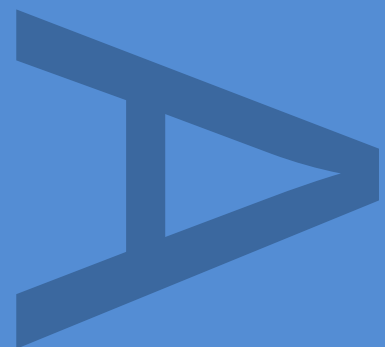


**Ratcliffe House Farm, Ratcliffe
House Lane, Ratcliffe Culey,
Leicestershire**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL
TRENCH EVALUATION**

OCTOBER 2015



**PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY
R12241**

RATCLIFFE HOUSE FARM, RATCLIFFE HOUSE
LANE, RATCLIFFE CULEY, LEICESTERSHIRE

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

Quality Control

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Ratcliffe House Farm, Ratcliffe House Lane, Ratcliffe Culey, Leicestershire:

An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation

Local Planning Authority: Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council

Planning Reference: 15/00560/FUL

Central National Grid Reference: SP 33441 99018

Site Code: X.A97.2015

Report No. R12241

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ABSTRACT

This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Ratcliffe House Farm, Ratcliffe House Lane, Ratcliffe Culey, Leicestershire (NGR SP 33441 99018) between the 14th and the 16th September 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to the erection of a solar farm on the 6.5ha plot of land. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area.

The evaluation identified a number of post-medieval plough furrows corresponding to the results of a geophysical survey. A post-medieval pond, visible on late 19th century mapping was identified in the north-west of the site and had evidently been backfilled in more recent years. No archaeologically significant remains were identified and no archaeological finds were retrieved from the site.

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 An archaeological trial trench evaluation was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (PCA) on land at Ratcliffe House Farm, Ratcliffe House Lane, Ratcliffe Culey, Leicestershire (centred on Ordnance Survey National Grid Reference (NGR SP 33441 99018) from the 14th and the 16th September 2015 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to the erection of a solar farm on the 6.5ha plot of land. (Planning Reference 15/00560/FUL).
- 1.3 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by Shannon Hogan of PCA (Hogan 2015) in response to a brief for archaeological evaluation issued by the Leicestershire Historic and Natural Environment Team (LHNET).
- 1.4 The aim of the evaluation was to determine the location, date, extent, character, condition and quality of any archaeological remains on the site, to assess the significance of any such remains in a local, regional, or national context, as appropriate, and to assess the potential impact of the development proposals on the site's archaeology.
- 1.5 A total of 21 trial trenches 30m in length were excavated and recorded.
- 1.6 This report describes the results of the evaluation and aims to inform the design of an appropriate archaeological mitigation strategy. The site archive will be deposited at Leicestershire County Council Collections Resource Centre.

2 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

2.1 Geology

2.1.1 The bedrock geology of the proposed development area comprises Mudstone of the Gunthorpe Member. No superficial deposits are recorded for the immediate area although in the wider area, the superficial geology is recorded as Lacustrine Deposits of clay, silt and sand (www.mapapps.bgs.ac.uk).

2.2 Topography

2.2.1 The study area is situated on sloping ground southeast of the town of Ratcliffe Culey. The area slopes gently downwards to the south, ranging in height from approximately 82m AOD at the northern edge to 79m AOD at the southern edge. The River Anker runs 1.3km southwest of the site.

2.2.2 The site is currently agricultural land.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The archaeological background detailed below has been summarised from the desk based assessment completed by CgMs (Smalley 2015).
- 3.2 Fieldwalking undertaken c. 200m south of the site found a Palaeolithic flint flake (MLE9734) as well as a Bronze Age flint scatter comprising cores, flakes and retouched tools (MLE9735) suggesting the possibility for settlement or activity in the immediate area. Further to the north, just less than 1km from the site, two concentric oval ditches, likely representing a double-ditched or 'two-phased' barrow monument are recorded in the HER (MLE9947). The sloping ground overlooking the river valley is likely to have been utilised throughout the prehistoric period, although evidence for activity within the site itself is limited.
- 3.3 The fieldwalking survey undertaken to the south of the site found approximately 400 sherds of Roman pottery, as well as building material, indicating the likely presence of buildings and occupation (MLE9714). Around 250m north of the site, a potential villa site has been identified through the discovery of significant quantities of Roman pottery and building material including flue tiles, roof tiles and wall plaster (MLE9558) and further evidence for occupation and settlement was found close to Ratcliffe Culey church, 450m northwest of the site, where fragments of mortaria were recovered (MLE8639). The evidence indicates the site lies at the centre of a potential Roman landscape and the south-facing slope suggests this area may have been ideal for the siting of a villa and associated agricultural activity.
- 3.4 Ratcliffe Culey is recorded in the Domesday Survey and the historic core of the settlement is located some 600m northwest of the study area. Fieldwalking in the area yielded only a single sherd of Saxon/early medieval pottery and a moderate assemblage of medieval pottery sherds (MLE19373; MLE17721). Within Ratcliffe Culey, there are earthworks relating to medieval sites including a former moated manor (NHLE 1010480; MLE3305) and parts of the medieval town (MLE19372). The Church of All Saints, which

largely dates from the 14th century, was preceded by a 13th century chapel and is located within the historic town core (MLE13090).

