

Report



Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report: Bicester North Substation, Land off A4421 Skimmingdish Lane, Bicester, Oxfordshire

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Revision History

Revision	Date	Amendment
01	14.11.2018	Additional results from second phase of watching brief



Summary

During July and August 2017 ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSE) for ground works for a new substation and associated infrastructure on land off Skimmingdish Lane, Bicester, Oxfordshire. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during ground works for the substation (SP 59705 23765) (Figure 1).

A second phase of archaeological watching brief was carried out in November 2018 in response to further ground works required for the substation. The ground works involved the excavation of a cess pit within the application boundary.

The new substation lies in an area which is located with RAF Bicester airfield Conservation Area. The area was considered to have potential for buried deposits relating to the airfield.

The archaeological monitoring indicated with a high degree of confidence that no significant archaeological features/deposits relating to the RAF Bicester airfield or any other period were present on the site. The ground works for the development impacted only dumped made ground deposits of probable late 20th century date.

The general stratigraphic sequences observed across Trenches 1-8 suggest that the ground level at the time the Site was part of the RAF Bicester airfield was heavily truncated across most of the Site during the later 20th century. The Site was then used as a landfill and made ground across the Site was built up to the level of the modern A4421 with numerous separate dumping events. A probable drainage ditch was cut across the site during these dumping events and was subsequently backfilled.

A possible World War II bayonet was recovered from made ground in Trench 7 during the second phase of watching brief in 2018.

Acknowledgements

This archaeological watching brief was commissioned by Scottish and Southern Energy Networks, and thanks are due in this regard. The report and supporting illustrations were prepared by James McNicoll-Norbury and Peter Vellet, and checked by Diarmuid O Seaneachain.

1 Introduction

Project Background

- 1.1.1 During July and August 2017 ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSEN) of ground works required for a new substation on land off Skimmingdish Lane, Bicester, Oxfordshire. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during the ground works for the new substation located at SP 59705 23765 (Figure 1).
- 1.1.2 A second phase of archaeological watching brief was carried out in November 2018 in response to further ground works required for the substation. The ground works involved the excavation of a cess pit within the application boundary.
- 1.1.3 A historic environment desk based assessment indicated that the Site has a moderate potential to contain archaeological deposits dating to the Modern Period relating to RAF Bicester Airfield, and a negligible potential to contain archaeological deposits of all other periods (ADAS 2016).
- 1.1.4 Planning permission was granted for the development (Planning Ref: 16/01418/F) by Cherwell District Council. ADAS 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 ground works (ADAS 2016).
- 1.1.5 The fieldwork followed the Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (ClfA 2014), the Management of Archaeological Projects 2 (English Heritage 1991), the Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MORPHE): Project Manager's Guide (English Heritage 2006), the RSK Technical Manual (RSK 2017).
- 1.1.6 In carrying out this work Scottish and Southern Energy Networks complied with their obligations to the historic environment and fulfilled the archaeological planning conditions 9 and 10 attached to the planning consent.

The Site, Location and Geology

- 1.1.7 The development involved the construction of a new electricity substation on the site and associated infrastructure (NGR SP 59694 23761) on land off the A4421, Skimmingdish Lane, Bicester, Oxfordshire (Figure 3).
- 4.1 The underlying geology of the Site is recorded as limestone of the Cornbrash Formation (BGS 2016). No superficial deposits are recorded. Borehole surveys carried out close to the Site, at Telford Road in Bicester, recorded between 0.8 and 2m of made ground overlying slightly gravelly clays (BGS 2014, SP52SE231, SP52SE232, SP52SE233, SP52SE229 & SP52SE230).

