

Report



Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report: Green Farm, South Gloucestershire

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Quality Assurance

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Where field investigations have been carried out, these have been restricted to a level of detail required to achieve the stated objectives of the work.

This work has been undertaken in accordance with the quality management system of RSK ADAS Ltd.

Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment

Summary

In August 2021, RSK ADAS Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at Green Farm, South Gloucestershire during groundworks for a new permitted development underground cable.

The groundworks comprised excavation of trenches for new underground electricity cables. The cable trenches were adjoining and measured 22 m in length, 85 m in length, 110 m in length and 60 m in length.

There were no archaeological finds or features recorded during the excavation of the cable trenches.

These results indicate that the monitoring methodology used was effective in ensuring that the development resulted in no harm to the historic environment resource.

The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring may be attributed to the relatively limited ground impact of the cable trench and due to the impact of agricultural activity in these fields. However, the results might suggest that significant buried archaeological deposits associated with the Deserted Medieval Village (HER NO 2781) do not extend in this direction.

The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring may be attributed to the relatively limited ground impact of the cable trench and to the impact of agricultural activity in these fields.

Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Western Power Distribution, and thanks are due in this regard. Fieldwork was carried out by Charlotte Barley. The report and supporting illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Barley and checked by Diarmuid O Seaneachain. The archive was compiled by Charlotte Barley.

1 Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1 In August 2021, ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for Western Power Distribution of groundworks required for a new underground cable on land at Green Farm, Gaunt's Earthcott, South Gloucestershire. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the groundworks (Figure 1).
- 1.2 The works were carried out within the permitted development rights of Western Power Distribution under the Electricity Act 1989, and therefore were not subject to a planning application.
- 1.3 Mr Paul Driscoll, the Local Authority Archaeologist for South Gloucestershire, recommended archaeological monitoring should be carried out during the excavation of the cable trench (Pers Comm 27th July 2021).
- 1.4 It was considered that this part of the proposed development had particular potential to impact upon significant buried archaeological remains within the area of Green Farm associated with a Deserted Medieval Village (HER NO 2781) which is recorded at this location.
- 1.5 RSK ADAS Ltd were instructed to prepare a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) to carry out the required archaeological works and record any archaeological remains during the monitoring of the groundworks (ADAS, 2021).
- 1.6 The fieldwork followed the *Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief* (CIfA 2020), *the Management of Archaeological Projects 2* (English Heritage, 1991) and the *Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide* (Historic England, 2015).
- 1.7 In carrying out this work, Western Power Distribution complied with their obligations to the historic environment, as outlined in Section 38 and Schedule 9 of the Electricity Act 1989.

2 The Scheme, Development and Geology

The Scheme

- 2.1 The Scheme is located on land at Green Farm, Gaunt's Earthcott, South Gloucestershire (NGR: ST 63489 84337). The Scheme begins at Green Farm and heads west, before splitting into two parts. Part of the Scheme runs south towards Gaunt's Earthcott Lane with the remainder of the Scheme continuing north-west, before changing direction to the south-west and terminating near an unnamed track at the junction between Hortham Lane and Gaunt's Earthcott Lane.

The Development

- 2.2 The groundworks required for the installation of the underground cable comprised the excavation of approximately 530 m of open cut trenches up to 1.0 m in width by 1.0 m in depth. There was also a spur of approximately 100 m of underground cable trench excavated along an alternative alignment, as shown on Figure 2.

The Geology

- 2.3 The underlying geology of the development is described as Limestone and Mudstone of the Blue Lias Formation and mudstone of the Penarth Group. These sedimentary bedrocks formed approximately 191 to 210 million years ago in the Jurassic and Triassic Periods. There are no superficial deposits recorded along the Scheme (BGS, 2021).
- 2.4 The closest borehole log to the cable route (ST68SW51) is from a borehole which is located near the M5. This borehole log records topsoil measuring 0.15 m in thickness overlying a soft yellow-brown silty clay (weathered White and Blue Lias) measuring 0.9 m in thickness. This in turn overlay a stiff grey silty calcareous clay mudstone measuring 3.5 m in thickness (BGS, 2021).

