



global environmental solutions

Land Adjacent to Park Road, Woofferton, Shropshire

Archaeological Evaluation

SLR Ref : 406-04842-00001

March 2014

Ludlow Bio Energy



**FAME**

Version: Rev 1

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Status of report: Final

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Draft Date	10 March 2014
Reviewed	Tim Malim 10 March 2014
Revisions	None required
Issue date	19 March 2014

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Planning Background**

Ludlow Bio Energy is currently seeing to implement a planning condition before construction of an anaerobic digester plant on land south of Park Road, Woofferton.

The Historic Environment Team at Shropshire Council has highlighted the archaeological potential of the site, and indicated the need for an archaeological investigation of the site. In response Ludlow Bio Energy (the client) commissioned SLR Consulting to design a scheme of archaeological work that agreed with the planning authority<sup>1</sup>. This document contains results of a programme of archaeological work to enable the discharge of the planning condition.

### **1.2 Location, topography and Geology**

The site is located 6km south of Ludlow, Shropshire, and 2km southeast of Richards Castle, at NGR SO514686 (Figure 1). It comprises a trapezoidal plot, 150m east-west, 80 - 100m north-south, managed as grazed pasture land. Access is via a narrow strip from the north, which connects to Park Road.

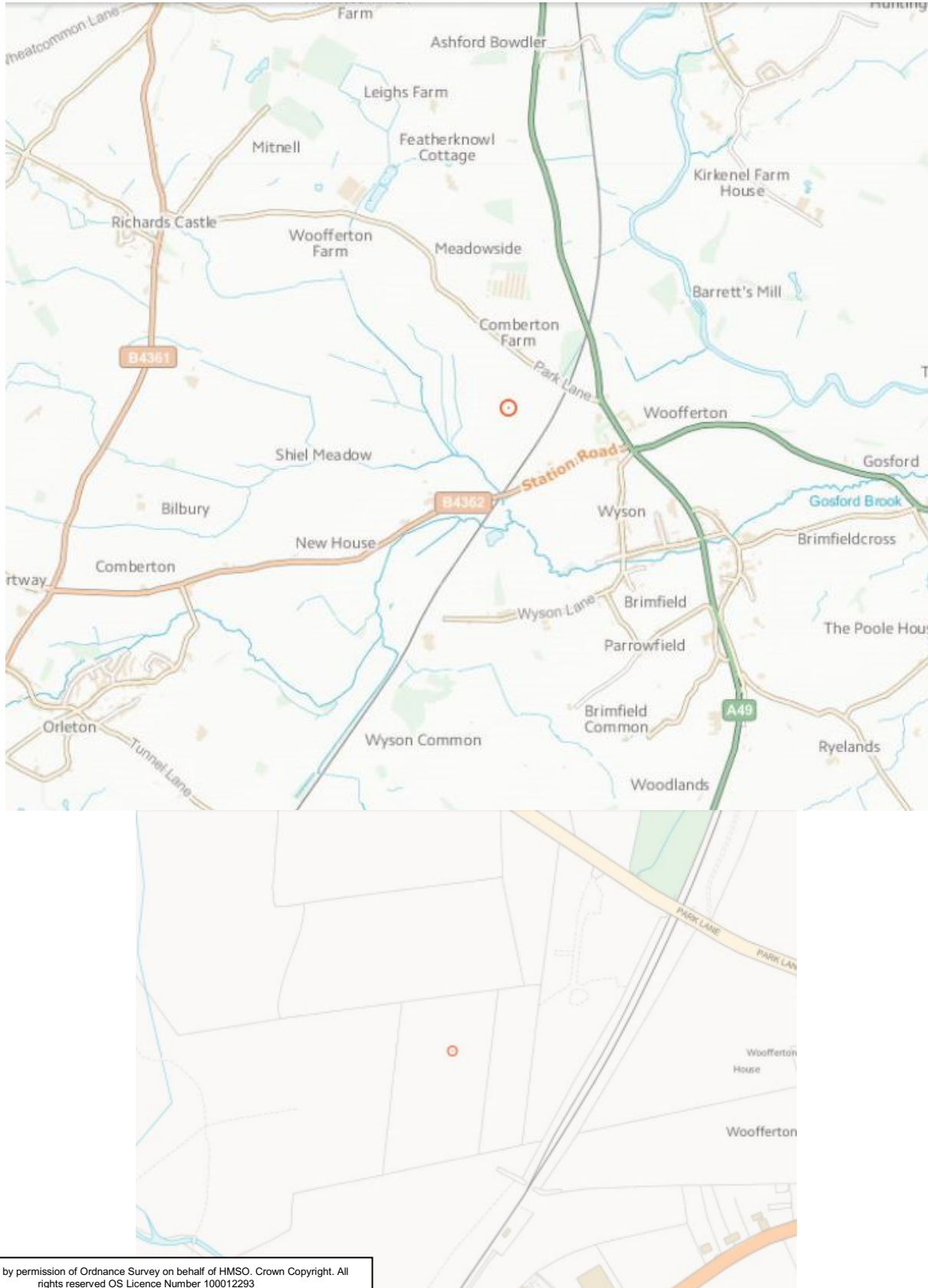
The site is at an altitude of approximately 75m AOD. Half a kilometre towards the west, lies a tributary of the Gosford Brook which issues from Richards Castle to the northwest, and joins the Brook south of Station Road before flowing east to the River Teme. According to the BGS on-line viewer the site is situated on a hard geology of Raglan Mudstone Formation (Silurian period deposit comprising interbedded siltstone and mudstone), with superficial deposits consisting of Bromfield or Woofferton Sand and Gravel, a Devensian deposit that contains lenses of silt, clay or peat<sup>2</sup>. To the west and south alluvial deposits are recorded.

