

**Misslebrooks Battery
Storage Project
Archaeology Desk
Based Assessment &
Heritage Statement**

Client: BOOM DEVELOPMENTS LTD

AB Heritage Project No: 62142

Date: 16/12/2022

Misslebrooks Battery Storage Project, Chilworth

Archaeology Desk Based Assessment & Heritage Statement

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

AB Heritage Limited has been commissioned by Boom Developments Ltd to produce a Combined Archaeology Desk-Based Assessment and Heritage Statement, covering proposed works to the Misslebrooks Battery Storage Project on land between Misslebrooks Copse and Botley Road, Chilworth. The report was requested as part of a forthcoming Planning Application.

The proposed development is for a battery storage installation consisting of proprietary battery units housed within shipping containers on concrete plinths, with district network operator (DNO) substations. The proposal is also for the installation of a cable route running along Castle Lane.

Research has revealed the site to be within an area that was most likely tenanted farming land until the later Post Medieval period. Misslebrooks Copse, an area of dense woodland to the north of the site, historically extended further south into the proposed development site until the 20th century. The proposed development site remains in agricultural use today and is in close proximity to Chilworth Conservation Area covering Chilworth Old Village. Chilworth Old Village was a Medieval settlement which extended south from the site of the Church of St Denys. The Medieval church was demolished and rebuilt in 1812, to serve the needs of the growing population of Chilworth.

In relation to built heritage, Chilworth Conservation Area, which lies c.350m to the southeast of the application site, was found to be a heritage asset of High Significance. However, this report finds that the setting of the Conservation Area will not be affected by the proposed development, owing to restricted views due to intervening dense vegetation in the Conservation Area as well as the hedgerows and trees on the application site boundaries and along Botley Road.

In relation to archaeology, it is assessed that there is a Medium potential for encountering the projected line of Otterbourne to Stoney Cross Roman road as it intersects proposed cable route on Templars Way. The remains of the Roman road if present are assessed to be of Medium significance. Aside from the location of the potential Roman Road, there is considered to be a Low Potential for the recovery of complex and / or significant features or deposits dating to all other periods within the site limits.

With regard to above ground heritage assets, no further works are recommended. However, regarding the potential to encounter the projected line of the Roman road, it is recommended that an Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of the cable route groundworks be carried out within 50m either side of the proposed point of intersection. Where remains of the Roman road are confirmed, it is recommended that the cable trench be extended to afford sufficient of the remains to be exposed, investigated and fully recorded. The proposed development works could present an opportunity for detailed archaeological investigation of the remains, which has so far not been possible, with the cable being routed through the archaeological trench afterwards.

All recommendations are subject to approval from the Local Planning Authority.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 AB Heritage Limited has been commissioned by Boom Developments Ltd to produce a Combined Archaeology Desk Based Assessment & Heritage Statement covering proposed works at Misslebrooks Battery Storage Project, on land between Misslebrooks Copse and Botley Road, Chilworth (Figures 1-3). It was requested as part of a forthcoming planning application.

1.1.2 This report includes a description of the baseline conditions, from an examination of readily available sources on the history of the site, identifying any known and potential heritage receptors subject to potential impact. It proposes a suitable mitigation strategy, where such works are deemed appropriate.

1.2 Site Location & Description

1.2.1 The proposed development site is located at on land between Misslebrooks Copse and Botley Road, Chilworth, centred on National Grid Reference: SU 40065 19471. The main battery site covers an area of c.6.84 hectares and comprises open fields, with a trackway running northeast to southwest through approximately the centre of the site (Plate 1).

1.2.2 A proposed cable route extends from the east edge of the battery site, firstly heading north and then returning to the east along Castle Lane, then Templars Way, finally turning north on Bournemouth Road to connect to an existing electricity station. The total length of the proposed cable route is c. 3km (Figures 1-3). The proposed cable route will follow existing roads at all times.



Plate 1. The proposed development site (Google Maps, 2022)

1.3 Geology & Topography

- 1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the site is London Clay Formation formed during the Ypresian Age, approximately 56 to 47 million years ago, comprising poorly laminated clay (BGS, 2022).
- 1.3.2 The proposal site is on a west to east incline, rising from 46m aOD in the west to 55m aOD in the east. The site is situated c.1km north of the M27 and c.200m northeast of Chilworth.

1.4 Overview of Proposed Development

- 1.4.1 The proposed development is for a battery storage installation consisting of proprietary battery units housed within shipping containers mounted on concrete plinths, with district network operator (DNO) substations. A cable route is proposed to run along Castle Lane, Templars Way and Bournemouth Road.

1.5 Consultation

- 1.5.1 On the 23rd of September 2022 Clare Lazzari, Assistant Heritage Consultant, AB Heritage, contacted Hampshire County Council Planning Department via email, in absence of a named Conservation Officer. The purpose of the consultation was to request any further information that may not yet have been included in the Historic Environment Record (HER).
- 1.5.2 Mr David Hopkins, County Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council, responded on the 26th of September 2022 to confirm that the HER data was up-to-date. Mr Hopkins also directed AB Heritage to Hampshire County Council's Atlas of Archaeology and the Integrated Character Assessment for the county.

1.6 Project Qualifiers

- 1.6.1 The client requested a last minute change to the redline boundary for this proposal. The actual development within the boundary remains unchanged. For reference the new redline boundary for the proposed battery storage site and the cable route are shown as Figs 1-3. Please note that in the body of this report the redline boundary is shown as the previous iteration.
- 1.6.2 This report has been prepared under instruction and solely for the use of Boom Developments Ltd and any associated parties they elect to share this information with.
- 1.6.3 Measurements and distances in this report are approximations only and should not be used for detailed design purposes.
- 1.6.4 All work undertaken is based upon the professional knowledge of AB Heritage and relevant standards, technology and legislation at the time of writing. Changes in these areas may occur in the future, causing changes to the conclusions, recommendations or advice given. AB Heritage is not responsible for advising any parties on the implications of such changes.
- 1.6.5 This report utilises information obtained from third party sources. AB Heritage takes no responsibility for the accuracy of such information.
- 1.6.6 Where recommendations are provided these need to be approved by the Local Planning Authority and do not themselves comprise mitigation of impacts.

2. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of Report

- 2.1.1 Early assessment of the implications of proposed development on the heritage resource is key to informing reasonable planning decisions. Indeed, NPPF 194 requires local planning authorities to request descriptions on the significance of any heritage assets affected by a proposal, including any contribution made by their setting. This states that:

‘The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets’ importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance’.

- 2.1.2 This assessment therefore has the following objectives:

- To provide sufficient evidence on the heritage of the site and any potential impacts on such a resource, to inform the Local Planning Authority’s decision-making process in relation to the current planning application; and
- To develop appropriate recommendations / mitigation responses, where necessary, to assist the work of the planning team.

2.2 Methodology

Study Area

- 2.2.1 Based on experience gained through similar schemes, AB Heritage considered that a study area of 1km around the proposed battery storage site boundary was appropriate to provide a sufficient level of information regarding the known archaeological resource within the site and surrounding area, as well as capturing built heritage assets that may have the potential to be affected by the proposed development.
- 2.2.2 The cable route has been designed to run entirely along previously established roads, which themselves will have caused some level of ground disturbance. Taken alongside the considerable length of the proposed cable route, it was considered that an HER data trawl for 500m either side of the route, would potentially have generated a large number of HER responses, which in practice would add little to the impact assessment. However, to provide as robust an assessment as possible the online HER for Hampshire was consulted to check for known HER points which could conceivably suggest archaeological remains that might be affected by the excavation of the proposed cable route, this identified the Otterbourne to Stoney Cross Roman [AB 9] which is projected to intersect with Templars Way c. 70m south east of the centre of the traffic roundabout at the junction with School Lane.

2.2.3 Standards & Guidance Used

- 2.2.4 The assessment has been carried out in line with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists’ Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment (January 2017), along with a range of other guidance, including:

- *Conservation Principles, Policies & Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (Historic England, 2008);
- *The Setting of Heritage Assets* (Historic England, 2017); and
- *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets* (Historic England, 2019).