3 Objectives

Aims and Scope

- 3.1 The general aims of this watching brief were:
- *To ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during groundworks associated with the development area were identified, recorded and interpreted to an acceptable standard;*
 - *To ensure that any significant discoveries of artefactual evidence were recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard;*
- 3.2 The specific aims of this watching brief were:
- *To identify and record any unknown buried archaeological remains or artefacts that may be associated with the Deserted Medieval Village*
 - *To ensure that the fieldwork took place within, and contributes to the goals of the South-West Archaeological Research Framework (Grove and Croft, 2021).*
 - *To report the results as appropriate.*

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5 Archaeological and Historical Context

Introduction

- 5.1 The historic environment potential of a 500 m Study Area around the proposed works was assessed in order to provide the archaeological and historic background for this Scheme. The results of this assessment are outlined below. All designated heritage assets are referred to in the text by their Historic England and/or HER reference numbers. Recorded previous archaeological investigations within the 500 m Study Area are referenced by their County Historic Environment Record (HER) Excavation Index number.
- 5.2 The South Gloucestershire HER records a shrunken settlement (2781). It is a well preserved Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) which may have originally been moated. There are well-preserved earthworks and medieval buildings are extant within the site of the DMV and it is considered among the best DMVs in the area. Rectangular earthworks near the 'green' settlement of Gaunts Earthcotts were surveyed in 1979, and the site was suggested as a possible DMV. Earthworks are visible on 1946 aerial photograph as a rectangular enclosure with inner boundary divisions, aligned with current field boundaries in the field north of Gaunt's Earthcott Lane, opposite Gaunt's farm (South Gloucestershire HER, 2021).
- 5.3 A report produced following a geophysical survey and trial putting concluded that the rectangular feature near the centre was interpreted as stone foundations of a building measuring approximately 16 m x 9 m, with possible entrances on both long sides. An area of possible demolition rubble spread to the west is covered by a mound. There may be another smaller building within the same enclosure. There appears to be a building with its north-western end beneath the outer ditch. There may be another immediately to the south-east and on the same alignment (extending beyond the limit of the current survey) and there is a suggestion of a third building to the north-west within the enclosure. All are on the same alignment as the features within the enclosure. The linear feature running from the south-eastern edge of the survey area

is interpreted as a surfaced track. The feature adjoining its north-western end lies under a mound next to the boundary ditch and could be rubble spread (Adams, 2013).

- 5.4 The South Gloucestershire HER also records areas of ridge and furrow at Almondsbury (21387). It is almost contiguous and was visible as earthworks on aerial photographs which was mapped as part of the Severn Valley National Mapping Programme (NMP) Project. The ridge and furrow covers a vast area of the study area, and the eastern branch of the Route passes through part of this area of ridge and furrow (South Gloucestershire HER, 2021).
- 5.5 There is one record for a geophysical survey (21803) which was carried out in the vicinity of the groundworks. Magnetometry and a resistance survey were completed in 2013 as part of the South Gloucestershire Community Archaeology Project. Well preserved archaeology was identified in the form of buildings and a possible trackway, indicative of a settlement (South Gloucestershire HER, 2021). Trial pitting was also carried out (21804) within the DMV which comprised the excavation of eleven trial pits measuring 1 m x 1 m. The results of this small scale excavation confirmed the previous geophysical survey (21803) results and identified structural remains, comprising walls and floor surfaces, as well as a trackway associated with the deserted medieval village. Pottery was recovered and was dated to the medieval. The archaeological remains were shallow and survive close to the surface. The remains are very well preserved (South Gloucestershire HER, 2021).

6 Methodology

Introduction

- 6.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the Written Scheme of Investigation (ADAS, 2021). An archaeologist was present during all intrusive groundworks to excavate the new cable trench within the watching brief area.
- 6.2 Where archaeological deposits were encountered written, graphic and photographic records were compiled in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance: Archaeological watching brief 2020*.

Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

- 6.3 No artefacts or human remains were encountered during the watching brief. No archaeologically significant deposits were disturbed by the groundworks, so no environmental sampling was undertaken.

Post-Excavation Analysis

- 6.4 No archaeological artefacts or deposits were encountered during the watching brief, and therefore no specialist post-excavation analysis was required.