- 3.5 The study area appears to have been beyond the limit of the medieval settlement at Ratcliffe Culey and was likely used as agricultural land throughout the medieval and post-medieval period. The available cartographic sources indicate the area remained as fields throughout the later post-medieval, with a pond located at the northwest part of the site, as seen in the 1903-1904 Ordnance Survey map.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Excavation and Sampling

- 4.1.1 The Written Scheme of Investigation for the evaluation proposed the excavation of 21 trial trenches each measuring 30m in length, distributed across the site (Figure 2). A geophysical survey had been undertaken and was used to inform the location of the trial trenches.
- 4.1.2 Ground reduction was carried out under archaeological supervision using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.8m-wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil and subsoil deposits were removed in spits down to the level of the undisturbed natural geological deposits where potential archaeological features could be observed and recorded. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by trowel and hoe as appropriate and all further excavation was undertaken manually using hand tools. Overburden deposits were set aside beside each trench and examined visually and with a metal-detector for finds retrieval.
- 4.1.3 Metal-detecting was carried out during the topsoil and subsoil stripping and throughout the excavation process. Archaeological features and spoil heaps were scanned by metal-detector as they were encountered/ created.
- 4.1.4 Field excavation techniques and recording methods are detailed in the PCA Fieldwork Induction Manual (Operations Manual I) by Joanna Taylor and Gary Brown (2009).
- 4.1.5 All features were investigated and recorded in order to properly understand the date and nature of the archaeological remains on the site and to recover sufficient finds assemblages to assess the chronological development and socio-economic character of the site over time.
- 4.1.6 Discrete features such as pits and postholes were at least 50% excavated and, where considered appropriate, 100% excavated.
- 4.1.7 Significant features such as structural remains, including walls and demolition deposits, were recorded in plan but left in-situ pending any future

open area excavation.

4.2 Recording Methodology

- 4.2.1 The limits of excavations, heights above Ordnance Datum (m OD) and the locations of archaeological features and interventions were recorded using a Leica 1200 GPS rover unit with RTK differential correction, giving three-dimensional accuracy of 20mm or better.
- 4.2.2 Manual plans and section drawings of archaeological features and deposits were drawn at an appropriate scale (1:10, 1:20 or 1:50).
- 4.2.3 Deposits or the removal of deposits judged by the excavating archaeologist to constitute individual events were each assigned a unique record number (often referred to within British archaeology as 'context numbers') and recorded on individual pre-printed forms (Taylor and Brown 2009). Archaeological processes recognised by the deposition of material are signified in this report by round brackets (thus), while events constituting the removal of deposits are referred to here as 'cuts' and signified by square brackets [thus]. The record numbers assigned to cuts and deposits are entirely arbitrary and in no way reflect the chronological order in which events took place. All features and deposits recorded during the evaluation are listed in Appendix 2. Artefacts recovered during excavation were assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved.
- 4.2.4 High-resolution digital photographs were taken at all stages of the evaluation process. Digital Photographs were taken of all archaeological features and deposits and black and white film photographs were taken when considered appropriate by the excavator and supervisor.
- 4.2.5 Artefacts and ecofacts were collected by hand and assigned to the record number of the deposit from which they were retrieved, receiving appropriate care prior to removal from the site (ClfA 2001; Walker 1990; Watkinson 1981).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The trenches are described below in numerical order, with technical data tabulated. Features and deposits are described from west to east or south to north depending on the alignment of the trench. Archaeological features and deposits were sealed by the subsoil, unless otherwise stated. The evaluation did not identify any significant archaeological remains and no archaeological finds were retrieved from the site. A number of post-medieval plough furrows corresponding to the results of the geophysical survey were identified. Part of a post-medieval back-filled pond was located in Trench 3 and can be seen in some late 19th century and early 20th century mapping.

5.1.2 Due to the poor weather conditions during the evaluation, the GPS signal was intermittent. Consequently, the heights of trenches are approximate.

5.2 Trench 1

5.2.1 Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 1 | | Figure 2 | |
|---|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Trench Alignment: NE-SW | | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 81 |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | SW End | NE End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.29m | 0.29m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.2m | 0.29m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.49m+ | 0.58m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 1 was located close to the north-western boundary of the site. | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

5.3 Trench 2

5.3.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 2 | | Figure 2 | |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 81 |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | SW End | NE End |

| | | SE End | NW End |
|---|-------|--------|--------|
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.31m | 0.23m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.14m | 0.26m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.45m+ | 0.49m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 2 was located close to the western boundary of the site. | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

5.4 Trench 3

5.4.1 The trench was positioned to investigate potential archaeological features identified in the results of a geophysical survey (Fig. 3). It revealed the edge of a post-medieval pond, visible in 19th century mapping (Figure 5, Plates 1 & 2), but which had evidently been backfilled more recently as it contained very modern refuse.