Selection and Assessment of Sources

- 2.2.5 In line with para 3.3.6 and Annex 1 of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Historic Environment Desk Based Assessment, this report considers appropriate sources of information and a rationale behind their use. These have been detailed in Table 1:

Table 1: Examination of Appropriate Sources

SOURCE	TYPE OF EVIDENCE	CONSULTED	COMMENT
Hampshire Historic Environment Record	The primary source of information concerning the current state of archaeological, heritage and architectural knowledge in this area. Contains published and unpublished archaeological and historical sources, including any previous investigations undertaken within the study area.	02/09/2022	The HER dataset covering a study area of 1km was ordered by Clare Lazzari, Assistant Heritage Consultant, AB Heritage on the 2 nd of September 2022. The HER Commercial dataset was delivered to AB Heritage by Hants CC on the 2 nd of September 2022.
Consult Hampshire County Council Conservation Officer and County Archaeologist	Early discussion with the Local Planning Authority Planning Archaeologist and / or Conservation Officer is key to understanding the significance of an area and creating a tailored approach most appropriate to assessment of a site.	23/09/2022	The Planning Department at Hampshire County Council was contacted on the 23 rd of September 2022. Mr David Hopkins, County Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council, responded on the 26 th of September 2022. See section 1.5.
Site Walkover	This task allows for development of a greater understanding of the on-site heritage resource, or any historic issues of the site, including information the general condition and setting of the area of proposed development and the site in which it stands.	06/09/2022	A site visit was undertaken by Clare Lazzari of AB Heritage on the 6 th of September 2022.
National Heritage List for England	Information on statutory and non-statutory designated sites, including Listed Buildings and Scheduled Monuments.	02/09/2022	The NHLE was consulted to establish an early understanding of the Listed Buildings, Scheduled Monuments and Registered Parks and Gardens within proximity to the site. The information was used to inform an appropriate study area.
Hampshire Archives	Readily accessible information on the site's history from readily available historic documentary sources, maps and photographs.	06/09/2022	Clare Lazzari visited the Hampshire Archives on the 6 th of September 2022. No pertinent information was found.
Archaeology Data Service	The ADS is a digital repository for heritage records that supports the long-term digital preservation of such data to support future research, learning and teaching.	02/09/2022	The Archaeology Data Service did not provide any additional information to that which was already available.

2.2.6 For reporting purposes, any relevant archaeological information gathered from the above sources has been allocated an AB number, which can be viewed in the Cultural Heritage Features Gazetteer (Appendix 1).

Assessment of Archaeological Potential

2.2.7 This report contains a record of the known historic environment resource of the area. It also assesses the potential for archaeology to survive within the limits of the site, using the following scale:

- No Potential - Clear evidence of past impacts / site sterilisation
- Low - Very unlikely to be encountered on site
- Medium - Features may occur / be encountered on site
- High - Remains almost certain to survive on site

2.2.8 In relation to buried archaeological remains, where a site is known or there is a medium or above potential for archaeology to survive, full impact assessment will be undertaken.

Assessment of Receptors Significance

2.2.9 Assessment of the heritage significance of a receptor is judged upon various factors, including any existing designation, plus information on any relevant architectural, archaeological or historical factors. Considering these criteria, each identified feature is assigned a level of significance in accordance with a five-point scale (Table 2, below).

Table 2: Assessing the Significance of a Receptor

SCALE OF ASSET SIGNIFICANCE	
VERY HIGH	Sites of exceptional interest that reflect the highest qualities of evidential, historic, aesthetic or communal value. These can include Scheduled Monuments, Grade I and Grade II* Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas containing very important buildings, or non-designated structures / site / landscapes with exceptional coherence, time depth, or other critical factors.
HIGH	Building or site (whether designated or not) of notable / special heritage interest, reflected in strong and coherent survival of key factors, such as extent / condition / context associations. Examples may include buildings contributing significantly to the historic character of an area, or archaeological remains with the potential to contribute to research priorities (e.g. burial sites, deserted medieval villages, Roman roads and dense scatter of finds, etc).
MEDIUM	Buildings, structures, sites with some heritage interest, albeit with lesser values than listed above. These can include 'locally designated' buildings or 'non-designated heritage assets' with recognisable survival of key elements, historic interests and / or legibility (albeit somewhat degraded in form / nature), whether from the built or archaeological perspective.
LOW	Structures or sites with very little heritage interest and / or heavily degraded sites resulting in little or no surviving heritage legibility. Examples include ephemeral remains; structures of almost no architectural / historic merit; buildings of an intrusive character; or relatively modern / common landscape features such as quarries, drains and ponds etc.
UNKNOWN	Insufficient information exists to assess the importance of a building or site (e.g. lack of relevant data on archaeology of the surrounding area or elements of the feature were obscured / access was restricted).

- 2.2.10 The significance of known assets is typically determined by reference to existing designations. **Where a receptor's interest or value covers a range of the above possibilities or, for previously unidentified features, where no designation has yet been assigned, the significance of a receptor is based on professional judgement.** For example, while all nationally registered, Listed Buildings can range in scale and importance from a single milestone to the site of St Paul's Cathedral. For this reason, adjustments are made on a case by case basis.

Impact Assessment Criteria

- 2.2.11 The degree of impact upon the heritage resource is determined by identifying the level of effect from the proposed development upon the baseline conditions of the site and the cultural heritage resource identified. The criteria for assessing the level of impact are set out in Table 3 (below).
- 2.2.12 It is not always possible to confirm the degree of impact. However, where possible a professional judgement as to the scale of such impacts is applied to enable the subsequent 'Magnitude of Effects' to be established (Table 4). It should be noted that an impact level of 'uncertain' is included for those situations where it is simply not appropriate to make such a judgement at this stage of works.

Table 3: Criteria for Determining Degree of Impact

IMPACT LEVEL	DEFINITION
HIGH	Changes to most or all of the key heritage baseline elements that leads to total or almost complete alteration of a features physical structure, or almost comprehensive variation to other aspects such as noise, access, or visual amenity of the asset.
MEDIUM	Changes to many key materials / historic elements, such that the baseline resource is clearly modified. This includes considerable change to the heritage asset / historic landscape, noticeable differences in noise or sound quality, and considerable changes to use or access changes to key historic landscape elements.
LOW	Detectable impacts which alter the baseline condition of a heritage receptor to a slight degree – e.g. a small proportion of the surviving heritage resource is altered; slight alterations to the structure, or limited changes to aspects such as noise levels, use or access that results in limited changes to historic character.
NEGLECTIBLE	Barely distinguishable change from baseline conditions, where there would be very little appreciable effect on a known site, possibly because of distance from the development, method of construction or landscape or ecological planting, that are thought to have no long-term effect on the historic value of a resource.
UNKNOWN	Extent / nature of the asset is uncertain or magnitude of change can't be ascertained.

- 2.2.13 The overall Magnitude of Effects from the proposed development upon the resource is determined by correlating the significance of a heritage asset against the degree of impact it may be subject to. Table 4 highlights the criteria for assessing the overall Magnitude of Effects. Where effects are moderate or above these are classified as Substantial Harm, terms of NPPF.

Table 4: Magnitude of Effects

SIGNIFICANCE	MAGNITUDE OF IMPACT			
	HIGH	MEDIUM	LOW	NEGLIGIBLE
VERY HIGH	Severe	Major	Mod	Minor
HIGH	Major	Mod	Minor	Minor / Not Sig.
MEDIUM	Mod	Minor	Minor / Not Sig.	Not Sig.
LOW	Minor	Minor / Not Sig.	Not Sig.	Nt.

Mod = Moderate; Not Sig. = Not Significant; Nt. = Neutral

3. PLANNING & LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

3.1 Archaeological & Heritage Legislation

- 3.1.1 Current legislation, in the form of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979, provides for the legal protection of important and well-preserved archaeological sites and monuments through their addition to a list, or 'schedule' of archaeological monuments.
- 3.1.2 Likewise, structures are afforded legal protection in the form of their addition to 'lists' of buildings of special architectural or historical interest, under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990. This legislation also allows for the creation and protection of Conservation Areas by local planning authorities to protect areas and groupings of historical significance.
- 3.1.3 The categories of assets with some forms of legal protection have been extended in recent years, and now include Registered Parks and Gardens, and Historic Battlefields. While designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site is not a statutory designation under English planning law, such a designation is regarded as a material consideration in planning decisions.