2 Objectives

Aims and Scope

2.1.1 The aims of this watching brief were:

- *To ensure that any archaeological features/deposits exposed during ground works 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;*
- *To record and analyse any archaeological remains that were revealed during the course of the works;*
- *The specific aim of the fieldwork was to establish whether any archaeological remains associated RAF Bicester Airfield are present on the site.*
- *To ensure that the fieldwork takes place within, and will contribute to the goals of the regional frameworks set out in Solent-Thames Research Framework for the Historic Environment Resource Assessments and Research Agendas (Hey and Hind 2014).*
- *To report the results as appropriate.*

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4 Archaeological and Historical Context

Introduction

4.1.1 A historic environment desk based assessment (ADAS 2016) was produced which assessed the historic environment potential of the landscape within a 1km radius around the Site boundary. The results of this assessment are summarized below.

4.1.2 Historic England records a total of thirty-five designated heritage assets within the Study Area. These consist of ten Scheduled Monuments, one Grade I Listed Building, one Grade II* Listed Building and twenty-three Grade II Listed Buildings (ADAS 2016).

- 4.1.3 Cherwell District Council records one Architectural Conservation Area within the Study Area. This is RAF Bicester, which contains the majority of the designated heritage assets noted above. The Site is located within the south-east corner of this Conservation Area (ADAS 2016).
- 4.1.4 The Oxfordshire HER records thirteen non-designated heritage assets within the Study Area. These non-designated heritage assets range in date from the Prehistoric Period to the Modern period (ADAS 2016).
- 4.1.5 Historic England and the Oxfordshire HER do not record any non-designated heritage assets within the site boundary itself (ADAS 2016).
- 4.1.6 The Oxfordshire HER records four non-designated heritage assets which are described as dating to the wider Prehistoric Period in the 1km Study Area, i.e. the Palaeolithic, Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age Periods. These are recorded as a Bronze Age cemetery, a possible barrow cemetery, a ring ditch and enclosure and a ring ditch (ADAS 2016).
- 4.1.7 The Oxfordshire HER records three non-designated heritage assets within the Study Area which date to the Romano-British Period. These consist of sections of a major Roman road which extended from Alchester to Towcester, a burial and a ditch, posthole and settlement features (47). The latter set of features was recorded during an archaeological trial trench evaluation which was carried out at land adjacent to Skimmingdish Lane in 2000 (ADAS 2016).
- 4.1.8 The Oxfordshire HER and Historic England do not record any heritage assets within the site or Study Area which date to the Early Medieval Period (ADAS 2016).
- 4.1.9 Historic England records three designated heritage assets within the Study Area which date to the Medieval Period. These comprise the Church of St Mary Grade I Listed Building; a barn approximately 50 m south of Manor Farmhouse Grade II* Listed Building; and a churchyard cross which is located approximately 6.0 m south of the Church of St Mary Grade II Listed Building in the village of Launton 1.2 km to the south-east of the Site (ADAS 2016).
- 4.1.10 The HER records one non-designated heritage asset which dates to the Medieval Period. This is a windmill mound, which is likely to have continued in use into the Post-medieval Period (ADAS 2016).
- 4.1.11 Two designated heritage assets are recorded within the Study Area by Historic England which date to the Post-Medieval period. These are recorded as the Jones Memorial, which is located approximately 5.0 m south of the south aisle of the Church of St Mary Grade II Listed Building and Manor Farmhouse Grade II Listed Building. The Oxfordshire HER records one non-designated heritage asset within the Study Area which dates specifically to the Post-Medieval Period, the

findspot of a gold ring. In addition the possible windmill mound noted above may also date to the Post-medieval Period (ADAS 2016).

4.1.12 Historic England records one designated heritage asset dated to the 19th century within the Study Area. This is the Grade II Listed Building of The Old Rectory (ADAS 2016).

4.1.13 The majority of the heritage assets recorded by the Oxfordshire HER and Historic England consist of various airfield buildings and defensive structures associated with RAF Bicester, an airfield which was constructed during the early twentieth century and which is now designated as an Architectural Conservation Area. These consist of ten Scheduled Monuments and nineteen Grade II Listed Buildings. The Oxfordshire HER contains a corresponding entry for the bomb store, pillbox and air raid shelter within the Conservation Area (ADAS 2016).