Archives and Deposition

- 6.5 The archive is currently held by ADAS at their offices in Milton Park. No artefacts were recovered during the monitoring and therefore no artefacts will need to be deposited with an approved local museum. A paper or digital archive will be deposited with the museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork under an accession number which will be issued upon deposition. A summary of information from this project, set out within Appendix C, will be entered onto the OASIS database of archaeological projects in Britain. An OASIS form, ID reference adasuklt1-425961 has completed and is attached to this report as Appendix C.

ADAS Project Team

- 6.6 Fieldwork was undertaken by Charlotte Barley. The report was written by Charlotte Barley. The illustrations were prepared by Charlotte Barley. The report and illustrations were checked by Diarmuid O Seaneachain. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by Charlotte Barley. The project was managed for ADAS by James McNicoll-Norbury.

7 Results

- 7.1 This section provides an overview of the monitoring results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendix A.
- 7.2 The watching brief area followed the cable trench at Green Farm (Figure 2; Plates 1-5). The groundworks consisted of a mechanical excavator with a bucket excavating the cable trench under constant archaeological supervision. The groundworks were completed over one day (Thursday 19th August 2021). The weather generally consisted of cloudy and intermittent sunshine (Plates 1 - 13).

Trench 1

- 7.3 Trench 1 measured 22 m in length by 0.55 m in width and was 0.8 m deep. The topsoil (1001) was approximately 0.4m deep and consisted of dark brown sandy clay. This overlay the undisturbed natural substrate (1002), which was a mid-yellow/brown clay.
- 7.4 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trench.

Trench 2

7.5 Trench 2 measured 85 m in length by 0.55 m in width and was 0.8 m deep. The topsoil (2001) was approximately 0.4 m deep and consisted of dark brown sandy clay. This overlay the undisturbed natural substrate (2002), which was a mid-yellow/brown clay.

7.6 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trench.

Trench 3

7.7 Trench 3 measured 110 m in length by 0.55 m in width and was 0.8 m deep. The topsoil (3001) was approximately 0.4 m deep and consisted of dark brown sandy clay. This overlay the undisturbed natural substrate (3002), which was a mid-yellow/brown clay.

7.8 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trench.

Trench 4

7.9 Trench 4 measured 60 m in length by 0.55 m in width and was 0.8 m deep. The topsoil (4001) was approximately 0.4 m deep and consisted of dark brown sandy clay. This overlay the undisturbed natural substrate (4002), which was a mid-yellow/brown clay.

7.10 No archaeologically significant features or artefacts were observed or recovered from the trench.

8 Discussion and Conclusions

8.1 The groundworks comprised excavation of trenches for new underground electricity cables. The cable trenches were adjoining and measured 22 m in length, 85 m in length, 110 m in length and 60 m in length.

8.2 There were no archaeological finds or features recorded during the excavation of the cable trenches.

8.3 These results indicate that the monitoring methodology used was effective in ensuring that the development resulted in no harm to the historic environment resource.

8.4 The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring may be attributed to the relatively limited ground impact of the cable trench and due to the impact of agricultural activity in these fields. However, the results might suggest that significant buried archaeological deposits associated with the Deserted Medieval Village (HER NO 2781) do not extend in this direction.

9 References

ADAS (2021a) *Archaeocheck, Green Farm, South Gloucestershire. ADAS Report Ref 1051374-ART69105-791-01 (01)*

ADAS (2021b) *Written Scheme of Investigation, Green Farm, South Gloucestershire. ADAS Report Ref 1051374 ART69105-791-02 (01).*

CIfA 2020 *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief.*

English Heritage 1991 *The Management of Archaeological Projects 2.*

English Heritage 2006 *The Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide.*

Grove, J and Croft, B (2012) *South West Archaeological Research Framework Research Strategy 2012-2017. Somerset County Council* [accessed July 2021]

Online Resources

(BGS 2021) British Geological Survey Geology of Britain Viewer. Available at: <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html> [accessed September 2021].

Google Maps 2021. Available at: <https://www.google.co.uk> [accessed September 2021].

Heritage Gateway 2021 Available at: <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk/Gateway/Results.aspx> [accessed September 2021].

Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Trench 1

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ Thickness (m)
1001	Layer	Topsoil – Dark brown sandy clay	22 m	0.55 m	0.4 m
1002	Layer	Natural substrate – Mid yellow brown clay	22 m	0.55 m	0.4 m

Trench 2

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ Thickness (m)
2001	Layer	Topsoil – Dark brown sandy clay	85 m	0.55 m	0.4 m
2002	Layer	Natural substrate – Mid yellow brown clay	85 m	0.55 m	0.4 m

Trench 3

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ Thickness (m)
3001	Layer	Topsoil – Dark brown sandy clay	110 m	0.55 m	0.4 m
3002	Layer	Natural substrate – Mid yellow brown clay	110 m	0.55 m	0.4 m

Trench 4

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/ Thickness (m)
4001	Layer	Topsoil – Dark brown sandy clay	60 m	0.55 m	0.4 m
4002	Layer	Natural substrate – Mid yellow brown clay	60 m	0.55 m	0.4 m

Appendix B: The Finds

No artefacts were identified during the course of the archaeological monitoring.

Appendix C: Oasis Report Form

OASIS ID: adasuklt1-425961

Project details

Project name Green Farm, South Gloucestershire

Short description of the project In August 2021, RSK ADAS Ltd carried out an archaeological watching brief on land at Green Farm, South Gloucestershire during groundworks for a new permitted development underground cable. The groundworks comprised excavation of trenches for new underground electricity cables. The cable trenches were adjoining and measured 22 m in length, 85 m in length, 110 m in length and 60 m in length. There were no archaeological finds or features recorded during the excavation of the cable trenches. These results indicate that the monitoring methodology used was effective in ensuring that the development resulted in no harm to the historic environment resource. The absence of archaeological features recorded during the archaeological monitoring may be attributed to the relatively limited ground impact of the cable trench and due to the impact of agricultural activity in these fields. However, the results might suggest that significant buried archaeological deposits associated with the Deserted Medieval Village (HER NO 2781) do not extend in this direction.

Project dates Start: 26-07-2021 End: 30-07-2021

Previous/future work Yes / Not known

Any associated project reference codes GFSG21 - Sitecode

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation

Monument type DESERTED MEDIEVALVILLAGE Medieval

Significant Finds POTTERY Medieval

Project location

Country England

Site location SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE SOUTH GLOUCESTERSHIRE ALMONDSBURY
Green Farm, South Gloucestershire

Postcode BS32 4J

Study area 500 Square metres

Site coordinates ST 363191 184484 50.96139003244 -2.906870792789 50 57 41 N 002
54 24 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation RSK ADAS Ltd

Project brief originator RSK ADAS Ltd

Project design originator RSK ADAS Ltd

Project director/manager James McNicoll-Norbury

Project supervisor James McNicoll-Norbury

Type of sponsor/funding body Electricity Authority/Company

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Museum of Gloucester

Digital Contents "none"

Digital Media available "GIS", "Images raster / digital photography"

Paper Archive recipient Museum of Gloucester

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Diary", "Photograph"

Entered by Charlotte Barley (charlotte.barley@adas.co.uk)

Entered on 1 September 2021

Plates



Plate 1: South facing view from Trench 1 looking towards the deserted medieval settlement (HER no. 2781).



Plate 2: West facing view of Trench 1.



