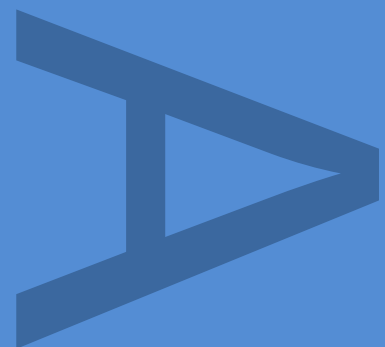


**WALLAND FARM, BUCK'S  
CROSS, BIDEFORD, DEVON  
EX39 5DP**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
EVALUATION REPORT**

**REPORT NO: R11735**

**JUNE 2014**



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY**

**WALLAND FARM, BUCK'S CROSS, BIDEFORD, DEVON EX39 5DP:  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT**

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**Site Code:** DWFB14

**Central NGR:** 235200 122095

**Local Planning Authority:** Torridge District Council

**Commissioning Client:** Hyder Consulting on behalf of Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd

**Written/Researched by:** Kari Bower  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

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**June 2014**


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## DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

### WALLAND FARM, BUCK'S CROSS, BIDEFORD, DEVON EX39 5DP:

### ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

#### Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Project Code			K3544
	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Kari Bower		28/05/2014
Graphics Prepared by:	Jennifer Simonson		02/06/2014
Project Manager Sign-off:	Paul McCulloch		02/06/2014

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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## **1 ABSTRACT**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was appointed by Hyder Consulting (the Consultant) on behalf of Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Walland Farm, Buck's Cross, Bideford, Devon (**Figure 1**). The site is the subject of a proposal for a 3.9MW Solar PV Development comprising an 11.4ha installation of solar panels.

This report details the results of the archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of one trench measuring 25m by 1.8m targeting the line of a geophysical anomaly identified in the western 'Field 5' within the site. Work was undertaken on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of May 2014.

No archaeological deposits, features, finds or environmental remains were revealed in the evaluation trench. No evidence of the targeted geophysical anomaly was found.

## **2 INTRODUCTION**

### **2.1 Project Background**

2.1.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) was commissioned by Hyder Consulting (the Consultant) on behalf of Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Walland Farm, Buck's Cross, Bideford, Devon (**Figure 1**). The site is the subject of a proposal for a 3.9MW Solar PV Development comprising an 11.4ha installation of solar panels.

2.1.2 A cultural heritage desk-based assessment (Hyder 2014) had been prepared for the site in respect of the proposed development and as part of a screening opinion completed for the Local Planning Authority (LPA) Torridge District Council (ref. 1/0053/2013/SCR). An archaeo-geophysical survey had also been undertaken of the site (WYAS 2014). The LPA's archaeological advisor Ann Dick, Historic Environment Service Archaeologist (HESA), Devon County Council, had advised that on the basis of the results of the archaeo-geophysical survey an archaeological evaluation comprising trenching should be carried out.

2.1.3 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologists standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation (IfA 2008) and Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (English Heritage, 2006). The evaluation followed a methodology set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared for the site (PCA 2014) and approved by the HESA. This report presents the results of the evaluation and aims to provide sufficient information on which to base decisions concerning the archaeological implications of the proposed development.

### **2.2 Location, Topography and Geology**

2.2.1 The site is located south of the A39 and south east of Buck's Cross at NGR 235200 122095. It comprises five fields bounded by hedgerows and covers an area of 11.4ha. The topography is undulating and slopes generally down from the west to the east, falling from 196m to 183m above Ordnance Datum.

2.2.2 The underlying bedrock comprises Bude Formation - sandstone. There are no recorded superficial deposits (British Geological Survey 2014). The soils are classified in the Hallsworth 2 association, characterised as slowly permeable, seasonally waterlogged clays, loams and silts (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

### **2.3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

2.3.1 The archaeological and historical background was summarised in the cultural heritage desk-based assessment (Hyder 2014) as follows:

- *'The assessment has identified that the application site is located in an area that has been in agricultural use since at least the medieval period. No archaeological remains have been recorded within the application site itself. However, this is likely to be related to its use as farmland for an extended period of time. Evidence gathered from elsewhere in the study area suggests that there is some potential for archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period to be present within the application site.'*

### **3 AIM**

#### **3.1 Archaeological Evaluation**

- 3.1.1 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine whether the targeted geophysical anomaly was an archaeological feature and, if so, to determine the character, extent, date, condition and significance of the feature and any other archaeological resources identified.
- 3.1.2 This report aims to provide sufficient information on which to base a decision concerning the archaeological implications of the proposed development, particularly where its impact may have affected possible archaeological resources, specifically the identified geophysical survey anomaly.



