Non Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects (CAP) on behalf of Dulas Engineering on the area of the proposed Turbine 7 at Burton Wold Farm, Burton Latimer, Kettering. The work was undertaken following an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment undertaken by CAP (CAP Report No. 245) which identified the crop marks of an enclosure within this area of the proposed development. A geophysical survey was undertaken by the Northamptonshire Archaeology Unit over the area of the crop marks and this was used to establish the location of the Archaeological Field Evaluation Trenches. The evaluation trenching revealed the outer ditch of the enclosure to the north of the proposed turbine location and a series of pits and possible internal enclosure ditches to individual livestock pens. All of the features encountered date from the late Iron Age/early Roman period with the site appearing to have gone out of use by the mid 2nd century.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and scope of the work (Figs. 1 & 2)

The following text details the findings of work undertaken by Cambrian Archaeological Projects (CAP) on an archaeological evaluation at Burton Wold Farm which lies to the east of Burton Latimer, Kettering (NGR: SP49182744). The work was undertaken following the results of an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment undertaken by CAP in February 2003 (CAP Report No.245) and Geophysical Survey (Northamptonshire Archaeological Unit)

The field evaluation was undertaken between 28th April 2003 and 2nd May 2002.

1.2 Soils and Topography

The soil is a shallow boulder clay with underlying limestone lying on Upper Lias Great Oolite and Cornbrash beds. The clay soils are also fairly heavily filled with flint. The topography of the evaluation area is characterised by fairly flat arable land at a height of approximately 80m OD.

1.3 Archaeological Background

The area of the proposed wind farm and its immediate environs was the subject of an Archaeological Desk-based Assessment undertaken by CAP (CAP Report No. 245) and this gives a full account of the historic and archaeological background to the site.

2 Aims and Objectives

The aim of the archaeological trial trenching will be to provide information that will enable an informed and reasonable planning decision to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the area of the proposed development.

The objectives will be as follows:

1) To locate any archaeological features and deposits within the proposed development area.
2) To assess the survival, quality, condition, date and significance of any archaeological features, deposits and structures within the proposed development area.

3 Methodology

Excavation strategy

The evaluation was carried out by qualified Cambrian Archaeological Projects staff using proven archaeological techniques. The site was open for monitoring by Myk Flitcroft.

A maximum of 50m of linear trial trenching around 2m wide was excavated to target areas of anomalies identified by the geophysical survey. The survey was undertaken on the 27th and 28th April 2003 and the provisional results provided by the 29th April for discussion between Northamptonshire Archaeology, Myk Flitcroft and Cambrian Archaeological Projects. The trial trenching layout was agreed before trial trenching started on the 28th April 2003.

The upper levels in each trench were removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. All archaeological levels were then cleaned, photographed and sampled for dating material manually.

The level of natural subsoil beneath the archaeology was tested for in one location in each trench.

The following techniques were be employed for the excavation of the trenches:

- Removal of topsoil by machine.
- Planning of all exposed surfaces planned to a scale of 1:20, related to Ordnance Datum.
- Limited excavation of features exposed to ascertain their date, extent and function.
- Location of natural soils at one location in each of the trenches.
- Backfill all trenches after monitoring by Myk Flitcroft.

All of the above stages comply with the procedures and guidance contained in *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage 1991), and the *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Excavations* (Institute of Field Archaeologists 1999).

Recording methods

Recording was carried out using Cambrian Archaeological Projects Ltd recording systems, using a continuous number sequence for all contexts (a sample of all site recording forms were available on site for inspection). All records were checked and cross-referenced during the course of the excavation. Plans were drawn to a scale of 1:20 and sections at 1:10 (on drafting film). Photographs were taken in 35 mm colour transparencies, black and white negatives and digital format.

Environmental sampling

A program of environmental sampling was not thought necessary on this site

Artefacts

Archaeological artefacts recovered during the excavation were cleaned and labeled with the site code. A single number sequence was allocated to all small finds. The artefacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with the museum. All ceramic, bone and stone artefacts have been cleaned and processed during the course of the excavation, and the results input into the site strategy and decision making.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator.

An interim summary of the finds in given in Appendix III.

