

Archaeology Wales

Swancote Farm to Bridgnorth Aluminium, Bridgnorth, Shropshire

Strip, Map & Record
Archaeological Watching Brief



By

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Report No. 1359

Revised January 2017

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Non-Technical Summary

This report results from work undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) for Mr Edward Davies of Swancote Energy. It draws upon the results gained by a strip, map and record as well as a watching brief on land at between Swancote Farm, Swancote and Bridgnorth Aluminium, Bridgnorth, Shropshire, as part of a planning application (Ref: 13/05127/FUL) for the excavation of a cable trench.

Previous archaeological work in the area comprises a desk-based assessment and site walkover undertaken by Archaeology Wales Ltd (2014). The strip map and record was carried out in three areas where the cable trench passed close to archaeological features identified in the desk-based assessment; these sites notably include three later prehistoric or Romano-British enclosures (PRNs 00205, 02320 & 02321) and a pit alignment (PRN 21522). The watching brief was carried out constantly in these areas and intermittently elsewhere along the route.

No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified during the archaeological investigation. Despite the negative results of the fieldwork, there remains a high potential for encountering archaeological deposits (during any future groundwork) in the general vicinity of the known monuments.

2017 Revision. A further watching brief was carried out by AW in October 2015 and September 2016 on a cable trench between Swancote Farm and Swancote Country Club, Swancote, Bridgnorth. The route covers a total of 223m and passes beneath the line of the A454, identified in the 2014 desk based assessment as being the course of a Roman road. The planning reference for the works is 15/00326/FUL. No finds or features of archaeological significance were located in this new trench.

1 Introduction

1.1 Location and Scope of Work

- 1.1.1 Between November 2014 and May 2015 Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) carried out a strip map and record as well as a watching brief on land between Swancote Farm, Swancote and Bridgnorth Aluminium, Bridgnorth, Shropshire (NGR SO 74243 93934 to SO 72914 92018; Figures 1, 2a & 2b) ahead of and during the excavation of a cable trench. The work followed a desk-based assessment and site walkover (Smith, 2014) which identified several sites of archaeological significance located adjacent to the proposed cable route.
- 1.1.2 The archaeological works were carried out on the site at the request of Mr Edward Davies of Swancote Energy, Swancote. The planning application number is 13/05127/FUL.
- 1.1.3 The results of the desk-based assessment and site walkover (Smith, 2014) suggested that the proposed cable route would pass through several areas of high archaeological potential. Initially it would run parallel with the A454, a Roman road with the potential for associated roadside features. The route would then cross the line of a likely pit alignment identified from aerial photography before passing within 100m of three likely Roman-British enclosures.

- 1.1.4 After discussions with Mick Krupa of Shropshire County Council Historic Environment Team (SCC-HET) it was decided that three separate areas (Areas 1-3, those closest to the identified enclosures and a pit alignment) would initially be subject to strip map and record (Figures 2a & 2b). In addition, all three areas would be subject to an intensive watching brief during the excavation of the trench with other areas being monitored intermittently during the groundwork.
- 1.1.5 A WSI for the archaeological investigation (Appendix III) was drawn up by Chris E Smith (AW). This was subsequently approved by Dr Andy Wigley (SCC-HET).
- 1.1.6 The AW project number for the work is 2215 and the site code is SFB/14/WB. The project details are summarised on the Archive Cover Sheet (Appendix IV).

1.2 2017 Revision

- 1.2.1 In October 2015 and September 2016 a watching brief was maintained on a further cable trench excavation covering a total of 223m between Swancote Farm and Swancote Country Club, Swancote, Bridgnorth. The route of the trench passes beneath the line of the A454, identified during the previously undertaken desk based assessment (Smith, 2014) as the course of a Roman road.

1.3 Geology and Topography

- 1.3.1 The underlying solid geology of the assessment area is composed of undifferentiated red sandstone deposits including bunting and keuper. These are from the Permian and Triassic eras. The solid geology is overlain by both slightly acid loamy and clayey soils, with impeded drainage, and freely draining, slightly acid sandy soils (British Geological Survey, 2001).
- 1.3.2 The assessment area is located between Swancote Farm on the A454 and Bridgnorth Aluminium to the southwest adjacent to the A458. The route of the proposed trench, defined as the site (Figures 2a & 2b), passes through approximately ten fields, one area of woodland and includes three road crossings.
- 1.3.3 The route of the entire proposed trench is 3.85km in length. It is located at 73m above Ordnance Datum (OD) at the northern end of the route, near Swancote Farm, and ascends to 100m above OD to the south, before ending at 61m above OD at Bridgnorth Aluminium.

1.4 Archaeological and Historical Background

- 1.4.1 The site has been the subject of a detailed desk-based assessment and site walkover by AW (Smith, 2014). Below is a brief summary of the archaeological and historical background to the assessment area and its surroundings.
- 1.4.2 A search of the regional HER (Shrewsbury) was carried out 200m either side of the proposed route of the trench. The HER search revealed a total of eleven recorded sites of archaeological interest within this area. Of the eleven sites identified, six relate to

features of prehistoric or Roman date, one is medieval in date whilst the remaining four are post-medieval.

- 1.4.3 A detailed historic map regression analysis was carried out as part of the desk-based assessment. The study area is shown largely as enclosed fields and meadows on the 1840's tithe map. The field pattern is largely unchanged to the present day, although some field boundaries appear to have been removed.
- 1.4.4 Analysis of several oblique and vertical aerial photographs as part of the desk-based assessment (Smith, 2014) identified three later prehistoric or Romano-British enclosures. These are located close to the proposed route of the cable trench.
- 1.4.5 The area of the proposed trench falls within a fieldscape defined by the Shropshire Historic Landscape Characterisation (Wigley, 2007) as being Planned Enclosure. Planned enclosure is characterised by small to large fields with very straight boundaries and a rectilinear form, which lends them a geometric, planned, appearance. They are often associated with a pattern of very straight roads and dispersed farmsteads. In most cases these field patterns result from a process of general enclosure by formal agreement during the late 17th and 19th centuries. This HLC type includes commons that were enclosed by Act of Parliament (Wigley, 2007).

2 Aims and Objectives

2.1 Strip, Map & Record

2.1.1 The aims of the strip, map and record were to:

- make full and effective use of existing information in establishing the archaeological significance of the site;
- to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material;
- and to establish its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.

2.2 Watching Brief

2.2.1 The aims of an archaeological watching brief were to:

- to ensure that any buried remains located within the development area are fully investigated and recorded if revealed as a consequence of the site works;
- and to provide an opportunity for the archaeologists present to signal to all interested parties, before the destruction of the material in question, that an archaeological find has been made for which the resources allocated to the

watching brief itself are not sufficient to support treatment to a satisfactory and proper standard.

3 Methodology

3.1 General

- 3.1.1 All fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the CIfA's *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014) and current Health and Safety legislation.
- 3.1.2 All areas were photographed using high-resolution digital photography in *RAW format with images converted to TIFF format for long-term storage.
- 3.1.3 The on-site illustrations were undertaken on drafting film using recognised conventions and scales (1:10, 1:20, 1:50, as appropriate).
- 3.1.4 The strip, map and record and the watching brief were undertaken by Simon Reames, Peter Aherne and Adrian Hadley. The overall management of the project was undertaken by Mark Houlston (MCIfA) and Chris E Smith (MCIfA).

3.2 Strip, Map and Record

- 3.2.1 The strip, map and record was undertaken in Areas 1-3 (Figures 2a & 2b) by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision. Area 1 measured 70m in length by 1.8m wide. Area 2 measured 188m in length by 1.8m wide. Area 3 measured 112m in length by 1.8m wide.
- 3.2.2 Each strip, map and record area was located on the proposed line of the cable trench and was excavated down to the top of the natural subsoil.

