AN APPRAISAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS FOR WEST WIGHT PROJECT ISLE OF WIGHT

03.2006

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Acknowledgements

The historical maps presented here were obtained from two sources. Hampshire Record Office provided the two Tithe maps (Figs. 8 and 9) of Thorley and Shalfleet respectively. The various editions of the Ordnance Survey maps were kindly forwarded by Richard Smout, Isle of Wight Record Office. The archaeological information for the site; the known sites, aerial photography plot data and Historic Landscape Characterisation (draft), was kindly provided by Rebecca Loader, SMR Officer, County Archaeology Service, Isle of Wight Council. Peter Barker, Director, Stratascan Geophysical Surveys Ltd. kindly offered his professional opinion on a number of queries raised in the review of the geophysical survey at the site.

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1 Introduction

- 1.1 This report deals with the known, and as yet unknown archaeological issues arising from the proposed windfarm development on land south of Wellow, Isle of Wight ('**the site**'). The site is located in an area known for possessing a significant quantity of prehistoric sites, especially funerary monuments situated on the prominent ridgeways to the north and south. The area of land proposed for development has not experienced recent infrastructural development but certain areas along the northern boundary have been the subject of archaeological investigations as part of the insertion of a pipeline. This report deals specifically with the direct impacts that may be caused by windfarm development on the archaeological resource in the immediate environs on the proposals.
- 1.2 A separate, standalone, document has been produced by Cambrian Archaeological Projects (Jones 2005) to consider the indirect impact of the proposals on the greater historic environment, in this case within 3.5km of the site. This assessment concentrates on all designated scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings within this agreed catchment envelope. Proper consideration has also been given in that report to the Isle of Wight Council appraisal of the historic dimension of the landscape surrounding the site. This information was produced as part of the English Heritage-sponsored Historic Landscape Characterisation programme (IOWC *Unpublished*). Essential documentary detail from this study has been used where possible to illustrate the landscape transformation in and around Wellow and Thorley.
- 1.3 The specific objectives of this study were to:
 - establish the archaeological baseline within and adjacent to the proposed development site
 - review all project-specific-archaeological work produced to date, namely two reports by Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd, and one by Wessex Archaeology
 - consider the scheme area in terms of its archaeological and historic environment potential
 - assess the potential impacts of the construction and post-construction phases on the heritage resources identified
 - define measures, where appropriate, to mitigate any predicted significant negative impacts.

2 Legislation

2.1 The importance and intrinsic value of cultural heritage is recognised in legislation at national level. Certain features are protected by the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the Town and Country Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation areas) Act 1990. Further advice on how cultural heritage should be treated is given in Planning and Policy Notes (PPGs) 15 and 16. PPG 15 deals with the historic environment, especially listed buildings and conservation areas, whilst PPG 16 deals with archaeology. PPG 16 aims to ensure that the archaeological sensitivity of a site is fully taken into account in relation to development proposals. It also suggests that early consultation should take place to identify the archaeological sensitivity of sites. The underlying principle is that archaeological remains represent a non-renewable resource and that their conservation (preservation *in-situ*) should be a primary goal.

- 2.2 The Isle of Wight Unitary Development Plan 1996-2011 (adopted 2001) sets out planning controls in relation to the known cultural heritage elements such as scheduled ancient monuments (SAMs), listed buildings, conservation areas and historic parks and gardens. The relevant sections that have implications for this particular development are:
 - where proposed development may damage or destroy archaeological remains, the Council will require the developer to submit, prior to determination, the results of an archaeological assessment, which may include field evaluation
 - where development is proposed at a location which is likely to affect an archaeological site or its setting, permission may exceptionally be granted if preservation of archaeological remains in situ can be achieved by careful use of appropriate layout, foundations and design
 - where development is proposed at a location which is likely to affect an archaeological site or its setting, permission may exceptionally be granted if preservation of archaeological remains in situ can be achieved by careful use of appropriate layout, foundations and design.
- 2.3 Development proposals that are likely to adversely affect any archaeological sites or features, or their settings or any architectural or historical structures on the Island, whether directly or indirectly, will not be permitted (Policy G4).
- 2.4 The Government's advisor on the historic environment, English Heritage has published guidance for developers of wind energy projects, decision makers and local authority officers entitled 'Wind Energy and the historic Environment' (2006). It states that due consideration should be given by the developer to designated and significant undesignated sites and areas that may be affected by wind farm proposals. All the various components necessary to operate such a development wind monitoring towers, sub-stations, control rooms, access roads (both temporary and permanent) have the potential to damage any underlying archaeological remains. However, in comparison with other more conventional forms of development, ground disturbance within the overall footprint of a wind farm is comparatively limited, and flexibility in the siting of individual structures to avoid damage is feasible. Wind energy developments may also impair the setting of historic sites by detracting from their historic character, sense of place, tranquillity or remoteness.

3 Methodology

3.1 The data sources consulted are outlined below in Table 1.

Arnold, C.J. 1982 The Anglo-Saxon cemeteries of the Isle of Wight London
Basford, H.V. 1980 The Vectis Report, A survey of Isle of Wight Archaeology IOWC
Basford, H.V. 1989 Historic parks and gardens of the Isle of Wight IOWC
Cartographic sources provided by kind permission by Hampshire County Council Records Office
Clark, A. 1996 Seeing beneath the soil: prospecting methods in archaeology Batsford
DOE 1990 Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning
DOE 1994 Planning Policy Guidance Note 15: Planning and the Historic Environment

English Heritage 2006 Wind Energy and the Historic Environment

Evans, P. 2004 West Wight Technological Park, Isle of Wight: Archaeological Assessment Cambrian Archaeological Projects (CAP) Limited Report No. 324

Evans, P. 2004 West Wight Technological Park, Isle of Wight: Geophysical Assessment Cambrian Archaeological Projects Limited Report No. 325

Isle of Wight Council Unitary Development Plan (2001)

Isle of Wight Council Unpublished Draft Isle of Wight Historic Landscape Characterisation Report: Chapter 3 Thorley/Wellow Area

Isle of Wight County Press 4/11/05 'Huge hoard of Iron Age coins found'

IFA 1999 (revised 2001) Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk Based Assessments

Jones, R. 2005 'In-direct impact assessment on Setting' Cambrian Archaeological Projects Limited

