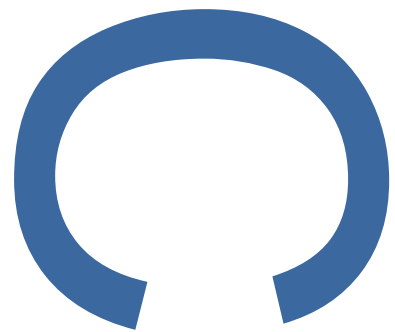


**THE WILLOWS,
UTTOXETER,
STAFFORDSHIRE**



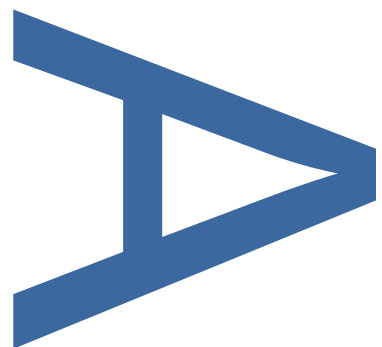
**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL
WATCHING BRIEF**



Planning Reference: P/2015/00434

PCA Report Number: R12961

July 2017



PRE-CONSTRUCT ARCHAEOLOGY LTD

DOCUMENT VERIFICATION

THE WILLOWS, UTTOXETER, STAFFORDSHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF
REPORT

Quality Control

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd	
Project Number	K4857
Report Number	R12961

	Name & Title	Signature	Date
Text Prepared by:	Kathryn Brook		25/07/2017
Graphics Prepared by:	Tilia Cammegh		26/07/2017
Graphics Checked by:	Mark Roughly		26/01/2017
Project Manager Sign-off:	Kevin Trott		26/01/2017

Revision No.	Date	Checked	Approved

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WATCHING BRIEF REPORT

**The Willows
Uttoxeter
Staffordshire
NGR SK 10779 33387**

Contractor: Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd (Newark Office)

Office 8, Roewood Courtyard, Winkburn, Newark Nottinghamshire, NG22 8PG

Contact: Kevin Trott Telephone: 01636 370 410 Email: info.newark@pre-construct.com

Client: Amour Heritage

Planning Application Number: P/2015/00434

PCA Site Code: TWUS 17

PCA Report No: R12961

LOCATION

Planning Authority: Archaeological Watching Brief

District: Uttoxeter

County: Staffordshire

Site address: *The Willows, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire*

DEVELOPMENT DESCRIPTION:

An appropriately specified programme of archaeological work was required in association with the construction of a Solar Farm, centred at NGR SK 10779 33387 (Figure 1). The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA), and involved archaeological observation and recording during the installation of underground cables, access road and substation associated with the construction of a solar farm (Ref. P/2015/00434). A Written Scheme of Investigation was produced for the site by Armour Heritage (Armour Heritage 2016) and was adhered to in full.

The location of the solar farm comprises c.8.49 hectares of arable land 1.4km east of Uttoxeter. The site comprised four arable fields that were generally flat, approximately lying between 73m AOD and 77m AOD. It was surrounded on all sides by further arable fields with the boundary formed by a mix of ditch and hedgerow.

REASON FOR WATCHING BRIEF:

Two historic environment desk based assessments (Armour Heritage 2015a, Armour Heritage 2015b), LiDAR analysis (Malone 2015) and a geophysical survey (ArchaeoPhysica 2015) have previously been completed at the site and established the development was likely to affect below ground archaeological remains should they be present. Following amendments to the scheme layout which

avoided the significant features identified in the LIDAR research and geophysical survey the Local Planning Authority agreed a programme of archaeological monitoring during groundworks at the site that would be sufficient to record anything of archaeological interest.

DATES WORK UNDERTAKEN:

Archaeological work was undertaken at the site in the following months:

- January 2017 6 days
- February 2017 8 days
- March 2017 4 days

RESULTS:

During the watching-brief, separate stratigraphic entities were assigned unique and individual 'context' numbers, which are indicated in the following text as, for example (123).