## **4 METHODOLOGY**

### **4.1 Fieldwork**

- 4.1.1 The evaluation comprised of the excavation of one trench 25m X 1.8m aligned east-west and perpendicular to the targeted geophysical anomaly in 'Field 5' (WYAS 2014) (**Figure 2**).
- 4.1.2 The trench was located using a GPS device to ensure an accurate position with reference to the plan presented in the WSI (PCA 2014), and all levels were calculated using the GPS device.
- 4.1.3 Machining of the trench was closely monitored by the appointed PCA archaeologist. Exposed surfaces were cleared of loose spoil and were inspected for the presence of archaeological deposits, features, artefacts and ecofacts. Up-cast was stored adjacent to the trench's north side.
- 4.1.4 Following excavation to a depth of 0.58m (max) an appropriate section was hand cleaned and drawn at a scale of 1:10. A photographic record of the trench was undertaken using a scale and a high resolution digital camera (**Figure 3; Plates 1 to 4**).
- 4.1.5 On completion the trench was backfilled using excavated spoil (**Plate 5**).

## 5 RESULTS

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The following summary is based on the site archive, which is currently held at the Winchester office of PCA Ltd under the site code DWFB14.

5.1.2 Trench 1 was allocated its own sequential set of context numbers (1 to 3) for the overlying agricultural soil, the underlying subsoil and natural subsoil respectively, with their depths noted.

### 5.2 Trench 1 (Figure 3)

5.2.1 The earliest deposit encountered [3] comprised of a friable, mottled mid yellow red silty clay with lighter greyish yellow patches of sandy silty-clay, with occasional manganese flecking and occasional small to mediums sized sub-angular to angular stones. The top of the layer was recorded at a height of 0.43m BGL (194.77m aOD) and has been interpreted as natural subsoil (Figure 3; Plate 1).

5.2.2 One possible feature was noted at the western end of the trench. Upon investigation this was found to be a natural tree throw, which was recorded at 0.58m BGL (194.68m aOD) and was 0.10m in depth (Figure 3; Plates 2 and 3).

5.2.3 Overlying the natural in the remainder of the trench was a subsoil [2] comprised of a friable mid reddish brown silty clay, with frequent small to medium sized sub-angular to angular atones and occasional manganese flecking. The top of the layer was recorded at a height of 0.34m BGL (194.87m aOD) (Plate 4).

5.2.4 The subsoil lay beneath topsoil [1], which contained frequent rooting, rare amounts of manganese flecking, very rare amounts of CBM flecking and very rare amounts small angular to sub-angular stones. This was recorded at 195.21m (aOD) and was up to 0.33m in depth. This layer is associated with the site's use as agricultural farmland (Plate 4).

5.2.5 No archaeological finds or environmental remains were identified.

## **6 CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 The evaluation aimed to determine the presence or absence of archaeological resources and target a possible archaeological anomaly identified by geophysical survey. No evidence of the anomaly or for any archaeological resources was revealed in the evaluation.

## **7           ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank Hyder Consulting's Jennifer Wylie for commissioning the work on behalf of Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd. The author would also like to thank Thomas Hayes for his on-site work and assistance, Paul McCulloch for project managing the site and editing the report and Jennifer Simonson for preparing the report illustrations. The author would also like to thank the groundwork contractor E.M.J Smith for their help and co-operation during the course of the evaluation.

## **8 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Hyder Consulting, 2014, *Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd Walland Solar Farm Cultural Heritage Desk-Based Assessment*, Doc ref: 2212959.

PCA, 2014, *Walland Farm Buck's Cross, Bideford, Devon EX39 5DP: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Evaluation*.

WYAS, 2014, *Walland Farm Solar Development Bideford Devon: Geophysical survey*, West Yorkshire Archaeology Service Report No: 2599.

