spoil from the excavations was inspected by the archaeologists to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

If deposits suitable for environmental sampling were encountered (such as dated excavated contexts of buried soils, well-sealed slowly silting features, sealed hearths, sealed features containing evident carbonised remains, peats, water-logged or cess deposits), bulk soil samples (40 litres or 100% of smaller features) were to be taken for environmental analysis.

A full black and white and colour (35mm transparency) photographic record of the work was kept. The photographic record is regarded as part of the site archive. The archaeological contractor will provide the County Archaeological Officer with a selection of photographic images which reflect the archaeological findings and investigations undertaken on the site.

Any finds believed to fall potentially within the statutory definition of Treasure, as defined by the Treasure Act 1996, were to be reported to the Finds Liaison Officer (based at Barbican House Museum, Lewes). Should the find's status as treasure be confirmed the Coroner, the landowner and the County Archaeologist was also to be informed. A record shall be provided to the Coroner and to the County Archaeologist of the date and circumstances of discovery, the identity of the finder, and the exact location of the find(s) (OS map reference to within 1 metre, and find spot(s) marked onto the site plan).

All work was carried out in accordance with the *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work (Development Control) in East Sussex (2003)* and in accordance with the standards of the Institute of Field Archaeologists.

## 2 RESULTS

*See Plates 1-4*

No archaeological structures, features or finds were revealed during the watching brief.

The cable trench was c. 300mm wide and c. 1m deep and ran from Hammerpond Road to the field boundary south of Warley Farm Cottages and was c. 170m long (see Fig 2). The majority of the trench was excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a 300mm wide flat bladed bucket.

Seven metres of the cable trench was hand excavated through dense hedgerow and trees along the Hammerpond Road frontage and was considered by the archaeologists to be too disturbed by root action to hold any possible archaeological significance. This was therefore *not* monitored in the watching brief.

The route of the cable trench followed a slight incline from c. 102.5m OD at the south end to c. 104.8m at the north end on Hammerpond Road.

Along the whole observed route topsoil; a very dark brown loose sandy clayey silt up to 400mm thick, overlay Tunbridge Wells Sand; a firm, occasionally silty clean light yellowish brown clay.

No finds or environmental material were recovered during the watching brief.

	<b>Watching Brief sheets</b>	<b>Site plans</b>	<b>Photographic images</b>
<b>Number</b>	3	1	4

Table 1: Quantification of the site archive

**3 DISCUSSION**

No archaeological findings were made in the watching brief. No areas of disturbance, modern or otherwise, were encountered and there were no changes in the natural clay.

**4 CONCLUSION**

The site had no archaeological potential. The employed methodology was sufficient for the watching brief to produce reliable results.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Beckensall, S, G, 1965, '*The Excavation of Money Mound*' in Sussex Archaeological Collections Volume 105 pps 13 – 30

Leslie, K and Short, B eds, 1999, 'An Historical Atlas of Sussex'

Swift, D, '*Land at Warley Farm Cottage near Hammerpond Road, West Sussex, An Archaeological Watching Brief, Written Scheme of Investigation*', site code: WFC 08, ASE project no. 3066, March 2008

## **ONLINE REFERENCES**

<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>

<http://www.magic.gov.uk/>

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Thanks are due to EDF Energy Ltd for commissioning the work and to Mark Taylor (WSCC) for his guidance.

**PLATES**



Plate 1: View of cable trench looking south out into the field behind Warley Farm Cottages



Plate 2: View of cable trench looking south with farm buildings to the west



Plate 3: View of cable trench looking south with farm buildings in the distance



**Plate 4:** View of cable trench showing the typical sequence of topsoil over clay

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-40512**

**Project details**

Project name	WB at Warley Farm Cottages
Short description of the project	EDF cable trench watching brief
Project dates	Start: 31-03-2008 End: 02-04-2008
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WFC08 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	advice from WSCC

**Project location**

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM LOWER BEEDING Land at Warley Farm Cottages
Postcode	RH13 6
Study area	170.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 238 286 51.0428502324 -0.233847537974 51 02 34 N 000 14 01 W Point
Height OD	Min: 102.50m Max: 104.80m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation    Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator    west sussex county council