4 Results of the Field Evaluation

Numbers that appear in () in the following text refer to context numbers allocated during the field evaluation. A full summary of all contexts recorded during the evaluation is given at the end of this report (Appendix II).

Trench A (Figs. 2, 3 & 4, Plates 1-9)

Trench A measured 15m x 1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 1m. This trench was located in the area of the proposed Turbine 7 (Figs. 2 & 4).

After the removal of the plough soil (A1) the natural limestone bedrock (A2) was revealed over the majority of the trench at a depth of c. 0.3m below the present ground surface. Four features (A3, A5, A7 & A9) were located cut into the natural bedrock.

Cut A3 (Plates. 2 & 3)

This is a semi-circular cut feature at the northern end of Trench A that continues into the eastern section of the trench. It measures 1.7m north/south and 0.5m east/west and has a vertical northern edge and a gently sloping southern edge. Excavation of the fill of this feature, a compact orange brown silty clay (A4), revealed that it extended to a depth of 0.8m below the present ground surface and contained shards of pottery dating from the late Iron Age/early Roman Period including 1 shard of gray ware with barbotine decoration dating to the late 1st/early 2nd century.

Cut A5 (Plates. 2 & 4)

This cut was located directly west of cut (A3). It measured 1m north/south by 0.8m east/west and extended to a depth of 0.8m below the present ground surface. Excavation of the fill of this feature, a compact orange/brown silty clay (A6), revealed that it had irregular edges and base and contained 1 shard of hand-made pottery dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman Period.

Cut A7 (Plates. 2 & 5)

This is a linear cut feature running east/west across the trench 0.5m south of cuts (A3) & (A5). It measures 1.7m east/west by 0.55m north/south. Excavation of the fill of this feature, a compact orange/brown silty clay (A8), revealed that the cut had sloping edges with a fairly flat base and contained pottery dating from the late Iron Age/early Roman Period.

Cut A9 (Plates 2, 6, 7, 8 & 9)

This is a large and fairly symmetrical cut feature to the south of cut (A7). Within the upper fill of this feature a deposit of ash and cinder was revealed (A11) which appears to have been dumped into the cut rather than burning in situ. The removal of the rest of the fill of the feature, a dark brown/gray clay (A10) revealed a deep sharp cut on the western side of the trench extending to a depth of 1m below the present ground surface. The cut widened to the north and south eastwards across the trench and had gently sloping upper

edges which became steep towards the base forming a V-shaped cut at the bottom of the feature. The fill of the feature contained pottery dating from the late Iron Age to the early-mid 2nd century.

Trench B (Figs. 2, 3 & 5, Plates 10-16)

Trench B measured 20m x 1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of c. 1.4m. This trench was located at the northern end of the field in order to establish the location of the boundary ditch and any other features to the north and south of the ditch.

After the removal of the plough soil (B1) the natural limestone bedrock (B3) was revealed over the majority of the trench at a depth of 0.5-0.6m. Natural deposits of an orange brown compact clay were located within depressions in the bedrock (deposits B9 & B15) along with cut features (B4, B6, B8, B11, B13, B16 & B18).

Cut B4 (Plate. 11)

This cut was made by the insertion of a modern field drain. Excavation of this feature revealed a small plastic pipe c.5cm wide surrounded by small stones (B5) filling the rest of the feature. This feature cut plough scar (B6).

Cut B6 (Plate. 11)

This cut is 0.15m wide and 8.3m long and is orientated northwest/southeast along the trench and cuts (B8, B10, B11 & B13). It was 0.08m deep and was filled with a dark brown/black silty clay (B7). The feature has been interpreted as that of a plough scar which probably dates to the medieval period.

Cut B8 (Plates. 15 & 16)

This cut measured 1.7m east/west by 0.5m north/south and had gently sloping edges and a flat base. It was filled by a compact dark orange/brown silty clay and contained both gray and orange sandy pottery shards dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period.

