

Park Field Farm Devon Archeological Field Evaluation

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CONTENTS

Ε	xecutive	Summary	4
1.	Intro	duction	5
	1.1	Project Background	5
	1.2	Site Location & Description	5
2.	Aims	s & Methodology	6
	2.1	Aims of Works	6
	2.2	Methodology of Works	6
	2.3	Limitations	8
3.	Arch	aeological Resource Baseline	9
	3.1	Historic Baseline Data	9
	3.2	Previous Archaeological Works	9
	3.3	Archaeology & History Background	9
4.	Resi	ılts	. 11
	4.1	Summary results	. 11
	4.2	Trench records	. 11
	4.3	Trial Trench Evaluation	. 13
5.	Disc	ussion	. 16
	5.1	Archaeological Field Evaluation	. 16
6.	Arch	aeological significance & Mitigation	. 17
	6.1	Known Heritage Resource	. 17
	6.2	Potential Archaeological Resource and significance	. 17
	6.3	Predicted Impact of Proposed Development	. 17
	6.4	Outline Recommendations	. 18
7.	Refe	rences	. 19
	7.1	Devon County Council Historic Environment Record (HER)	. 19
	7.2	Devon Heritage Centre (DHC)	. 19
	7.3	Exeter Cathedral Archives (ECA)	. 19
	7.4	Printed sources	. 19
	White,	N. 1850. History, Gazetteer, and Directory of Devonshire	. 19
	7.5	Ordnance Survey (OS)	. 19
	76	Woheitos	20

FIGURES

Figure 1	Site Location
Figure 2.1	Trench Layout
Figure 2.2	Trench Layout over Geophysical Anomalies
Figure 3	Plan and section of Trench 3, and section drawings of linear features [004] and [006]
Figure 4	Plan and section of Trench 4, and section drawing of linear feature [008]

PLATES

Plate 1	Mid-excavation view of [008] in Trench 4, facing east
Plate 2	Mid-excavation view of [006] in Trench 3, facing north
Plate 3	Mid-excavation view of [004] in Trench 3, facing south
Plate 4	View of Trench 9. facing west

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Archive Statement
Appendix 2	Photo Register
Appendix 3	Context Register
Appendix 4	Soil Sample register
Appendix 5	Drawing Register

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report presents the results of an archaeological field evaluation carried out at Park Field Farm, Devon on behalf of Aspire Planning. The archaeological investigations were carried out in support of a planning application for the development of a ground mounted solar array and associated works.

A desk based assessment was initially carried out to establish the history and land-use development of the site and its environs, identifying known and potential archaeology, with a view to better informing the planning process (Gent and Manning 2014). This included an assessment of the potential impact of the development.

Subsequently a geophysical survey was carried out over the entire site (Richardson 2014). The purpose was to confirm whether any geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin may survive within the site limits, at the earliest possible opportunity, to better guide future works and the decision making process. The evaluation trenches described in this report were positioned to determine the nature of these anomalies and to better define the archaeological potential of the site.

The layout of the trial trenches was agreed in advance with Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (reference ARCH/DM/SH/22220). All work was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) prepared by AB Heritage Ltd (AB Heritage 2014) in response to a brief supplied by Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.

Site work was carried out between the 22nd and 26th of September 2014, in conjunction with AB Heritage's elected sub-contractor Rubicon Heritage Services UK Ltd. Twelve trenches were excavated. All trenches were positioned to intersect with geophysical anomalies and were located as indicated in the brief and WSI.

The majority of the geophysical anomalies were attributed to variations in the geology as no archaeology was present in the excavated trenches. However, linear features of anthropomorphic origin were identified in two of the trenches corresponding with the position and alignment of geophysical anomalies. One of these is believed to be the remains of a field boundary marked on historic maps since the mid-18th century. A second parallel linear feature in the same trench is thought to be associated with this boundary. The third linear feature is of uncertain original but its linear character and sterile fill points to post-medieval agricultural activity.

Overall the identified features seem to be the remains of land division and agricultural activity, most likely of post-medieval date (though no artefacts were recovered to confirm this). These remains are of low value in terms of archaeological significance and so a moderate impact from the proposed development is deemed as negligible.

In light of the findings no further archaeological work is recommended in relation to this development. This recommendation is subject to consultation with and approval of by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 AB Heritage Limited (herein AB Heritage) was commissioned by Aspire Planning Ltd, to undertake a programme of archaeological investigations at a site at Park field Farm, Ashburton, Devon.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological investigations were carried out prior to an application for permission to develop the site as a solar farm. A geophysical survey was carried out as an early risk guidance tool, based on the sites location to known archaeological remains. The purpose was to confirm whether any geophysical anomalies of possible archaeological origin may survive within the site limits, at the earliest possible opportunity, to better guide future works and the decision making process.
- 1.1.3 A number of features of archaeological potential were identified as a result of the geophysical survey and a series of evaluation trenches were carried out to determine the nature of these anomalies, and to better define the archaeological potential of the site.
- 1.1.4 Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd. (hereinafter Rubicon Heritage) was commissioned by AB Heritage to undertake a limited programme of archaeological evaluation trenching in conjunction with AB Heritage, to supplement the results of a geophysical survey that has been undertaken at the site.
- 1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was submitted to the Local Authority Planning Archaeologist in September 2014 (AB Heritage 2014) and approved. Fieldwork was carried out in September 2014.

1.2 Site Location & Description

- 1.2.1 The site is located to the north of Cabbage Hill, south east of Ashburton, Devon at OS ref. SX 764 687. The survey area is approximately 13.5 hectares of arable land. The site lies on a ridge running south west to north east, with a steep slope on the eastern side (Fig 1).
- 1.2.2 The site is currently down for pasture and slopes steeply down towards the north.
- 1.2.3 The field was free draining and bounded by a combination of post and wire fence and large, well-established, hedgerows.
- 1.2.4 The underlying geology is Gurrington Slate Formation Slate, Lava and Tuff (British Geological Survey website). There is no recorded drift geology (British Geological Survey website). The overlying soils, which are known as Denbigh 1, are typical brown earths. These consist of fine loamy and fine silty soils over rock (Soil Survey of England and Wales, Sheet 5 South West England).
- 1.2.5 Local information suggests the site was cleared of hedgerows to make the current 33 acre field within living memory.