3.2 National Planning Policy 2021

- 3.2.1 The NPPF sets out government policy on the historic environment, which covers all elements, whether designated or not, that are identified as 'having a degree of significance meriting consideration in planning decisions, because of its heritage interest'.
- 3.2.2 The level of detail required in the assessment should be 'proportionate to the assets importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance'.
- 3.2.3 Paragraph 201 explains that 'where a proposed development will lead to substantial harm to or total loss of significance of a designated heritage asset, local planning authorities should refuse consent, unless it can be demonstrated that the substantial harm or loss is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss.
- 3.2.4 Paragraph 202 advises that where a proposal involve less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset, this harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal, including securing its optimum viable use. In weighing applications that affect directly or indirectly non designated heritage assets, Paragraph 203 states that a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

3.3 Local Planning Policy

Test Valley Local Plan 2011-2029 (adopted January 2016)

Policy E9

Policy E9 directly relates to heritage and the historic environment and states that:

Development and/or works affecting a heritage asset will be permitted provided that:

- a) it would make a positive contribution to sustaining or enhancing the significance of the heritage asset taking account of its character, appearance and setting; and*
- b) the significance of the heritage asset has informed the proposal through an assessment proportionate to its importance. Development which will result in the substantial harm to or loss of the significance of a designated heritage asset will not be permitted unless:*
- c) it is outweighed by the substantial benefit to the public of bringing the site back into use; or*
- d) the nature of the heritage asset prevents all reasonable use; and*
- e) its conservation cannot be achieved by either a viable alternative use, support from public ownership or funding from other sources; and*
- f) the harm or loss is outweighed by the benefit of bringing the site back into use.*

Development which will lead to less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated heritage asset will be considered against the public benefit of the proposal, including securing a viable use. The merits of a development affecting an undesignated heritage asset will be balanced against the scale of the harm or loss, either directly or indirectly, to the significance of that heritage asset.

The Council will only permit the loss of the whole or part of a heritage asset where it can be demonstrated that the new development will proceed after the loss has occurred.

- 3.3.1 In relation to the archaeological resource of the Test Valley, Paragraph 7.82 of the Local Plan states that:

Development which would involve ground disturbance in areas of known archaeological potential should be sensitively designed and located. A desk based archaeological assessment, and in certain circumstances a field evaluation, will be required. Where appropriate, archaeological remains should be preserved in situ with development being sensitively designed and located to allow their retention or minimise harm to them. Where this is not possible or feasible the Council will require a programme of archaeological investigation, excavation and recording prior to commencement.

4. ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORIC BACKGROUND

4.1 Previous Works in the Study Area

- 4.1.1 The Historic Environment Record records a total of six archaeological events in total in the study area, all of which have taken place outside the boundary of the proposed development site. The closest of these events to the site was a watching brief c.300m south of the development site. No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the works.
- 4.1.2 Of the remaining five events, one was an Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment focussed on AEP Chemical Works, c.1km west of the proposed development site and four were watching briefs. The closest of those was a watching brief at land to the rear of 5 Chilworth Old Village, c.350m south of the proposed development site. None of the watching briefs recorded any archaeological remains of any complexity or significance.

4.2 Archaeology & History Background

The Prehistoric Period (c .500, 000 BC – AD 43)

- 4.2.1 The Prehistoric period is generally well represented in the archaeological record in Hampshire, particularly to the north of the site in the Test Valley and the chalk downlands.
- 4.2.2 There is evidence to suggest widespread use of the landscape around the application site throughout the Prehistoric period. Two Palaeolithic hand axes [AB 3] have been recovered within the study area, c.950m southeast of the proposed battery site. There is evidence for activity dating to the Mesolithic era, in the form of a lithics scatter [AB 5], located c.1km northeast of the proposed battery storage site as well as worked flint scatters [AB 6 and AB 7] recorded c.900m east of the Site. There is scant evidence for Neolithic activity within the study area; the Hampshire Historic Environment Record data suggests that Neolithic activity was focussed on the chalklands to the north of the county (Hampshire Atlas of Archaeology, 2022).
- 4.2.3 The fertile river terraces of the Lower Test Valley were settled and exploited during the Bronze Age and into the Iron Age, with an Iron Age cemetery excavated c.4km southwest of the development site (Cotswold Archaeology, 2018). Known evidence for Iron Age settlement within the study area is absent.

The Roman Period (c. AD 43 – AD 410)

- 4.2.4 Roman settlement in Hampshire was focussed predominantly on Winchester and Silchester, two main *civitas*, or administration centres, and along river courses for transport and distribution purposes (Hampshire Atlas of Archaeology, 2022).
- 4.2.5 Areas around woodland and heathland were often associated with quasi-industrial processes such as charcoal production, something which would require road access. The projected line of the Roman road between Otterbourne and Stoney Cross [AB 9] is predicted to intersect the proposed cable route at Templars Way c.70m south east of the traffic roundabout at the junction with School Lane. Known from geophysical survey at a point c. 425 m south of the same roundabout, no excavations have been carried out on this stretch of the Roman road, and the condition of the feature is unknown.

- 4.2.6 A coin hoard **[AB 8]** dating to the AD 3rd century was recorded c.300m northeast of the proposed development site, it may have been buried during a time of social upheaval (Aitchison, 1988) or as an offering from a farming community (Guest, 2015).

The Medieval Period (AD 410 – AD 1536)

- 4.2.7 Evidence for continued settlement throughout the early Medieval period is scant within the study area and primarily takes the form of speculative estimates on the location of an early Christian church on the site of the existing Church of St Denys in Chilworth Old Village **[AB 10]**. Chilworth, or *Celeorde* **[AB 13]**; located c.500m southeast of the centre of the proposed battery site, the church was first documented in 1086 and developed as a small farming community. The presumed second iteration of the Church of St Denys was constructed in the 12th century. Only bells and a stone font now survive.
- 4.2.8 Evidence of a rectangular moat **[AB 14]** for a Medieval manor house was recorded c.600m southwest of the development site, indicating that the general population in the area would have likely been tenant farmers on the manorial lands owned by the Bishop of Winchester (Solent-Thames Research Framework, 2014).

The Post Medieval Period (AD 1537 – AD 1800)

- 4.2.9 The local economy during the early Post Medieval period would have been predominantly agrarian based. Evidence of this may be seen in field boundaries and plough marks, including an area of linear features **[AB 16]** c.350m east of the development site.
- 4.2.10 Evidence for Post Medieval activity within the study area is focussed on the settlement of Chilworth, c.500m southeast of the development site. Chilworth Old Village, the earliest known phase settlement at Chilworth, is characterised by its attractive built-heritage and includes examples of 16th and 17th century farmhouses **[AB 19 and AB 20]**, c.300m southeast of the development site.
- 4.2.11 Chilworth and the surrounding areas, continued to be developed throughout the Post Medieval period, evidenced by properties of the 18th and 19th centuries **[AB 21 and 22]**, c.350m southeast of the development site.

The Modern Period (AD 1801 – present)

- 4.2.12 The Chilworth area remained predominantly agricultural throughout the late Post Medieval period and into the Modern period, and the economy grew (Solent-Thames Research Framework, 2014). Earlier structures no longer suitable for purpose were demolished and newer buildings erected to serve the needs of the parish. This included the 12th century Church of St Denys in Chilworth which was demolished, and rebuilding began in 1812. The new church **[AB 24]** was completed in 1820.
- 4.2.13 The earliest readily available map of the proposed development site and the wider area is the 1872 six-inch map (Plate 2). It shows that the proposed development site was in agricultural use, and was divided into three areas, the largest of which was given over to a projecting section of Misslebrooks Copse and a smaller section of Wrens Copse. Plate 2 also shows the extent of Chilworth village, between the Church of St Denys and Chilworth Farm. The

landscape at that time was characterised by areas of woodland, interspersed with farmland and scattered settlements, as it probably had been since the Medieval period.