The archaeological watching brief involved the monitoring of all the cable trenches, access road and substation (Figure 2). The cable trenches measured c.0.60 -0.80m wide and were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.8-1.10m. The access road measured approximately 3m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.1m. The substation was approximately 4mx5m and excavated to a maximum depth of 0.3m. Representative sample sections of the cable route can be seen within Figures 3 and 4. The table below summarises the deposits encountered within the site:

Topsoil		Subsoil		Waterlogged deposit		Alluvial Silt deposit	
C	T	C	T	C	T	C	T
(100)	0.2-0.6m	(102)	0.29-0.92m	(104)	>0.34	(111)	>0.04m
(110)	0.2-0.29m	(109)	0.28m-0.62m	(108)	->0.32m		

Note: C = Context; T = Thickness

Summary of encountered strata depths (geological material is shown in the table below)

Strata	Context	Section No.	Summary description
Topsoil	(100)	1-4	Friable dark greyish brown, silty clay.
	(110)	5-18	
Subsoil	(101)	1-4	Friable greyish red brown, silty clay.
	(109)	5-10 & 12-18	Friable reddish brown or yellowish brown, silty clay.
Waterlogged deposit	(104)	2	Friable dark black brown, silty clay.
	(108)	4	Friable dark greyish brown, silty clay with very occasional organic content.
Alluvial Silt deposit	(111)	9	Friable mid grey, fine silt, characteristic of alluvial deposits

Note: context numbers 102– 103, 105-107 were all void

Summary of encountered strata descriptions

Strata	Context	Type	Section Number	Summary description
Watercourse	(112)	Fill	10-12	Friable mid yellowish brown, silty with clay, truncated by a modern land drain. Fill sterile
	[113]	Cut		Shallow sloping sides linear in plan running SE-NW then curving and continuing SW. 5m wide base not seen.

Summary of former water course encountered

DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

The Geological substrate was not observed across the entire site.

A waterlogged layer (104) and (108) was noted at the base of the trench within the most north-westerly portion of the site. These waterlogged layers contained very occasional fragments of organic matter such as pieces of wood, and may represent the fill of a former watercourse, or relate to water meadow land management. However, the geophysical survey for this area of the site did not identify any such activity and described the area as follows: *Here the background magnetic texture [1] is relatively smooth across the site and is typical of alluvial deposits* (ArchaeoPhysica 2015). It is possible these dark layers could represent episodes of flooding.

The only feature identified during this watching brief was a linear feature [113] encountered within the central portion of the site (Figure 2). It was visible as an L-shaped depression cutting across the site towards the western boundary. The linear measures approximately 5m wide, with a shallow sloping western edge and a steeper sloping eastern edge. The depth is unknown as the base of the feature was below the limit of excavation. Only a single fill (112) of friable mid yellowish brown, silty clay was recorded. The fill was sterile and typical of silting up of an old water way. This linear may represent the infilling of a former watercourse. Earthworks of several former watercourses are evident on satellite and LiDAR images of the area and show the linear continuing north beyond its bend to the west recorded by the field archaeologist. This bend to the west may represent an additional feature associated with the post 17th century water management of the area. However, the program of works avoided this feature and preserved it for future generations.

An alluvial deposit (111) was encountered immediately west of feature [113] (Figure 2, section 9). The deposit most likely represents an episode of flooding / overflowing of [113].

Subsoil (101) and (109) were observed across the whole site and overlay all the above layers and feature [113]. The subsoil was sealed by a silty clay topsoil (100) and (110) that was observed as the uppermost deposit across the whole site.

The archaeological desk based assessment (Armour Heritage 2015) highlighted the site was in an area characterised as having been part of a former watermeadow system dating from at least the 17th century. The geophysical survey highlighted a number of possible watercourses running through the site. This watching brief only encountered one of these water courses within the central portion of the site, with minimal disturbance to this feature. No other features within the site were disturbed during the development preserving this unique historic landscape.

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION:

Figure 1 - Site Location

Figure 2 - Detailed Site Location

Figure 3 – Representative Sections 1-9

Figure 4 - Representative Sections 10-18

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION:

All documentation resulting from this project will be archived internally by PCA and then deposited with Staffordshire Museum Services.