Cut B11(Plates. 12-14)

This cut represents the initial boundary ditch which lies 0.4m – 1.2m below the present ground surface. It has a gently sloping southern edge and a flat base and has been cut by a later re-cut of the ditch (B13). It was filled by a dark brown/black compact silty clay (B12) that contained pottery dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman Period with 1 shard of South Gaulish Samian Ware dating from the 1st /2nd century AD. The shard of Samian Ware was located towards the top of the cut

Cut B13(Plates. 12-14)

This cut is a re-cut of the original boundary ditch (B11). It has a steep, near vertical southern edge and a gentler sloping northern edge with a flat base 0.2m wide. The top of the cut lies 0.4m below the present ground surface and continues to a depth of 1.5m below the present ground surface at its base. The cut was filled by a compact dark brown/black silty clay (B14) which is very similar to the fill of cut (B11) but has less

stone inclusions. This deposit (B14) contained shards of pottery dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman period.

Cut B16 (Plate. 10)

This cut is 0.15m – 0.2m wide and 6m long and is orientated northwest/southeast along the trench and cut into the natural bedrock (B3). It was 0.1m deep and was filled with a dark brown/black silty clay (B17). The feature has been interpreted as that of a plough scar which probably dates to the medieval period.

Cut B18 (Plate. 10)

This cut is 0.15m wide and 7.7m long and is orientated northwest/southeast along the trench and cut into the natural bedrock (B3). It was 0.1m deep and was filled with a dark brown/black silty clay (B19). The feature has been interpreted as that of a plough scar which probably dates to the medieval period.

Trench C (Figs. 2, 3 & 6, Plate. 17)

This trench measured x 1.7m and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.5m. The trench was located in an area where the geophysical survey suggested there would be no archaeology (Fig.4). After the removal of the plough soil (C1) the natural limestone bedrock (C2) was revealed. No archaeological features or deposits were located within this trench.

5 Conclusions

Trench A revealed a series of cut features dating from the late Iron Age to the early-mid 2nd century. The limited size of the excavations meant that it was not possible to establish the full extent and nature of these features. It would appear that cuts A3, A5 & A9 are probably pits dating to the late Iron Age/early Roman Period and that cut A7 is probably an enclosure ditch within the main enclosure possibly demarcating individual pens for livestock.

Excavations in Trench B revealed the outer northern enclosure ditch of the site. The original ditch (B11) was later re-cut by (B13) both being constructed at the end of the late Iron Age/early Roman Period. The pottery within both fills of these cuts are very similar and date to the same period and it is therefore assumed that the site was in continuous occupation with the ditch being re-cut as the original ditch was silted up.

The linear feature (B8) is very similar to linear feature (A7) and again it is thought that this probably represents an enclosure ditch to an individual livestock pen.

Cut features (B6, B 16 & B18) are plough scars which probably date to the medieval period.

Excavations in Trench C revealed the natural limestone bedrock and no archaeological features or deposits.

The Pottery: An Interim Statement

By Kevin Blockley MIFA MPhil

Introduction

This brief report is aimed at evaluating the pottery found for the purpose of dating features located in the evaluation trenching. A fuller report will be undertaken in due course.

The pottery assemblage from the excavations totalled 151 shards from eight contexts. These were divided broadly into 12 distinctive fabrics as follows:

Fabric A. Hand-made with shell inclusions.
Fabric B. Hand-made with 'soapy' texture.
Fabric C. Hand-made sandy fabric.
Fabric D. Orange fabric carinated forms.
Fabric E. South Gaulish Samian ware.
Fabric F. Black Burnished ware.
Fabric G. Black fabric carinated forms.
Fabric H. White sandy fabric.
Fabric I. Grey sandy fabric.
Fabric J. Grey sandy fabric with barbotine decoration.
Fabric K. Grog tempered ware.
Fabric L. Orange sandy fabric.

Context	Fabric	Number of shards
A4	H	1 body
A4	E	1 body
A4	J	1 body
A4	K	8 body
A4	L	2 body
A4	A	3 body
A6	A	1 rim
A8	I	3 body
A8	A	2 body
A8	H	1 body
A10	F	1 rim; 1 body
A10	G	1 body
A10	B	1 rim; 7 body
A10	H	2 body
A10	I	2 rim; 6 body
A10	A	2 rim;6 body
B14	A	10 body
B12	A	5 rim; 2 base; 27 body
B12	B	14 body; 2 base
B12	C	2 rim; 13 body;
B12	D	2 body
B12	E	1 body
B9	L	3 rim; 16 body
B9	I	2 body
TOTAL		**151 Shards**

***Table 01**: Table of pottery fabrics and quantification by context and fabric*

Discussion

The pottery contains a number of diagnostic features which help with dating as follows:

The hand-made pottery characterised by the shell tempered ware (Fabric A), soapy ware (Fabric B), and sandy ware (Fabric C) were from carinated bowls and necked bowls. These are largely early 1st century in date and probably span the late Iron Age/early Roman transition.