Project design originator    west sussex county council

Project director/manager    Neil Griffin

Project supervisor    Dan Swift

Project supervisor    Dave Jamieson

Type of sponsor/funding body    Electricity Authority/Company body

Name of sponsor/funding body    EDF Energy Ltd

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?    No

Digital Archive Exists?    No

Paper Archive recipient    Horsham Museum

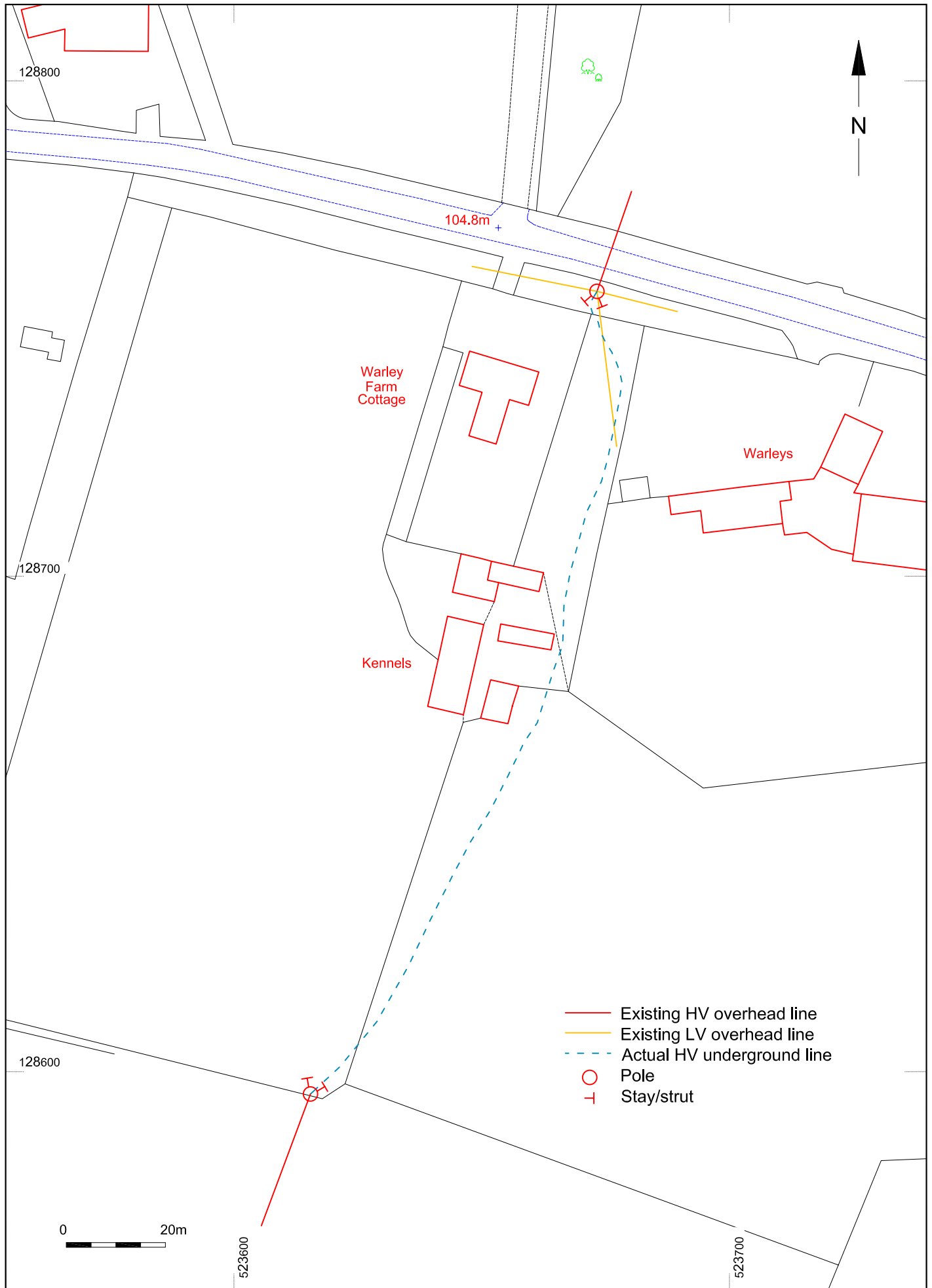
Paper Contents    'other'

Paper Media available    'Diary','Map','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Photograph','Report','Unpublished Text'

Entered by    Dan Swift (dan.swift@ucl.ac.uk)

Entered on    11 April 2008





© Archaeology South-East		Land at Warley Farm Cottages	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3066	April 2008	Plan showing route of cable trench	
Report Ref: 2008037	Drawn by: JLR		

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