Fieldwork: Steve Jones

Author: Kathryn Brook

Checked: Kevin Trott

Authorised: Kevin Trott

Date Issues: 2607/2017

BIBLIOGRAPHY

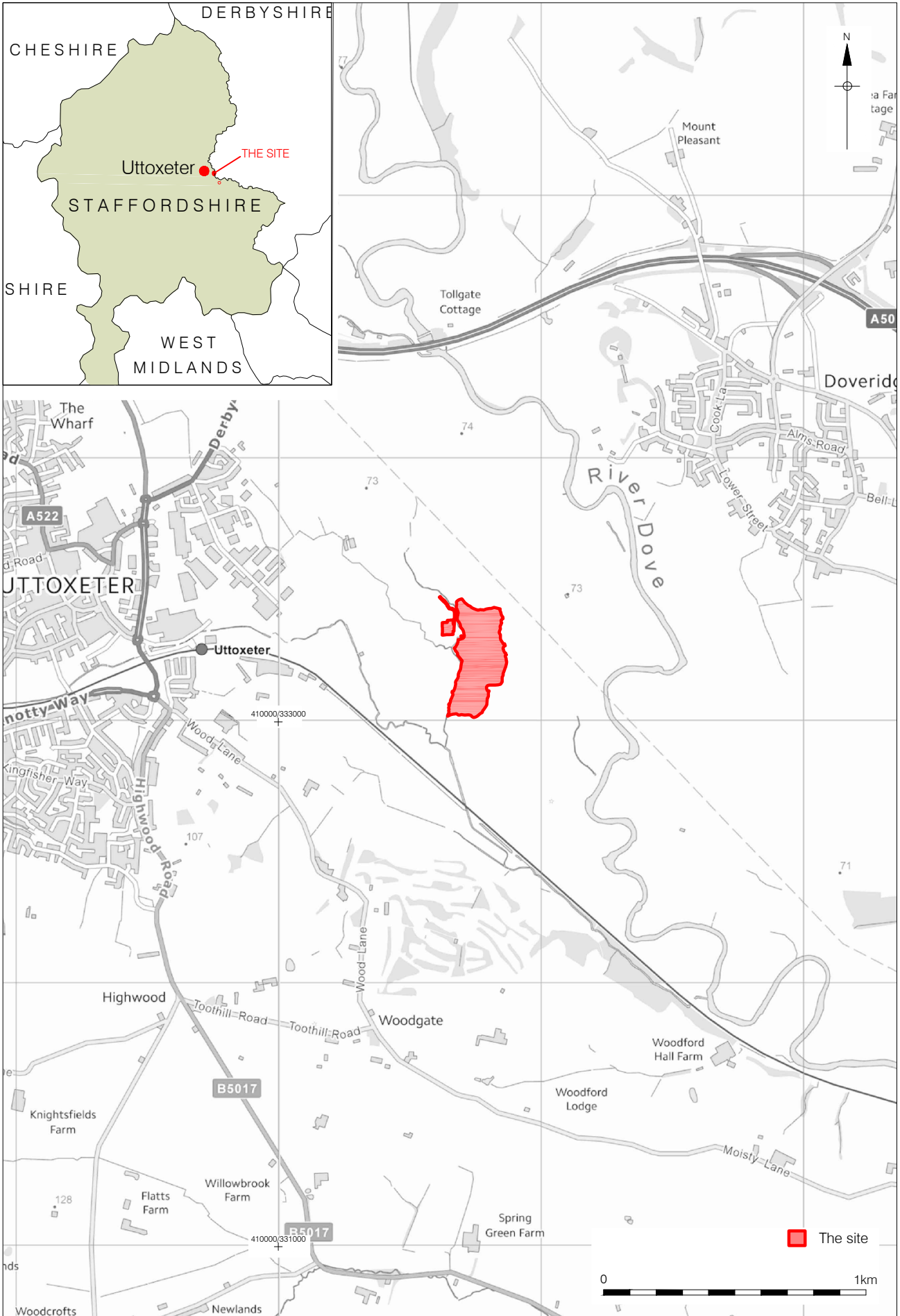
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 26/07/07 TC