| TRENCH 3 | Figure 2 | Plates 1 & 2 | |
|---|-------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Trench Alignment: NE-SW | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 81 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | NE End | SW End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.29m | 0.32m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.2m | 0.24m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.49m+ | 0.56m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 3 was located in the western part of the site. | | | |
| The trench contained part of a backfilled post-medieval pond. | | | |

5.5 Trench 4

5.5.1 The trench contained three plough furrows corresponding to the results of the geophysical survey (Fig. 3).

| TRENCH 4 | Figures 2 & 3 | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------|--|
| Trench Alignment: NE-SW | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 81 | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NE End | SW End | |
| | | | | |

| | | | |
|--|-------|--------|--------|
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.34m | 0.2m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.43m | 0.36m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.77m+ | 0.56m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 4 was located close to the northern boundary of the site. | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

5.6 Trench 5

5.6.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| TRENCH 5 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 81 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | NW End | SE End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.27m | 0.25m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.46m | 0.58m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.73m+ | 0.83m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 5 was located close to the northern boundary of the site. | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

5.7 Trench 6

5.7.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| TRENCH 6 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: SW-NE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 81 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | SW End | NE End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.35m | 0.22m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.61m | 0.39m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.96m+ | 0.61m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 6 was located close to the northern boundary of the site. | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

5.8 Trench 7

5.8.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 7 | | Figure 2 | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: SE-NW | | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 80.5 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NW End | SE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.39m | 0.22m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.58m | 0.53m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.97m+ | 0.75m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 7 was located close to the north-eastern boundary of the site. | | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | | |

5.9 Trench 8

5.9.1 This trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 8 | | Figure 2 | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: SW-NE | | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 80.5 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | SW End | NE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.21m | 0.27m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.15m | 0.63m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.36m+ | 0.9m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 8 was located close to the eastern boundary of the site. | | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | | |

5.10 Trench 9

5.10.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 9 | | Figure 2 | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: SW-NE | | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 80 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | SW End | NE End | |

| | | | |
|--|-------|--------|--------|
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.29m | 0.35m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.24m | 0.16m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.53m+ | 0.51m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 9 was located in the centre of the site. | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

5.11 Trench 10

5.11.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| TRENCH 10 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: SW-NE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 80 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | SW End | NE End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.28m | 0.39m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.84m | 0.58m |
| Natural | (102) | 1.12m+ | 0.97m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 10 was located close to the eastern boundary of the site. | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

5.12 Trench 11

5.12.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| | | | |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| TRENCH 11 | Figure 2 | | |
| Trench Alignment: SW-NE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 80 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | |
| | | SW End | NE End |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.32m | 0.28m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.6m | 0.34m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.92m+ | 0.62m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 11 was located in the centre of the site. | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

5.13 Trench 12

5.13.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 12 | | Figure 2 | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: SW-NE | | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 80 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | SW End | NE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.35m | 0.25m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.74m | 0.54m | |
| Natural | (102) | 1.09m+ | 0.79m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 12 was located close to the south-western boundary of the site. | | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | | |

5.14 Trench 13

5.14.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 13 | | Figure 2 | | |
|--|--------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 80 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NW End | SE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.25m | 0.31m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.48m | 0.31m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.73m+ | 0.62m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 13 was located in the centre of the site. | | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | | |

5.15 Trench 14

5.15.1 The trench contained a plough furrow corresponding to the results of the geophysical survey (Fig. 3).

| TRENCH 14 | | Figure 2 | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 79.5 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |

| | | NW End | SE End |
|---|-------|--------|--------|
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.26m | 0.14m |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.42m | 0.49m |
| Natural | (102) | 0.68m+ | 0.63m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 14 was located close to the southern boundary of the site. | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

5.16 Trench 15

5.16.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 15 | | Figure 2 | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 80 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NW End | SE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.36m | 0.38m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.61m | 0.29m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.97m+ | 0.67m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 15 was located in the centre of the site. | | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | | |

5.17 Trench 16

5.17.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 16 | | Figure 2 | | Plate |
|--|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Trench Alignment: NE-SW | | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 79.5 | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NE End | SW End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.71m | 0.29m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.25m | 0.49m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.96m+ | 0.78m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 16 was located in the eastern part of the site. | | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | | |

5.18 Trench 17

5.18.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 17 | Figure 2 | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 79.5 | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NW End | SE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.41m | 0.32m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.23m | 0.19m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.64m+ | 0.51m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 17 was located close to the eastern boundary of the site. | | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | | |

5.19 Trench 18

5.19.1 The trench contained two plough furrows on a north-west to south-east alignment. These were excavated to correctly identify them. They corresponded to the results of the geophysical survey (Fig. 3).

| TRENCH 18 | Figures 2, 3 & 4 | | Plate 4 | |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: SW-NE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 79.5 | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | SW End | NE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.41m | 0.29m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.31m | 0.04m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.72m+ | 0.33m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 18 was located in the southern part of the site. | | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits, although two plough furrows [103] and [105] were excavated and recorded. | | | | |