Page, W. 1912 Victoria County History of Hampshire & Isle of Wight, vol. 5 Constable & Co. Publications

Museums, Libraries & Archives Council October 2005 Portable Antiquities Scheme Annual Report 2004-05

RPS Consultants 2001 Seaclean Wight Pipelines: Archaeological Assessment Report Vol. 1 Taylor, C. 1975 Fields in the English Landscape Alan Sutton Publishing

Williams, A. and Martin, G.H. (eds.) 1992 Domesday Book: A complete translation Penguin

www.digital-documents.co.uk for site and findspot location and journal information

www.english-heritage.org.uk/pastscape for site and findspot in the vicinity

Table 1Data Sources consulted

Context

- 3.2 The Sites and Monuments Record maintained by Isle of Wight County Archaeology Service was consulted as part of the desk-based assessment initially produced by Cambrian Archaeological Projects (Report No. 324) to ascertain the level of known archaeological elements within a 1.5km radius of the site. It was necessary to reassess this database in the light of recent stray finds in this area of the Island, and also on the recommendation of the Council Archaeology Officer.
- 3.3 All known archaeological remains located within the defined redline boundary of the proposed wind farm site are identified and assessed in this report (Figures 2-7). The aim of including known sites in this assessment, which are located in the immediate vicinity of the proposed wind farm, is to predict whether any other similar, but as yet unknown, types of archaeological remains might also survive in areas likely to be directly affected, i.e. physically disturbed, by the various elements of this scheme.
- 3.4 All known archaeological sites, and suspected sites identified through assessment of the numerous aerial photographs held at the Isle of Wight Archaeological Services, have been assigned a unique site number. A location map of the site on the western side of the Island is shown in figure 1, with all the known features reproduced as figures 2-4, with the details of each given in Appendix 1. Due to the density of known, identified features within, and in close proximity to the site, the figures are split into archaeological periods for ease of understanding. A selection of ancient maps of the area is presented to illustrate the former

agricultural utilisation of this area (Figures 8-13). The sources for these were the Isle of Wight Record Office for all the Ordnance Survey maps, while the Hampshire Record Office provided the digital images of the pertinent tithe maps (Figures 8 and 9).

Scope of the study

- 3.5 This assessment comprised both a comprehensive desk-based assessment and a site visit (January 2006) in order to view the use of the land proposed for development, and to set the study area in the context of the wider surrounding landscape. The site visit coincided with the site evaluation scheme undertaken by Wessex Archaeology. The evaluation scheme was requested to properly assess the underlying conditions on each of the turbine and crane pad locations, and to understand the underlying stratigraphy and geology present. The intention was to provide a description of the likely value, extent, state of preservation and potential significance of the archaeological features in the study area that could potentially be affected by the proposal. The study was undertaken with reference to the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) Code of Conduct and appropriate Standards (1999).
- 3.6 Further archaeological site investigations were required by Isle of Wight County Archaeology Service as they felt there was clear potential for this undeveloped site to contain hitherto unknown archaeological finds and features. The submission of two reports by Cambrian Archaeological Projects, one a desk-top assessment (Report No. 324) and the other a geophysical assessment (Report No. 325) were discussed at length with the Isle of Wight County Archaeology Officer, Owen Cambridge in November 2005. It was agreed that all of the proposed locations for the turbines, and the associated crane pads would need archaeological evaluation, as the information provided to date was insufficient as supporting information. Wessex Archaeology was commissioned to undertake this work in December 2005, and undertook the evaluation between 4th and 9th January 2006. An in-depth assessment of their findings is provided below.

Limitations of study

3.7 The report's conclusions are limited by the extent and quality of existing information and therefore its usefulness in predicting the actual full extent and definitive location of the archaeological resource must be qualified. A number of concerns have been raised regarding the methodology employed for the initial archaeological assessment (CAP Report No. 324). The form of the reports production was criticised for reproducing the information provided by the IOWC Archaeology Service without any analysis or adjustment of the data. The site underwent a scheme of field walking as part of this assessment, but the visual inspection was severely impaired as the areas proposed for the turbines and associated infrastructure were under crop when the field walking exercise took place. A systematic field walking exercise cannot therefore be said to have taken place for this site. Another concern is the level of accuracy of the GPS handheld device utilised by CAP for the positioning of grids for the geophysical survey (CAP Report No. 325). The County Archaeologist requested some background historical appraisal of the site in relation to the known archaeological knowledge of the Island, as this was not sufficiently produced in the CAP report No.324.

Assessment of significance

3.8 It is crucial to assess each individual development in terms of the direct and indirect effects it may have on the cultural heritage of the area, whether it is visible above ground or buried

beneath. Not all archaeological/cultural heritage features hold the same level of importance. It is important in advance of potential development to identify any features along with the significance (archaeologically or culturally) they may hold. This is done with the aid of national and local legislation, with reference to any specific policy statements and best professional practice.

- 3.9 The significance of potential effects has been determined using criteria developed from best practice techniques and expert knowledge. Significance has been derived from measures of the importance or sensitivity of the resource affected, and the magnitude or scale of the change. The archaeological sensitivity and magnitude criteria are shown on Table 2 and 3respectively.
- 3.10 There are no known published 'standard' criteria for determining the significance of effects on archaeological interests. Reference has therefore been made to a wide range of criteria relating to the importance of the site or interest and the magnitude of the potential change to the feature or site. The generic definitions of potential effects can then be generated by feeding in the two resultant sets of criteria into the potential significance matrix Table 4.