2. AIMS & METHODOLOGY

2.1 Aims of Works

- 2.1.1 The aims of the archaeological evaluation are to gather high quality data from the direct observation of archaeological deposits in order to provide sufficient information to establish the nature, extent, preservation and potential of any surviving archaeological remains; as well as to make recommendations for management of the resource, including further archaeological works if necessary. In turn this will allow reasonable planning decisions to be taken regarding the archaeological provision for the areas affected by the proposed development, including the development of suitable research themes.
- 2.1.2 These aims will be achieved through pursuit of the following specific objectives:
 - To define and identify the nature of archaeological deposits on site, and date these where
 possible; with particular regard to features identified in the geophysical survey.
 Interpretation should address themes outlined in the relevant sections of the South West
 Archaeological Research Framework
 - To attempt to characterise the nature and preservation of the archaeological sequence and recover as much information as possible about the spatial patterning and extent of features present on the site;
 - 3. To recover a well dated stratigraphic sequence which will attempt to determine the complexity of the horizontal and vertical stratigraphy present, and to recover coherent artefact, ecofact and environmental samples;
 - 4. To determine the potential of the site to provide palaeoenvironmental and/or economic evidence and the forms in which such evidence may be present;
 - 5. To define any research priorities that may be relevant should further field investigation be required; and
 - 6. To establish the significance of the archaeology encountered on site.

2.2 Methodology of Works

- 2.2.1 Trial trenching was undertaken between the 22nd and 26th September 2014 by a JCB3CX equipped with a 1.5 m wide flat-bladed grading bucket. Overburden was removed in shallow spits until the first archaeological horizon or undisturbed geological levels were exposed. Any identified deposits were cleaned by hand to define their extent, nature, form and, where possible, date.
- 2.2.2 The WSI allowed for up 12 evaluation trenches in predefined locations (Fig 2). The rationale for the location of each trench was based on information gathered during the Geophysical survey results. There were no above ground traces of archaeology.
- 2.2.3 All information identified in the course of the site works was recorded stratigraphically, with sufficient pictorial record (plans, sections and photographs) to identify and illustrate individual features. It should be noted that, where possible, data was collected and stored digitally and in a format suitable for long term storage by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS).

- 2.2.4 The recording included where appropriate:
 - · The recording of individual contexts on pro-formas
 - Overall excavation plans at 1:50 scale; planning and section drawing of single contexts and features (usually at 1:20 scale for plans and 1:10 scale for sections)
 - · Photographs; and other drawn and written records
- 2.2.5 The survey and recording works adhered to the following requirements:
 - · All levels were recorded and reduced to OS datum
 - · All trench locations were electronically surveyed with National Grid references
 - The locations of trenches were plotted on appropriate scale plans related to the National Grid and labelled with six figure eastings and northings
 - The electronic survey record is retained with the project archive.
- 2.2.6 Discrete features were half-sectioned in the first instance; linear features were sampled at a minimum of 50% along their exposed length (each sample section not less than 1m), or a minimum of a 1m sample section if the feature is less than 10m long, with the excavation concentrating on any terminals and intersections with other features which would provide important stratigraphic information.
- 2.2.7 Archaeological features were excavated and recorded according to the normal principles of stratigraphic excavation, and were accurately located on a site plan and recorded by photographs, summary scale drawings and written pro forma sheets. Sufficient EDM/Total Station survey will be taken to allow all features to be located accurately with relation to the National Grid and Ordnance Datum. Sections and profiles of each feature sampled were drawn at 1:10 or 1:20, depending on the size of the feature. All plans, sections and profiles were related to Ordnance Datum, in metres.
- 2.2.8 Site photography was by high resolution (7 megapixel or greater) colour DSLR photography. Photography includes general site shots, shots of each trench, and shots of individual features and groups of features. All photographs include a suitable photographic scale and will be recorded on a photographic register detailing as a minimum the subject, feature number, location and direction of each shot.
- 2.2.9 All artefacts that were observed were retrieved and retained.
- 2.2.10 All retained finds and archaeo-environmental samples are treated and conserved in accordance with the English Heritage guidance document A Strategy for the Care and Investigation of Finds (English Heritage, 1995) and the UKIC's document Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage (UKIC, 1990). Finds and sample storage will be at Rubicon Heritage's Office in Edinburgh.
- 2.2.11 Finds will be treated in the following way:
 - All finds have been retained from each archaeological context excavated.
 - · All finds have been washed.

- Finds work will be undertaken in line with the Institute for Archaeologists Guidelines for Finds Work.
- Environmental Sampling was guided by Environmental Archaeology (English Heritage centre for Archaeological Guidelines, 2001/02).

Environmental Sampling

- 2.2.12 Where appropriate contexts were sampled in accordance with the guidelines provided by English Heritage (2002).
- 2.2.13 The deposition of a properly ordered and indexed project archive in an appropriate repository is considered an essential and integral element of all archaeological projects by the IfA in that organisation's code of conduct (IfA, 2010).
- 2.2.14 The site falls within the collection area of the Devon Museums. A accession code was in this case not required by Royal Albert Memorial Museum Exeter as there are no finds associated with the archive. The site code therefore has been maintained as PFDE14.
- 2.2.15 Once the final report has been accepted by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team, AB Heritage Limited will complete an OASIS fieldwork summary form and submit it to the Archaeology Data Service. The form and related guidance can be found at http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/project/oasis/first.html.

2.3 Limitations

- 2.3.1 It should be noted that the report has been prepared under the express instruction and solely for the use of Aspire Planning and associated parties/agents they elect to share this information with.
- 2.3.2 All the work reported in this document was carried out based upon the professional knowledge and understanding of AB Heritage on current (October 2014) and relevant United Kingdom standards and codes, technology and legislation. Changes in these areas may occur in the future and cause changes to the conclusions, advice, recommendations or design given. AB Heritage does not accept responsibility for advising Aspire Planning or associated parties of the facts or implications of any such changes in the future.

3. ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCE BASELINE

3.1 Historic Baseline Data

- 3.1.1 An archaeological and heritage assessment of the site was carried out prior to the current phase of work (Gent, T. and Manning, P. 2014). This included a full Historic Baseline report and the historic and archaeological context of the proposed development site which has been summarised in this section (but should be read in conjunction with the original report for full details).
- 3.1.2 No Scheduled Monuments, Listed Buildings, Conservation Areas, Registered Parks and Gardens, Registered Battlefields or World Heritage Sites have been identified within the Site.
- 3.1.3 There are four Scheduled Monuments within 3km the Site boundary. These are a dovecote associated with Pridhamsleigh Manor; Buckfast Abbey precinct and North Gate; a ruined chapel; and Boro' Wood enclosure.
- 3.1.4 A significant number of Listed Buildings are located within 3km of the Site, although only one, Dipwell Farmhouse (1249835), is present at a distance of less than 1km. This building stands just over 300m to the north-east. The majority of the Listed Buildings are situated in the town of Ashburton, 1-1.5km to the north-west

3.2 Previous Archaeological Works

- 3.2.1 Previous archaeological work has been recorded near the proposed development at Well Farm in 2009, Higher Lake Barn Woodland in 2011 and Waye Farm in 2012. No features or finds of archaeological significance were identified except at the latter where a few sherds of medieval and post-medieval pottery and two small chips of flint were recovered.
- 3.2.2 A previous Archaeological Desk Based Assessment (Archaeological and Heritage Assessment of a Proposed Solar Park to the North of Park field Cross, Staverton, Ashburton, Devon Archaedia 2014) and Archaeological Geophysical survey have been carried out (Geophysical Survey Report' by Stratascan. Project Name: Park field Farm, Ashburton, Devon. Job ref: J7173). The Geophysical report concludes that 'a number of possible archaeological anomalies have been identified; however it is not possible to determine their origin with any degree of confidence.'

3.3 Archaeology & History Background

- 3.3.1 The Site is situated in farmland on the north-western edge of the large parish of Staverton, in the former hundred of Haytor, at a junction with the parishes of Ashburton and Woodland. The northern boundary of the Site marks part of the parish boundary with Woodland.
- 3.3.2 Staverton is documented by 1072 as 'Stofordtune' (referring to a ford) (Gover et al1932). The Site lay within the manor of Staverton, owned by the Bishop of Exeter, which in 1086, along with St Marychurch, (de and Dawlish, provided for the Canon's supplies (Thorn and Thorn 1985). In 1850 the Dean and Chapter of Exeter were still lords of that manor, and owners of more than half the parish (White 1850). It was reported in c. 1750 that the parish comprised about 3,000 acres of arable land, 200 acres of meadow, more than 200 acres of orchard, and 40 acres of woodland (Drake-Brockman 1946). Early farms in the area include Halsworthy,

- documented in 1249, Bulland in 1384, Well Farm in 1281, and Dipwell in 1244 (Gover et al1932).
- 3.3.3 In 1862 the Dean and Chapter passed control of the estates of Staverton Manor to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. This resulted in the amalgamation of many smaller holdings into larger farms, and the destruction of old tenements and cottages; some new cottages were built (Feloy 1993). Close to the village the Penn Recca Slate Quarries, which may have been worked since the medieval period, were expanded greatly in the mid 19th century, and employed about 100 hands (White 1850).
- 3.3.4 The Site area is shown on a map of the manor of Staverton, which was surveyed in 1776 (see Gent and Manning 2014, Fig. 3). The fields in the northern part of the Site were let as part of a tenement called Neilgate, while the remainder were part of Sladisdown (later Sladesdown). No early reference to either place name has been found. A small farmstead associated with Neilgate is shown close to the north-eastern tip of the Site; while Sladisdown lay to the south.
- 3.3.5 The 1776 map depicts lanes within the site, running westward from the road, then north to join the road to Whistley Hill Cross (not visible). From the western end of the southern lane a path is also indicated (feint dashed lines), which continues north-westward across the fields to the parish boundary. The island of two fields bounded by the lanes were both called 'Twinnaway' (between the ways), and those at the north end of the Site were Higher and Lower Longland (ECA 11/CC74281).
- 3.3.6 The greater part of the north/south section of lane within the Site appears to have been removed by 1804 (see Gent and Manning 2014, Fig. 4). The remaining lanes, and the same fields, are shown on the tithe map (1845; Fig. 5).
- 3.3.7 By 1886 (see Gent and Manning 2014, Fig. 6) a field boundary within the Site had been removed and the remaining part of the southern lane is no longer depicted. To the east Neilgate farmstead is no longer shown and the site has become an orchard. To the south of the Site Park field had been built; it was not shown on the tithe map. There were no further changes to the fields within the Site by 1939 (see Gent and Manning 2014, Fig. 7); a watercourse is indicated alongside the site of the former southern lane.
- 3.3.8 It is evident on the OS 1886 map (see Gent and Manning 2014, Fig. 6) that the north end of the Site, at Neilgate Corner, forms the southern part of a triangular plot defined by roads, which is at the junction of three parishes and is divided by a parish boundary. Parish boundaries can .be associated with meeting places, gallows and other sites of archaeological interest, although no evidence for such has been identified in this case, and the site may be of no archaeological significance.
- 3.3.9 The OS map of 1961 (see Gent and Manning 2014, Fig. 8) shows that by this time the northern lane had also gone, as had a further two field boundaries. To the south of the Site, Park field Cottages, immediately north of Park field Cross, were built between 1938 and 1961. Park field Farm appears to have been built after 1961, as it is not shown on the map of that date. There had been no further changes to the field boundaries by 1992.

4. RESULTS

4.1 Summary results

- 4.1.1 In total 12 trenches (1-12) were excavated within the proposed development between the 22th and 26th September 2014 (Fig 2). The location of these excavations was determined by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team in consideration of the results of the desk-based assessment, the below-ground impact of the proposed development and the site topography.
- 4.1.2 These excavations should adequately investigate the possible archaeological anomalies that were identified in the geophysical survey.
- 4.1.3 By design the 12 trenches are of varying size; 7 of 30m length and 5 of 15m length.