5.20 Trench 19

5.20.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 19 | Figure 2 | | | |
|--|--------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 79.5 | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NW End | SE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.38m | 0.24m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.33m | 0.44m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.71m+ | 0.68m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 19 was located in the southern part of the site. | | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | | |

5.21 Trench 20

5.21.1 The trench contained a plough furrow corresponding to the results of the geophysical survey (Fig. 3).

| TRENCH 20 | Figure 2 | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 79 | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NW End | SE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.26m | 0.18m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.14m | 0.27m | |
| Natural | (102) | 0.40m+ | 0.45m+ | |
| Summary | | | | |
| Trench 20 was located close to the southern boundary of the site. | | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | | |

5.22 Trench 21

5.22.1 The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits.

| TRENCH 21 | Figure 2 | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|--|
| Trench Alignment: NW-SE | Length: 30m | Level of Natural (m OD): 79 | | |
| Deposit | Context No. | Average Depth (m) | | |
| | | NW End | SE End | |
| Topsoil | (100) | 0.23m | 0.29m | |
| Subsoil | (101) | 0.25m | 0.33m | |

| | | | |
|---|-------|--------|--------|
| Natural | (102) | 0.48m+ | 0.62m+ |
| Summary | | | |
| Trench 21 was located close to the southern boundary of the site. | | | |
| The trench contained no archaeological features or deposits. | | | |

6 CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The evaluation identified a number of post-medieval plough furrows corresponding to the results of a geophysical survey.
- 6.2 Trench 3 revealed a post medieval pond which had been backfilled (perhaps levelled as part of agricultural processes) in recent years. The backfill contained modern plastic and other modern refuse.
- 6.3 No significant archaeological remains were identified and no archaeological artefacts were found.

7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 7.1 Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd would like to thank by CgMs Consulting Ltd and Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd for commissioning the work and Anthill Plant Hire for operating the excavator. PCA are also grateful to Teresa Hawtin of Leicestershire Historic and Natural Environment Team (LHNET) for her advice and for monitoring the work. The author would like to thank Mark Hinman for managing the project. The author would also like to thank Donald Sutherland and Steve Jones for their hard work on site, and finally PCA's CAD department for preparing the figures.

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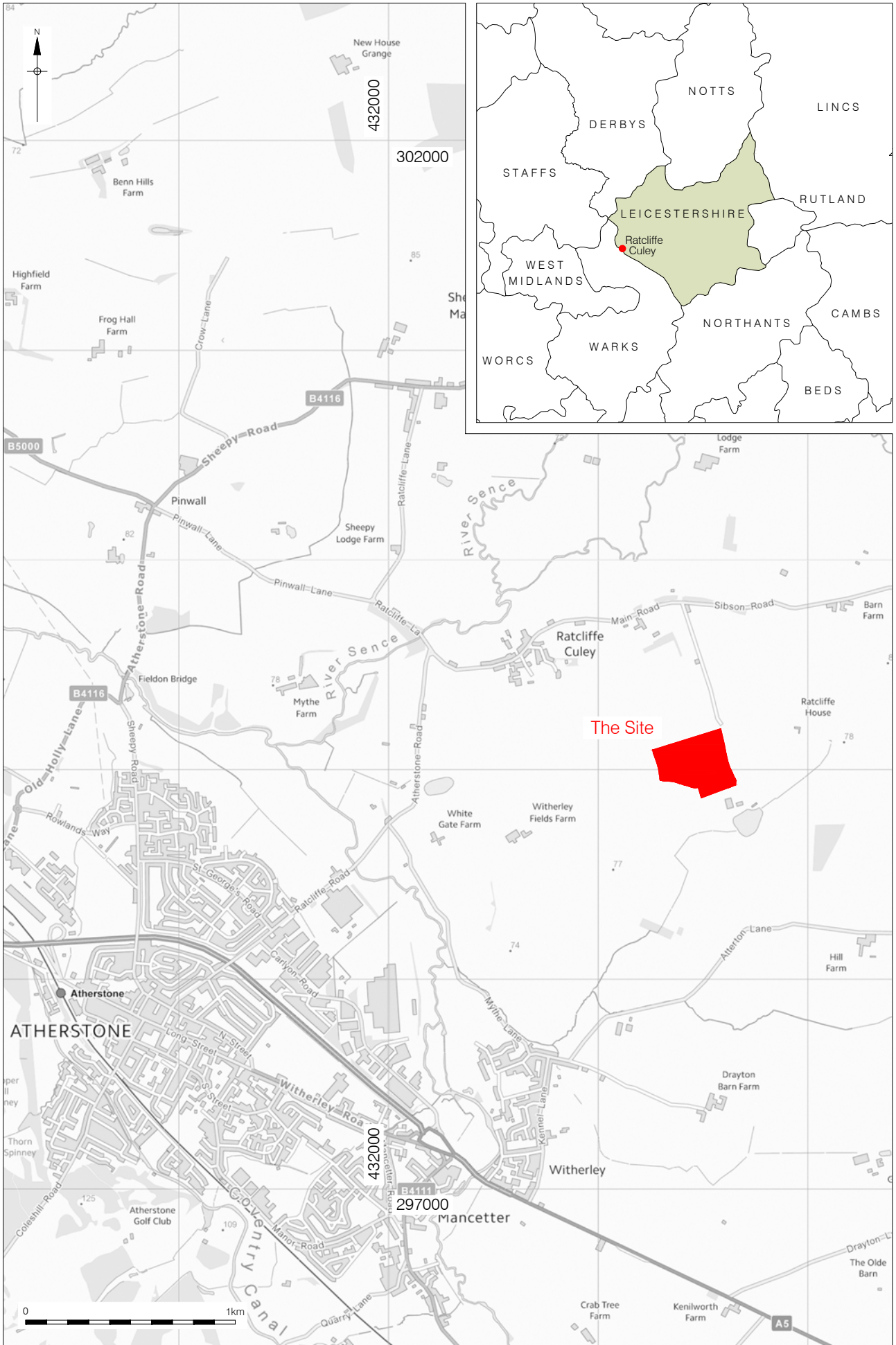
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Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:2,000,000 & 1:25,000 at A4