Sensitivity	Description of the receptor	
Very High	World Heritage Site Scheduled Ancient Monument or its setting	
High	Archaeological sites of national importance that qualify under PPG16 criteria	
Medium	Cropmarks/remains of indeterminate date and significance Archaeological sites of regional/county importance generally recognised in development or structure plans	
Low	Locally important or interesting sites with specific cultural value to the area Known Battlefield sites in the locale	
Negligible	Sites or features with no significant value or interest	
Table 2 Assessing the sensitivity or importance of archaeological sites		

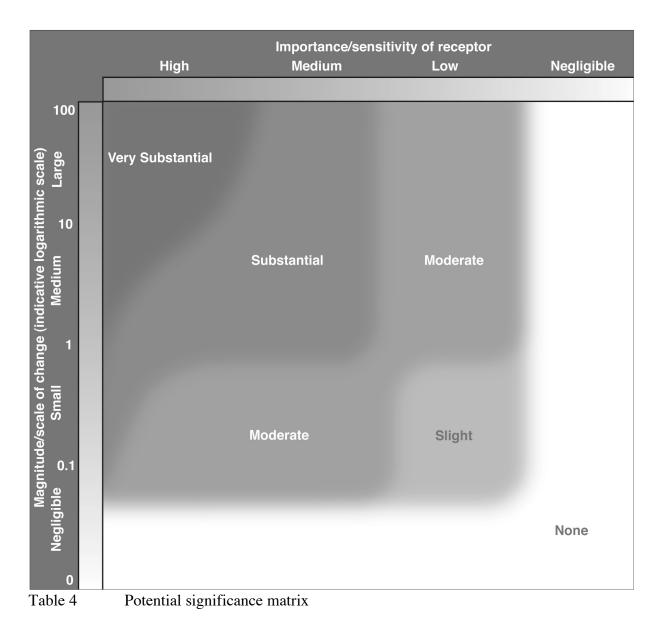
Impact	Description of the receptor
Large	Complete destruction of a site or archaeological feature A fundamental change in the ability to understand and appreciate the archaeological resource and its landscape context and setting
Medium	Such a change to the site or feature that it makes an appreciable difference to the ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its landscape context and setting
Small	A minor change to the site or feature that it makes only a small difference to the ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its landscape context and setting
Negligible	No material change to the site or feature, or to the ability to understand and appreciate the resource and its landscape context and setting
Table 3 As	ssessing the magnitude of change

Immediate effects

3.11 Available information on features or findspots that are known to be or could potentially be within the area directly affected by the proposed development was gathered. It is necessary to bear in mind the proposed foundations of the built environment (any upstanding structures or areas of hardstanding), as well as those areas proposed to be landscaped, drained, piped etc. when considering the archaeological aspects of the proposed site.

Ancillary effects

3.12 These are concerned with the ongoing impact that the proposed development may have on the surrounding landscape, including Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs), and their settings once the windfarm is built and operational. Information on each is gathered from the SMR listings and published excavation reports, to set the proposed development within the broader cultural heritage landscape.



4 Baseline

Topography, Geology & Hydrology

- 4.1 The drift geology of the site consists of Oligocene and Eocene clays, more specifically the Osborne and Headon Beds (GsoGB, Part of Map Sheets (Drift) 330, 331, 344, 345. 1976).
- 4.2 Topographically, the site is undulating, generally rising from north to south towards the Downs. Ordnance Datum (aOD) levels in the vicinity of Wellow lie at 24m aOD, with those near Shalcombe reaching up to 70m aOD.
- 4.3 A small watercourse traverses the site north to south in its eastern half, connecting the settlements of Wellow and Shalcombe. The site investigations highlighted groundwater in all lower-lying trenches despite mostly dry weather conditions. This indicates a reasonably high permanent water table.

Archaeological background of the Isle of Wight (A précis of H.V. Basford 1980, 8-41)

- 4.4 The Island was joined to the mainland at various periods throughout the Palaeolithic and early stages of the Mesolithic. Evidence from this period consists of stone/flint tool implements that are normally discovered on or near the shore. The most stratigraphically precise sites on the Island are Great Pan Farm and Bleak Down, the other discovered implements are isolated finds with no stratified sequence. The south west coast of the Island has proven to be an important study area for the Mesolithic period. Once again, sites are elusive due to the temporal nature of the structures assembled by the nomadic peoples known from this period.
- 4.5 The arrival of farming practices and techniques on the Island in *c*.3, 600 B.C. is associated with a clear radiocarbon date from a peat bog at Gatcombe showing significant elm clearance around this date. The known standing field monuments of this period are the communal long barrow burial sites at Tennyson Down, Afton Down and The Longstone. These are all sited on or adjacent to chalk ridgeways, which may have been visual boundary markers to territorial areas at this time. This may have continued for many generations, as the area below Afton Down contains a large concentration of Early Bronze age ring barrow monuments. These were intentionally placed to lay claim to an identified ritual area. The location of these three long barrows may be indicators to the location of downland settlement sites in the Neolithic.
- 4.6 The most abundant physical remnant of the Bronze Age on the Island are round barrows. They are almost entirely confined to the higher downland areas, but their importance in the prehistoric landscape led to them being re-used in later periods, so therefore some contain archaeological evidence for nearly 1000 years (Bronze Age to Anglo-Saxon). In recent decades however, there has been acceleration in their destruction with the decline in sheep farming and the adoption of cereal production. Large tracts of downland are now under the plough. Analysis of the available aerial photographs has proven to be an excellent indicator of these ploughed-out monuments.
- 4.7 The Iron Age period on the Island is not very well represented. There have been a number of significant finds i.e. coin hoards (see below) but unlike the mainland where large tracts of land are demarcated by field systems ('Celtic fields') and associated settlements, the only indicator of a population on the Island at this time is the presence of the Chillerton Down hill-fort near the centre of the Island. Recent work for the Historic Landscape Characterisation project on the Island has started to identify the remnants of these field systems, and in doing so interpret another layer in the evolution of the landscape on the Island.
- 4.8 A lot of what is currently known regarding the Romano-British occupation of the Island was initially discovered in the 19th century. There is some evidence for settlement continuation from the known villa sites at Newport, Brading and Combley. The villas that have been discovered lie close to the central range of chalk downs, suggesting that the rural economy may have been based on sheep farming, although there is also evidence for cereal production. Indications of activities other than farming are slight. Basford (1980, 31) has suggested that the concentration of settlement along the chalk down indicates that the prehistoric trackway over the downs continued in use as the main routeway during this period.
- 4.9 With considering the influence of the occupation of the Anglo-Saxons there is a conflict between the archaeological and the documentary evidence. It is likely that original settlements from this period lie under present day villages and have therefore remained unavailable to

archaeologists. Based purely on the archaeological material uncovered in the various cemeteries, Arnold (1982, 109) concludes that the earliest Anglo-Saxon occupation of the Island dates to the late 5th/early 6th century. The settlement of the Isle of Wight is clearly bound up with that of Hampshire and the formation of the West Saxon Kingdom (Arnold 1982, 100). Over 130 Anglo-Saxon graves were excavated on Chessell Down in 1819 and 1855. They all ranged in date from the 5th and 6th centuries, and had richly furnished grave goods possibly suggestive of a high status cemetery attributable to the first island settlers, the Jutes who originated in modern day Denmark. It is also pertinent to consider the place-name evidence of the Island for clues to the locations of lost Anglo-Saxon settlements. Research has shown that places on the island ending in –ham may represent the earliest form of settlement form this period. The village of Wilmingham lies *c*.1.5km to the west of the site and may have Anglo-Saxon origins.