4.2 Trench records

4.2.1 The trial trenches can be summarised follows:

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Features identified
1	15	1.8	0.42	NW-SE	Topsoil: Grey-brown silty clay Natural subsoil: Yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale	No features identified
2	15	1.8	0.60	NNE-SSW	Topsoil: Grey-brown silty clay Natural subsoil: Yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale	No features identified
3	30	1.8	0.48	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: Grey-brown silty clay Natural subsoil: Browngrey clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale	Two linear features were identified [004] and [006] (Fig 3) (Plates 2 & 3)
4	15	1.8	0.44	NW-SE	Topsoil: Grey-brown silty clay Natural subsoil: Browngrey clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale	One linear feature [008] was identified (Fig 4) (Plate 1)

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Features identified
5	30	1.8	0.38	E-W	Topsoil: Grey-brown silty clay Natural subsoil: Yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale	No features identified
6	32	1.8	0.48	NE-SW	Topsoil: Grey-brown silty clay Natural subsoil: Yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale	No features identified
7	30	1.8	0.43	NNW-SSE	Topsoil: Grey-brown silty clay Natural subsoil: Yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale	No features identified
8	31	1.8	0.52	N-S	Topsoil: Grey-brown silty clay Natural subsoil: Yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale	No features identified
9	35	1.8	0.40	WNW-ESE	Topsoil: Grey-brown silty clay Natural subsoil: Yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale	No features identified (Plate 4)
10	35	1.8	0.44	NE-SW	Topsoil: Grey-brown silty clay Natural subsoil: Yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale	No features identified

Trench No.	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Orientation	Description	Features identified
11	35	1.8	0.50	NW-SE	Topsoil: Grey-brown silty clay Natural subsoil: Yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale	No features identified
12	15	1.8	0.45	E-W	Topsoil: Mid-brown silty loam Natural subsoil: Mottled grey/orange/brown sandy clay, soft with frequent root impressions	No features identified

Table 2 Summary of Trial Trenches

4.3 Trial Trench Evaluation

Trench 1

4.3.1 Orientated NW-SE Trench 1 was 15 m long. It was positioned to investigate a possible linear feature identified during the geophysical survey in Field 1. The topsoil (grey-brown silty clay) was 0.42 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. No archaeological features were identified and it is presumed the geophysical survey response is geological in nature.

Trench 2

4.3.2 Orientated NNE-SSW Trench 2 was 15 m long. It was positioned to investigate a possible linear feature identified during the geophysical survey in Field 1. The topsoil (grey-brown silty clay) was up to 0.60 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. No archaeological features were identified and it is presumed the geophysical survey response is geological in nature.

Trench 3

4.3.3 Orientated NNW-SSE Trench 3 was 30 m long. It was positioned to investigate possible linear features identified during the geophysical survey in the southwest corner of Field 2. The topsoil (grey-brown silty clay) was up to 0.60 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. During the investigation two linear features, [004] and [006], were identified (Fig 3).

Feature [004]

4.3.4 The first linear feature [004] identified in Trench 3 was orientated northeast-southwest (Fig 3; Plate 3). This was 0.28 m wide and 0.29 m deep. Its single fill (003) consisted of reddish brown silty clay with rare stone inclusions. This feature corresponds with the line of a field boundary depicted on historic maps since 1776 (see Gent and Manning 2014, Fig 3). It is

possibly related to the second linear feature identified in Trench 3 as it too is orientated northeast-southwest.

Feature [006]

4.3.5 The second linear feature [006] identified in Trench 3 was, as stated above, also orientated northeast-southwest. This was 2.50 m wide and 0.41 m deep. Its single fill (005) consisted of greyish brown silty clay with frequent shale inclusions (Fig 3; Plate 2).

Trench 4

4.3.6 Orientated NW-SE Trench 4 was 15 m long. It was positioned to investigate a possible linear features identified during the geophysical survey in the southwest corner of Field 2. The topsoil (grey-brown silty clay) was 0.44 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. A single linear feature [008] was identified within the trench (Fig 4).

Feature [008]

4.3.7 Toward the centre of Trench 4 a linear feature [008] was identified. It was orientated northeast-southwest and measured 3.60 m in width and 0.38 m in depth. It was filled by a single deposit (007) of reddish brown silty clay with occasional angular stone inclusions (Fig 4; Plate 1). This feature does not correspond with anything depicted on historic mapping but its linear nature and sterile fill point to an agricultural origin. The shallow but wide nature of the cut and the stone content of the fill would be typical of a trackway.

Trench 5

4.3.8 Orientated E-W Trench 5 was 30 m long. It was positioned to investigate a possible linear feature identified during the geophysical survey in the southwest corner of Field 2. The topsoil (grey-brown silty clay) was 0.38 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. No archaeological features were identified and it is presumed the geophysical survey response is geological in nature.

Trench 6

4.3.9 Orientated NE-SW Trench 6 was 32 m long. It was positioned to investigate a possible linear feature identified during the geophysical survey in the west of Field 2. The topsoil (grey-brown silty clay) was 0.48 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. No archaeological features were identified and it is presumed the geophysical survey response is geological in nature.

Trench 7

4.3.10 Orientated NNW-SSE Trench 7 was 30 m long. It was positioned to investigate possible linear features identified during the geophysical survey in the south of Field 2. The topsoil (grey-brown silty clay) was 0.48 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. No archaeological features were identified and it is presumed the geophysical survey response is geological in nature.

Trench 8

4.3.11 Orientated N-S Trench 8 was 31 m long. It was positioned to investigate possible linear features identified during the geophysical survey in the south of Field 2. The topsoil (greybrown silty clay) was 0.52 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. No archaeological features were identified and it is presumed the geophysical survey response is geological in nature.

Trench 9

4.3.12 Orientated WNW-ESE Trench 9 was 35 m long. It was positioned to investigate possible linear features identified during the geophysical survey in the centre of Field 2. The topsoil (grey-brown silty clay) was 0.40 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. No archaeological features were identified and it is presumed the geophysical survey response is geological in nature (Plate 4).

Trench 10

4.3.13 Orientated NE-SW Trench 10 was 35 m long. It was positioned to investigate possible linear features identified during the geophysical survey in the northeast of Field 2. The topsoil (greybrown silty clay) was 0.44 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. No archaeological features were identified and it is presumed the geophysical survey response is geological in nature.

Trench 11

4.3.14 Orientated NW-SE Trench 11 was 35 m long. It was positioned to investigate possible linear features identified during the geophysical survey in the northeast of Field 2. The topsoil (grey-brown silty clay) was 0.50 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. No archaeological features were identified and it is presumed the geophysical survey response is geological in nature.

Trench 12

4.3.15 Orientated E-W Trench 12 was 15 m long. It was positioned to investigate possible linear features identified during the geophysical survey in the northeast of Field 2. The topsoil (greybrown silty clay) was 0.45 m deep and the natural consisted of yellow-brown clayey silt with inclusions of shattered and decayed shale. No archaeological features were identified and it is presumed the geophysical survey response is geological in nature.