3.3 Watching Brief

- 3.3.1 Monitoring of cable trench groundworks by mechanical excavator was undertaken with a constant archaeological presence in strip, map and record Areas 1-3 and intermittently elsewhere along the cable route.
- 3.3.2 The cable trench was initially cut to a width of 1.8m and up to 0.4m deep before a 0.5m wide trench was excavated down a further 0.7m from the base of the initial cut.
- 3.3.3 The mechanically excavated cable trench between Swancote Farm and Swancote Country Club was 223m in length by 0.5m wide. The depth of the trench varied between 0.8m and 1.1m.

3.4 Finds

- 3.4.1 Finds were recovered by hand during the course of the excavation and bagged by context.

4 Results of the Strip, Map & Record

4.1 Soils and Ground Conditions

4.1.1 The topsoil along the three strip, map and record areas was composed of mid-grey/brown sandy silt with common, small, subrounded gravel inclusions. In all areas it was between 0.2 and 0.3m deep. Subsoil deposits were composed of a reddish – yellow silty sand with similar gravel inclusions. This was up to 0.45m deep.

4.1.2 Weather conditions were changeable throughout the strip, map and record phase of works so the ground alternated between dry and wet. Some water retention was encountered across excavated areas, but this did not adversely affect the outcome of the investigation.

4.2 Description (Figures 2a, 2b, 3 & 4; Plates 1-6)

4.2.1 Area 1 (Figs 2a & 3, Plates 1-2) was located parallel to the A454 and was aligned approximately east-northeast by west-southwest. The trench was situated 35m each side of a field boundary (total length 70m). It was positioned so as to investigate the possible continuation of a pit alignment (PRN 21522) identified from aerial photography in the desk-based assessment (Smith, 2014).

4.2.2 Removal of topsoil (101) showed this to be a mid-grey/brown sandy silt and was up to 0.31m deep. No finds of archaeological significance were recovered from this horizon although modern ceramic building material was evident. The topsoil (101) overlay a reddish-yellow silty sand forming a loose subsoil deposit (102). This was present across the entire 70m length of Area 1 and contained no dateable material. Several plough-scars were noted cut into layer 102 on an east-northeast to west-southwest alignment. A single, gravel-filled, linear hollow was noted and excavated, though this was determined to be natural in origin. No features were noted cut into the subsoil other than the aforementioned plough-scars.

4.2.3 Area 2 (Figs 2a & 3, Plates 3-4) was located to the north west of Hermitage Farm. It measured 188m in length by 1.8m wide and was approximately aligned on a north-east to south-west axis. It was positioned along the line of the cable trench where it passed in close proximity of two cropmark enclosures (PRNs 02320 & 02321) identified by aerial photography in the desk-based assessment (Smith, 2014).

4.2.4 Removal of the topsoil (201) showed this to be similar in appearance to that observed within Area 1. The topsoil was up to 0.3m deep. This layer contained no finds of archaeological significance. It overlay subsoil (202), a mottled yellow silty sand which covered the entire trench. No features aside from a modern land drain [203] and modern wheel depressions truncated the subsoil (202).

4.2.5 Area 3 (Figs 2b & 4, Plates 5-6) was located to the north of the A458. It measured 122m in length by 1.8m wide and was aligned on a north-west to south-east axis. It was positioned along the line of the cable trench where it passed in close proximity to a further cropmark enclosure (PRN 00205).

4.2.6 Removal of the topsoil (301) showed this to be a consistent mid-grey/brown silty sand though with fewer inclusions than noted elsewhere. It was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.31m. No finds were recovered from the topsoil horizon. It overlay a red-brown silty sand (302) forming the subsoil deposit in this area. Occasional plough-scars running the length of the trench were noted, truncating layer 302. No features or finds or archaeological significance were identified in Area 3.

4.3 Summary

4.3.1 No finds or features of archaeological significance were identified during the strip, map and record on Areas 1-3.

5 Results of the Watching Brief

5.1 Soils and Ground Conditions

5.1.1 The topsoil along the length of the cable trench was consistently the same as that observed during the earlier strip, map and record; that is to say, it was composed of a mid-grey/brown silty sand with occasional to common small subrounded gravel inclusions.

5.1.2 The natural, where exposed, was composed of compacted glacial gravels. This layer was observed at depths of between 1 and 1.3m below the current ground surface.

5.1.3 Ground conditions were dry throughout the watching brief.

5.2 Description (Plates 7-10)

5.2.1 Area 1. The watching brief undertaken in Area 1 showed, in its upper deposits, the same sequence as previously identified during the strip, map and record phase (Section 4.2).

5.2.2 Excavation below the depth reached in the strip, map and record phase showed the subsoil horizon to be a further 0.2m deep and overlay an alluvial silt horizon. This was composed of a compacted mid-orange silt with no charcoal flecks and occasional subrounded and/or flat gravel inclusions. This alluvial silt was consistent along the across Area 1 and was up to 0.9m deep. A sondage showed it to overlie natural gravel beds at a depth of 1.3m. No finds or features were noted in Area 1 during the watching brief.

5.2.3 Area 2. The watching brief undertaken in Area 2 again showed the same upper deposits as previously identified during the strip, map and record phase (Section 4.2).

- 5.2.4 Excavation below the depth reached in the strip, map and record phase showed the same stratigraphic sequence as observed within Area 1. The subsoil deposit exposed by strip, map and record overlay an alluvial silt composed of compacted mid orange silt up to 0.9m deep. A sondage excavated within Area 2 encountered the natural gravel at a slightly shallower depth of 1m below ground level. No finds or features were noted in Area 2 during the watching brief.
- 5.2.5 Area 3. The watching brief undertaken in Area 3 identified the same upper deposits as recorded in the strip, map and record phase (Section 4.2) and the same stratigraphic sequence of the lower soil deposits as observed in Areas 2. The natural comprised compacted gravels exposed at a depth of 1m below the current ground surface. Again, no finds or features were noted in Area 3 during the watching brief.
- 5.2.6 Remaining Cable Trench. The remainder of the cable trench was monitored intermittently with the trench sections being visibly scanned for features and the spoil heap scanned both visually and with a metal detector. No finds or features were noted along the length of the cable trench.

5.3 Summary

- 5.3.1 The results of the watching brief largely support the results of the previously undertaken strip, map and record phase of work in that no finds or features of archaeological significance were noted either within Areas 1-3 or within the intermittently monitored remainder of the trench.

5.4 Swancote Country Club Watching Brief Results

- 5.4.1 Excavation of the 223m length of trench between Swancote Farm and Swancote Country Club was undertaken by mechanical excavator under close archaeological supervision.
- 5.4.2 The work was undertaken in two phases with the initial cutting of the cable trench across the line of the A454 being done in October 2015 and the remainder of the trenching being undertaken in September 2016.
- 5.4.3 The cutting of the trench through the line of the A454, identified by Smith (2014) as the route of the Roman road, showed no evidence of Roman archaeology surviving in this location. Cutting of the trench showed only modern deposits pertaining to the surface and foundation of the A454 located above as well as an alluvial silt horizon.
- 5.4.4 The trench across the A454 measured 10m in length and was 0.5m wide. It was cut to a maximum depth of 0.8m below the current road surface. The modern road deposits, including a mixed stone rubble bedding layer, measured 0.5m deep. The remaining 0.3m was made up of compacted mid-orange alluvial silt with no charcoal flecks and occasional subrounded and/or flat gravel inclusions, similar to that seen elsewhere along the areas subject to archaeological monitoring.