- 4.10 The Island was repeatedly threatened with attacks by Viking raids from 897A.D. onwards. Despite the Isle of Wight being an integral part of King Alfred's kingdom of Wessex, no defensive structures were established along the island's coastal shores. The Isle of Wight was constantly harried and was utilised by the invading fleets as a strategic base for raiding the mainland. This second wave of Viking raids eventually ceased when Cnut came to the throne in 1016.
- 4.11 The Island became an independently governed domain after the Norman Conquest. William the Conqueror gave the lordship of the Island to his relative William Fitz Osborn; it was effectively a separate state for several centuries. The population of the Island was surprisingly small just over 1100 at the time of the Domesday survey of 1086 with people living mainly in small manorial settlements and isolated farmsteads. Settlements were much denser in the central and southern parts of the island than in the north. The island lost its independence in 1293 when Edward I convinced the Lady of Wight to sell him the island.
- 4.12 The important geographical position of the Island gave it certain political and military significance in naval disputes with France, from the $14^{th} 16^{th}$ centuries. These have been in part blamed for the depopulation on the Island during this period. Around this time agricultural practices changed from arable to pasture farming, and this too may have led to depopulation. Some research has been carried out on 'deserted medieval villages' with Thorley being a rare example of a deserted village that still possesses a parish church.
- 4.13 It was not until the 16th century that the Island's strategic importance in times of naval strife was consolidated by the construction of coastal artillery forts at Yarmouth, Sandown and East and West Cowes by order of Henry VIII. After these brief periods of resurgence the island retreated back to its rural traditions. A thriving port developed at the northern end of the island, at Cowes from the 17th century onwards when shipbuilding and export to the Americas brought a period of prosperity. The 19th century brought royalty to the Island when Queen Victoria purchased Osborne house in 1844. This brought with it an endorsement of the Island as a fashionable tourist resort, and rapid expansion of the coastal towns followed between 1850-80.

Archaeological background of the immediate area

A gazetteer of sites currently listed within 1.5km of the centre (Hummet Copse) of the red-line boundary is presented in tabular form as Appendix 1. Each has been given a unique identification number (TOR No.), which will be used in the discussion below where appropriate. These sites are shown on Figures 2-7.

Palaeolithic – Mesolithic

4.14 There are no records from either period in the study area surrounding Wellow. The lack of sites or findspots shows the isolated nature of such finds, and the potential of uncovering new finds from this study area considered to be low.

Neolithic - Romano-British period

- 4.15 An abundance of archaeological cropmarks recorded south of Thorley and Wellow, along the northern boundary of the site are thought to be of prehistoric date and indicate that the area had been cleared of trees by the second millennium B.C. (IOWC). This would suggest a date of Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age. One datable Neolithic artefact is known from the area in the form of a fragment of a polished flint axe found on surface of ploughsoil close to public footpath near Broad Lane (TOR 96). The aerial photograph plot data available for this locale is exceptionally clear, and suggests evidence of at least ten Bronze Age ring-ditches at Wellow Farm (TOR 18-27) with three south of Thorley Street (TOR 6, 13, 14). Many more are currently listed as 'Unknown date' (see Figure 5) that possess strikingly similar dimensions (TOR 29, 31, 98 & 99) with many sub-rectangular enclosures present within the site to the east of Dog Kennel Cottage (TOR 28, 33), close to Hummet Copse (TOR 4, 16, 79, 101) and many linear features (TOR 38, 76, 80, 85) that may or may not be interrelated and contemporary remnants.
- 4.16 A ring-ditch (TOR 6) was partially excavated in 1984 and evidence proved that it was a ploughed-out Bronze Age round barrow. Romano-British material was also found in the plough soil during the excavation. The other ring features (TOR 13, 14; visible now only as crop marks) in the vicinity are likely to be contemporary in origin, but it is worth stating that these distinctive landscape features may have undergone a period of re-use and secondary burials in later periods, especially the Anglo-Saxon era. Investigations at Chessell Down (Arnold 1982) have shown that this practice of later association with identifiable burial markers along the prominent Downs was embraced by the Anglo-Saxon conquerors to lay claim to certain areas under their political control.
- 4.17 This part of the Island has revealed several significant trace finds in recent years as a consequence of metal detecting across the largely agricultural landscape. A Roman coin hoard, along with early Anglo-Saxon metalwork was found near Tapnell Farm; a pagan Anglo-Saxon grave with associated goods was unearthed in the East Afton area, while Roman pottery and coins as well as early Anglo-Saxon metalwork have all been discovered in the land to the north-west of Churchills Farm (MLA 2005). These last examples are in close proximity to the eastern boundary of the site, and imply that this area of West Wight has still to reveal a significant amount of its archaeological resource. The largest hoard of Iron Age coins ever found on the Island was recently unearthed by the Isle of Wight Metal Detector club (IOW County Press 4/11/05). The haul contained *c*. 1,000 base silver coins at a 'secret

West Wight location' (*ibid*.). A quarter of the coins were found scattered over a large area of agricultural land away from the main hoard.

4.18 The aerial photograph evidence, as well as the discovery of these chance finds, indicates that this landscape has been settled and exploited for several thousand years. Only a very small portion of its true archaeological resource has been identified to date (TOR 6 and Seaclean sites 8, 9, 14, 15), which provide the evidence that further discoveries are likely wherever intrusive development is due to take place in the vicinity.