Figure 1
 Site Location
 1:20,000 at A4

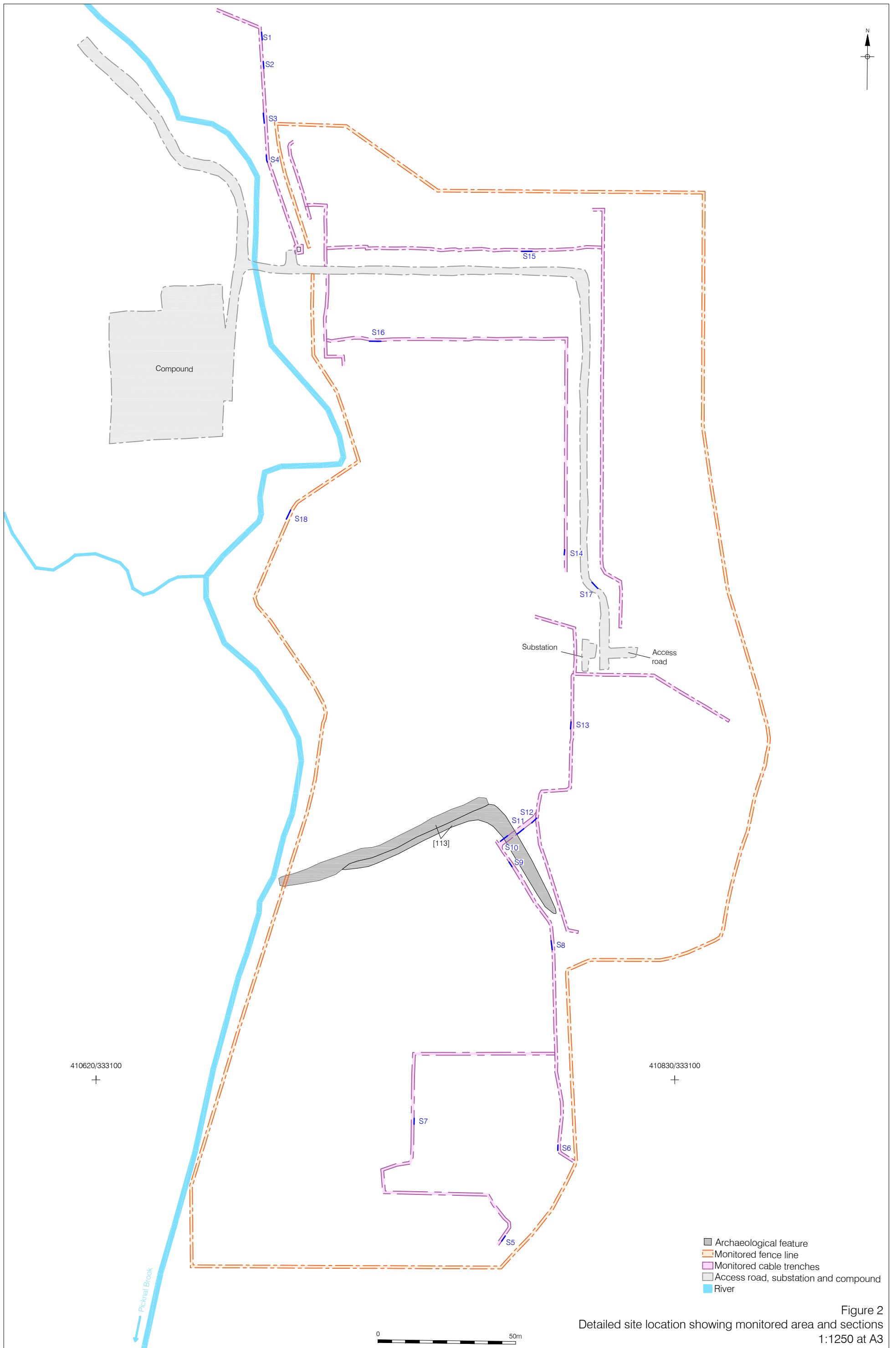