## APPENDIX 1: PLATES



Plate 1: Trench 1 showing natural subsoil layer [3], view to west (Shot ID: DWFB14 D1 (4))



Plate 2: Tree throw [4] prior to excavation, view to north (Shot ID: DWFB14 D1 (7))



Plate 3: Overview of tree throw [4] post excavation, view to north (Shot ID: DWFB14 D1 (8))



Plate 4: View of south facing section 1, view to north (Shot ID: DWFB14 D1 (6))



Plate 5: View to west showing backfilled trench (Shot ID: DWFB14 D1 (11))



## APPENDIX 2 OASIS

### OASIS ID: preconst1-180014

#### Project details

Project name WALLAND FARM, BUCK'S CROSS, BIDEFORD, DEVON EX39 5DP: AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Short description of the project Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) has been appointed by Hyder Consulting (the Consultant) on behalf of Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd (the Client) to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Walland Farm, Buck's Cross, Bideford, Devon (Figure 1). The site is the subject of a proposal for a 3.9MW Solar PV Development comprising an 11.4ha installation of solar panels. This report details the results and working methods of an archaeological evaluation, which comprised the excavation of one trench measuring 25m by 1.8m which was opened across the line of the geophysical anomaly identified in the western field within the site. Work was undertaken between the 20th and 21st of May 2014. Three deposits were encountered during the evaluation, 2 of which relate to the present use of the land, these were observed to overlie natural silty clay. It is concluded that the sequence of layers noted in the trench relate to the agricultural use of the land.

Project dates Start: 20-05-2014 End: 21-05-2014

Previous/future work Yes / No

Any associated project reference codes DWFB14 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

Monument type NONE None

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Renewable development (Solar PV Development)
Prompt	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
Position in the planning process	Pre-determination

---

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	DEVON MID DEVON WOOLFARDISWORTHY WALLAND FARM, BUCK'S CROSS, BIDEFORD, DEVON.
Postcode	EX39 5DP
Study area	11.40 Hectares
Site coordinates	SS 235200 122095 50.8817855867 -4.50908710399 50 52 54 N 004 30 32 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 194.73m Max: 194.77m

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### Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd
Project brief originator	Hyder Consulting
Project design originator	Jenny Wylie
Project director/manager	Paul McCulloch
Project supervisor	Kari Bower
Type of sponsor/funding	Renewable Energy Developer

body

Name of sponsor/funding body  
Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd

---

### Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient  
Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon

Digital Archive ID  
DWFB14

Digital Contents  
"Survey"

Digital Media available  
"Images raster / digital photography", "Survey", "Text"

Paper Archive recipient  
Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon

Paper Archive ID  
DWFB14

Paper Contents  
"none"

Paper Media available  
"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Miscellaneous Material", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

---

### Project bibliography 1

Publication type  
Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title  
WALLAND FARM, BUCK'S CROSS, BIDEFORD, DEVON EX39 5DP: AN  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Author(s)/Editor(s)  
Bower, K.