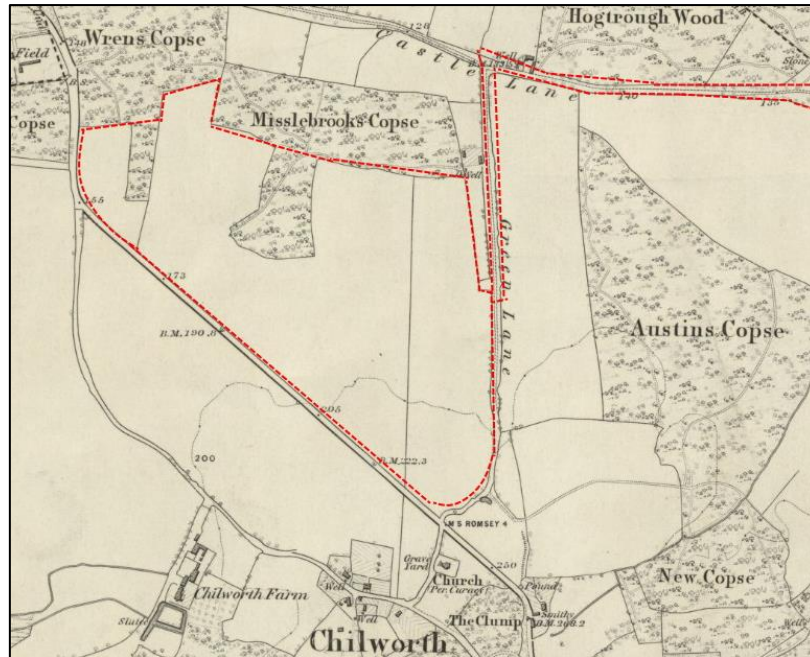


Plate 2. 1872 six-inch map (National Library of Scotland, 2022)

- 4.2.14 Locally Listed milking sheds dating to the 20th century [AB 27], located c.750m northwest of the proposed battery site, stand testament to the continued use of the local landscape for farming. Owing to the proximity to the naval ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, the Chilworth area contains some Second World War features, including a public air raid shelter [AB 29] c.500m to the northeast of the proposed battery storage site.
- 4.2.15 Plate 3 shows the proposed development site in 1967. By this date, the projecting southerly area of Misslebrooks Copse had been removed, creating the sub-rectangular area of woodland which is seen today. By 1967 modern infrastructure in the form of electricity pylons and cables had been introduced. The arrangement of the pylons on Plate 3 are different to the existing situation (Plate 4).

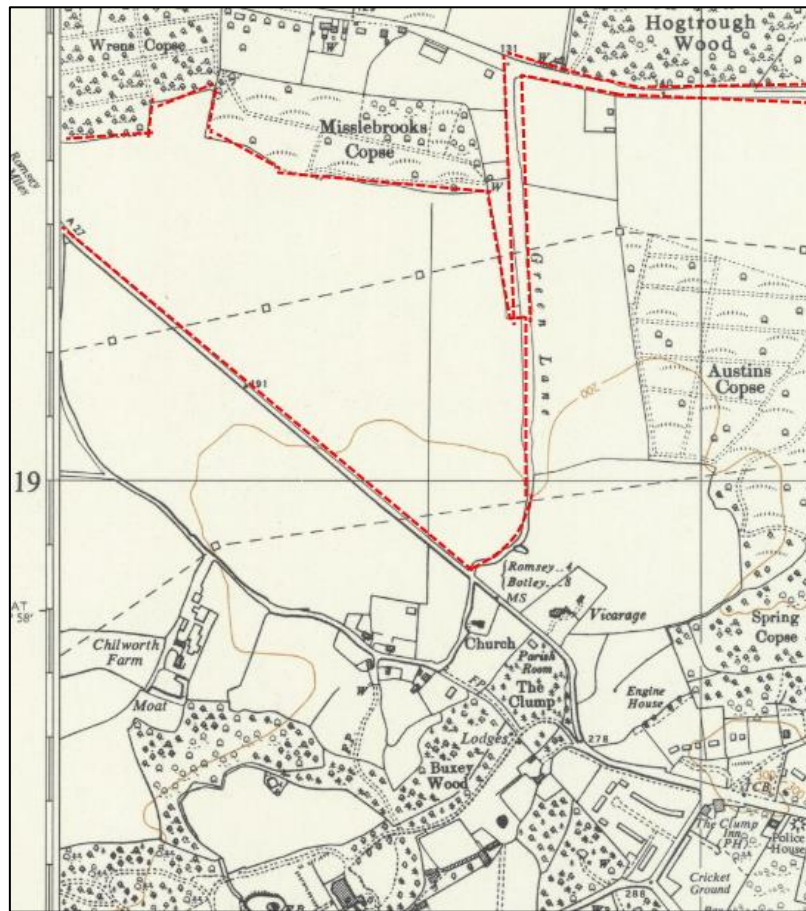


Plate 3. 1967 OS map (National Library of Scotland, 2022)



Plate 4. 2000 aerial image (Google Earth, 2022)

- 4.2.16 In March 2000, an application was submitted to Test Valley Council for retrospective permission to construct an access track from Botley Road. This access track can be seen on Plate 5, and effectively divides the land into two.



Plate 5. 2014 aerial image (Google Earth, 2022)

- 4.2.17 The proposed battery storage site is today comprised of large open fields, surrounded by hedges.

5. SITE VISIT

- 5.1.1 A site visit was undertaken by Clare Lazzari, Assistant Heritage Consultant, on the 6th of September 2022. The purpose of this visit was to gain first hand understanding of the existing land use and past impacts within the proposal site, along with an appreciation for the potential survival of the above and below ground historic environment.
- 5.1.2 Currently the proposed battery storage site is bounded to the east, west and south by dense hedges, which significantly limit views into the site. The north of the site is bounded by the southern extent of the densely wooded Misslebrooks Copse.
- 5.1.3 At present, the battery site is effectively divided into two halves by an agricultural access track from Botley Road to the south. The access track is metalled and extends for c.220m north towards Misslebrooks Copse. The track then pushes east for approximately 70m.



Photo 1. View north from the Botley Road access

- 5.1.4 The eastern part of the site is characterised by open fields with two large metal electricity pylons being the only features of note. Densely planted field boundaries prevent long views out from the proposed battery site (Photo 2).



Photo 2. The eastern part of site

- 5.1.5 The western part of the site is characterised by open fields bounded by dense woodland, which effectively curtails long views out from the site (Photo 3).



Photo 3. The western part of site

- 5.1.6 The proposed battery storage site is bounded to the south by Botley Road, a relatively busy road running northwest to southeast, and to the east the site is bounded by Misslebrook Lane, a quiet lane running north to south, connecting Botley Road to Castle Lane. Castle Lane is a relatively busy road (Photo 4). Castle Lane (and further afield, Templars Way) is proposed to be the site for the proposed cable route, which will be buried beneath the existing carriageway. This should mean that the route will be in previous disturbed ground, which should substantially limit the potential for the survival significant and well preserved archaeological remains that might be affected by the new cutting.

- 5.1.7 Despite some traffic noise, the site is tranquil and characterises the rural landscape around the area.



Photo 4. Castle Lane looking east

- 5.1.8 Around 500m southeast of the proposed battery storage site is the village of Chilworth. Chilworth Conservation Area encompasses the historic extent of Chilworth Old Village and is located c.90m southeast of the boundary of the proposed battery site. The village comprises around 20 properties arranged loosely along a main road, screened from view by dense vegetation (Photo 5)



Photo 5. Looking south down Chilworth Old Village main road

- 5.1.9 The focal point of Chilworth Old Village is the Church of St Denys, a 19th century church constructed on the site of an earlier Medieval church (Photo 6). The church is, characteristically for the Conservation Area, screened from view by dense vegetation., something which is characteristic of the Chilworth area.



Photo 6. The Church of St Denys, Chilworth Old Village

- 5.1.10 None of the heritage assets identified within the study area are visible from the proposed battery storage site. This is because of the intervening, densely wooded area of Misslebrooks Copse to the north and the dense hedges at the field boundaries around the proposal site.

6. ARCHAEOLOGY RESOURCE & IMPACT ASSESSMENT

6.1 Known Archaeological Resource

- 6.1.1 The key known archaeological resource within the study area, which could be reasonably expected to be affected by the proposed development is:
- The Otterbourne to Stoney Cross Roman road [AB 9] c. 70m SE of Templars Way / School Lane identified by geophysical survey

6.2 Past Impact Within the Site Boundary

- 6.2.1 Based on historic maps, documentary sources and the site visit, past impacts with the potential to damage or disturb underlying deposits are predicted to include the erection of two large pylons, and the construction of a hardstanding access track from Botley Road. The grubbing up of tree roots to the south of Misslebrook Copse during the late 20th century may have had the potential to disrupt any surviving below-ground remains.