- 5.4.5 The remaining 213m of cable trench was excavated in a separate phase, undertaken in September 2016. The deposits observed within the trench section varied along its length.
- 5.4.6 In the 70m section of trench located on the southern side of the A454 no finds or features of archaeological or historic significance were located. Two sample sections (1 & 2 – Figs 5&6) were recorded.
- 5.4.7 Sample section 1, located adjacent to the cable tie in to the existing cable route (subject to earlier watching brief) showed a dark grey sand silt topsoil material (1001) up to 0.15m deep overlaying a pale brown sandy loam subsoil (1002). This was a shallow subsoil horizon overlaying a further, reddish, subsoil horizon (1003). Each was approximately 0.1m to 0.15m deep. They overlaid a reddish brown/orange alluvial silt horizon (1004) similar to that seen elsewhere. This was approximately 0.2m deep and overlay a coarse red sand natural (1005). No finds were located in any context.
- 5.4.8 Sample section 2, located immediately adjacent to the southern edge of the A454, showed largely the same stratigraphic sequence as that observed within section 1.
- 5.4.9 Sample section 3, located immediately adjacent to the northern edge of the A454, showed largely the same stratigraphic sequence as that observed within sample sections 1 and 2, though the natural coarse red sand seen elsewhere was not exposed. A shallow, elongated ‘U’ profiled cut [3005] was observed within the section edge. It was approximately 0.65m wide and up to 0.1m deep. It contained a single fill, (3006), composed of seemingly redeposited topsoil with evidence of bioturbation. The feature was not visible in the opposing section of the trench and appears likely to have been a shrub/tree bowl.
- 5.4.10 Sample section 4 was located on the northern side of the A454, approximately 60m to the north east of sample section 3. Whilst it recorded largely the same stratigraphic sequence of deposits as seen elsewhere it also showed a likely larger tree bowl feature [4008]. The tree bowl feature showed a lot of bioturbation within its primary and secondary fills, (4005) and (4004) respectively. The primary fill was composed of a mixed grey/brown sandy silt with frequent subrounded stone inclusions whilst the secondary fill (4004) was composed of a darker grey/brown sandy silt with no stone inclusions.
- 5.4.11 Sample section 5 was located towards the northern end of the cable trench, adjacent to the Swancote Country Club. The stratigraphic sequence was the same as that observed in sections 1 to 4 with no finds or features located.

6 Discussion and Conclusions

6.1 Overall Interpretation

- 6.1.1 The overall interpretation gained from the strip, map and record, as well as the watching briefs, carried out on the Swancote Farm cable trenching would appear to suggest that, whilst archaeological features are clearly present within the immediately surrounding area, as shown in the desk-based assessment (Smith, 2014), finds and features related to these may be located closer to these known sites. By aligning the cable trench route between 80-100m away from known archaeological features, this has resulted in these monuments being protected *in situ*.
- 6.1.2 Despite the negative results of the fieldwork, there is considerable potential for encountering archaeological remains should future groundwork be undertaken in the vicinity of the enclosures and pits identified in the desk-based assessment.

7 Acknowledgements

- 7.1.1 Thanks are due to Simon Reames, Adrian Hadley, Peter Aherne & Peter Spencer for undertaking the strip, map and record and the watching briefs.

8 Bibliography and References

British Geological Survey. 2001, 4th Edition, Solid Geology Map, UK South Sheet.

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2014, *Standards and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief*.

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Wigley, A. 2007, *The Shropshire Historic Landscape Character Assessment*, Shropshire County Council & Historic England.

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APPENDIX I: Figures

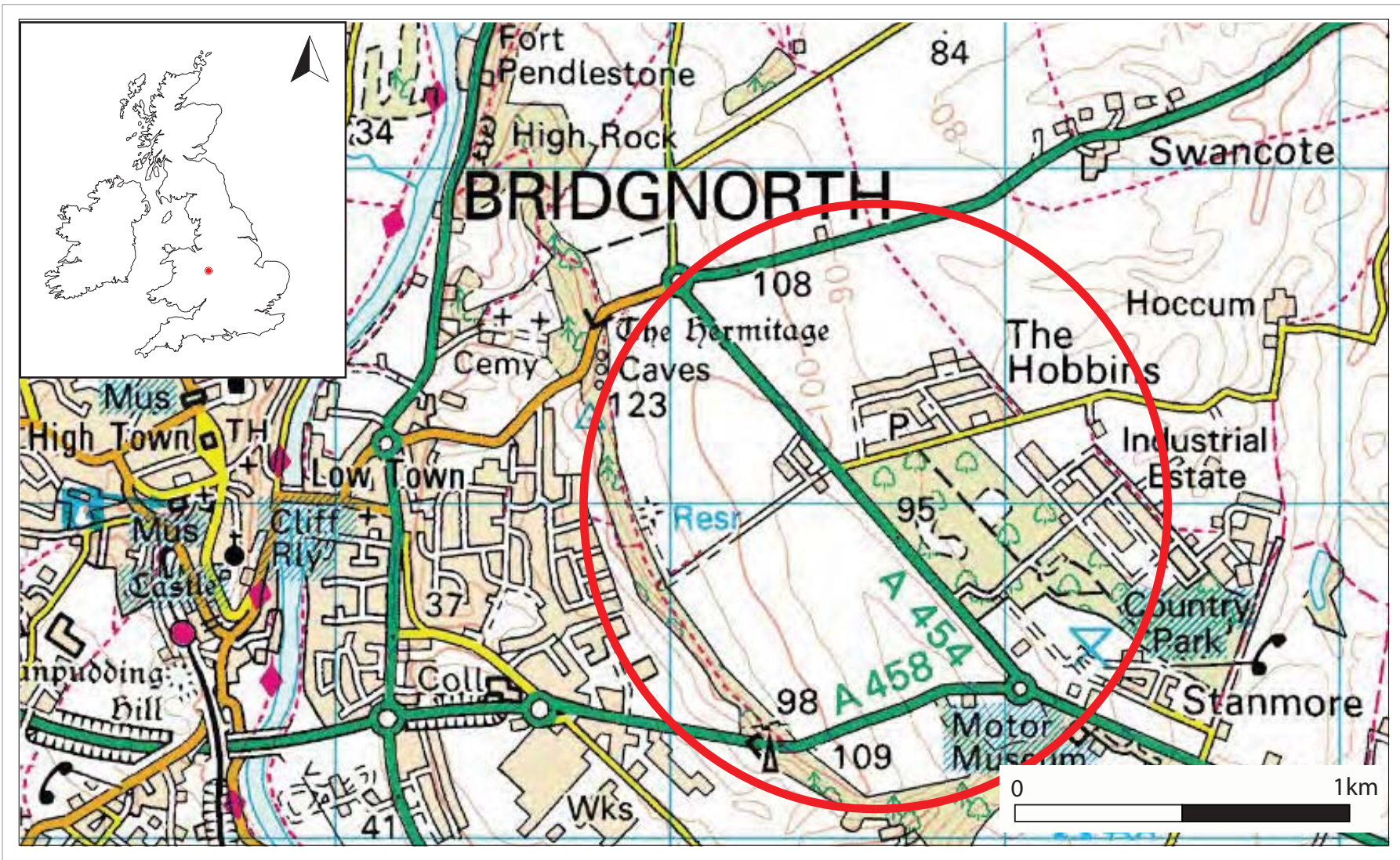
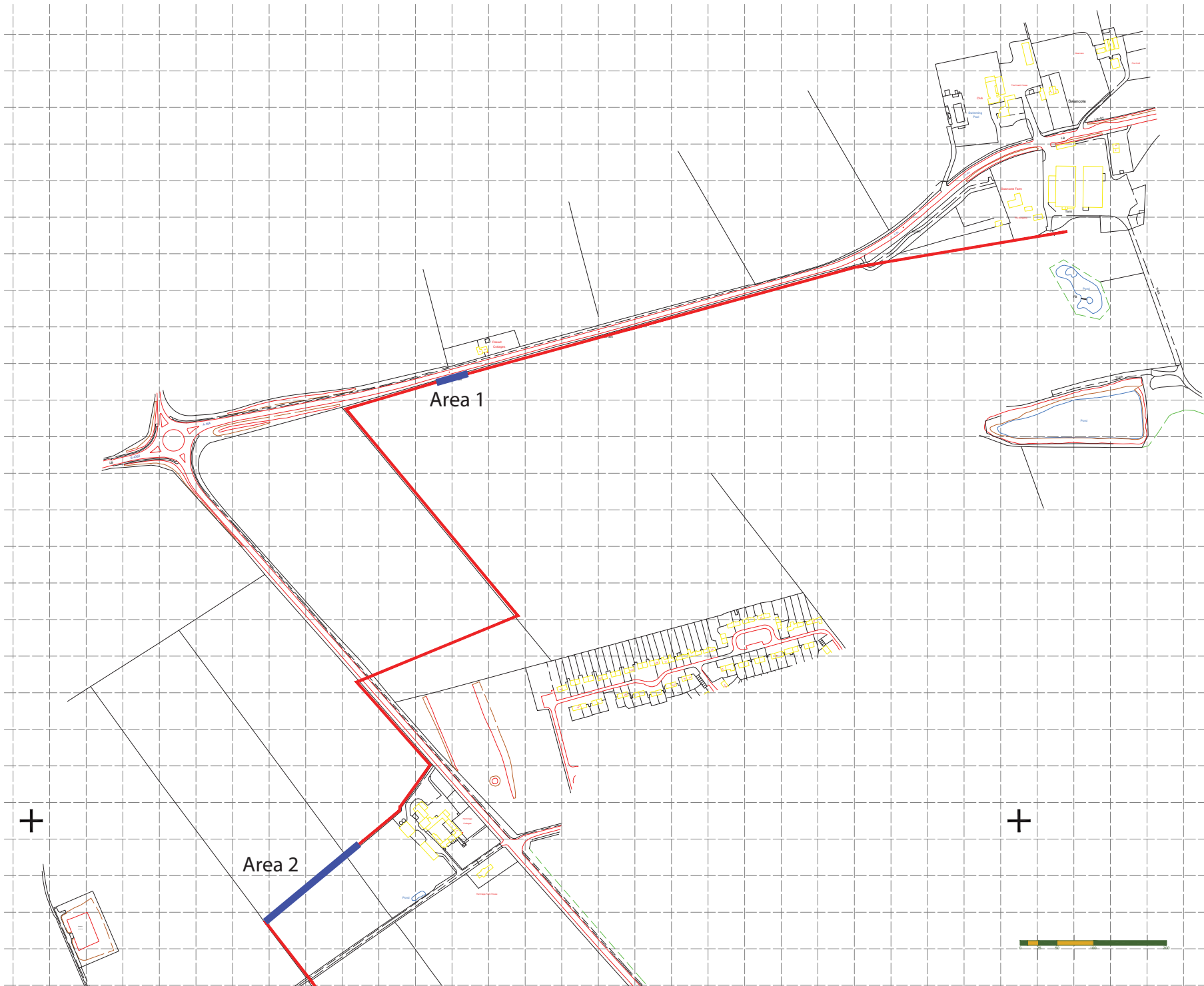