Date  
2014

Issuer or publisher  
Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

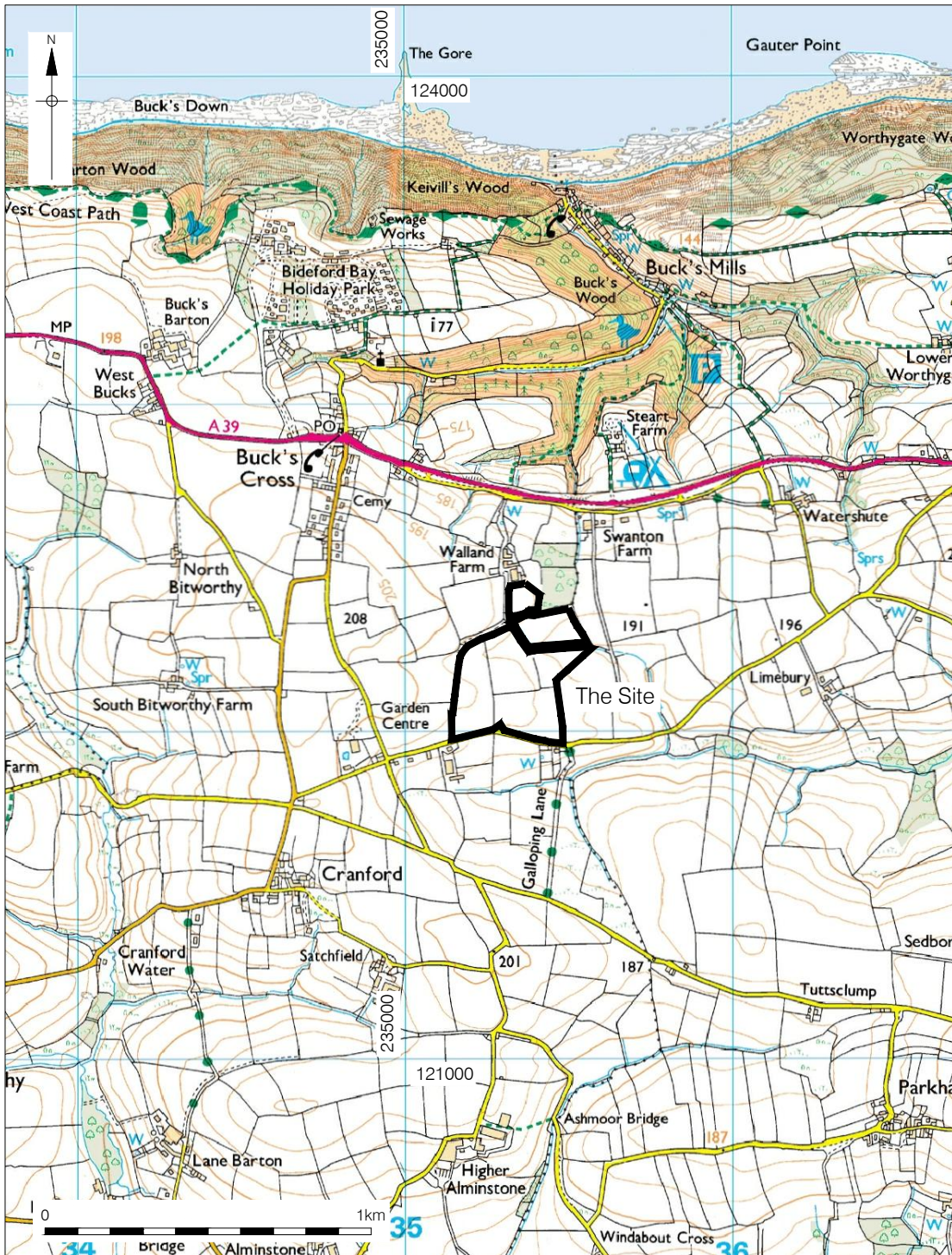
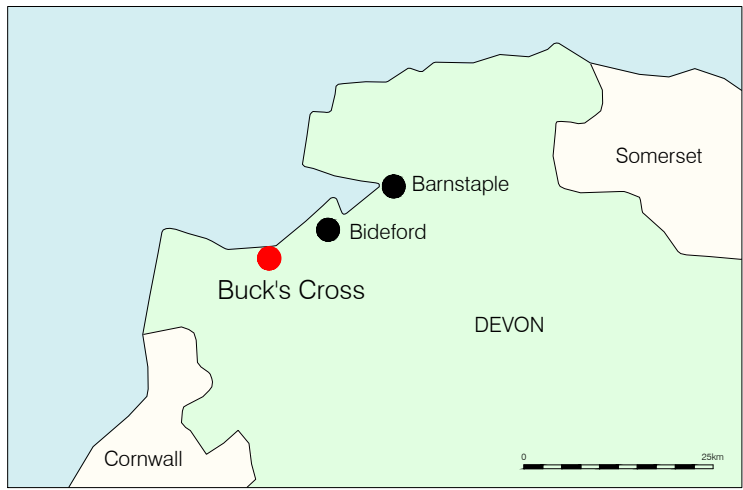
Place of issue or  
publication London

Description spiral bound A4 booklet

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Entered by Paul McCulloch (pmcculloch@pre-construct.com )