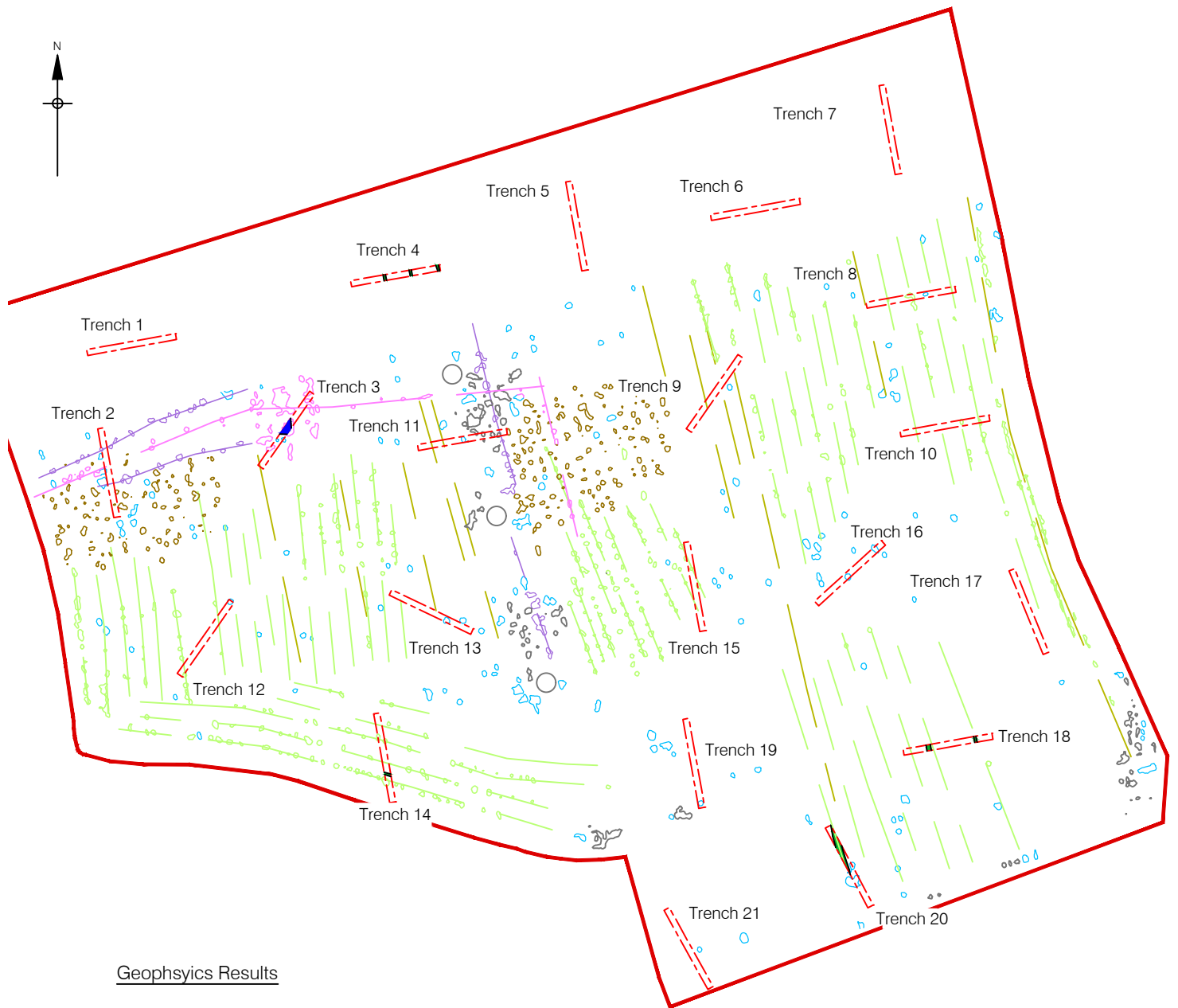


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Figure 2
Trench Location
1:2,500 at A4