6.3 Potential Archaeological Resource

- 6.3.1 For the proposed battery storage site, the sources consulted for this report suggest that the potential archaeological resource is limited. There are scatters of Prehistoric material known from within the study area [AB 6 & 7], and the potential for similar remains on the site of the battery storage installation cannot be discounted, particularly given the relatively undisturbed nature of much of the land.
- 6.3.2 Evidence for Roman archaeology has been shown to be restricted to the find spot of coins [AB 8] adjacent to Castle Lane.
- 6.3.3 Medieval or Post Medieval field boundaries and features of agricultural land demarcation are the most likely features with the potential to be present beneath the ground.
- 6.3.4 For the proposed battery storage site, it must be acknowledged that the proposal will not require any downcutting of the ground, and as such the potential for the development to disturb or damage underlying archaeological remains is Low, i.e., *Very unlikely to be encountered on the site*, and as such no Impacts Assessment will be carried forward.
- 6.3.5 For the proposed cable route, the sources suggest that the projected line of the Otterbourne to Stoney Cross Roman road [AB 9] will potentially intersect the proposed cable route on Templars Way c. 70m south east of the junction with School Lane. Given that Templars Way is a substantial modern road, it is possible that well preserved remains of the Roman road will not survive. The potential for the cable route to encounter fragmentary remains is considered to be Medium i.e., *Features may occur / be encountered on site*. Remains of the road are likely to be of Medium heritage significance, mainly because the development works would allow for a previously unavailable opportunity to excavate this feature with modern archaeological techniques.

6.4 Details of Proposed Development

- 6.4.1 The proposed development is for a battery storage installation consisting of proprietary battery units housed within shipping containers raised on concrete plinths, alongside district network operator (DNO) substations. A cable route is proposed to be installed along Castle Lane, Templars Way and Bournemouth Road (Figures 1-3).
- 6.4.2 The batteries will be held within shipping type containers raised on concrete plinths. No downcutting is envisaged. For the proposed cable route, the works will require the excavation of the existing roads for a narrow cable trench. The final depths are as yet unknown, the trench will be back filled and the road surface reinstated.

6.5 Predicted Impact of Proposed Development

Direct Impacts

- 6.5.1 The proposed cable route may intersect a section of the projected line of the Otterbourne to Stoney Cross Roman road [AB 9]. Depending on the preservation of the feature, and the constituent materials that make up the Roman road, it maybe possible to identify, investigate and record the feature, with any archaeological excavation slots being used for the cable trench. This would significantly reduce the adverse impact to the feature whilst allowing for proper archaeological examination of the Roman road.
- 6.5.2 In line with Table 3, the construction works are predicted to have an Adverse Negligible Degree of Impact to underlying archaeological features or deposits, i.e., *Barely distinguishable change from baseline conditions, where there would be very little appreciable effect on a known site*. This is because the laying of the cable would follow the line of the existing Castle Lane and hit only a very small portion of the of the entire Roman road.
- 6.5.3 In line with Table 4, this would result in a Not Significant Magnitude of Effect, at most, to the overall significance of the archaeological heritage asset.

7. HERITAGE: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE & IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.1 Focus of Study

- 7.1.1 In accordance with English Heritage guidance *Conservation Principles, Policies & Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment* (2008), and Historic England's Advice Note 12 (2019), Heritage Assets derive their significance from a defined range of interests or values. These are **Archaeological**, **Architectural** or **Artistic**, **Historic** and **Setting** Interest. This report will assess those factors relevant to the overall understanding of the importance of the feature under consideration.
- 7.1.2 The site is in proximity to several heritage assets (see Fig. 1 & 2 and Appendix 1). However, based on the site visit, historic research, and consultation, this report will focus on providing an understanding of the potential impacts to the following Heritage Asset and/or its settings:
- Chilworth Conservation Area [AB 31]

7.2 Chilworth Conservation Area [AB 31]

Description & General Condition

- 7.2.1 Chilworth Conservation Area was designated in 1989 and is included as part of the wider Chilworth Village Design Statement, developed in 2005. The Conservation Area is made up of the extents of Chilworth Old Village (see Figure 2), which grew up along one road running south from the Church of St Denys [AB 10 and AB 23].
- 7.2.2 The Conservation Area around Chilworth Old Village was designated for the settlement's architectural and historical significance. The majority of the listed properties within the village are timber-framed Post Medieval farmhouses and cottages, with some early Modern brick-built properties. Many of the properties within the Conservation Area are large, detached residences, some of which have been created from the amalgamation of two or more workers cottages. The Chilworth Conservation Area [AB 31] includes mature woodland and dense treelines screening the Old Village from long views.

Assessment of Heritage Interest

Architectural Interest

- 7.2.3 The architectural interest of the Chilworth Conservation Area [AB 31] primarily derives from the Post Medieval cottages and farmhouses. There is a homogeneity of architectural style within the village, with the building stock being typified by timber-frames with brick infill. Many of the properties have painted render over the top. The focal point of Chilworth Old Village is the Grade II Listed Church of St Denys [AB 23].
- 7.2.4 Overall, it is concluded that the architectural interest of buildings within the Chilworth Conservation Area [AB 31] is the primary contributor to the significance of the heritage asset.

Historical interest

- 7.2.5 The built environment of the Chilworth Conservation Area [AB 31] is of historical interest as an illustrative example of the development of the village from the Medieval Old Village to the late Medieval and Post Medieval periods of Chilworth.
- 7.2.6 The farmhouses and workers cottages in the village are good examples of working-class housing from the 16th and 17th centuries inform our understanding of the lives of tenant farmers in rural settlements in the late Medieval and Post Medieval periods.
- 7.2.7 For this reason, historical interest is a positive contributor to the significance of the heritage asset.

Setting

- 7.2.8 The Chilworth Conservation Area [AB 31] has a rural setting which derives from its origin as a settlement with an agricultural economy. The open fields and dense woodland surrounding the village enhance the tranquil, rural setting of the Conservation Area. The fields remain in agricultural use and enhance our understanding of the village as a settlement for agricultural workers.
- 7.2.9 The setting, therefore, contributes to the significance of the heritage asset, by informing the experience, understanding and appreciation of Chilworth Conservation Area [AB 31].

Overview of Significance

- 7.2.10 Chilworth Conservation Area [AB 31] is a designated area of architectural and historical significance, and comprises a small rural settlement characterised by Post Medieval residences and a Modern church constructed on the site of an early Medieval church. The rural, agricultural setting provides legibility of the village's origins as a settlement of farm workers.
- 7.2.11 Consequently, Chilworth Conservation Area is deemed to be a heritage asset of High Significance. This assessment corresponds with the assessment criteria set out in Table 2, *of...Grade II Listed Buildings and other designated heritage assets of a reasonably defined historic extent and significance. Examples may include areas containing buildings that contribute significantly to its historic character.*

7.3 Predicted Impact of Proposed Development

- 7.3.1 The proposal seeks to create a battery storage installation with proprietary battery units within shipping containers on the open fields between Misslebrooks Copse and Botley Road. The proposal also seeks to install a cable along Castle Lane.
- 7.3.2 Owing to the considerable dense vegetation in Chilworth and along the route of Botley Road, and the low rise nature of the proposal, it is assessed that the battery storage site will be almost imperceptible from Chilworth, which is by far the closest settlement to the proposed battery storage site. Therefore, No Impacts to the significance of the Chilworth Conservation Area are envisaged.
- 7.3.3 For the proposed cable route, this will be entirely buried beneath the existing roads, and will likewise have No Impact on the significance of the Chilworth Conservation Area.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS & CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Outline Recommendations

Archaeology

- 8.1.1 It is recommended that an Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of the cable route groundworks be carried out within 50m either side of the proposed point of intersection. Where remains of the Roman road are confirmed, it is recommended that the cable trench be extended to afford sufficient of the remains to be exposed, investigated and fully recorded.

Heritage

- 8.1.2 No further heritage work is recommended for this application
- 8.1.3 While the above recommendations are considered by AB Heritage to be an appropriate response to the likely resource and possible impact, the approval of the suitability of such recommendations are the preserve of the Local Planning Authority.