Entered on 28 May 2014



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 02/06/14 JS

Figure 1  
 Site Location  
 1:1,000,000 and 1:20,000 at A4

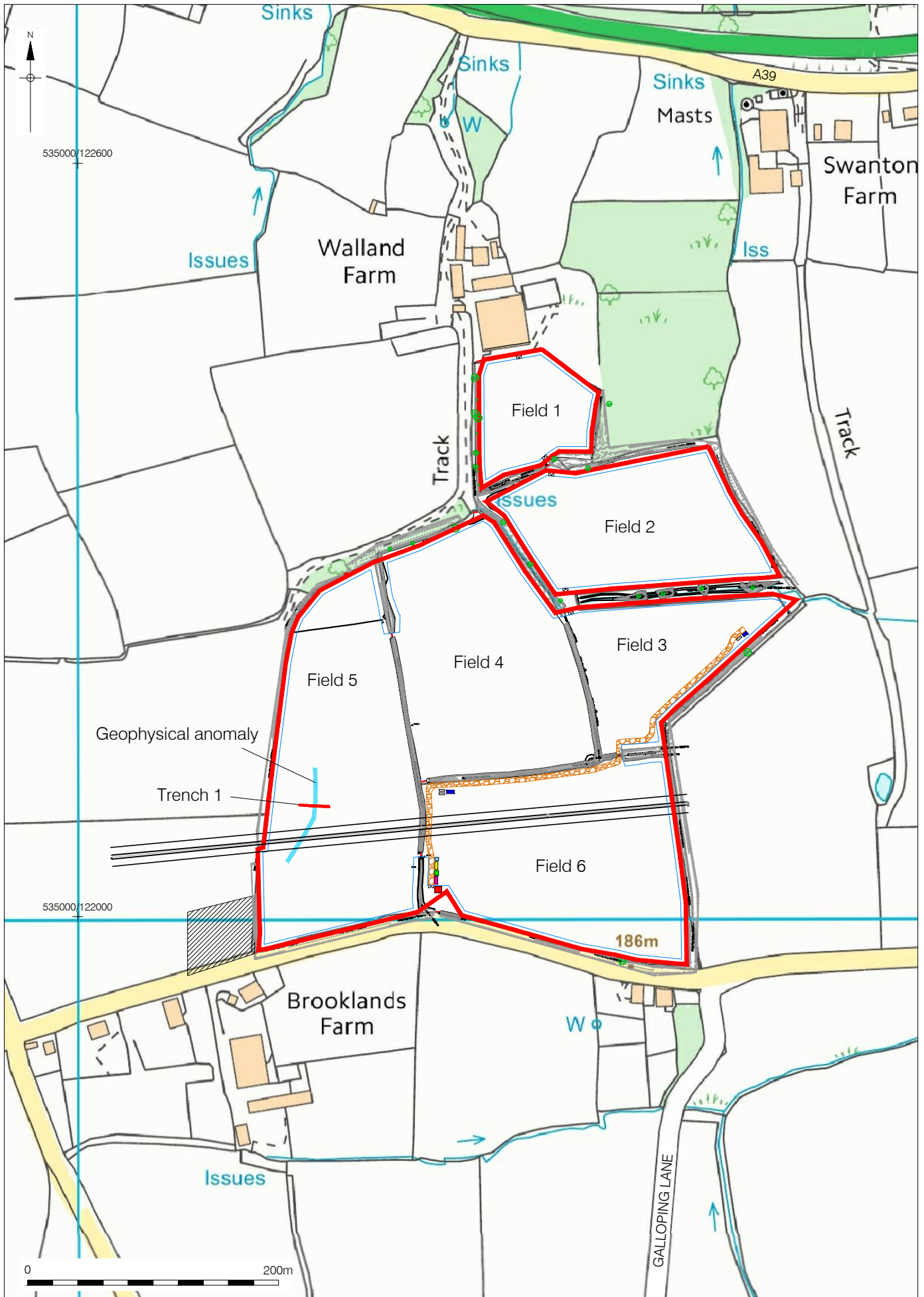


Figure 2  
 Detailed Site and Trench Location  