Summary of Previous Archaeological Events

4.1.14 The Oxfordshire HER also records a total of six previous archaeological events which have taken place within the Study Area. Three of these events recorded archaeological deposits. Trial trenching carried out in 2000 on land adjacent to Skimmingdish Lane, approximately 600 m north-west of the Site, recorded a series of Roman features indicative of an enclosure settlement. An archaeological trial trenching evaluation carried out in 2005 on land north-west of the Launton Road Roundabout, approximately 400 m south-east of the Site, uncovered a series of undated features which are thought to belong to the later Post-medieval or Modern Periods. Finally, archaeological trial trenching carried out in 2014 on land off Skimmingdish Lane approximately 150 m south of the Site recorded five ditches and two possible pits, all of which remain undated (ADAS 2016).

Summary of Historic Mapping Analysis

4.1.1 4.1.15 Historic mapping analysis indicates that the Site was located in an enclosed agricultural landscape which consisted of regular parliamentary-type fields and irregular fields during the 19th century. A concentration of small pasture fields is depicted, many of which may originally have been enclosed during the 14th to 16th centuries. On the 1881 and 1899 Ordnance Survey maps of the area the Site is shown to be part of a large square field in the vicinity of a quarry. The Twentieth century mapping depicts a similar landscape until the 1923 map where field boundaries have been cleared in the area of RAF Bicester Airfield and a number of structures erected. The Site itself is depicted as being part of RAF Bicester airfield in the 1955 OS map and a number of routeways and features are depicted on subsequent maps (ADAS 2016).

5 Methodology

Introduction

- 5.1.1 The fieldwork followed the methodology set out within the WSI (ADAS 2016). An archaeologist was present during the initial topsoil strip and for all intrusive ground works to excavate the footings for the main buildings, the access road, the service trenches, and the cess pit within the Site.
- 5.1.2 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 2014*.

Artefacts, Human Remains, Treasure and Environmental Sampling

- 5.1.3 A single artefact and no 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

- 5.1.4 No archaeological deposits were encountered during the watching brief. A single un-stratified artefact, a bayonet recovered from made ground in Trench 7, is currently held by ADAS at their offices in Milton Park (Appendix B).

Archives and Deposition

- 5.1.5 The archive is currently held by ADAS at their offices in Milton Park. It is anticipated that the bayonet recovered during monitoring may be deposited with an approved local museum. It is also anticipated that modern artefacts which were recovered during the monitoring will be discarded. A paper archive will be deposited with an approved local museum within six months of the completion of the fieldwork under an accession number which is 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 adasuklt1-292574, has been provisionally completed and will be submitted at the time of completion.

ADAS Project Team

- 5.1.6 Fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Brown, James McNicoll-Norbury, Peter Vellet and Diarmuid O'Seaneachain. The report was written by James McNicoll-Norbury and Peter Vellet. The illustrations were prepared by James McNicoll-Norbury and Peter Vellet. The archive was compiled and prepared for deposition by James McNicoll-Norbury. The project was managed for ADAS by Diarmuid O'Seaneachain and James McNicoll-Norbury.

6 Results

- 6.1.1 This section provides an overview of the monitoring results; detailed summaries of the recorded contexts and finds are to be found in Appendices A and B respectively.
- 6.1.2 The watching brief area contained the location of a new substation, associated transformers and an access road (Figure 2; Plates 1 - 10). Prior to the excavation of the footings for the buildings, the service trenches and the access road the entire site was stripped of vegetation and topsoil to a depth of approximately 0.2 m.
- 6.1.3 The ground works for the main buildings, services and access road consisted of the digging of foundation bases using a mechanical excavator with a flat bladed bucket under constant archaeological supervision.
- 6.1.4 The ground works for the cess pit consisted of the excavation of 3-3.5 m deep stepped trench using a mechanical excavator fitted with both a flat bladed bucket and a toothed bucket once bedrock was encountered. The intended location for the cess pit was north-west of the access road into the substation (Trench 7). This location was abandoned when asbestos containing materials were encountered and the cess pit was relocated to south-east of the access road (Trench 8), as shown on Figure 2.
- 6.1.5 The works were completed over a period of eight days in the months of July and August 2017 and November 2018. The weather generally consisted of sunshine and clouds (Plates 1 - 10).