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Archaeological Field Evaluation

- 5.1.1 Linear features of anthropomorphic origin were identified in two of the trenches (Trenches 3 & 4) corresponding with the position and alignment of geophysical anomalies. One of these ditches corresponds to an old field boundary, as is evident on a number of maps. The earliest of these field boundaries date back to 1776 (see Gent and Manning 2014, Fig 3). The second linear feature in this trench was located 6.7 m to the southwest but had the same orientation and is therefore thought to be related to the field boundary. No conclusive dating evidence was recovered from the fills of either ditch but based on the historic mapping they are thought to pre-date the mid-18th century.
- 5.1.2 A wide but shallow linear feature was identified in the Trench 4. This is not depicted on the historic mapping and no datable or diagnostic material was recovered from the fill. However the feature seems typical of a farm trackway of possible post-medieval date.
- 5.1.3 Trial trenches 1 & 2 and 5 to 12 were positioned in order to investigate Geophysical anomalies; however, upon excavation of the trenches, no archaeological features were identified. It is therefore likely that the geophysical survey responses were geological in nature.
- 5.1.4 Overall it seems the site has been the focus of agricultural activity since at least the 18th century but there is no evidence to suggest settlement or other activity of archaeological significance arising from the DBA, geophysical survey or evaluation trenching.

6. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE & MITIGATION

6.1 Known Heritage Resource

- 6.1.1 The Site lies in an area of considerable prehistoric activity. Below ground remains of twelve enclosures (areas enclosed by banks and ditches, for settlement or other use) have been identified within 0.75km to the east and south of the Site, and two stray finds (axes) are recorded to the west. Two of the enclosures (assets 29 and 31) are situated only about 100m from the southern edge of the Site, although if the crop marks represent only part of the enclosure it is possible that other elements, or associated features, lie even closer (Gent and Manning 2014).
- 6.1.2 In more recent times the land in the vicinity has been associated with medieval and post-medieval farming, and the fields within the Site were farmed by Neilgate and Sladesdown in the 18th century, and later. With the exception of the northern boundary, the surviving and former hedgebanks and the former lanes within the Site may be of medieval or post-medieval origin, and evidence of removed features may survive below ground level. It is interesting that the northern lane coincides with the parish boundary to the north of the Site (where it survives as a lane), which may suggest an early origin. The road to the north of the Site may also be an early route-way (Gent and Manning 2014).

6.2 Potential Archaeological Resource and significance

- 6.2.1 Geophysical survey of the proposed development site revealed a network of linear features of archaeological potential. The subsequent evaluation has demonstrated that the majority of the linear features that were identified during the geophysical survey were non-archaeological in nature. The three linear features identified are most likely related to land division and agricultural activity of uncertain date, but probably 18th century or earlier. These features have been deemed to have a low baseline value in terms of archaeological significance.
- 6.2.2 Overall the results of geophysical survey and evaluation trenching would suggest that the proposed development site is of low potential to contain archaeological remains besides those associated with the farming of the land there.

6.3 Predicted Impact of Proposed Development

- 6.3.1 The previous assessment report concluded that there may be an impact on the sub-surface remains of former field boundaries or other sub-surface archaeological remains (Gent and Manning 2014).
- 6.3.2 The evaluation trenching has confirmed the presence of sub-surface traces of a former field boundary, a possible associated linear ditch and a possible trackway. Due to the limited physical footprint of the proposed scheme it is considered there would be limited damage to, or loss of, these buried remains.
- 6.3.3 Furthermore given the low baseline value of the identified features it is considered that the impact of the solar array development on archaeology is negligible.

6.4 Outline Recommendations

- 6.4.1 As the predicted impact on archaeological remains is deemed to be negligible, no mitigation measures are proposed. Therefore it is recommended that no further archaeological works are required in relation to the proposed development.
- 6.4.2 Please note that all recommendations are subject to consultation with and approval by the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team.

7. REFERENCES

7.1 Devon County Council Historic Environment Record (HER)

Records within 1 km of the Site area.

Staverton parish file.

1946 Aerial photograph: 4379 CPE/UK 1890 10 Dec. '46 F/20"//Multi (4) 58 SOON. (HER No. 48/88).

7.2 Devon Heritage Centre (DHC)

Staverton Tithe Map/Apportionment 1845/1843.

7.3 Exeter Cathedral Archives (ECA)

CH. Comm. 198 'A Map or Plan of the Manor of Staverton ... the Lands of the Dean and Chapter of Exeter Held under them by Sir Martin Folkes. Bar. Survey'd in 1776 and mapp'd in 1777 by Wm Hole and A. Law'.

11/CC74281 'A Survey and Valuation of the Manor of Staverton, in the County of Devon, with reference to the map of the said manor 1776'.

6034/6/1 Survey book (Staverton Manor) n.d , c. 1810.

7.4 Printed sources

AB Heritage 2014 Park field Farm, Ashburton, Devon- Written Scheme of Investigation. Unpublished client document for Aspire Planning

Donn, B. A *Map of the County of Devon* 1765 (1965 edition, reprinted by the Devon and Cornwall Record Society and the University of Exeter).

Drake-Brockman, E.D. 1946. Staverton on the Dart: from the records of Church and Parish.

Feloy, J. 1993. Staverton: Village by the Stony Ford.

Gent, T. and Manning, P. 2014 Archaeological and Heritage Assessment of a proposed solar park to the north of Park Field Cross, Staverton, Ashburton, Devon. Unpublished client report by Archaedia.

Gover, J.E.B., Mawer, A. & Stenton, F.M. 1932. The Place-names of Devon, Part 11.

Richardson, T 2014 Geophysical Survey Report: Park field Farm, Ashburton, Devon. Unpublished client report by Stratascan.

Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983. Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales.

Thorn, C. & Thorn, F. (eds) 1985. Domesday Book, vol. 9: Devon.

White, W. 1850. History, Gazetteer, and Directory of Devonshire.

7.5 Ordnance Survey (OS)

Two Inch Drawing No. 22 east, surveyed 1803-4.

1:10560 map Sheet 114NE: 1886; Provisional Edition (Revision of 1904 with additions in 1938).

1: 2500 map Sheet 114.4: 1887; 1939.