Anglo-Saxon

4.19 The closest excavated evidence to the site are situated at Shalcombe Down on the sloping east end of the chalk ridge several hundred metres from the southern edge of the Site, facing the cemetery on Chessell Down to the east. There are nine identified barrows on the Down, most of which have been tampered with and looted. There are examples of secondary inhumations in Bronze Age barrows. A lot of the evidence that currently survives is from investigations in 1816 at two of the barrow sites. Finds included bronze disc brooches, and a garnet-inlaid disc brooch of gilded silver, probably datable to the 6th century. In March 2005, a copper-alloy skillet of late 7th to 9th century date was discovered from an unspecified location in Shalfleet parish (MLA 2005, 56). It was discovered on cultivated land whilst surveying with a metaldetector. Experts from the British Museum have stated the importance of this find as an early Christian grave object. The findspot was found to contain yet another signal after the skillet was removed. A more detailed investigation is planned to recover this metallic object, and determine the archaeological context of the finds.

Early Medieval

- 4.20 The areas of Wellow, Thorley and Shalcombe were manors recognized in the Domesday Book (Williams & Martin 1992, 128). Thorley became an established medieval parish, while Wellow lay in the Shalfleet parish with the holding of Shalcombe forming a detached part of St. Nicholas parish. Shalfleet, which lies to the east of Wellow, was originally a small port but the creek on which it is located silted up in the medieval period. As a consequence, Newtown was created by the Bishop of Winchester to offset the difficulties this posed for trading with ports on the mainland.
- 4.21 For the Domesday survey, Wellow was assessed as comprising land to sustain 4 ploughs. The land under the control of King William's lords on the Island comprised 2 ploughs, with 6 villagers and 3 peasants with 1.5 ploughs. There were 4 slaves and 6 acres of meadow, which at the time was worth between £10-15.
- 4.22 The main settlements close to the site are at Thorley to the north-west and Wellow, which abuts the northern boundary. Thorley comprises a church/manor complex with an associated settlement at Thorley Street some distance to the east. It has been suggested that this may indicate the shift in settlement after the demise of the manor in the 16th century (IOWC HLC). Wellow lies further east of Thorley Street along the B3401 road. It is also an interrupted row settlement. The remaining settlement comprises of scattered farmsteads, some of which, such as Churchills Farm, are mentioned in medieval land documents (*ibid*.).
- 4.23 Large open-field blocks to the west and south of Thorley manor were probably set aside for an agreed crop rotation policy of the villagers (Taylor 1975, 119). A manorial survey dated

1648 refers to 'Westfield', 'Homefield' and 'East Field' (IOWC HLC). In addition to these three fields, there would be have been common land where the villagers would graze their livestock, woodland for the pigs, and a communal village green for social events. The ploughed fields could also be used for grazing outside the growing season. As populations increased, the available land diminished, as more strips were required. From the late 15th century onwards, a gradual movement towards consolidation took place as small plots were amalgamated into fewer but larger holdings, with a corresponding increase in the power of the landowners (Taylor 1975, 111). By the early 17th century, this open-field landscape was enclosed by a number of small farmers in the area as they strove to break away from the communal agriculture of the past and gain opportunities to farm as they wished (*ibid*. 113).

- 4.24 The neighbouring manor of Wellow, in the parish of Shalfleet, comprised quite large field parcels. Wellow Common abutted the southern boundary of the site, where Stone Quarry and the farmhouse 'The Quarries' are now located. The parish boundary forms the western boundary of this former common. Records suggest that at least 480 sheep grazed upon Wellow Common at the beginning of the 17th century (IOWC HLC). Thorley Common lay adjacent to the north-western edge of Wellow Common (*ibid.*), with the same parish boundary forming its eastern edge. The central section of the Site was originally Wellow's former common open fields. Expansion of land holdings in the 20th century has removed the field boundaries evident on the first edition of the Ordnance Survey map (Figure 10).
- 4.25 To illustrate the change in field boundaries across the site a series of six historic maps have been reproduced (Figures 8-13). Certain aerial photograph plots lie in close proximity to some elements of the proposals and some were indicative of former field boundaries. Therefore, the aerial photograph plot data was transposed onto the 1st edition Ordnance Survey map (Figure 7). The accuracy is within 10m and does show how the permanent access track from turbine 1 to Hummet Copse is aligned with the former field boundary. It draws attention to the level of field boundary loss in the last 150 years at this site.

Previous Archaeological Investigation in the Area

4.26 The most informative investigation occurred as part of an archaeological watching brief exercise carried out by RPS Consultants for the insertion of a pipeline by Seaclean Wight from Yarmouth to Sandown (RPS 2001). A number of sites added greatly to the limited archaeological record for many areas along the route, but in relation to this site, four archaeological sites (nos. 8, 9, 14 & 15) were identified traversing the northern boundary of the site, orientated west-east from Thorley to Ningwood. These four sites constitute the bulk of the excavated and recorded archaeological resource of this area. It is important therefore to outline the findings for each of the sites so as to understand the features that may be present within the site boundary, and could be uncovered during the construction phase of the works.

Site 8 TOR Nos. 90 - 95

This site lies to the south of Thorley village, in the vicinity of what is thought to be the former medieval village settlement. Immediately to the south are several ploughed Bronze Age ring barrows (see Figure 3). Prehistoric remains comprised an area of burning (a hearth) and two pits that were tentatively associated with the nearby location of the ring barrow, but no evidence was uncovered to prove this theory. A larger pit produced pottery sherds of Romano-British and medieval date. A section of trackway and field boundary were also uncovered which have been postulated as elements of the agricultural activity that was associated with the settlement at Thorley village (RPS 2001, 10).

Site 9 TOR Nos. 96, 97 & 100

This was located at Wellow village, to the north of a concentrated area of ring-ditch cropmarks believed to be a Bronze Age cemetery (Figure 3). As the potential of the site was realized prior to excavation for the pipeline, a scheme of geophysical survey was carried out. The survey located a ring ditch that mirrored the aerial photograph evidence in this location, and several elements of former field boundaries. Many of the readings from the survey were weak and transient and have been suggested as the result of recent agricultural activity or natural variations in the subsoil (RPS 2001, 10).