Fig 1: Figure showing location of assessment area



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 9/12/2013

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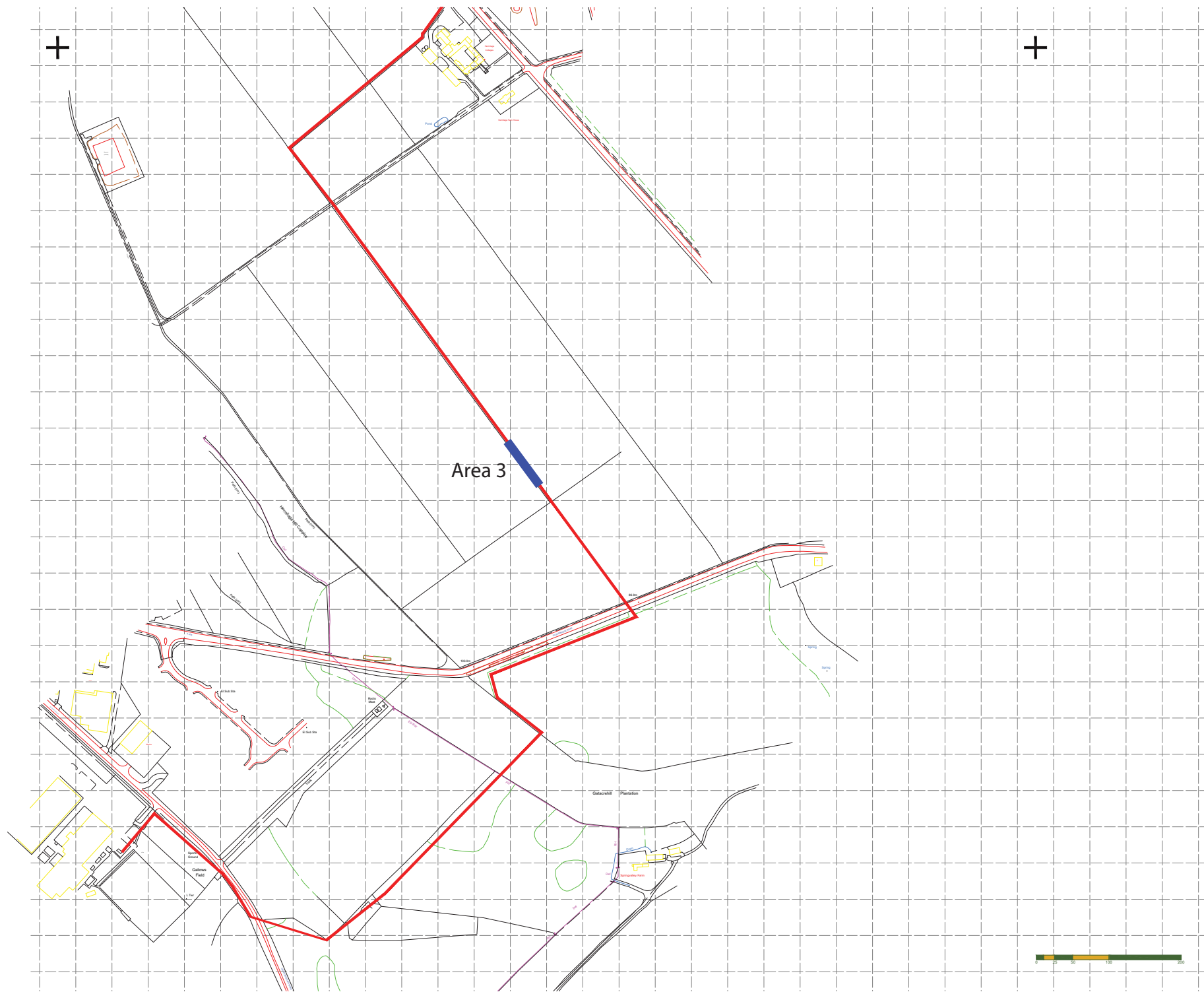
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 Shrewsbury Business Park Fax: 01743 271753
 Shrewsbury SY2 6LG www.berrybros.com

Client:
 Swancote Energy

Project: Proposed Electrical Cable between
 Swancote Farm and Bridgnorth Aluminium.

Drawing: Figure 2a

Drawing Number: SA14535/02	Rev.	Scale 1:2500	Paper A1	Drawn By: AB
				Date: Dec 2013



Amendments:
 AMENDED DRAWING
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 Shrewsbury SY2 6LG www.berrybros.com

Client:
 Swancote Energy

Project: Proposed Electrical Cable between
 Swancote Farm and Bridgnorth Aluminium.