Trench 1 (Switch House)

- 6.1.6 The excavation for Trench 1 (the Switch house) measured 35.0 m in length, 7.0 m wide and 1.3 m deep. The old topsoil (100) horizon within the trench was approximately 0.3 m deep and consisted of mid grey brown clayey silt with modern inclusions. A layer of subsoil (101) was recorded at the north-west corner of the trench which measured 0.20 m thick.
- 6.1.7 The subsoil (101) was truncated by a modern disturbance (111) which measured 7.5 m in width and over 1.00 m in depth and was filled with two deposits of brown sandy clay with chalk and limestone and modern inclusions (109-10). This feature in turn truncated ditch (108) and a modern disturbance (106).
- 6.1.8 Ditch (108) was aligned north-west to south-east and measured 4.0 m wide and had an overall depth of 1.4 m. It was filled with a loose brown grey silt (107) and contained fragments of wood and barbwire. The ditch was recorded to further truncate a modern disturbance (106) which measured up to 11.0 m in width and over 1.00 m deep within the trench. This was filled with

layers of redeposited chalk and brown silt with modern inclusions including brick, glass and metal (102-105).

- 6.1.9 At the northern and eastern side of the trench the topsoil overlay a layer of 0.25 m thick redeposited limestone (116) which may have represented a former levelling on the site (117). Below this layer a large modern truncation (115) was recorded which measured up to 22.0 m in width and filled with a grey brown silt (114) up to 1.0 m thick. This disturbance was recorded to truncate a large feature (113) at the northern end of the trench which measured up to 8.0 m wide had a depth of up to 1.0 m and was filled with a loose black silt (112) which contained fragments of modern ceramics, glass and a road sign and also cut Ditch (108) along the eastern side of the trench.

Trench 2 (Access road)

- 6.1.10 The section of Trench 2 (access road) monitored measured 14.5 m in length with a width up to 7.2 m and a depth of 1.3 m.
- 6.1.11 The stratigraphic sequence in this trench comprised 0.30 m topsoil (200) which sealed 1.0 m of made ground deposits consisting of mottled grey brown silt (201) with modern inclusions. The made ground (201) in turn sealed ditch (204) and its fill of grey brown silt (203) which was a continuation of Ditch (108) recorded in trench 1. Ditch (204) in turn was recorded to cut a layer of yellow- brown gravels and silt (202), from which fragments of modern brick were identified.
- 6.1.12 Natural geology was not observed in Trench 2 and no archaeological deposits relating to the airfield were identified.
- 6.1.13 The decision was taken following the monitoring of Trenches 1 and 2 to not monitor the remainder of the access road due to the previously recorded disturbed ground levels.

Trench 3 Transformer - A2MT

- 6.1.14 Trench 3 (transformer base A2MT) measured 15.0 m by up to 8.0 m with an overall depth of 1.72 m. The stratigraphic sequence in this trench comprised of 0.25 m topsoil (300) overlaying 0.42 m of orange brown sandy silt (301). The orange-brown sandy silt lay on top of a layer of black silt, 0.54 m thick, which contained modern glass and rubble (302). The black silt (302) deposit sealed 0.13 m of loose limestone (303). This loose limestone covered a layer of yellow brown clay with limestone inclusions (304), 0.38 m thick. This yellow-brown clay was interpreted as undisturbed natural clay overlay natural bedrock (305) at the base of the trench.