 1:4,000 at A4

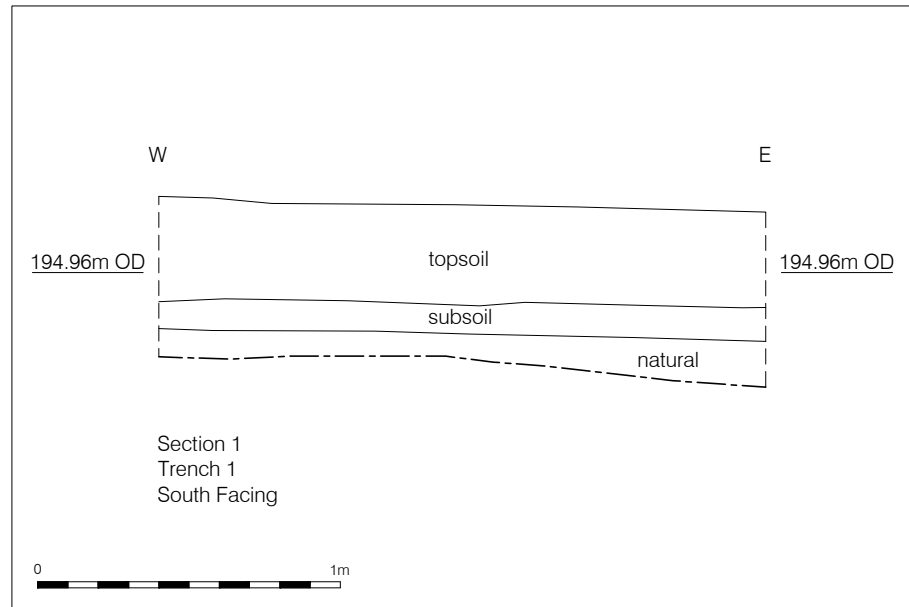
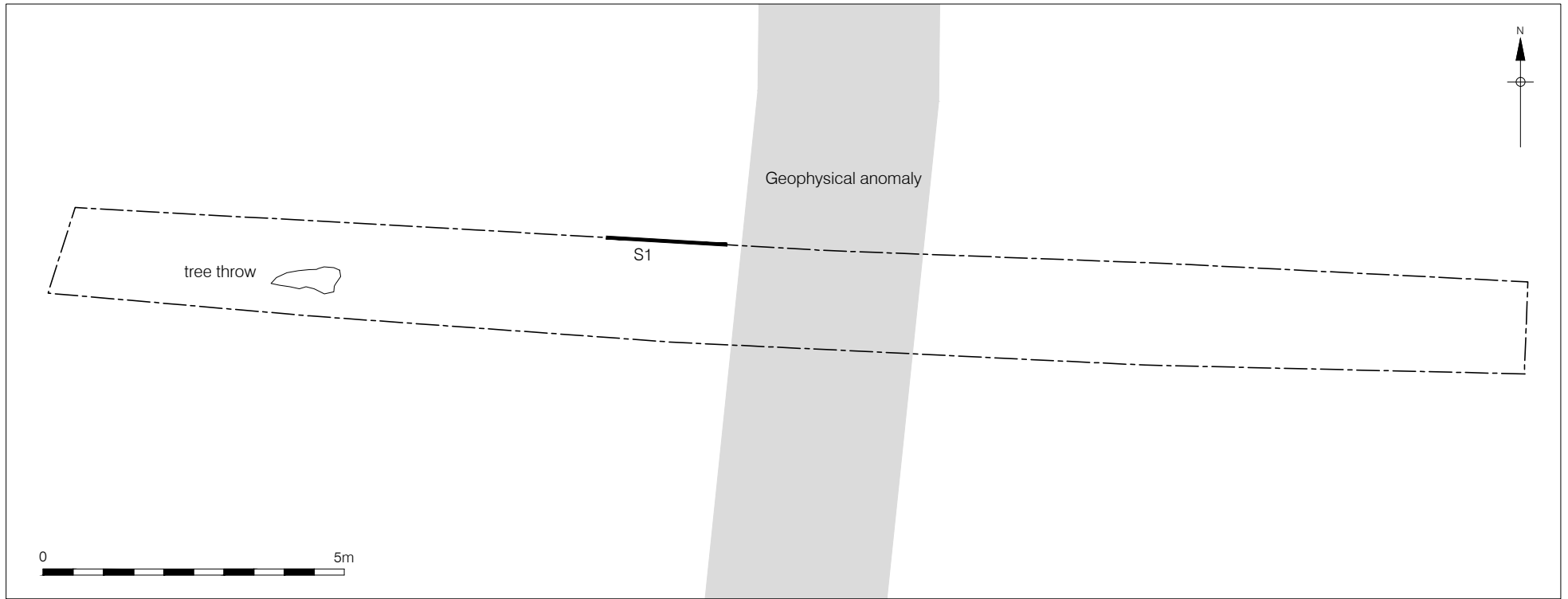


Figure 3  
Trench 1 Plan & Section  
Plan 1:100, Section 1:25 at A4

# PCA

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