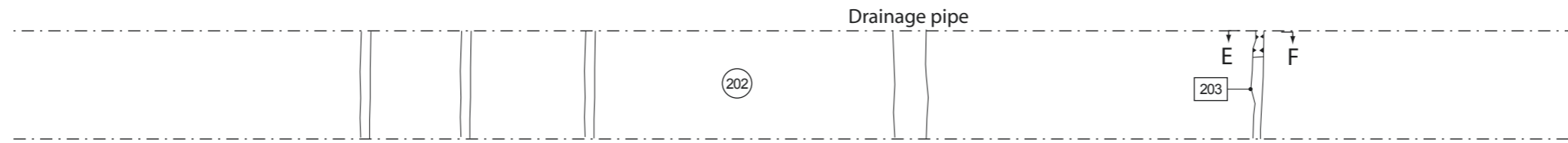
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Plan of Area 1

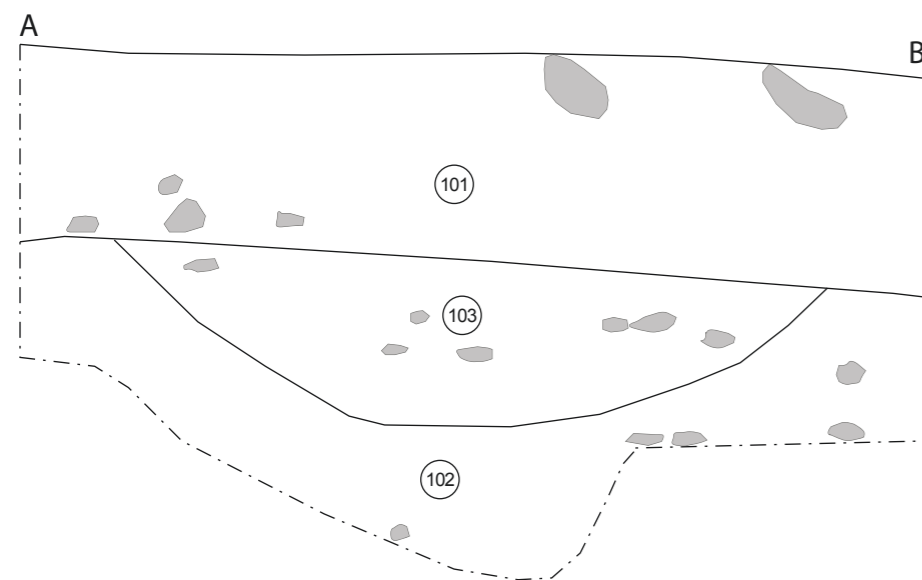


Plan of Area 2

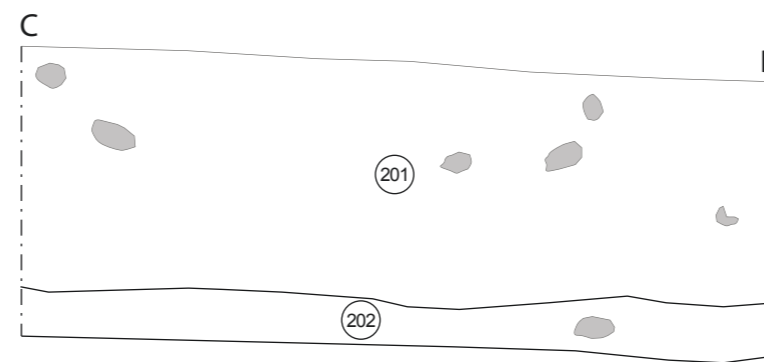


Modern wheel ruts

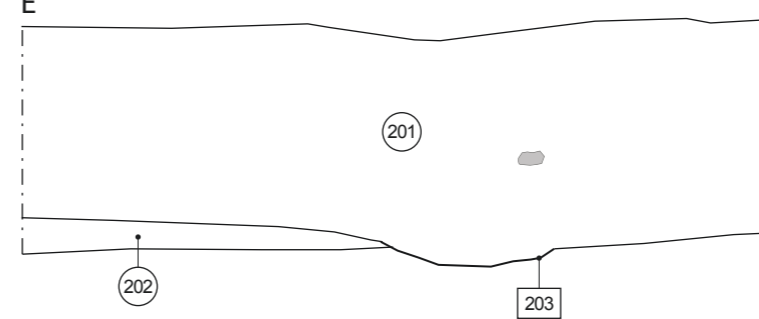
South-southeast facing sample section of Area 1



South-southeast facing sample section of Area 2



South-southeast facing section of [203] of Area 2



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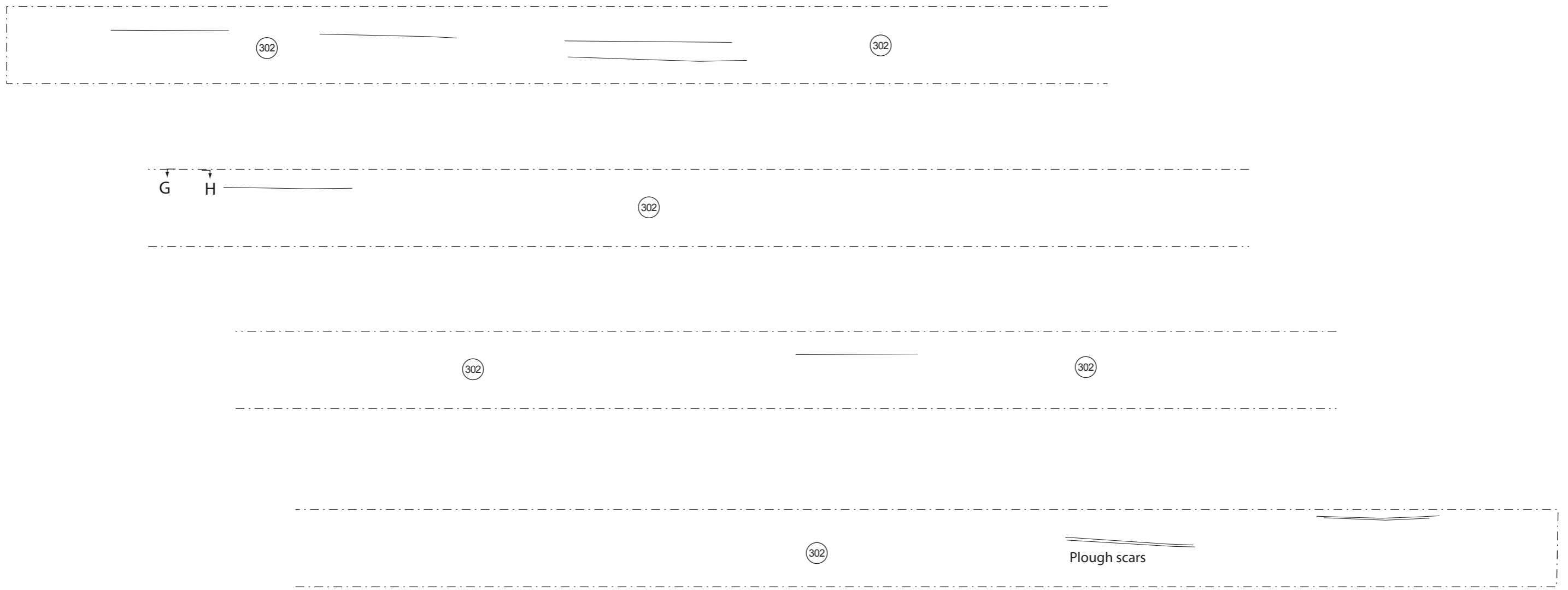
Figure 3



