Land at Northwick
Chipping Campden
Gloucestershire

Archaeological Watching Brief

for
Wirsol Solar UK Ltd

CA Project: 3520
CA Report: 11241

November 2011
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Chipping Campden
Gloucestershire

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CA Report: 11241

prepared by: Jonathan Hart, Publications Officer
date: 17 November 2011

checked by: Simon Cox, Head of Fieldwork
date: 17 November 2011

approved by: Mark Collard, Head of Contracts
signed:
signature

issue: 01

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Fig. 1 Site location plan (1:25,000)

Fig. 2 The site, showing observed groundworks, previous evaluation trenches and geophysical survey results (1:2500)
SUMMARY

Project Name: Land at Northwick
Location: Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire
NGR: SP 3723 3584
Type: Watching Brief
Date: 3 August to 21 September 2011
Planning Reference: CDC/1/01247/FUL
Location of Archive: To be deposited with Corinium Museum
Site Code: NWS 11

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a solar farm at land at Northwick, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire.

No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks. A single Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age worked flint was recovered from the topsoil.
1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 In August and September 2011 Cotswold Archaeology (CA) carried out an archaeological watching brief for Wirsol Solar UK Ltd at land at Northwick, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire (centred on NGR: SP 3723 3584; Fig. 1). The watching brief was undertaken to fulfil a condition attached to a planning consent for the construction of a solar farm (Planning ref: CDC/1/01247/FUL). The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the development.

1.2 The watching brief was carried out in accordance with Conditions 10 and 11 attached to the planning consent as detailed below:

*Condition 10: No development shall take place within the site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title have secured the implementation of a plan for the preservation and future management of the ring ditch preserved in the north-western sector of the application site, in accordance with details to be submitted to and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

**Reason:** To secure preservation of archaeological remains of high significance

*Condition 11: No development shall take place within the application site until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

**Reason:** To secure a programme of archaeological recording in order to mitigate the development impact

The conditions were attached on the advice of Mr Charles Parry, Senior Archaeological Officer for Gloucestershire County Council (GCC) and archaeological advisor to Cotswold District Council (CDC). The fieldwork also followed the methodology described in a subsequent detailed *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) produced by CA (2011c) and approved by the CDC acting on the advice of Mr

The site

1.3 The site is approximately 16ha in area, and is located east of the junction of the A44 and B4081, 3km south of Chipping Campden (Fig. 2). It comprises two large arable fields, bordered to the north, east and west by mature trees. To the south it is bordered by further agricultural land and an electricity sub-station. The site slopes down to the north and north-east, towards a shallow valley and away from an area of high ground in the southern part of the site.

1.4 The underlying solid geology of the area is mapped as the Salperton Limestone Formation of the Bajocian to Bathonian geological era with Harford Member Sandstone and Mudstone and the Aston Limestone Formation in the extreme east of the site (BGS 2011). No superficial deposits are recorded (ibid.). Limestone brash was exposed during the watching brief.

Archaeological background

1.5 A desk-based assessment of the site identified soil marks on aerial photographs which potentially related to archaeological remains or geological features (CA 2011a). The assessment also suggested that the course of a minor Roman road immediately to the south of the site gave potential for further remains of that date to be present in the vicinity (ibid.), although an earlier evaluation associated with a gas pipeline along the south-western edge of the site recorded no archaeological deposits (CA 2000).

1.6 A geophysical survey of the site identified a number of anomalies potentially indicative of ditches and pits, the most notable of which was a circular ditched feature within the north-western corner of the site (PCG 2011). A subsequent evaluation confirmed that this was a ring ditch c. 20m in diameter and, although it remained undated, its form and size suggest that it represents the remains of a prehistoric burial mound (CA 2011b).
The evaluation identified a number of ditches and pits, mainly within the western part of the site, but all of these features remained undated with the exception of one pit (pit 805 within Trench 8) from which 30 fragments of later prehistoric pottery were recovered. In addition to the cut features, an assemblage of worked flint was recovered from the ploughsoil.

Methodology

The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (CA 2011c). An area of 30m x 30m around the ring ditch, set out by CA staff using a Leica 1200 Series GPS, was fenced off with Heras fencing (Fig. 2) and no groundworks were undertaken within this area in order to preserve the ring ditch in situ. An archaeologist was present during intrusive groundworks comprising the excavation of narrow trenches for electricity cables and bases for inverter stations (Fig. 2).

Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with CA Technical Manual 1: Fieldwork Recording Manual (2007).