1:2500 Plan SX7668 & Plan 7768, revised 1960, published 1961. 1:10,000 map Sheet SX76NE, 1992.

7.6 Websites

Devon County Council (DCC) Historic Landscape Characterisation:

gis.devon. gov. uk/basedata/viewer.asp?DCCService=hlc.

 $Hedgerow\ Regulations\ 1997:\ \textit{www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/1997/1160/contents/made}$

The National Heritage List for England (Listed Buildings and Scheduled.Monuments):

list.english-heritage. org.uk

Aerial mapping: maps.google.co.uk

National Archives: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

www.turnpikes.org.uk

Appendix 1 Archive Statement

The site archive is comprised of the following materials:

Item	Quantity
Trenching and field recording sheets	4
Plans	1 Digital
Sections	3
Photographs	27
Registers (Context, finds, drawing, sample, photo)	4
Notebooks	0

The archive material is contained within one box.

The archive is currently stored in the offices of Rubicon Heritage Services Ltd, Conference House, 152 Morrison Street, The Exchange, Edinburgh, EH3 8EB, Scotland.

Appendix 2 Photo Register

Photo No.	Direction Facing	Description			
4836	W	Trench 1			
4837	N	Trench 2			
4838	N	Pre-excavation view of linear feature [004] in Trench 3			
4839	N	Pre-excavation view of linear feature [006] in Trench 3			
4840	E	Trench 12			
4841	NW	Trench 11			
4842	SW	Trench 10			
4843	SW	Non-archaeological feature in Trench 10			
4844	W	Trench 9			
4845	E	Mid-excavation view of linear feature [008] in Trench 4			
4846	SW	Mid-excavation view of linear feature [008] in Trench 4			
4847	W	Trench 4			
4848	E	Trench 5			
4849	N	Mid-excavation view of linear feature [008] in Trench 4			
4850	SSW	Trench 7			
4851	N	Trench 8			
4852	E	Trench 5			
4853	NE	Trench 6			
4854	N	Mid-excavation view of linear feature [006]			
4855	S	Mid-excavation view of linear feature [006]			
4856	N	Trench 3			
4857	-	Void			
4858	E	Mid-excavation view of linear feature [004]			
4859	N	Mid-excavation view of linear feature [004]			
4860	E	Mid-excavation view of linear feature [004]			
4861	S	Mid-excavation view of linear feature [004]			
4862	N	Site overview			

Appendix 3 Context Register

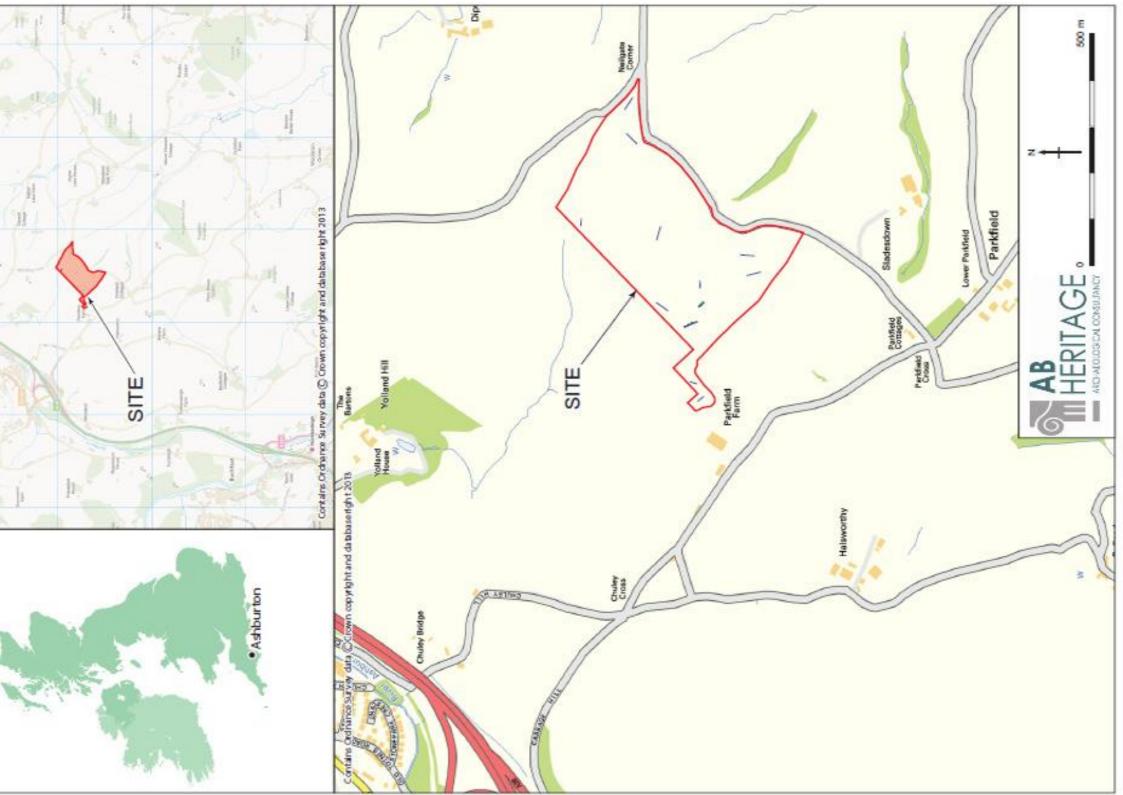
Context no.	Trench no.	Туре	Fill of:	Filled by:	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth (m)	Description	Interpretation
1		Deposit	-	-	-	-	0.38-0.60	Grey-brown silty clay	Topsoil
2		Deposit	-	-	-	-		Greyish/Yellowish Brown silty clay	Natural subsoil
3	3	Fill	004		Unknown	0.28	0.29	Reddish brown silty clay with rare stone inclusions	Single fill of linear feature [004]
4	3	Cut	-	003	Unknown	0.28	0.29	Linear in plan with moderate breaks of slope, sloping sides and a concave base	Cut of a linear feature
5	3	Fill	006		Unknown	2.50	0.41	Greyish brown silty clay with frequent shale inclusions	Fill of linear feature [006]
6	3	Cut		005	Unknown	2.50	0.51	Linear in plan with moderate breaks of slope, sloping sides and a concave base	Cut of a linear feature
7	4	Fill	800	-	Unknown	3.60	0.38	Reddish brown silty clay with occasional angular stone inclusions	Fill of linear feature [008]
8	4	Cut		007	Unknown	3.60	0.38	Linear in plan with moderate breaks of slope, sloping sides and a flat base	Cut of a linear feature