As a result of the survey, the pipeline was positioned to avoid identified archaeological features, however, a large amount of medieval and post-medieval evidence was still uncovered. These features included field boundaries, drainage ditches and gullies, a hearth, a trackway and deep deposits of medieval plough soils all beneath a layer of colluvium. These deep plough soils sealed a large amount of prehistoric flint and datable earlier medieval activity on the site. Most importantly, it sealed a possible prehistoric pit or cremation cut, 1m in diameter and 0.7m deep. No artefacts were retrieved from the fill to positively date this feature but it was positioned in the centre of the circular cropmark. No further evidence of the ring ditch was identified during the excavation for the pipeline in this area.

None of the excavated material in this area correlated with settlement activity or an established farmstead, and was therefore postulated as being associated with agricultural activity.

Site 14 SMR 4187

This site produced a significant amount of Iron Age pottery, but also produced positive evidence regarding former features attributable to a contemporary settlement. The features uncovered east of Wilmington Lane had all been greatly truncated by later ploughing activity. Some 12 postholes, along with pits and a gully were investigated and contained datable pottery evidence, but unfortunately the scale and probable size of the dwelling could not be proposed.

Site 15 SMR 4177

This site was uncovered immediately west of Broad Lane to the south of Thorley village. Several cropmarks have been identified to the south of the pipeline route (TOR 8), which were originally expected to traverse the pipeline route. No archaeological features were uncovered, while a scatter of medieval pottery was recovered that may account for the agricultural practices documented in this location. The pottery would have been spread as a result of manuring practices across the field parcel. Several flint artefacts were also recovered with a date range from the Mesolithic/Early Neolithic to Bronze Age.

Geophysical survey of the site by Cambrian Archaeological Projects (Nov '04)

(*N.B.* No illustrative figures have been reproduced from this report (CAP no.325, 2004). The digital representations of possible features/anomalies were not of sufficient quality to warrant inclusion in an archaeological assessment report for the site).

- 4.27 The survey was focused on the various elements of ground disturbance evident in the site proposals. These were the six turbine locations and associated crane pads, the new and permanent access track and a substation area. A number of features/anomalies were identified but the exact location, nature or depths are now considered to be questionable. This is in light of a number of concerns about the results and survey methodology.
- 4.28 As the evaluation exercise carried out by Wessex Archaeology has shown (see below), the upper levels across this site initial 50cm of topsoil and subsoil contained no features or anomalies of an archaeological nature. The geophysical instruments employed by Cambrian for this survey, two Fluxgate Gradiometers, produce readings to an average depth of *c*.0.5m below the present ground surface of a survey area. There is currently an industry preference for employing Bartington Instruments in geophysical surveys. These produce survey readings to an average depth *c*.1m below the ground surface (P. Barker, Stratascan *pers. comm.*), this would be increased if strongly magnetic objects have been buried in the site. This instrument type is more effective for non-intrusive survey in identifying areas of possible archaeological anomalies, either for targeted intrusive investigations or design mitigation. 'It provides an appropriate methodology balancing cost and time with resolution' (*ibid.*).
- 4.29 The analysis and interpretation of the survey findings in this Cambrian Archaeology report has in no way been verified by the intrusive evaluation work by Wessex Archaeology. The numerous 'recent plough scars' were not seen in any of the turbine or crane pad trenches. An example of the unreliable nature of the geophysical results is found in comparing findings at Turbine 5. The geophysical survey comments on four linear features aligned N.W. – S.E. but fails to record two modern land drains aligned N/S and S.W./N.E. (Wessex Archaeology 2006, Trench 6).
- 4.30 The survey area employed in the geophysical survey (40m long x 20m wide) differs from the trench dimensions excavated by Wessex Archaeology (50m long x 1.8m wide). [*The trench size was agreed after discussing the project with the County Archaeologist in November 2005].* This variation in survey areas may account for the lack of correlating evidence between the two, as it is reasonable to suggest that the trenches merely passed between or away from the anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The postulated orientation and likely origin of features in the geophysical survey report (CAP no.324), do not correspond in any form with the excavated evidence, so it is the interpretation, nature, extent and depth of the features identified by the evaluation exercise (Wessex Archaeology 2006) that is considered the most applicable in terms of mitigation measures for the proposed scheme.
- 4.31 The accuracy of the Global Positioning System (GPS) utilised by Cambrian is another important consideration in assessing the location of features identified by the survey equipment. Handheld GPS devices are normally accurate to within *c*.5m but this is dependent entirely upon how many satellites the device coordinates its readings with at the time. The GPS device employed by Wessex Archaeology (Leica GPS1200) is accurate to within 5-10cm. This provides valuable reassurance as to the location of identified features and anomalies.

- 4.32 Cambrian Archaeology concludes that the results from their survey were marred by the mixed geology of the Isle of Wight (CAP no.324 2004, 8). This is incorrect, as the chalk areas of the Island have produced accurate results in recent years (P. Barker, Stratascan *pers. comm*). The evaluation has shown that certain areas of the site (Trench 1,2 & 6) possess an underlying layer of colluvium (i.e. Hillwash). This layer could mask deeper archaeological features, such as those encountered at Site 9, Seaclean pipeline where a great deal of medieval features, but more importantly a possible prehistoric pit, were discovered below such a layer.
- 4.33 The geophysical survey carried out by RPS for the Seaclean pipeline on Site 9 (Figures 2-7) also concluded that 'many of the readings from the survey [geophysical] were weak and transient and have been suggested as the result of recent agricultural activity or natural variations in the subsoil (RPS 2001, 10). This provides further evidence that the mixed drift geology of this area of Wellow Oligocene and Eocene clays and marls does not lend itself to producing completely effective, accurate geophysical survey of below ground archaeological features or sites.