8.2 Conclusion

- 8.2.1 AB Heritage Limited has been commissioned by Boom Developments Ltd to produce a Combined Archaeology Desk-Based Assessment and Heritage Statement, covering proposed works to the Misslebrooks Battery Storage Project on land between Misslebrooks Copse and Botley Road, Chilworth. The report was requested as part of a forthcoming Planning Application.
- 8.2.2 The proposed development is for a battery storage installation consisting of proprietary battery units housed within shipping containers raised on concrete plinths, alongside district network operator (DNO) substations. A cable route will be installed running along Castle Lane.
- 8.2.3 Research has revealed the site to be within an area that was most likely tenanted farming land until the later Post Medieval period. Misslebrooks Copse, an area of dense woodland to the north of the site, historically extended further south into the proposed development site until the 20th century. The proposed development site remains in agricultural use today and is in close proximity to Chilworth Conservation Area covering Chilworth Old Village. Chilworth Old Village was a Medieval settlement which extended south from the site of the Church of St Denys. The Medieval church was demolished and rebuilt in 1812, to serve the needs of the growing population of Chilworth.
- 8.2.4 In relation to built heritage, Chilworth Conservation Area, which lies c.350m to the south of the application site, was found to be a heritage asset of High Significance. However, this report finds that the setting of the Conservation Area will not be affected by the proposed development, owing to restricted views due to intervening dense vegetation in the Conservation Area as well as the hedgerows and trees on the application site boundaries and along Botley Road.
- 8.2.5 In relation to archaeology, it is assessed that there is a Medium potential for encountering the projected line of Otterbourne to Stoney Cross Roman road as it intersects proposed cable

route on Templars Way. The remains of the Roman road if present are assessed to be of Medium significance. Aside from the location of the potential Roman Road, there is considered to be a Low Potential for the recovery of complex and / or significant features or deposits dating to all other periods within the site limits.

- 8.2.6 With regard to above ground heritage assets, no further works are recommended. However, regarding the potential to encounter the projected line of the Roman road, it is recommended that an Archaeological Monitoring and Recording of the cable route groundworks be carried out within 50m either side of the proposed point of intersection. Where remains of the Roman road are confirmed, it is recommended that the cable trench be extended to afford sufficient of the remains to be exposed, investigated and fully recorded. The proposed development works could present an opportunity for detailed archaeological investigation of the remains, which has so far not been possible, with the cable being routed through the archaeological trench afterwards.
- 8.2.7 All recommendations are subject to approval from the Local Planning Authority.

9. REFERENCES

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Correspondence

- Clare Lazzari (Assistant Heritage Consultant, AB Heritage) to Hampshire County Council Planning Department, via email. 23rd of September 2022.
- David Hopkins (County Archaeologist for Hampshire County Council) to Clare Lazzari, via email. 26th of September 2022.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Cultural Heritage Features Gazetteer

This gazetteer incorporates relevant archaeological, heritage and historic environment assets identified during a search of sources listed in Table 1 within 1km of the site.

Abbreviations

GI LB – Grade I Listed Building

GII LB – Grade II Listed Building

SM – Scheduled Monument

ULB – Unlisted Building

CA – Conservation Area

AB No.	Period	Description	Status	NGR	Ref. No.
1	Prehistoric	Tranchet axe of Mesolithic date found at Chilworth		SU 41000 18300	25845
2	Prehistoric	Results of a watching brief carried out by Wessex Archaeology at Springfield, Woodside, Chilworth. Unstratified struck flint recovered from the interface between top and sub soil context.		SU 41250 18850	57066
3	Prehistoric	Two flint handaxes of Paleolithic date.		SU 41000 18000	25892
4	Prehistoric	Undated drawing of a Paleolithic handaxe found in Fleming Avenue		SU 39559 19575	54786
5	Prehistoric	Worked flint scatter at Zionshill Farm. Surface collection		SU 41599 19704	55836
6	Prehistoric	Burnt flint (evident in area but sparse)		SU 41450 18950	37131
7	Prehistoric	17 worked flints found while fieldwalking		SU 41450 18950	37130
8	Roman	Roman coin hoard.		SU 40800 19600	70369
9	Roman	Line of a Roman road running northeast to southwest from Stoney Cross to Otterbourne.		SU 40739 18764	
10	Medieval	Site of a Medieval (or possibly earlier) church of St Denys. Demolished prior to the construction of a new church in 1812. Only a 12 th century font and two bells remaining.		SU 40650 18780	25864
11	Medieval	Boundary bank of ancient woodland. Possibly connected with the standing medieval manor house or the moated site to the NW.		SU 40300 18600	25873
12	Medieval	Nutburn Road. Follows the line of the medieval road from Winchester.		SU 39800 20380	27255

MISSLEBROOKS BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT, CHILWORTH
ARCHAEOLOGY DESK BASED ASSESSMENT & HERITAGE STATEMENT

AB No.	Period	Description	Status	NGR	Ref. No.
13	Medieval	Chilworth settlement. First documented in AD 1086 as Celeorde – Ceola's farmstead.		SU 40400 18700	28494
14	Medieval	The site of a rectangular moat. Now dry		SU 40130 18670	25872
15	Medieval	Late 15 th or early 16 th century manor house. Two bays. GII.	GII LB	SU 40186 18717	8028
16	Post Medieval	An area of linear features which include sub rectangular enclosure in the west. Some of the features may be ploughed out or field boundaries.		SU 41400 19000	35294
17	Post Medieval	Site of a building. Level area created by excavation of the slope to create a house platform.		SU 40810 18700	36774
18	Post Medieval	11 Chilworth Old Village, 16 th century farmhouse with crosswing, extended in the 17 th century and renovated in the 18 th century.	GII LB	SU 40484 18716	8037
19	Post Medieval	15 Chilworth Old Village. 17 th century cottage, encased 18 th century.	GII LB	SU 40512 18697	8040
20	Post Medieval	Cat Cottage. 18 th century. Three cottages forming an L-shaped block. Brick, painted with thatched roof.	GII LB	SU 40512 18732	2090
21	Post Medieval	5 Chilworth Old Village. 18 th century.	GII LB	SU 40520 18731	8033
22	Modern	The Beehives, Chilworth Manor. Early 19 th century brick stuccoed lodge. Circular two-storey building with timber posts and thatch roof.	GII LB	SU 40718 18587	1445
23	Modern	Church of St Denys. 1812, completed by 1820. Anglican church built on the site of an older church. Brick stuccoed, on stone plinth with slate roof.	GII LB	SU 40656 18772	1706
24	Modern	Monument 2m south of the nave of the church of St Denys. 1823. Classical square structure of vase on slender base. Inscription on one side to Pitt family.	GII	SU 40646 18768	8029
25	Modern	Milestone opposite churchyard of Church of St Denys. 19 th century. Painted stone and attached cast-iron plate, inscribed '8 miles to Botley. 4 to Romsey.'	GII	SU 40688 18818	8031
26	Modern	Chilworth Manor. 19 th century landscaped park formed from an earlier deer park. Owned until 1946 by the Willis Fleming family, the house was built in stages. Now forms part of the University of Southampton Science Park. Registered Park and Garden		SU 40416 18320	51862
27	Modern	Jubilee Cottage. An unlisted, late 19 th century cottage.	ULB	SU 40732 18557	60982
28	Modern	20 th century milking sheds with inverted L-shaped floor plan. Wooden plank construction on a brick dwarf wall with corrugated iron pitched roof.	ULB	SU 39902 19812	70259

MISSLEBROOKS BATTERY STORAGE PROJECT, CHILWORTH
ARCHAEOLOGY DESK BASED ASSESSMENT & HERITAGE STATEMENT

AB No.	Period	Description	Status	NGR	Ref. No.
29	Modern	Public air raid shelter dating to World War II recorded during the Defence of Britain Project.		SU 40820 19620	39579
30	Modern	Royal Observer Corps Monitoring Post; closed October 1968.		SU 41300 19700	41698
31	Undated	Chilworth Conservation Area. The policy was adopted by Test Valley Borough Council in 1989. It encapsulates the extent of Chilworth Old Village and was designated due to the architectural and historical significance of the village.	CA	Approximately centred on: SU 40553 18758	

MISSLEBROOKS
SOLAR FARM
PROJECT INFOBOX

Application Boundary
Site Area
16.91 Acres

Figure 1

Boom Power Ltd. Address	Project Address
Boom Power Ltd. Unit 5E Park Farm Chichester Road Arundel West Sussex BN18 0AG	Land at Misslebrook North Baddesley Hampshire SO52 9LY