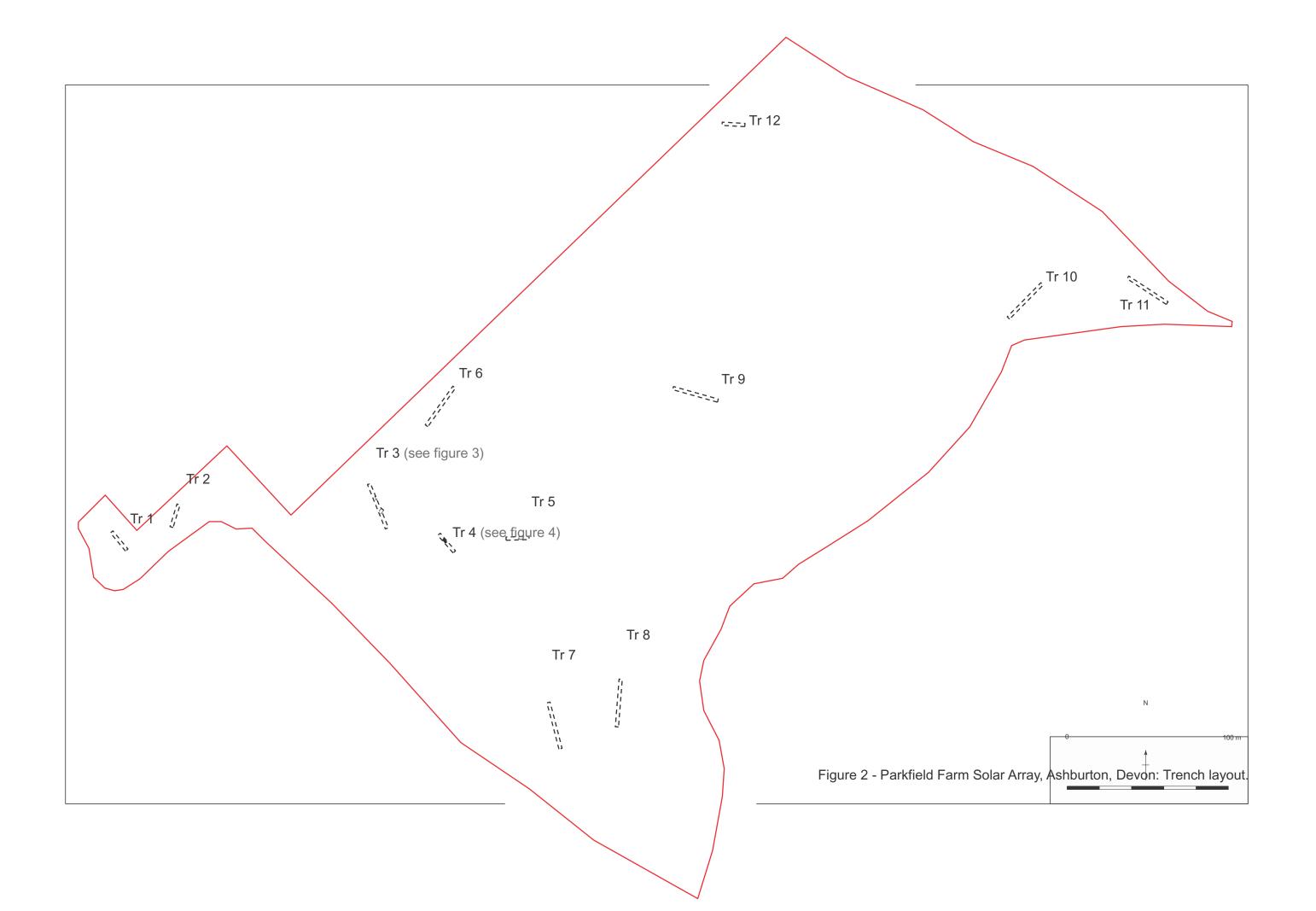
Appendix 4 Soil Sample Register

Sample No.	Context no.	Volume	Description of context
1	005	10 Litres	Greyish brown silty clay with frequent shale inclusions. Fill of [006].

Appendix 5 Drawing Register

Drawing No.	Sheet No.	Scale	Description
1	1	1:20	S-facing section of [008]
2	1	1:20	S-facing section of [004]
3	2	1:20	S-facing section of [006]