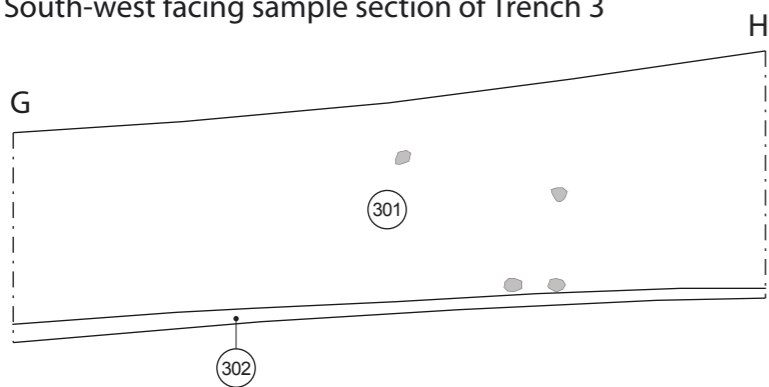
Plan of Trench 3



Modern
tyre marks



South-west facing sample section of Trench 3



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Figure 4



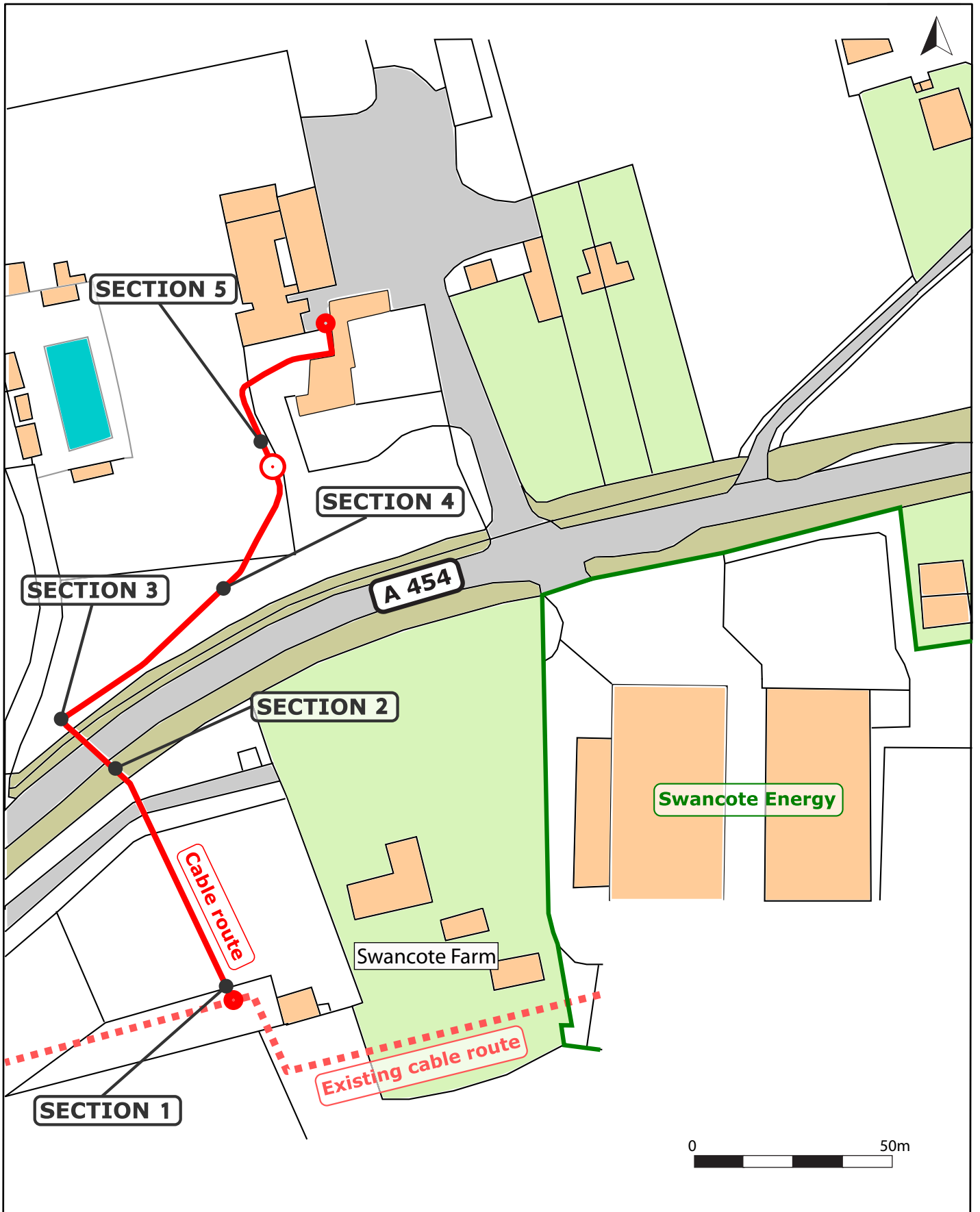
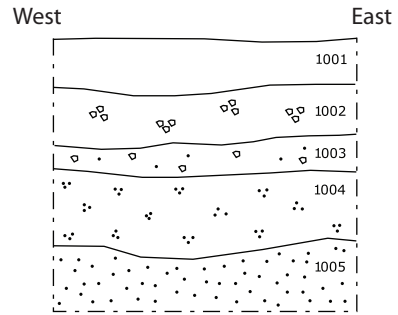
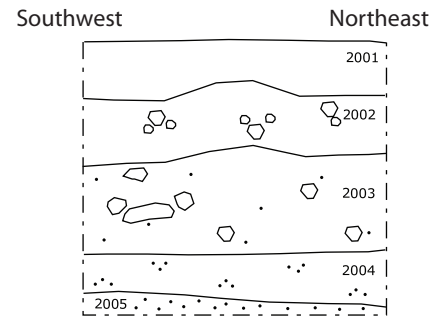


Figure 5
Overall site plan showing route of cable trench

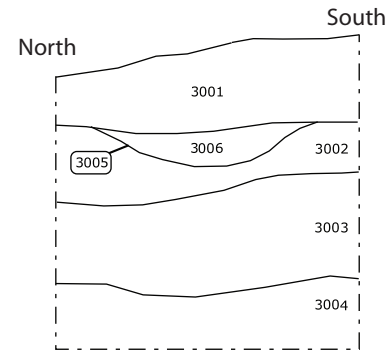
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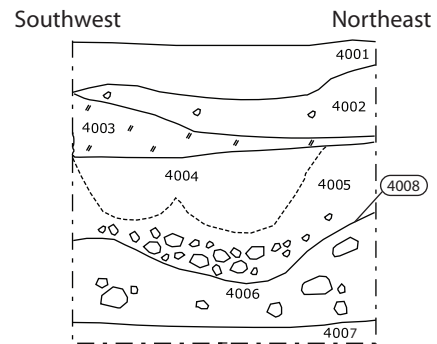
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Section 3



Section 4



Section 5

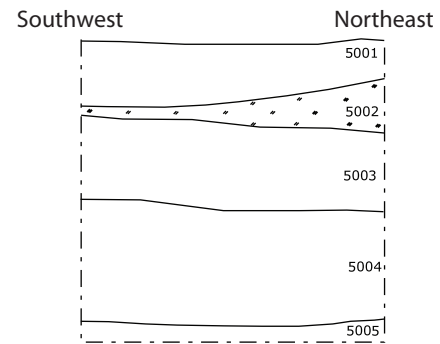


Figure 6
Representative
sections taken along
cable trench

Scale: 1 : 20 @ A4

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APPENDIX II: Plates



Plate 1: View west-south-west along eastern section of Area 1. Scales 2x1m



Plate 2: View west-south-west along western section of Area 1. Scales 2x1m



Plate 3: View south west along Area 2. Scales 2x1m



Plate 4: View north east along Area 2. Scales 2x1m



Plate 5: View south east of Area 3. Scales 2x1m



Plate 6: View north west of Area 3. Scales 2x1m



Plate 7: View along cable trench south west from crossing of A454 at Hermitage Farm in to Area 2