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<sup>1</sup> SLR, 2014, Land adjacent to Park Road, Woofferton, Archaeological Written Scheme of Investigation

<sup>2</sup> Cross, P and Hodgson, J M, 1975. New evidence for the glacial diversion of the River Teme near Ludlow, Salop. Proceedings of the Geologists' Association, Vol.86, 313-331.

**Figure 1**  
**Site location**



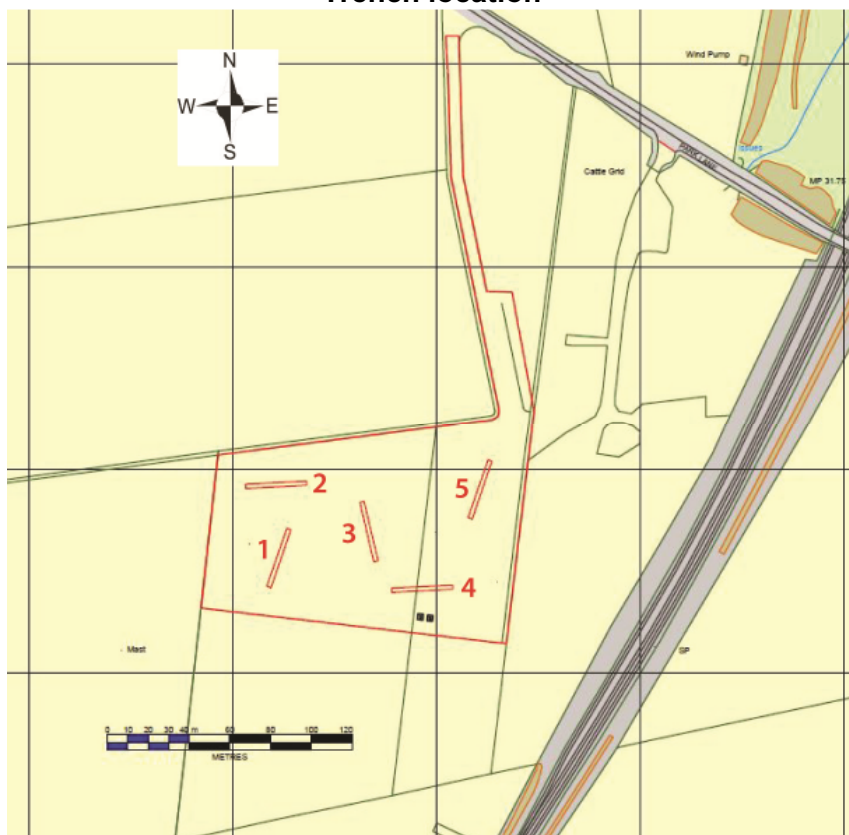
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## 2.0 RESULTS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

The aim of the evaluation was to characterize the nature, date, extent and condition of preservation of any archaeological remains within the site.

In February 2014 five trenches were laid out across the site to investigate the existence of any buried archaeological remains (Figure 2). A 7.5 ton JCB mechanical excavator with backhoe with a 1.6m toothless ditching bucket was used. The underlying ground conditions were mostly dry around the evaluation trenches, however the topsoil was very wet, which made access to the site quite hazardous (figure 3).

**Figure 2**  
**Trench location**



Trench 1 was placed on a NE – SW alignment in the southwest corner of the application site. Trench 2 was on a E-W alignment running parallel with the northern boundary, Trench 3 was on a N-S alignment perpendicular to the northern boundary. Trench 4 was on an E – W alignment, split by the fence line running through the middle of the application site, and trench 5 was on a NNE –SSW alignment running parallel to the eastern boundary.

The trenches were 30m x 1.6m in area, and had a depth of 0.4m – 0.5m. In all the trenches, a firm mid brown silty clay topsoil, with very occasional brick and tile fragments, was found sealing a firm mid yellow brown silty clay subsoil, which in turn overlay the natural drift geology made up of a brown red gravel with interleaving clays and silts. Trenches 1, 2, 4 and 5 were all negative of archaeological features. Trench 4 contained a very thin (0.03m) layer of pea-grit

along the interface between the subsoil and the natural (Figure 5), which may have resulted from erosion or other natural water action.