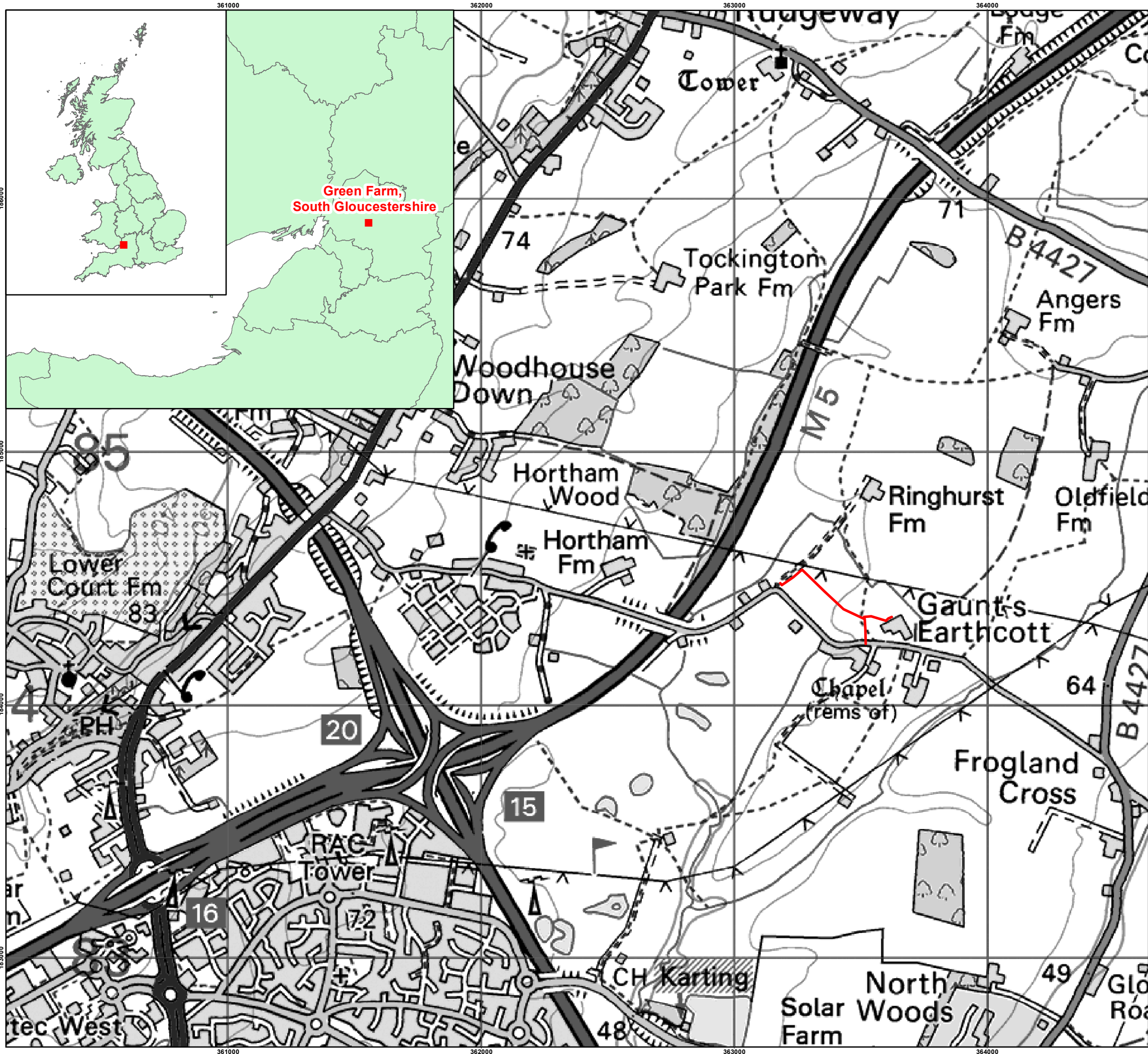
Plate 3: North-east facing view of Trench 2.



Plate 4: East facing view of Trench 3.



Plate 5: North-east facing view of Trench 4.