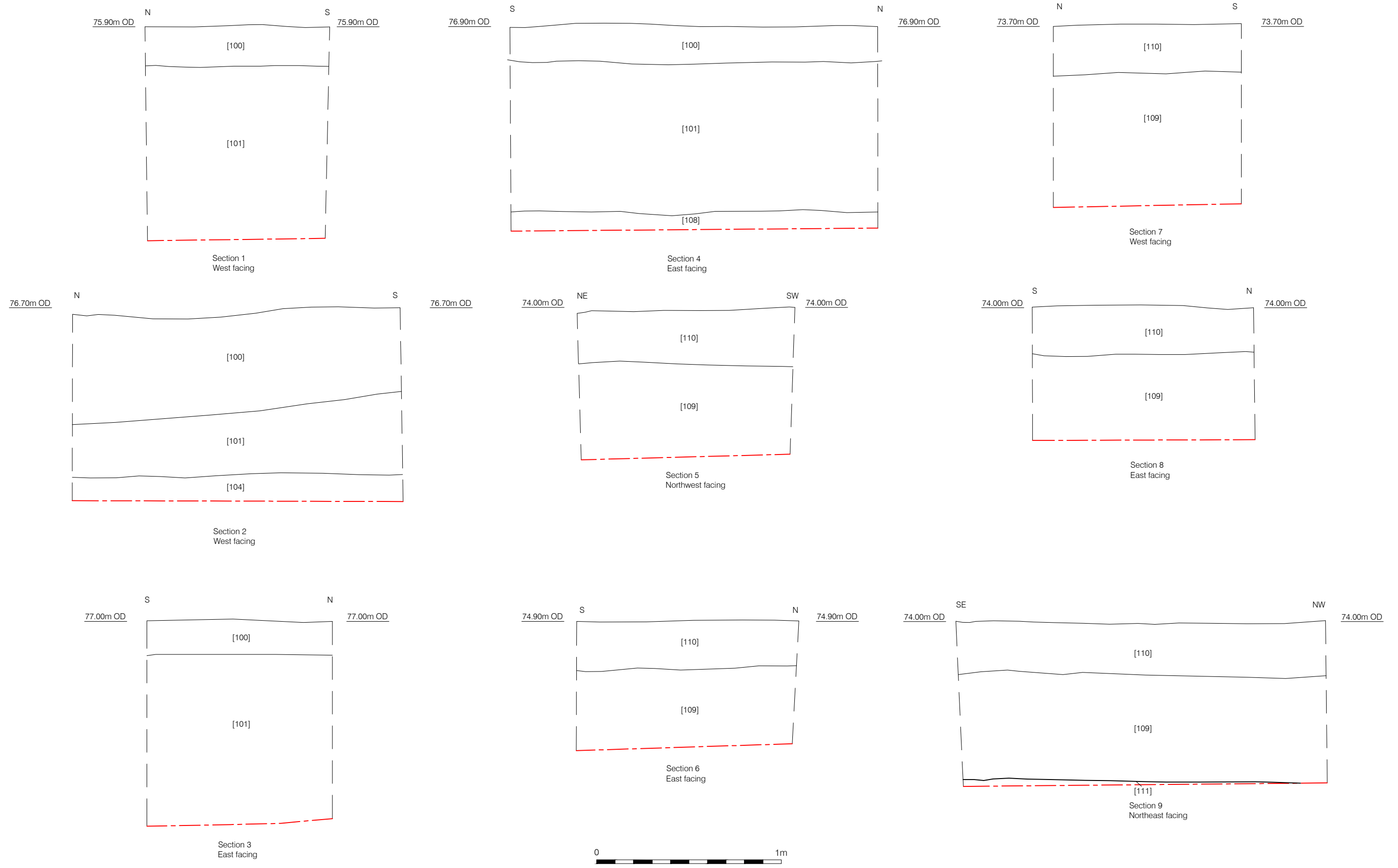
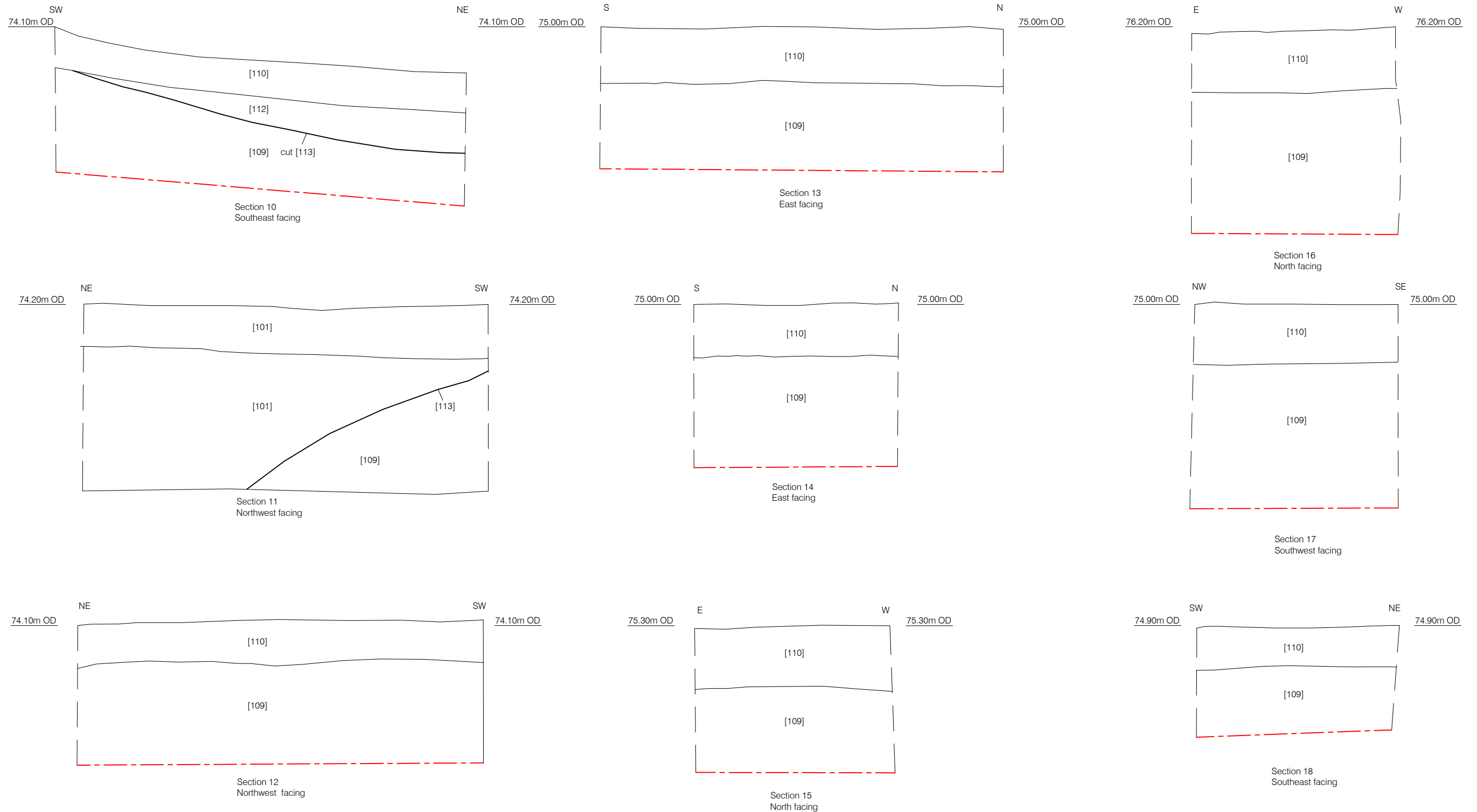