Trench 3 had a shallow gully [306] which was 0.15m deep, and 0.40m wide. It ran along across the length of the trench on a NNW-SSE alignment. This was filled by (305), a firm mid grey clay silt with very occasional charcoal flecks, and occasional rounded pebbles (Figure 4). No finds were recovered from this context.

### **3.0 DISCUSSION**

The evaluation was for the most part negative, with the only cultural material recovered being 19<sup>th</sup> century brick and tile fragments; these are the result of manure spreading to enrich the soil. The gully found in Trench 3 appears to correspond with the plan of cropmarks (Figure 5). This is probably an extension of the surrounding post medieval field boundaries. However these features do not appear on the 1840 tithe apportionment maps.

### **4.0 CLOSURE**

This report has been prepared by SLR Consulting Limited with all reasonable skill, care and diligence, and taking account of the manpower and resources devoted to it by agreement with the client. Information reported herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is for the exclusive use of Ludlow Bio Energy; no warranties or guarantees are expressed or should be inferred by any third parties. This report may not be relied upon by other parties without written consent from SLR. SLR disclaims any responsibility to the client and others in respect of any matters outside the agreed scope of the work.

### **5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The archaeological monitoring and report were undertaken by Marcus Headifen of SLR Consulting. Thanks are given to Phil Dobson for commissioning the works, Malcolm Edwards (groundworks), and Mick Krupa (Shropshire Council)

**Figure 3**  
**West facing shot of site**



**Figure 4**  
**NNW facing shot of [306]**

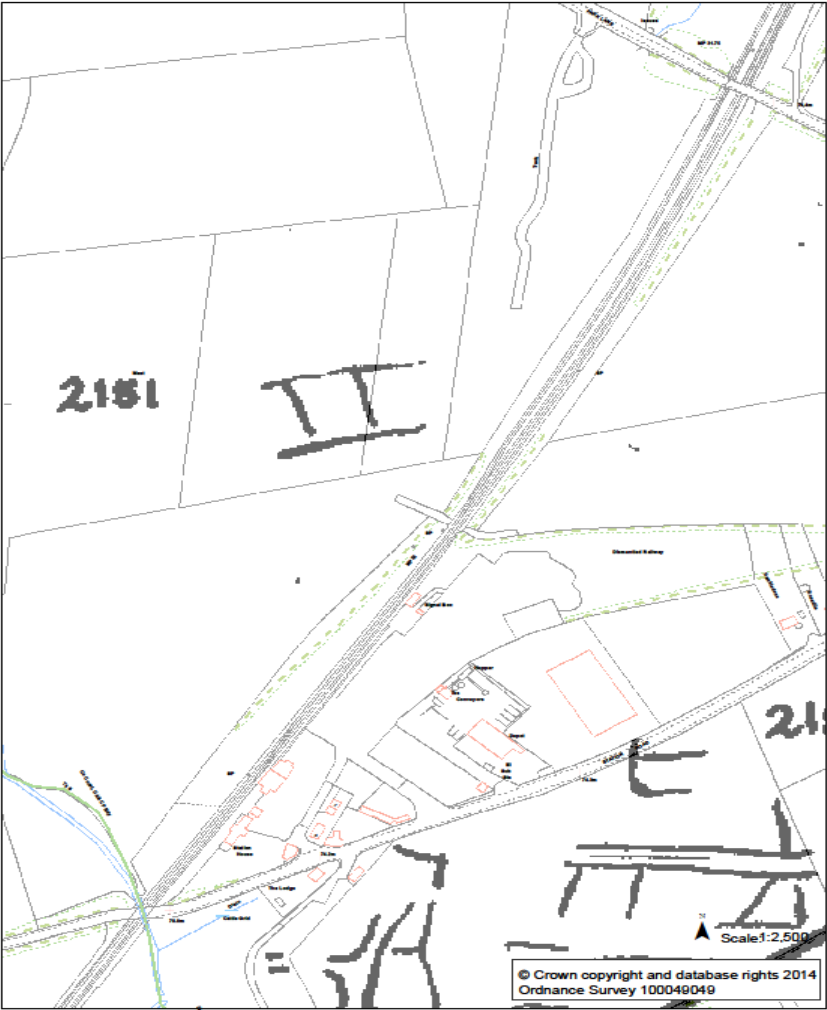




**Figure 5**  
**Plan shot of pea grit layer in Trench 4**



**Figure 6**  
**Plan of cropmarks overlying application site, from Shropshire**  
**County Council Historic Environment Team (compare to Figure 2 trench plan)**





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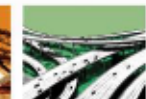
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