Drawing Information

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2.0	Amended	SF	01/11/2022

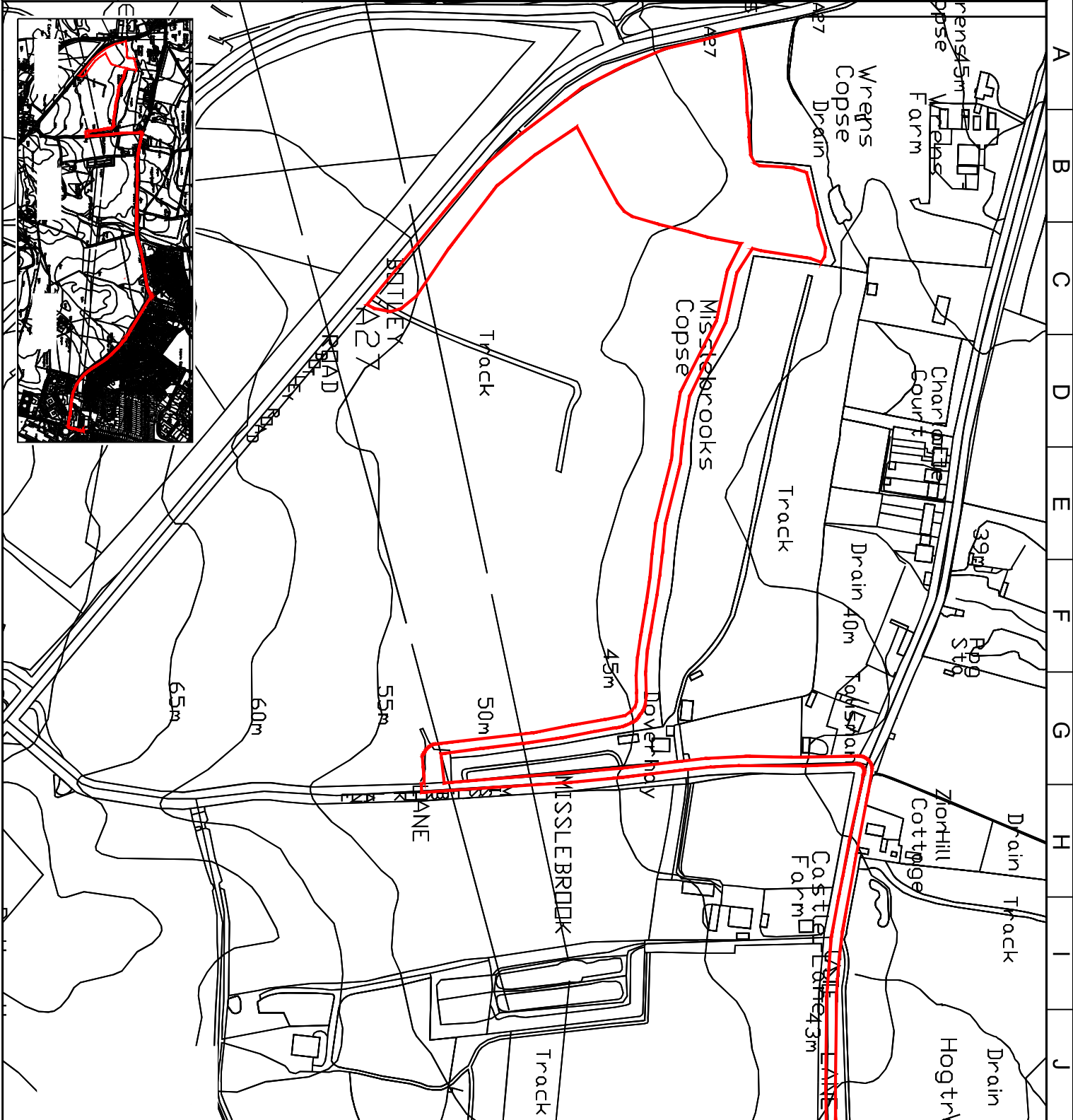
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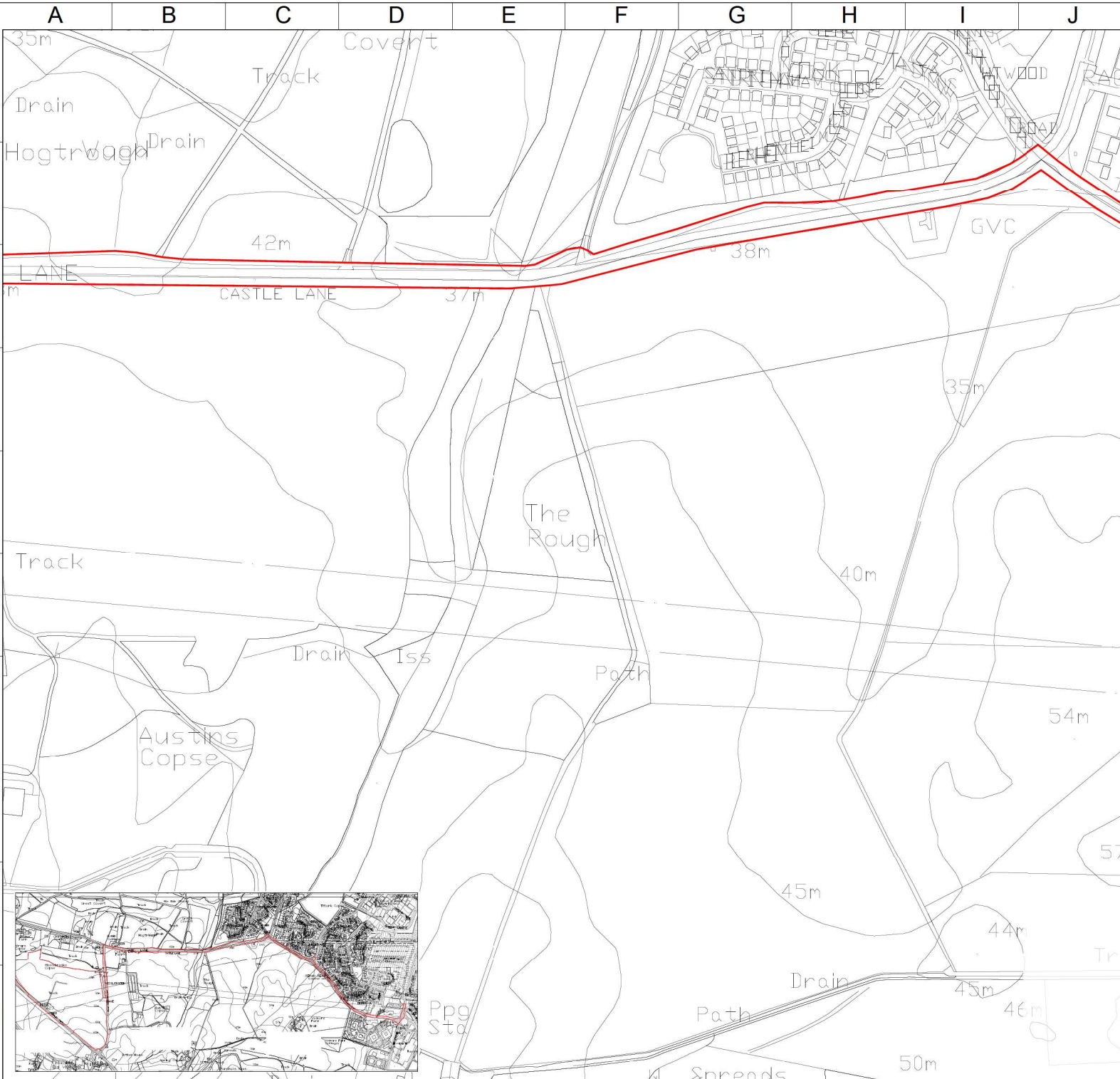
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Drawing Name	Location Plan
Drawing Number	A001.1
Designed By	Sian Fay
Sheet 1 of 1	