Geophysics Results

-  magnetic anomalies (archaeological ?)
-  strong (recent /natural ?) magnetic disturbances
-  electricity poles
-  stronger background magnetic anomalies (gravel soil ?)
-  cultivation (ridge and furrow ?)
-  cultivation (recent)
-  strong (ferrous) magnetic anomalies
-  drain

Archaeology



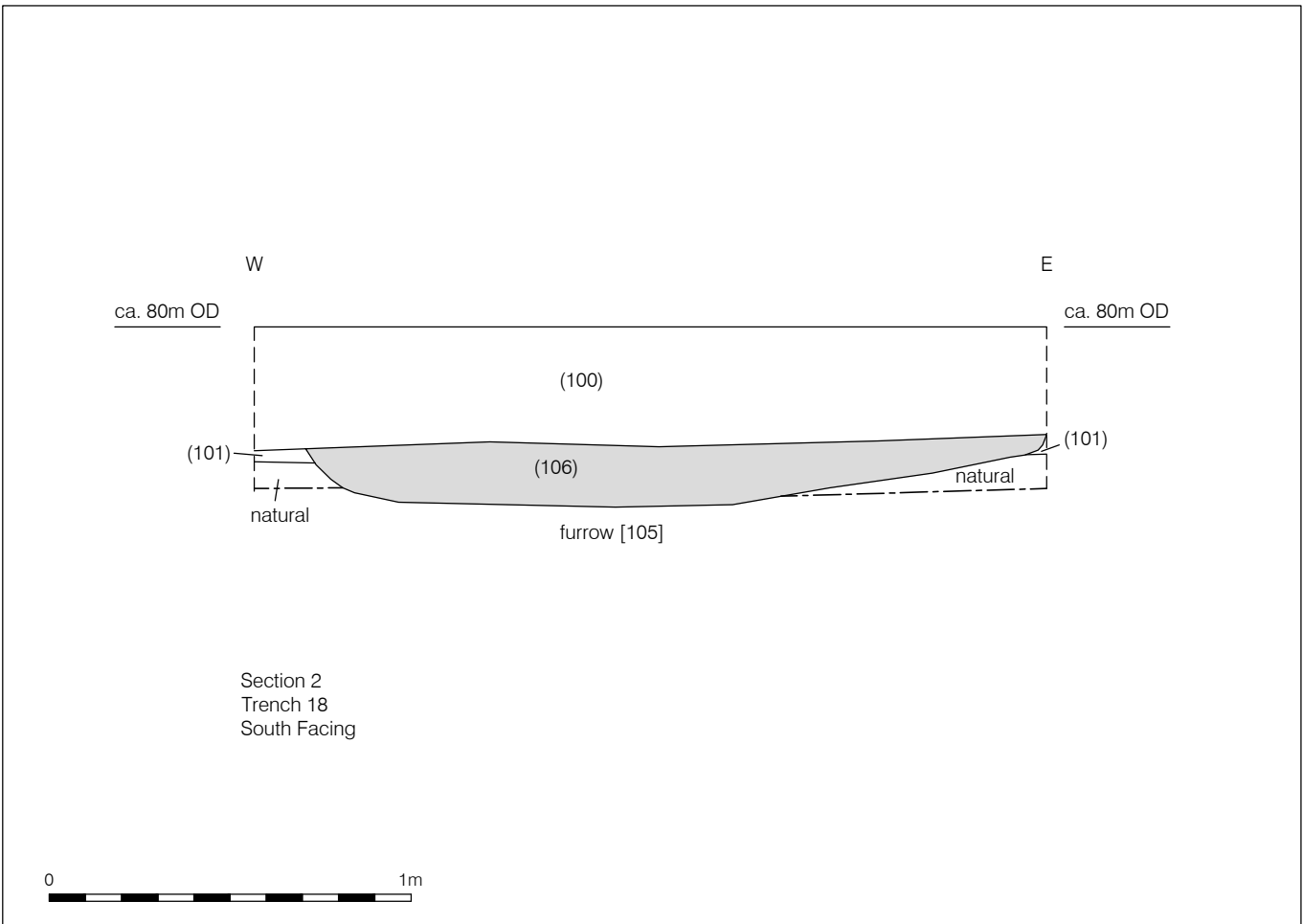
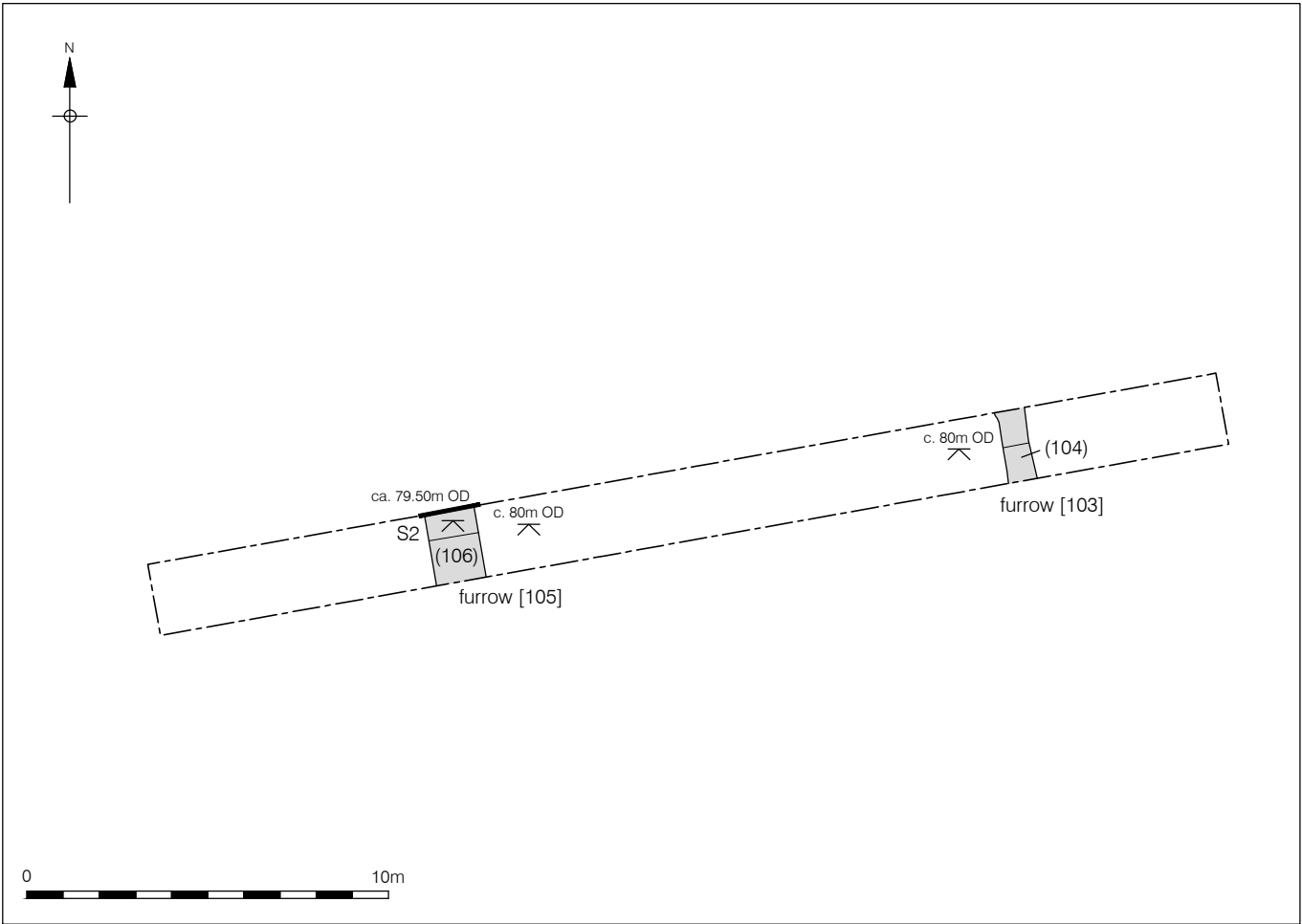
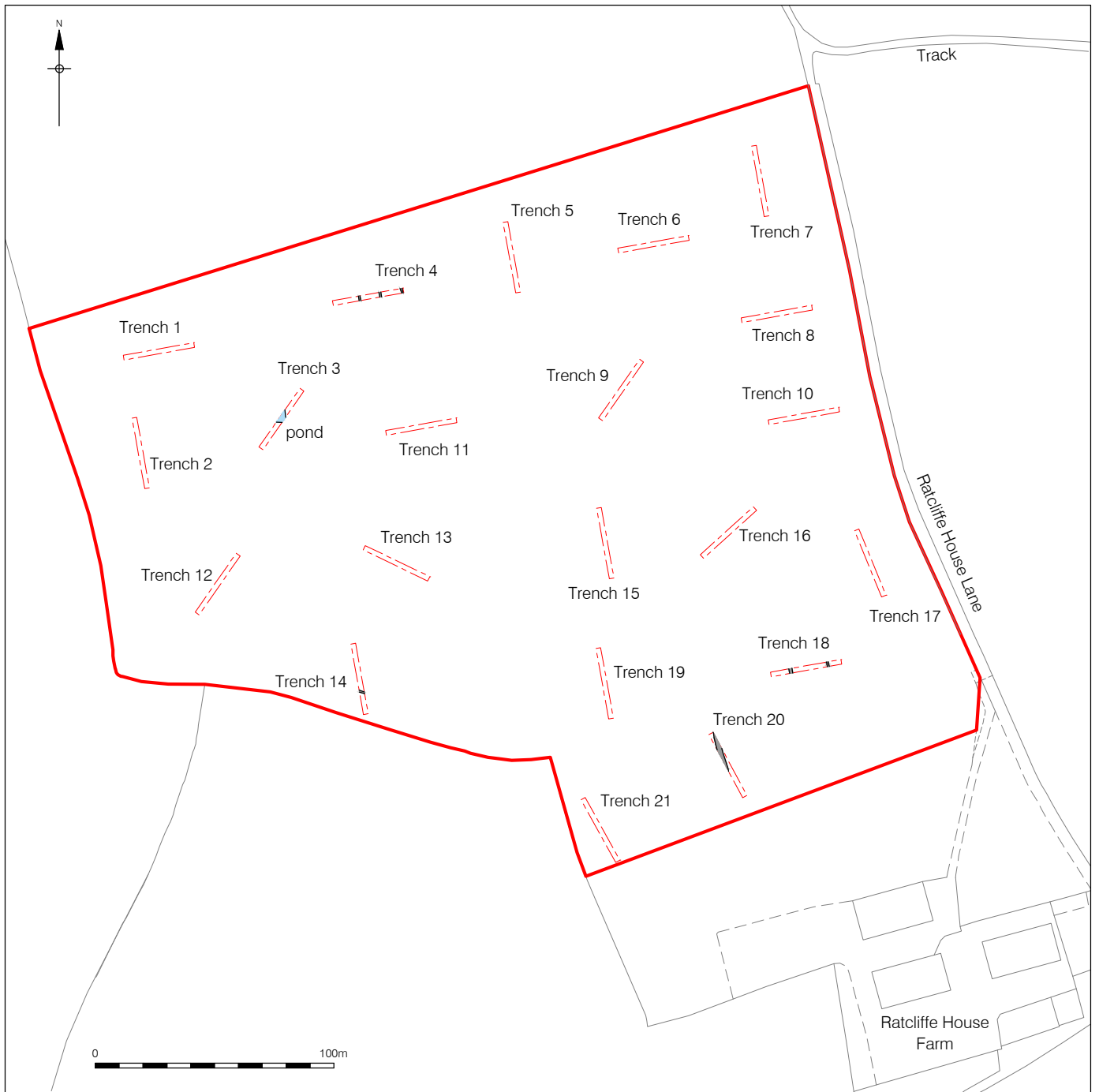
-  Furrow (Trenches 4, 14, 18 & 20)
-  Infilled Pond (Trench 3)