Black Burnished ware (Fabric F). One rim sherd from context A10 is from a flat rimmed bowl and is dateable to the early-mid 2nd century.

The South Gaulish Samian ware (Fabric E) is dateable to no later than c. AD 110. Single sherds came from contexts A4 and B12.

The grey ware with barbotine decoration (Fabric J) is dateable broadly to the late 1st/early 2nd century and was recovered from context A4.

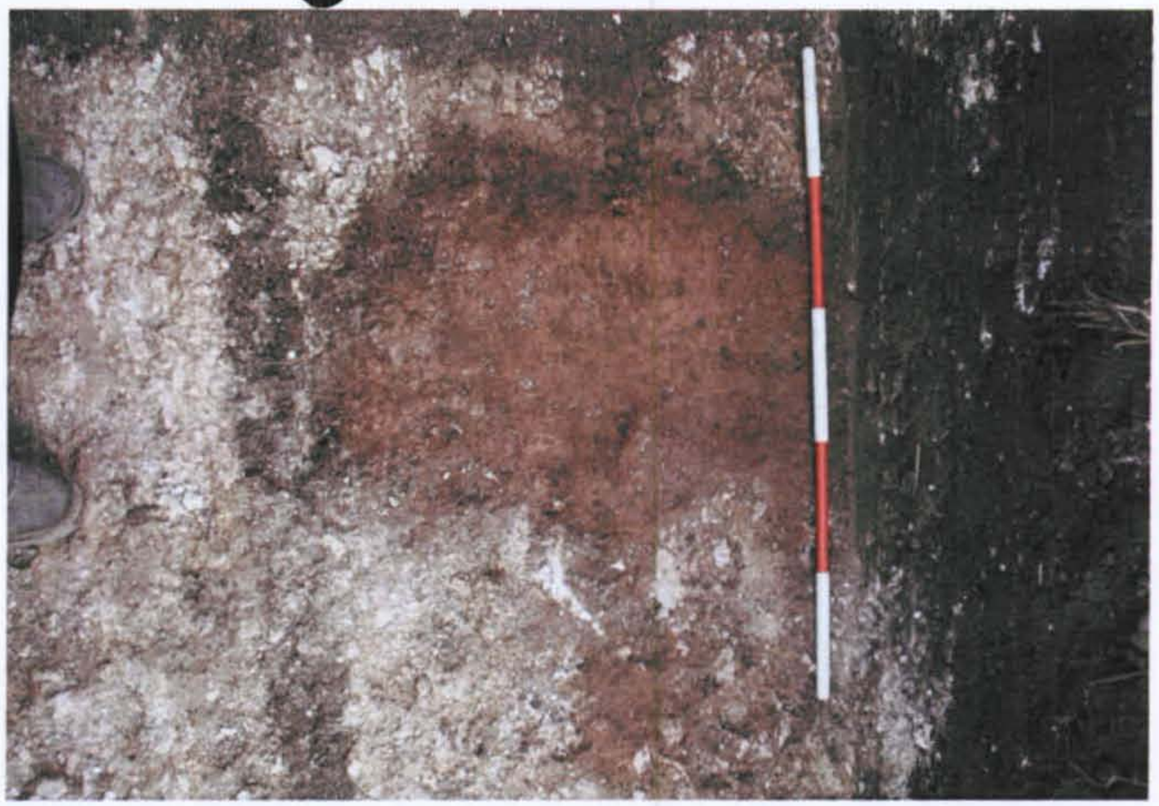
The dating of the pottery would suggest an initial occupation in the late Iron Age/earlr Roman period with occupation continuing into the second century, perhaps not beyond the mid second century.