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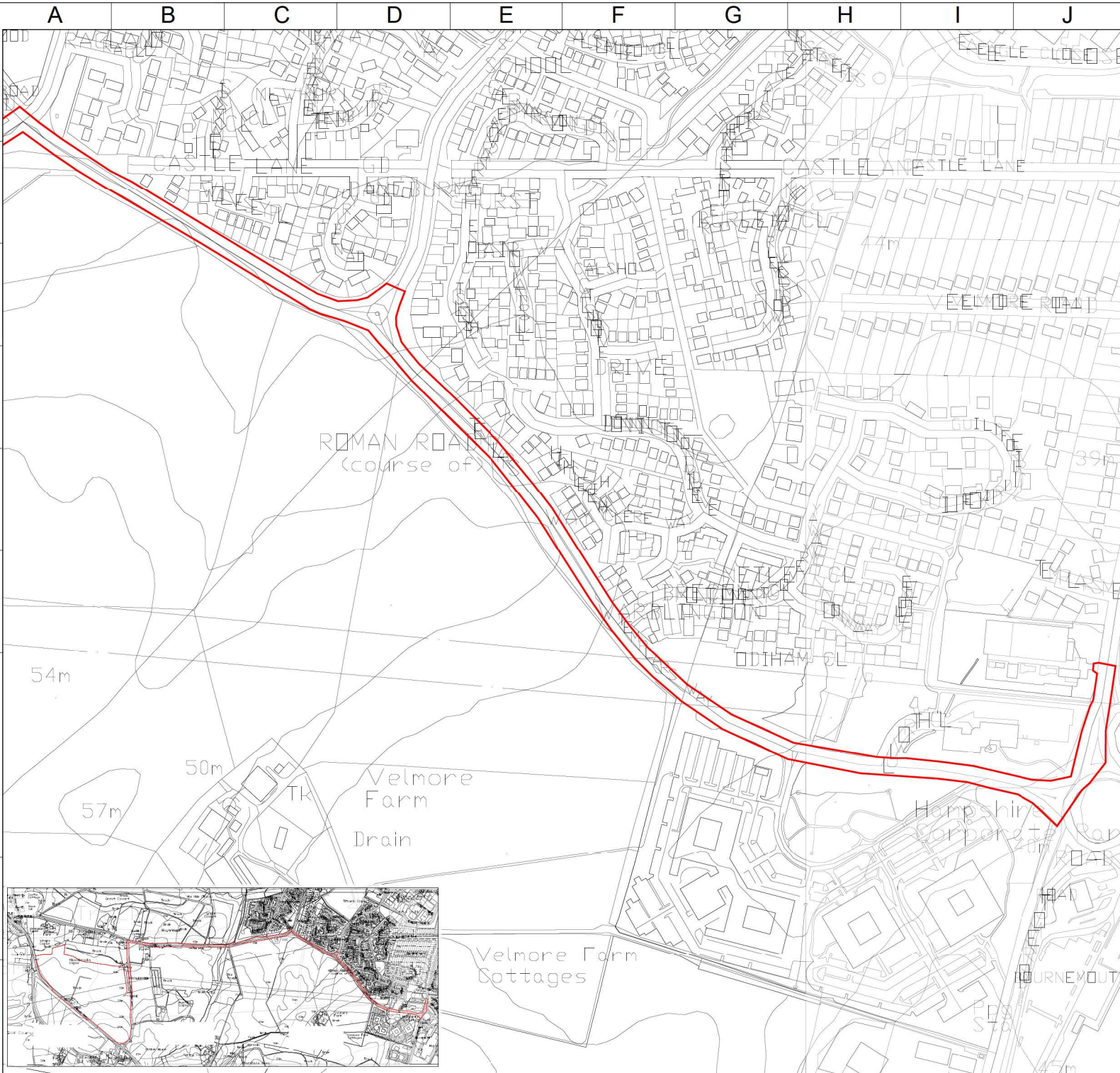


MISSLEBROOKS
SOLAR FARM
PROJECT INFOBOX

Application Boundary			
Site Area	84.13 Acres		
Figure 2			
Boom Power Ltd. Address	Project Address		
Boom Power Ltd. Unit 5E Park Farm Chichester Road Arundel West Sussex BN18 0AG	Land at Misslebrook North Baddesley Hampshire SO52 9LY		
Drawing Infomation			
V No	Revision Note	By	Date
1.0	Initial Drawing	SF	01/08/2022
Drawing Infomation			
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Drawing Name		Location Plan	
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Designed By		Sian Fay	
Sheet 1 of 1			



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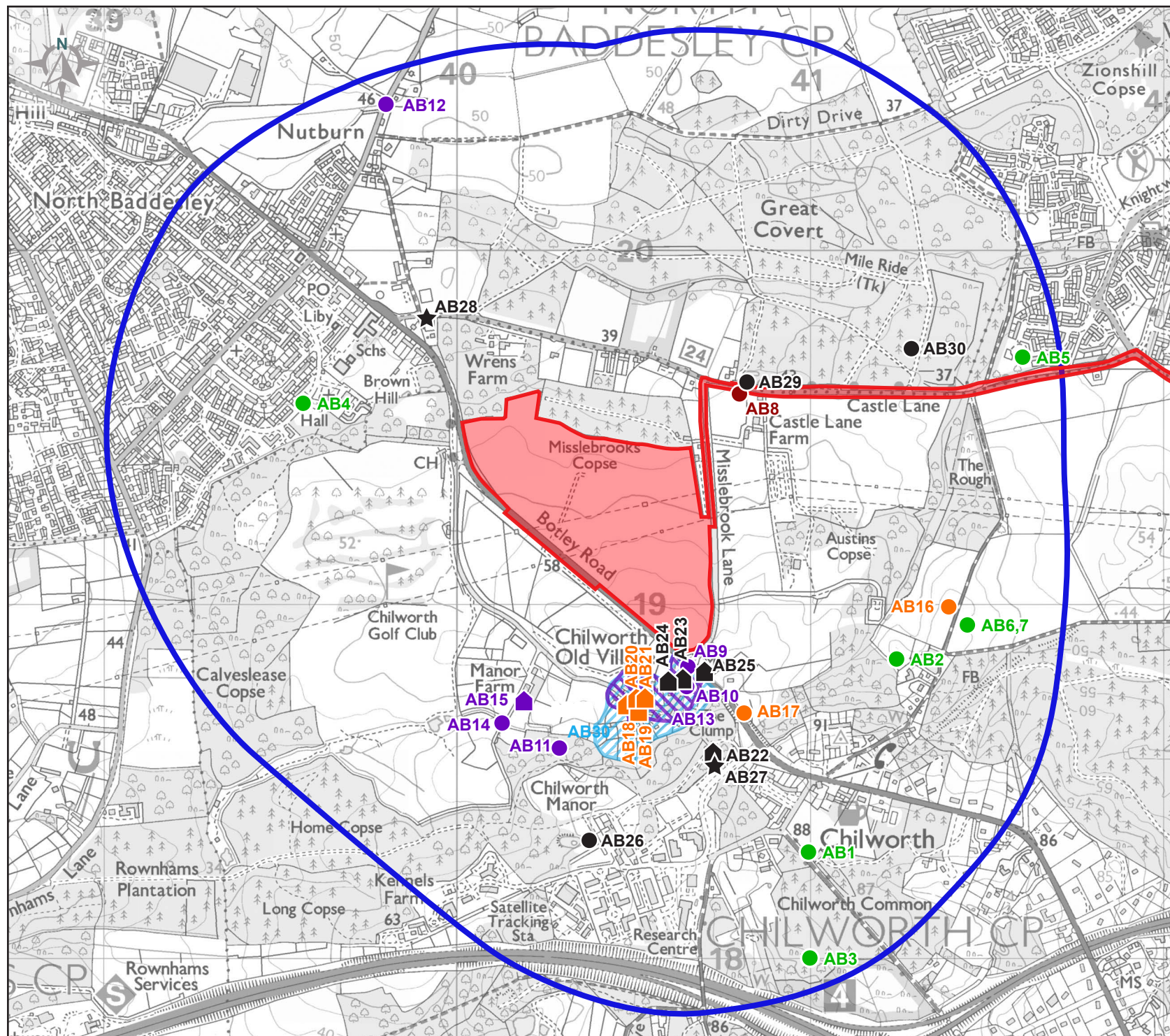


MISSLEBROOKS SOLAR FARM PROJECT INFOBOX

Application Boundary			
Site Area	84.13 Acres		
Figure 3			
Boom Power Ltd. Address	Project Address		
Boom Power Ltd. Unit 5E Park Farm Chichester Road Arundel West Sussex BN18 0AG	Land at Misslebrook North Baddesley Hampshire SO52 9LY		
Drawing Information			
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Drawing Information			
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Stage		ISSUED FOR REVIEW	
Drawing Name		Location Plan	
Drawing Number		A001.3	
Designed By		Sian Fay	
Sheet 1 of 1			



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KEY

- Site Boundary
- Search Area (1km)
- ★ Unlisted Building
- ▲ Listed Building
- Archaeological Features (point)
- ▨ Archaeological Features (poly)
- ▨ Conservation Area AB30

PERIOD

- Prehistoric
- Roman
- Medieval
- Post Medieval
- Modern
- Undated

0 500m
1:10,000

Figure 4: Cultural Heritage Features Map

Project: Misslebrooks Battery Storage Project

Date: 27/09/22

Job No: 62142



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