Archaeological Investigations by Wessex Archaeology (January 2006)

- 4.34 The purpose of this intrusive scheme of investigation was to produce stratigraphic evidence for each of the proposed turbine locations, plus their respective crane pads. The proposed location of the temporary compound area immediately east of Broad Lane also required investigating as there are a number of crop mark features, especially the ploughed out ring barrow (TOR 98) to the south-west and a rectilinear feature (TOR 32) lying to the west. Therefore, a total of seven trenches were excavated at the site. Trenches 2-7 measured 50m long x 1.8m wide, while trench 1 and 2 were both 25m long x 1.8m wide.
- 4.35 The investigation revealed a low level and occurrence of archaeology, or associated finds, of unspecified date. A number of objects were recovered by metal detecting the spoil of each trench, but all were post-medieval in date. A number of recent land drains were uncovered along with evidence of quarrying (Trench 6). Only three trenches produced features that warranted closer investigation, ditches or gullies were present in Trenches 1, 4 and 7.
- 4.36 The 'natural' geology was encountered in the majority of trenches, no deeper than 1m below the present ground level and mainly comprised of a mixture of clay and chalk that was consistently yellowish white in colouration. However, above *c*.60m OD (Trenches 3-5 and 7) no subsoil horizon was present. The topsoil overlay the natural chalk/clay. Below *c*.50m OD (Trenches 1, 2 and 6) in the low-lying areas of the site, a layer of colluvium was excavated but this layer masked no archaeological features. As already stated, the occurrence of such a layer does not entirely rule out the presence of archaeological deposits in the area outside the trench limit, but nothing was revealed in these trenches to suggest the likelihood of this.
- 4.37 It has been suggested (Wessex Archaeology 2006, 11) that the undated ditches and gullies uncovered in the hilltop trenches 1, 4 and 7, were very shallow and may be an indication of the level of disturbance and impact post-medieval ploughing has caused to features that may have been much larger when originally constructed. The problem remains that none of these features produced any datable evidence to suggest that they initially served as features within a 'site' of archaeological/prehistoric foundation.

5 Potential effects

Archaeological potential of the site

- 5.1 The site is situated in an area of High Archaeological Potential where the destruction, without appropriate archaeological recording, of well-preserved archaeological deposits means that the last surviving elements have an increased value for the understanding of the origins and development of the area and place of Wellow. The results of the evaluation (Wessex Archaeology 2006) stand in stark contrast to the rich archaeological landscape, and recent chance finds surrounding this site.
- 5.2 However, the areas within the redline boundary of the site that will actually experience groundworks associated with the various elements of this proposal are relatively limited. The redline is potentially misleading as it encompasses an extensive area of land from the midpoint of Hummet Copse north to Wellow, and west to Thorley and east to Stoneovers. There are a great many identified cropmark features, as well as excavated features from Seaclean site 8 in the north-western corner that add greatly to the meagre level of information, and in doing so help towards a more accurate assessment of the 'blank' areas within the site.

During construction

The likely impact of the development

5.3 The construction phase for this development will be temporary and intermittent with impacts minimised by the relatively short construction programme involved to position the six turbines and associated crane pad footings, construct permanent and temporary access tracks to these locations and connect the turbines to the local grid along the western boundary of the site on Broad Lane, in the direction of Thorley. The following table summarises the construction elements and the known features in the immediate vicinity, which may be affected by the proposals.

Construction element	Receptor (TOR No.)	Sensitivity	Magnitude of impact	Potential effect on the receptor
Turbine 1	None	None	None	None
Turbine 2	None	None	None	None
Turbine 3	16	Low	Negligible	None
Turbine 4	97	Low	Negligible	None
Turbine 5	Quarry	None	Negligible	None
Turbine 6	Two modern land drains	None	Negligible	None
Grid connector trench along Broad Lane	29, 32, 33, 62	High	Large	Very substantial
Permanent access track	98, 34, 38	Medium	Large	Substantial
Temporary compound facility	32, 77	Low-medium	Small	Moderate/Slight

Temporary access	4, 97	Low	Small	Slight
track to turbines				
2,3,4 & 6				

Table 5 Summary of potential effects of each element in relation to known archaeology

- 5.4 The major impacts likely as a consequence of the laying of the necessary cabling along the western boundary adjacent to Broad Lane, could be avoided if the option is taken to connect with existing overhead cables present at Thorley. In this instance the impact would be limited to the areas for each pole required to carry the cables. Careful consideration of the locations of the sites (29, 32, 33, 62) should be adopted in any further proposals to ensure that ground disturbance is kept to a minimum, and if possible site 29 be avoided completely.
- 5.5 The creation of a permanent access track will in places require no excavation, but material will be imported to raise the present ground level sufficiently to support large vehicular movements. This may cause unquantifiable compaction upon below ground features. Only three sites, 98, 34, 38, are currently listed on, or in close proximity to the proposed line of the track. The line of the track orientated east from the north-south parish boundary division (dotted line on figures 2-7) follows the line of a former field boundary (see Figure 7). New archaeological features/sites are unlikely to occur along this particular stretch of the proposed track, as the proposals are for a track 5m in width. This would roughly be the width of the former hedgerow that formed the former field boundary here. Its planting and subsequent removal would have caused some disturbance to any archaeological features along its alignment. It can be assumed that this section possess' limited potential for hitherto unknown or unidentified (by aerial photography) sites. The area of greater impact upon the known/suspected archaeological resource is likely to occur between Broad Lane and the parish boundary.

During operation

5.5 No additional mitigation measures are envisaged in relation to the operation of the proposed wind farm. Provided appropriate mitigation is employed, once construction has been completed, the lingering impact upon the archaeological resource will be minimal.

6. Mitigation

- 6.1 A range of mitigation measures is proposed to avoid, reduce or offset the adverse effects predicted above, where appropriate. No design modifications or further micro-siting of the turbines within the site is necessary in light of the investigations that have taken place to date. A programme of archaeological works in tandem with the initial site preparation and construction phase is proposed to offset adverse effects by recording any archaeological features that may be disturbed by the construction of the associated wind farm components permanent access track, temporary compound and sub-station.
- 6.2 Should planning consent be granted for the proposed wind farm, a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for archaeological mitigation works will be prepared in close consultation with the planning authority, especially the County Archaeology Service. It is to be expected

that a site archaeologist will be required to monitor all phases of the construction process, and be responsible for ensuring that these works do not destroy any previously unknown and unidentified archaeological finds or features on the site.

6.3 The project archaeologist may be obliged to produce written guidelines for use by all construction contractors, outlining the need to avoid causing unnecessary damage to archaeological sites or features.