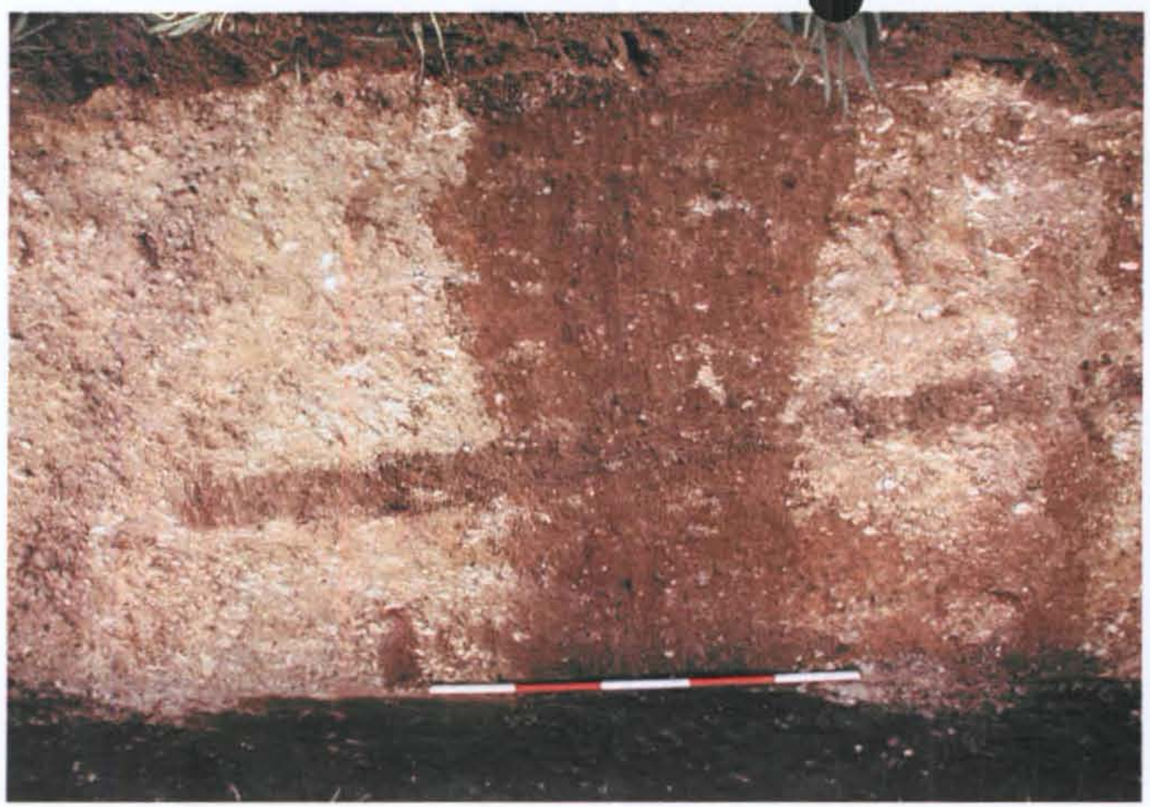
SUMMARY OF CONTEXT

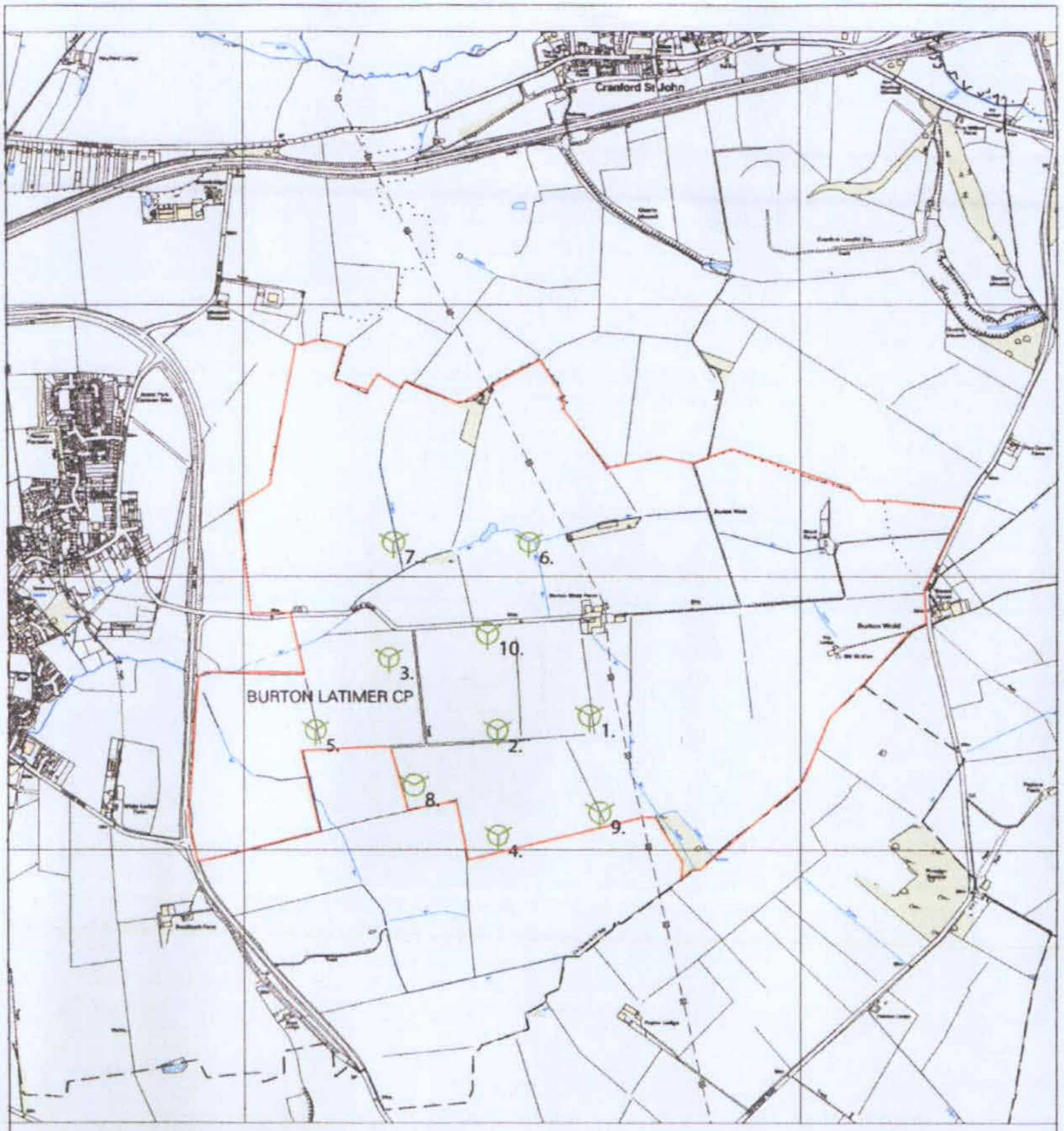
A1	Plough Soil
A2	Natural Limestone Bedrock
A3	Cut
A4	Orange/brown clay (Fill of 3)
A5	Cut
A6	Orange/brown clay (Fill of 5)
A7	Cut
A8	Orange/brown clay (fill of 7)
A9	Cut
A10	Dark brown clay (Fill of 9)
A11	Ash and Cinder (Part of cut 9 fill)
A12	Compact orange/brown/brown clay

B1	Plough Soil
B2	Compact orange/brown clay
B3	Natural Limestone Bedrock
B4	Cut for field drain
B5	Plastic drainage pipe and small stones
B6	Cut of Plough Scar
B7	Fill of Plough Scar
B8	Cut of linear feature
B9	Fill of B8
B10	Natural Orange Clay
B11	Cut of original enclosure ditch
B12	Fill of original enclosure ditch
B13	Re-cut of enclosure ditch
B14	Fill of Re-cut ditch
B15	Natural orange clay
B16	Cut of plough scar
B17	Fill of plough scar
B18	Cut of plough scar
B19	Fill of plough scar

C1	Plough Soil
C2	Natural Limestone Bedrock







Site Boundary:

Turbine Locations:

1.	492247 274483	6.	492043 275124
2.	491911 274430	7.	491563 275117
3.	491525 274698	8.	491613 274229
4.	491930 274043	9.	492280 274124
5.	491280 274429	10.	491873 274787

Approximate Scale: 1:15 000

Original Map: OS 1:10 000

Date: April 2003

Prepared by: Dulas Ltd

Client: Your Energy

Burton Wold

Proposed Site layout