Figure 2
 Detailed site location showing monitored area and sections
 1:1250 at A3





APPENDIX 1: PLATES

Plate 1: Section 2, waterlogged layer (104): view south



Plate 2: Section 10, feature [113], (112): view south



Plate 3: General shot of excavation of cable trench: view west



Plate 4: Representative Section 13: view west



Plate 5: The stripped access road, view south



Plate 6: The substation area, view south



APPENDIX 2: OASIS RECORD

OASIS ID: preconst1-291266

Project details

Project name	The Willows, Uttoxeter
Short description of the project	An appropriately specified programme of archaeological work was required in association with the construction of a Solar Farm, centred at NGR 410790, 333226 (Figure 1). The work was undertaken by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited (PCA), and involved archaeological observation and recording during the installation of underground cables. Only a single watercourse most likely associated with the historic watermeadow system was encountered.
Project dates	Start: 06-01-2017 End: 25-07-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	TWUS17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE EAST STAFFORDSHIRE UTTOXETER The Willows
Study area	8.49 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 10779 33387 52.897498385216 -1.839747734492 52 53 50 N 001 50 23 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.
Project brief originator	Armour Heritage
Project design originator	Armour Heritage
Project director/manager	Kevin Trott
Project supervisor	Steve Jones

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
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Digital Archive recipient	Staffordshire Museum Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Staffordshire Museum Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Correspondence", "Diary", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Section", "Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	The Willows, Uttoxeter, Staffordshire: A Negative Watching Brief Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Brook, K.
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	PCA Newark Office
Place of issue or publication	Newark

Entered by	Kathryn Brook (kbrook@pre-construct.com)
Entered on	25 July 2017

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