The archive and artefacts from the evaluation are currently held by CA at their offices in Kemble. Subject to the agreement of the legal landowner the artefact will be deposited with Corinium Museum 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.

RESULTS (FIG. 2)

The natural geological substrate (103) consisting of limestone brash was revealed at the base of all the service trenches and inverter stations at an average depth of 0.36m below present ground level. This was overlain by 0.16m thickness of subsoil and 0.2m thickness of topsoil. A single worked flint was recovered from the topsoil within the centre of the easternmost field and is probably of Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age date (c. 3000 to 1500 BC).

No other features, deposits or artefacts of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks.
**The Finds**

2.3 A single piece of worked flint (12g) was recovered from topsoil 101. It consists of a broken secondary flake removal, one edge of which exhibits abrupt (scraper-like) retouch. The raw material is dark grey flint with a mottled whitish patina; the buff-coloured cortex is unworn and suggestive of origin from a primary (chalk or chalk soil) deposit.

2.4 As an irregular flake removal without evidence for platform preparation, the recovered flint item most likely dates to the Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age (c. 3000 to 1500 BC). As an unstratified find it is of limited intrinsic interest and will not be retained.

3. **DISCUSSION**

**Preservation of the ring ditch**

3.1 The area of the exclusion zone required (under Condition 10 of the planning consent) to ensure preservation of the ring ditch was successfully set out by CA staff and fenced off by the client using Heras fencing (Fig. 2), in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI.

**Prehistoric**

3.2 Despite the archaeological potential of the application area (see archaeological background above), the watching brief identified no archaeological remains within the area of observed groundworks, with the exception of the worked flint from the topsoil. This partially reflects the fact that the ring ditch was fenced off for preservation *in situ*, and also that the cable runs and inverter foundation trenches were limited in extent. The ditches exposed in the evaluation trenches did not continue into the service trenches excavated during the watching brief, indicating that these ditch sections are either unrelated to one another or are segmented.

3.3 The worked flint from the topsoil is comparable to the worked flint assemblage recovered from the topsoil during the evaluation which, where closely dateable, comprised Mesolithic, Neolithic and Early Bronze Age material (CA 2011b).
4. CA PROJECT TEAM

Fieldwork was undertaken by Jonathan Hart and Alexandra Wilkinson. This report was written by Jonathan Hart with illustrations prepared by Jonathan Bennett. The archive has been compiled by Jonathan Hart and prepared for deposition by James Johnson. The project was managed for CA by Simon Cox.

5. REFERENCES


CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2000 Broadway (Worcestershire) to Five Mile Drive (Gloucestershire) Natural Gas Pipeline. Archaeological Evaluation CA Report No. 001217

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011a Northwick Power, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire: Heritage Desk-Based Assessment CA Report No. 11059

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011b Land at Northwick, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Evaluation CA Report No. 11161

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011c Land at Northwick, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief

PCG (Pre Construct Geophysics) 2011 Archaeological Geophysical Survey, Northwick Power, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire
APPENDIX A: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Trench 1

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<th>No.</th>
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<tr>
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<td>103</td>
<td>Layer</td>
<td>Natural substrate: limestone brash</td>
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APPENDIX B: OASIS REPORT FORM

PROJECT DETAILS

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<th>Project Name</th>
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<td>Short description</td>
<td>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Cotswold Archaeology during groundworks associated with the construction of a solar farm at land at Northwick, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire. No features or deposits of archaeological interest were observed during groundworks. A single Late Neolithic to Early Bronze Age worked flint was recovered from the topsoil.</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Project type</td>
<td>Watching brief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Previous work</td>
<td>Desk-based assessment (CA 2011a); geophysical survey (PCG 2011) &amp; evaluation (CA 2011b)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Future work</td>
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PROJECT LOCATION

| Site Location                  | Land at Northwick, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire                               |
| Study area                     | 16ha                                                                              |
| Site co-ordinates              | SP 3723 3584                                                                      |

PROJECT CREATORS

| Name of organisation           | Cotswold Archaeology                                                              |
| Project Brief originator       | n/a                                                                               |
| Project Design (WSI) originator| Cotswold Archaeology                                                              |
| Project Manager                | Simon Cox                                                                         |
| Project Supervisor             | Jonathan Hart and Alexandra Wilkinson                                            |

MONUMENT TYPE

None

SIGNIFICANT FINDS

None

PROJECT ARCHIVES

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

CA (Cotswold Archaeology) 2011 Land at Northwick, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire: Archaeological Watching Brief: CA typescript report 11241
Land at Northwick, Chipping Campden
Gloucestershire

Site location plan

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