Plate 8: View north west of cable trench cutting in Area 3



Plate 9: View of cable trench excavation, looking south east, between Area 1 and A454 road crossing at Hermitage Farm



Plate 10: View of cable trench through field boundary at Area 2. Looking south west



Plate 11. Shot along Cable Trench, looking south.
Scale 1m



Plate 12. Shot along Cable Trench, looking north.
Scale 1m



Plate 13. Shot of Section 1 within Cable Trench. Scale 1m



Plate 14. Shot of Cable Trench through road A454 taken during a Watching Brief in 2015. Looking south

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APPENDIX III:

Written Scheme of Investigation

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**Written Scheme of Investigations
For Strip/Map/Record & Watching Brief at
Swancote Farm, Bridgnorth, Shropshire**

**Prepared for:
Edward Davies
Swancote Energy
Swancote Farm
Bridgnorth, Shropshire**

Project No: 2215

26th September 2014

Archaeology Wales Limited
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NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

This Written Scheme of Investigations details the proposal for a strip map and record on three separate areas of a proposed service route between Swancote Farm and Bridgnorth Aluminiums well as a watching brief along a further section of the proposed route. It has been prepared by Archaeology Wales Ltd for Edward Davies, Swancote Energy, Swancote Farm, Bridgnorth.

1. Introduction

The proposed development consists of plans to excavate a cable trench measuring 1m deep by 0.4m wide on land spread over several fields between Swancote Farm and Bridgnorth Aluminium (henceforth 'the site'), NGR SO 74243 93934 to SO 72914 92018. The development proposal has been submitted by Edward Davies of Swancote Energy. The local planning authority is Shropshire Council (SC) and the planning application number is 13/05127/FUL. Archaeological services are provided by the Shropshire County Council Historic Environment Team (SCC-HET).

This Written Scheme of Investigations has been prepared by Chris E Smith (MIFA), Project Manager, Archaeology Wales Ltd (AW) at the request of Edward Davies (Henceforth – the client). It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AW during a strip map and record and a watching brief at the site.

In response to an earlier phase of work, a desk based assessment undertaken by AW (Smith 2014), Mick Krupa (SCC-HET) has recommended a strip map and record along three separate 'archaeologically sensitive' areas along the proposed route as well as a watching brief during the majority of the service trench excavation. Further mitigation may be required dependent upon the results of the strip map and record works (Stage 2).

2 Site description

The site consists of seven open fields currently in use as agricultural (arable) land. The desk based assessment (Smith 2014) identified, through cartographic and aerial photographic analysis, as well as consultation with the regional HER, several sites of archaeological significance through which the proposed trench route passes close to.

The proposed route passes across the location of a cropmarked pit alignment (Area A) to the west of Swancote Farm, it then continues in the gap between two cropmarked enclosures (Area B) before passing close to the site of a further enclosure and flint scatter (Area C).

3 Site specific objectives

This WSI is for a phased programme of archaeological works. The primary objective will be to assess the impact of the development proposals on the historic environment by means of a strip map and record in the three areas deemed to be the most archaeologically sensitive and a watching brief maintained on the majority of the

remainder of the proposed route.

The aim will be to make full and effective use of existing information in establishing the archaeological significance of the site, to elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance.

The work will include a comprehensive assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

The work will fulfil archaeological mitigation requirements in respect of applied conditions and National Planning Policy Framework.

4 The proposed archaeological work

The aim of the work will be to establish the location, nature, date and significance of the archaeological resource existing on the site and (in the case of the strip map and record) to sample excavate it prior to the cutting of the trench. The work will include the following elements:

- Marking out of stretches of route to be subject to strip map and record (Stage 1)
- Strip map and record three stretches (Stage 2)
- Watching brief undertaken along majority of route
- The production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 4)

5 Method statement for a marking out of Strip Map and Record areas (Stage 1)

General

The areas to be subject to strip, map and record have been previously highlighted in a meeting with Mick Krupa and the client.

Each is located within or close to an area deemed to be archaeologically sensitive by the desk based assessment (Smith 2014). For descriptive ease these will be referred to as areas A, B and C.

Detailed

Areas A, B and C will be located on the ground using GPS. The route through each area to be taken by the service trench will be marked out on the ground using wooden grid pegs, similarly located by GPS.

Each grid peg will have high visibility tape attached.

6 Method statement for the strip map and record of Areas A, B and C (Stage 2)

After each area has been accurately marked out (Stage 1), removal of the top/ploughsoil by mechanical excavator using a wide toothless ditching bucket (1.8m) will be undertaken using the marked pegs as a centreline.

It is anticipated that any cut features will be visible beneath the ploughsoil, cut into

the subsoil horizon.

The exposed subsoil surface will be cleaned by hand using pointing trowels or hoes and will be visually scanned for archaeological finds or features. Similarly, all spoil heaps will be scanned, both by eye and by metal detector, for finds of archaeological significance.

After discussion with Mick Krupa (SCC-HET) excavation and recording of any exposed features will be undertaken. Provisionally this will include a minimum 50% sample through half sectioning of all linear features, pit features and posthole features.

Environmental, radiocarbon and technological samples will be taken where necessary and as appropriate. All finds will be recovered by hand and bagged by context.

Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries and related to the developer's site plan. The location of all features will also be recorded using a handheld GPS unit.

Photographs will be taken in digital format, using a 14MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format. Should significant remains be identified that require excavation, photographs will also be taken in black and white and colour slide (35mm film).

Should a large number of significant archaeological remains be located which it is felt cannot be adequately dealt with under the resources available to the strip map and record then discussions on how to progress will be held with both the client and SCC-HET.

7 Method statement for the archaeological watching brief on fields to west of Swancote Farm (Stage 3)

Owing to the comparatively large amount of archaeological features in the area, as described by the desk based assessment (Smith 2014), the likelihood exists of previously unrecorded archaeological remains being located within the area of the proposed route (other than those covered by Stage 2). The Watching Brief, intensive in nature, will therefore be carried out by a suitably qualified archaeologist during the cutting of the cable trench between Swancote Farm and the course of the A458 running west into Bridgnorth. The mechanical excavation will be undertaken by a machine using a toothless ditching blade bucket wherever possible/practicable.

If previously unknown archaeological features, finds or deposits are uncovered, work will be stopped in the area of the exposed feature in order that the supervising archaeologist can clean and identify the extent and nature of the feature and for rapid excavation and recording to take place.

All archaeological deposits that are identified will be mapped, cleaned, recorded and fully excavated. The developer will provide a safe working area and sufficient time to record and excavate all features to the satisfaction of AW and SCC-HET. Full

excavation of identified features will not be compromised by the construction programme.

Recording

Recording will be carried out using AW recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc), using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

All features identified will be tied in to the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries and related to the developer's site plan. The location of all features will also be recorded using a handheld GPS unit.

Photographs will be taken in digital format, using a 14MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format. Should significant remains be identified that require excavation, photographs will also be taken in black and white and colour slide (35mm film).

The archaeologists undertaking the watching brief will have access to the AW metal detector and be trained in its use.

Monitoring

SCC-HET will be contacted prior to the commencement of ground works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

SCC-HET will be provided with notice of the start date, a projected timetable and a copy of the Health and Safety Risk Assessment no less than 5 working days prior to the commencement of the work.

Any changes to the specification that the contractor may wish to make after approval will be communicated to SCC-HET for approval on behalf of Planning Authority.