Figure 3
Geophysics Results and Archaeology
1:2,000 at A4





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Figure 5
 Trenches overlain onto 1st edition Ordnance Survey map 1886-9
 1:2,500 at A4

9 APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: Excavation of modern pond



Plate 2: Section of pond, view north-west



Plate 3: General view of site, view north-west.



Plate 4: Trench 18, view north-east.



10 APPENDIX 2: CONTEXT INDEX

| Context | Cut | Type | Category | Interpretation | Trench Number |
|---------|-----|-------|----------|----------------------|---------------|
| 100 | - | Layer | Topsoil | Overburden | - |
| 101 | - | Layer | Subsoil | Overburden | - |
| 102 | - | Layer | Natural | Natural clay geology | - |
| 103 | 103 | Cut | Furrow | | 18 |
| 104 | 103 | Fill | Furrow | Fill of [103] | 18 |
| 105 | 105 | Cut | Furrow | | 18 |
| 106 | 105 | Fill | Furrow | Fill of [105] | 18 |

11 APPENDIX 3: OASIS FORM

OASIS ID: preconst1-224104

Project details

Project name Ratcliffe House Farm, Ratcliffe House Lane, Ratcliffe Culey, Leicestershire: An Archaeological Evaluation

Short description of the project This report describes the results of an archaeological trial trench evaluation carried out by Pre-Construct Archaeology on land at Ratcliffe House Farm, Ratcliffe House Lane, Ratcliffe Culey, Leicestershire (NGR SP 33441 99018) between the 14th and the 16th September 2015. The archaeological work was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd on behalf of Lightsource Renewable Energy Ltd in response to a planning condition attached to the erection of a solar farm on the 6.5ha plot of land. The aim of the work was to characterise the archaeological potential of the proposed development area. The evaluation identified a number of post-medieval plough furrows corresponding to the results of a geophysical survey. A recently backfilled post-medieval pond was identified in the north-west of the site. No archaeologically significant remains were identified.

Project dates Start: 14-09-2015 End: 16-09-2015

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes X.A97.2015 - Sitecode

Type of project Field evaluation

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Methods & techniques "Targeted Trenches"

Development type Solar farm

Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Position in the planning process After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country England

Site location LEICESTERSHIRE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH WITHERLEY
Ratcliffe House Farm, Ratcliffe House Lane, Ratcliffe Culey,
Leicestershire

Study area 6.5 Hectares

Site coordinates SP 33441 99018 52.587579410921 -1.506342962808 52 35 15 N
001 30 22 W Point

Project creators

Name of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Organisation

Project brief Leicestershire County Archaeology Office
originator

Project design CgMs Consulting
originator

Project Mark Hinman
director/manager

Project supervisor Stephen Porter

Project archives

Physical Archive No
Exists?

Digital Archive Leicestershire Museums Service
recipient

Digital Archive ID X.A97.2015

Digital Contents "Survey"

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

Paper Archive Leicestershire Museums Service
recipient

Paper Archive ID X.A97.2015

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media "Context sheet","Plan","Report","Section"
available

Project bibliography

1

Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Publication type

Title Ratcliffe House Farm, Ratcliffe House Lane, Ratcliffe Culey,
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Author(s)/Editor(s) Porter, S

Date 2015

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