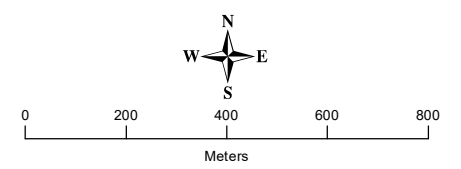
Western Power Distribution

Green Farm, South Gloucestershire

Figure 1: Location of the Cable Route

— Cable Route

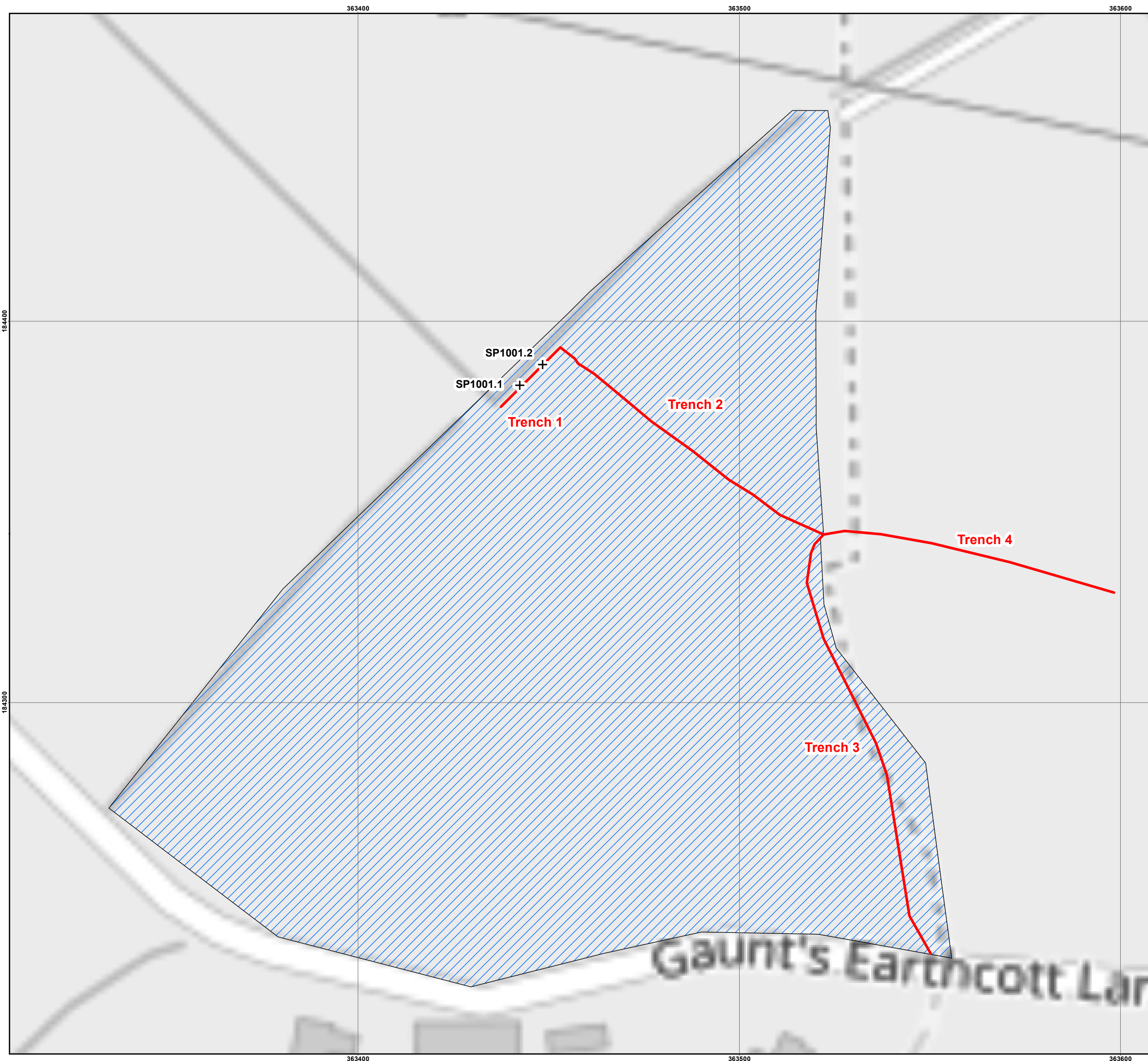
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 Checked By: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 17.09.2021



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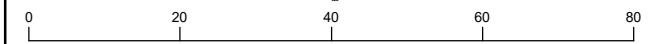
Green Farm, South Gloucestershire

Figure 2: Location of the Groundworks

- Monitored Cable Route
- DMV Polygon

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Checked By: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 17.09.2021



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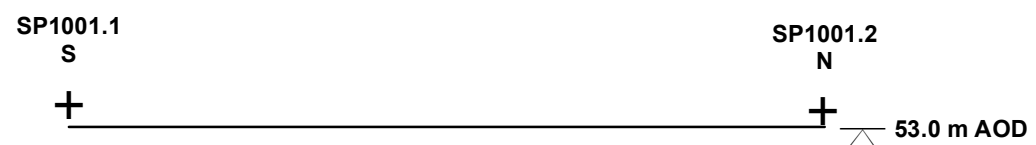
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Western Power Distribution

Green Farm, South Gloucestershire

**Figure 3. Representative Section of
Trench 1**



(1001)



(1002)



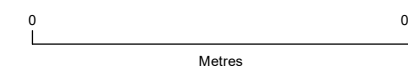
Section 1: West facing section of Trench 1



Plate 2: North-east facing view of Foundation Trench 1

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