Representatives of SCC-HET will be given access to the site so that they may monitor the progress of the stages 2 and 3. No area will be back-filled, until SCC-HET has had the opportunity to inspect it, unless permission has been given in advance. SCC-HET will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during post-excavation.

Artifacts

Archaeological artifacts recovered during the course of stages 2&3 will be cleaned and labelled using an accession number which will be obtained from the local museum. A single number sequence will be allocated to all finds. The artifacts will be stored appropriately until they are deposited with the museum.

All artefacts recovered during the project will be retained and be related to the contexts from which they were derived. All typologically distinct and closely datable finds will be recorded three-dimensionally.

The work will carefully consider any artefactual or economic information and provide an assessment of the viability, for further study, of such information. It will be particularly important to provide an indication of the relative significance of such material for any subsequent decision-making process regarding mitigation strategies.

Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (Phil Parkes of Cardiff Conservation Services).

A catalogue by context of all artefactual material found, quantified by number, weight, or both, and containing sketches of significant artefacts will be compiled.

Pottery will be analysed to the standards outlined in "Guidelines for the Preparation of Pottery Archives" as prepared by the Study Group for Roman Pottery in consultation with the IFA. All other material will be analysed following the advice given in the Institute of Field Archaeologists: Guidelines for Finds Work.

The requirements for the conservation of artefacts will be unpredictable until after the completion of the fieldwork. The archaeological contractor will ensure, however, that at least minimum acceptable standards are achieved (the UK Institute of Conservation's Guidelines for the Treatment of Finds from Archaeological Site should be used as guidance).

All medieval and earlier artifacts will be subject to specialist analysis by Dr Hilary Cool. All lithics will be subject to specialist analysis by Dr Amelia Pannet whilst all Saxon and later ceramics will be subject to specialist analysis by Stephen Clarke and classified in accordance with local Ceramic Type Series.

Environmental and technological samples

Environmental Soil samples will be taken from appropriate dated or undated deposits or from specific industrial features such as kilns and hearths (EH 2011). This will be subject to variation as necessary during the investigation, following consultation with the County Archaeological Advisor and the EH Regional Science Advisor or the project's palaeo-environmentalist. The minimum sample size will be 40 litres where possible.

Any features containing deposits of environmental or technological significance will be sampled. If required, the project manager should arrange, through a suitably qualified expert the assessment of the environmental potential of the site through examination of suitable deposits. The assessment of potential should consider the guidelines set out in the English Heritage publication 'Environmental Archaeology' Jan 2011.

The requirements for the conservation of samples will be unpredictable until after the completion of the fieldwork. The archaeological contractor will ensure, however, that at least minimum acceptable standards are achieved (the UK Institute of Conservation's Guidelines for the Treatment of Finds from Archaeological Site should be used as guidance).

Human remains

Human remains will be left in situ, covered and protected when discovered. No further investigation will normally be undertaken until SCC-HET and the local Coroner have been informed. After discussion, it may be appropriate to take bone samples for C14 dating. If removal is essential it can only take place under the appropriate Ministry of Justice and Environmental Health regulations.

Specialists

In the event of certain finds/features etc. being discovered, the site archaeologist may

have to seek specialist opinion for assistance. Such specialists will be accessed either internally within AW itself or from an external source. A list of external specialists is given in the table below.

Type	Name	Tel No.
Flint	Amelia Pannett	02920 899509
Animal bone	Jen Kitch	07739 093712
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Rachael Hall	01305 259751
Clay pipe	Hilary Major	01376 329316
Glass	Andy Richmond	01234 888800
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst	01759 368483
Metalwork	Kevin Leahy	01652 658261
Neo/BA pottery	Dr Alex Gibson	Bradford University
IA/Roman pottery	Jane Timby	01453 882851
Post Roman pottery	Mr Stephen Clarke	
Charcoal (wood ID)	John Carrot	01388 772167
Waterlogged wood	Nigel Nayling	University of Wales (Lampeter)
Molluscs and pollen	Dr James Rackham	01992 552256
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers	01443 233466

8 Method statement for the production of an illustrated report and the deposition of the site archive (Stage 3)

The results will be presented in a report and will be detailed and laid out in such a way that data and supporting text are readily cross-referenced. The HER Officer will be contacted to ensure that any sites or monuments not previously recorded in the HER are given a Primary Record Number (PRN) and that data structure is compatible with the HER.

Within the report an attempt will be made to indicate areas of greater or lesser archaeological significance and the sites will be ranked in level of overall archaeological importance (locally, regionally and nationally).

All relevant aerial photographs, re-plots and historic maps will be included and be fully referenced. Any site photographs included in the report will be appropriately captioned and clearly located on a suitably scaled site plan.

The report will specifically include the following:

1. a copy of the design brief
2. a location plan
3. all identified sites plotted on an appropriately scaled plan of the proposal site
4. a gazetteer of all located sites with full dimensional and descriptive detail including grid reference and period

Copies of the report will be sent to: Edward Davies, SCC-HET and for inclusion in the HER. Digital copies will be provided in pdf format if required.

A summary report of the work will be submitted for publication to a national journal no later than one year after the completion of the work. Grey Literature and relevant archive material generated by the project will also be uploaded onto the OASIS online database. The OASIS reference ID will be clearly indicated on the reports.

If there is a gap of more than 4 months between stages 2 and 3 it may be appropriate, after discussion with SCC-HET, to produce an interim report detailing the work undertaken during stage 2.

The site archive

A project archive will be prepared in accordance with the National Monuments Record agreed structure and be deposited within a local museum on completion of site analysis and report production. It will also conform to the guidelines set out in English Heritage (2009) Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment and MoRPHE Project Planning Note 3: Excavation (2008).

Arrangements will be made with the local museum before work starts. Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER.

Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, the report and the archive will be deposited not later than six months after completion of the work.

Other significant digital data generated by the survey (ie AP plots, EDM surveys, CAD drawings, GIS maps, etc) will be presented as part of the report on a CD/DVD. The format of this presented data will be agreed with the curator in advance of its preparation.

9 Resources and timetable

Standards

The work will be undertaken by AW staff using current best practice. Archaeology Wales Ltd is an IfA Registered Organisation. All work will be undertaken to the standards and guidelines of the IfA.

Staff

The project will be undertaken by suitably qualified AW staff. Overall management of the project will be undertaken by Chris Smith (a CV is available upon request).

Equipment

The project will use existing AW equipment.

Timetable of archaeological works

The work will be undertaken at the convenience of the client. No start date has yet been agreed.

Insurance

AW is an affiliated member of the CBA, and holds Insurance through the CBA insurance service.

Health and safety

All members of staff will adhere to the requirements of the *Health & Safety at Work Act, 1974*, and the Health and Safety Policy Statement of AW.

If AW has sole possession of the site, then AW will produce a detailed Risk Assessment for approval by the client before any work is undertaken. If another organisation has responsibility for site safety, then AW employees will be briefed on the contents of all existing Risk Assessments, and all other health and safety requirements that may be in place.

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APPENDIX IV: Archive Cover Sheet

ARCHIVE COVER SHEET

Swancote Farm to Bridgnorth Aluminium

Site Name:	Swancote
Site Code:	SFB/14/WB
Other Ref No:	-
NGR:	SO 74243 93934 to SO 72914 92018
Site Type:	Greenfield
Project Type:	Strip/Map/Record & Watching Brief
Project Manager:	Chris E Smith/Mark Houliston
Project Dates:	November 2014 to May 2015
Categories Present:	NA
Location of Original Archive:	AW
Location of duplicate Archives:	-
Number of Finds Boxes:	NA
Location of Finds:	NA
Museum Reference:	NA
Copyright:	AW
Restrictions to access:	None

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