SMR No.	TOR No.	Description
SMR91	TOR1	Post medieval icehouse at Wellow Manor Farm
SMR94	TOR2	A Bronze Age palstave at Wellow Farm
SMR144	TOR3	A Mesolithic macehead
SMR578	TOR4	A rectilinear feature west of Hummet copse
SMR605	TOR5	A rectilinear feature of unknown date
SMR1467	TOR6	A Bronze Age ring ditch
SMR1537	TOR7	A rectilinear enclosure of unknown date
SMR1557	TOR8	A ring ditch feature
SMR1625	TOR9	A rectilinear enclosure south of Thorley
SMR1626	TOR10	A Bronze Age ring ditch south of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR1627	TOR11	A rectilinear feature east of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR1628	TOR12	A rectilinear feature north east of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR1629	TOR13	A Bronze Age ring ditch south of Thorley Street
SMR1630	TOR14	A Bronze Age ring ditch south of Thorley Street
SMR1631	TOR15	A rectilinear feature of unknown date
SMR1632	TOR16	A rectilinear feature of unknown date
SMR1633	TOR17	A rectilinear enclosure west of Stony Copse
SMR1634	TOR18	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR1635	TOR19	A Bronze Age ring ditch of at Wellow Farm
SMR1636	TOR20	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR1637	TOR21	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR1638	TOR22	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR1639	TOR23	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR1640	TOR24	A circular feature of unknown date at Wellow farm
SMR1641	TOR25	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR1642	TOR26	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR1643	TOR27	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2075	TOR28	A rectilinear enclosure north east of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR2076	TOR29	A curvilinear feature south east of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR2077	TOR30	A Bronze Age ring ditch south of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR2078	TOR31	A circular feature south east of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR2079	TOR32	A rectilinear enclosure south east of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR2080	TOR33	A rectilinear feature south east of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR2081	TOR34	A rectilinear feature south east of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR2086	TOR35	A circular feature of unknown date in Wellow
SMR2112	TOR36	A rectilinear enclosure west of Churchill's Farm
SMR2113	TOR37	A circular feature west of Churchill's Farm
SMR2115	TOR38	An enclosure at Hummet Copse
SMR2186	TOR39	A Bronze Age ring ditch south of Thorley Street
SMR2192	TOR40	A Prehistoric circular feature south of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR2193	TOR41	A Prehistoric circular feature south of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR2359	TOR42	A Medieval find spot found on Wellow Farm
SMR2532	TOR43	A Medieval pottery sherd found on Wellow Farm
SMR2604	TOR44	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm

Appendix 1 Gazetteer of all known archaeological sites, findspots and features

SMR2605	TOR45	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2606	TOR46	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2607	TOR47	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2608	TOR48	A Bronze Age circular feature at Wellow Farm
SMR2609	TOR49	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2610	TOR50	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2611	TOR51	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2612	TOR52	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2613	TOR53	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2614	TOR54	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2615	TOR55	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2617	TOR56	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2618	TOR57	A Bronze Age ring ditch at Wellow Farm
SMR2619	TOR58	A Bronze Age Circular feature at Wellow Farm
SMR2620	TOR59	A Bronze Age Circular feature at Wellow Farm
SMR2635	TOR60	A Bronze Age ring ditch south of dog Kennel Cottage
SMR2636	TOR61	A Bronze Age ring ditch from Thorley, west of Newens
SMR2637	TOR62	A rectilinear feature on the east side of Broad Lane
SMR2638	TOR63	A Bronze Age ring ditch in Newens, Thorley
SMR2639	TOR64	A Bronze Age ring ditch in Newens, Thorley
SMR2641	TOR65	A Bronze Age pit circle in Newens, Thorley
SMR2642	TOR66	A Bronze Age pit circle in Newens, Thorley
SMR3251	TOR67	A modern heavy anti aircraft battery at Thorley Street
SMR3871	TOR68	A rectilinear feature south of Wellow Farm
SMR3883	TOR69	A prehistoric ring ditch at Churchill's Farm
SMR3884	TOR70	A prehistoric ring ditch at Churchill's Farm
SMR3885	TOR71	A circular feature of unknown date in Wellow
SMR3886	TOR72	A prehistoric ring ditch of unknown date in Wellow
SMR3887	TOR73	A rectangular enclosure of unknown date found in Wellow
SMR3888	TOR74	An enclosure of unknown date at the south east of Dog
		Kennel Cottage
SMR3889	TOR75	A pit circle of unknown date in Wellow
SMR3890	TOR76	A curvilinear feature of unknown date in Wellow
SMR3891	TOR77	A pit circle of unknown date south of Batch
SMR3892	TOR78	A Prehistoric ring ditch north east of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR3899	TOR79	A rectilinear feature of unknown date north west of
		Churchill's Farm
SMR3900	TOR80	A curvilinear feature of unknown date northwest of
		Churchill's farm
SMR3902	TOR81	A circular feature south east of Dog kennel Cottage
SMR3913	TOR82	A Prehistoric ring ditch south of Dog Kennel Cottage
SMR3915	TOR83	A Prehistoric ring ditch at Hummet Copse
SMR3939	TOR84	A Prehistoric ring ditch at Newens, Thorley
SMR3945	TOR85	A rectilinear feature of unknown date at Newens, Thorley
SMR3957	TOR86	A Prehistoric hearth at Thorley Seaclean Site 8
SMR3957	TOR87	A Prehistoric pit at Thorley Seaclean Site 8
SMR3957	TOR88	A Roman artefact scatter at Thorley Seaclean Site 8
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TOR89	A Medieval pit from Thorley Seaclean Site 8
TOR90	A post medieval field boundary from Thorley Seaclean
	Site 8
TOR91	A post Medieval trackway from Thorley Seaclean Site 8
TOR92	A Medieval occupation site in Wellow Seaclean Site 9
TOR93	A Post Medieval hearth, field boundary & trackway in
	Wellow Seaclean Site 9
TOR94	A Prehistoric flint flakes at Wellow Seaclean Site 9
TOR95	A Prehistoric lithic working site at Prospect Quarry,
	Shalcombe
TOR96	A Neolithic flint axe fragment found in Broad Lane,
	Shalcombe
TOR97	A rectilinear feature south of unknown date at Hummet
	Copse
TOR98	A circular feature of unknown date east of Broad Lane
TOR99	A curvilinear feature of unknown date east of Broad Lane
TOR100	A Roman artefact scatter at Stony Copse, Churchill's farm
TOR101	A rectangular feature south of Wellow Top Road.
	TOR90 TOR91 TOR92 TOR93 TOR94 TOR95 TOR96 TOR97 TOR98 TOR99 TOR100

Figures