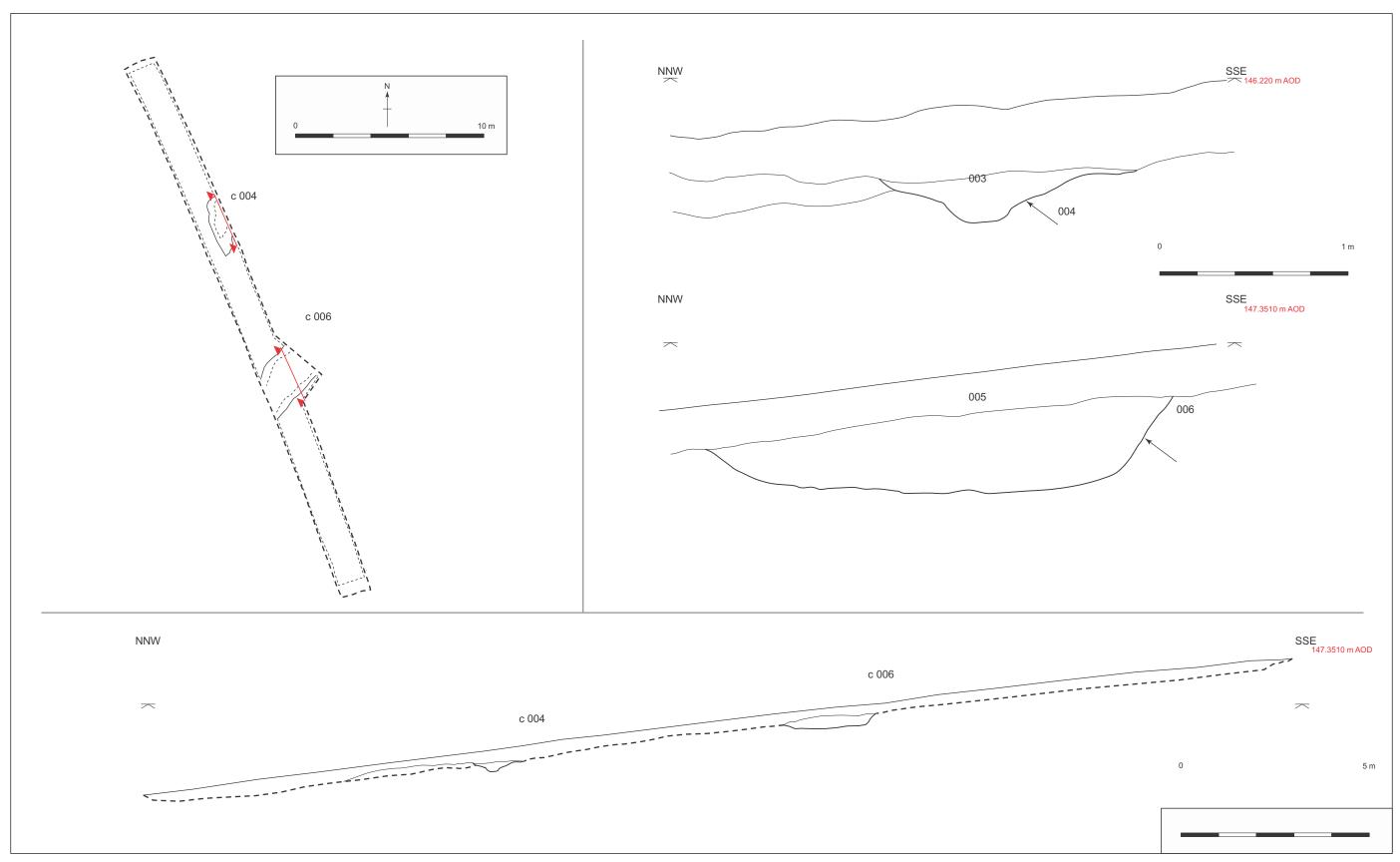


Figure 3 - Parkfield Farm Solar Array, Ashburton, Devon: Trench 3 plan and section.

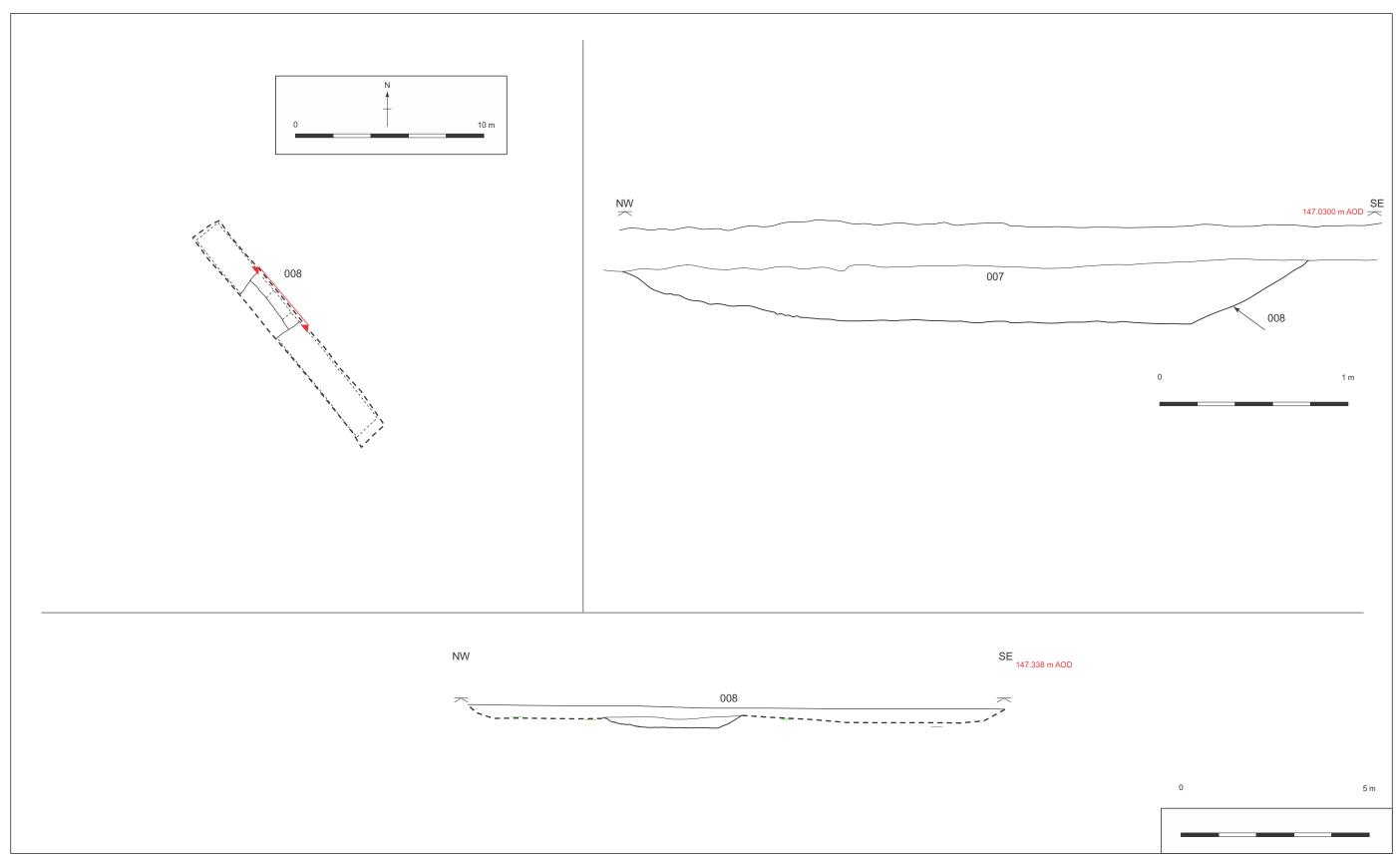


Figure 4 - Parkfield Farm Solar Array, Ashburton, Devon: Trench 4 plan and sections.



Plate 1 - Mid-excavation view of [008] in Trench 4, facing southeast.



Plate 2 Mid-excavation view of [006] in Trench 3, facing northeast.



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