Trench 4 (Transformer - C1MT)

- 6.1.15 Trench 4 (transformer base C1MT) measured 7.0 by 9.0 m with an overall depth of 1.60 m. The stratigraphic sequence in this trench comprised 0.30m Topsoil (400) and 0.4 m of made ground consisting of grey brown silt and gravels (401). This layer sealed a large modern truncation (403) which was filled with a deposit of black silt containing modern debris (402). This modern feature in turn truncated a layer of natural yellow brown clay up to 0.60 m thick (404). This in turn overlay natural bedrock (405) at the base of the trench.
- 6.1.16 No archaeological deposits or finds were identified.

Trench 5 (Transformer - A1MT)

- 6.1.17 Trench 5 (transformer base A1MT) measured 15.0 by 7.0 m with a maximum depth of 1.55 m. At the northern end of the trench the stratigraphic sequence comprised 0.35 m of brown silt (topsoil) (500) and 0.20 m black silt (501), both of which contained modern brick, metal and rolls of camera film (Plate 6). The black silt deposit (501) sealed a 1.00 m thick deposit of mottled yellow, blue and grey clays (502) which contained fragments of brick. This mottled yellow, blue and grey clay in turn overlay natural bedrock (505).
- 6.1.18 At the southern end of the trench the topsoil (500) overlay a layer of 1.05 m of grey brown sandy silt (503) which contained modern finds of brick, glass and metal. This layer in turn sealed deposit (502) however it could not be ascertained if this were part of a modern truncation.
- 6.1.19 A small section of what appeared to be undisturbed natural yellow clay (504) was observed in the western section of the trench but no obvious truncation could be identified.

Trench 6 (Transformer - C2MT)

- 6.1.20 Trench 6 (transformer base C2MT) measured 7.0 by 9.0 m with an overall depth of 1.60 m. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench comprised 0.1 m topsoil (600) overlaying 0.4 m brown silt subsoil (601). The subsoil layer sealed a large modern feature (603) which measured up to 9.0 m in width and was 1.0 m deep and filled with a black silt (602). The subsoil also sealed another large truncation (605) which measured 8.5 m in width and was 1.0 m deep and filled with mottled brown and yellow silt and gravels (604).
- 6.1.21 A small section of undisturbed natural geology (606) was recorded to have been cut by features (603) and (605) however no relationship could be identified between these two features.

Trench 7 (Abandoned Cess Pit, North-West of Access Road)

- 6.1.22 Trench 7 (cess pit located north-west of access road) measured 6.60 m by 2.80 m with an overall depth of 0.60 m. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench comprised 0.08 m of topsoil (700)

overlying a substantial mixed deposit of made ground (701) measuring at least 0.52 m thick. Excavation of Trench 7 was abandoned when asbestos containing materials were identified within the made ground (701).

- 6.1.23 A bayonet was recovered from the made ground (701) in this trench. A detailed summary of this artefact can be found in Appendix B.

Trench 8 (Cess Pit, South-East of Access Road)

- 6.1.24 Trench 8 (cess pit located south-east of access road) measured 9.90 m by 6.60 m with an overall monitored depth of 2.08 m. The trench was excavated to a maximum depth of 3-3.50 m, although archaeological monitoring was stopped once bedrock was exposed at 1.63 m below ground level. The stratigraphic sequence within the trench comprised a substantial modern truncation (802) cutting undisturbed subsoil (800). This truncation measured 5.84 m wide and 1.63 m deep and was filled with a mixed deposit of made ground (801), the full extent of the truncation was not observed. A narrow band of undisturbed subsoil (800) overlying natural geology (803) was observed along the north-east extent of the trench.

7 Discussion and Conclusions

- 7.1.1 The archaeological monitoring has indicated with a high degree of confidence that no significant archaeological features/deposits relating to the RAF Bicester airfield or any other period were present on the site. The ground works for the development impacted only dumped made ground deposits of probable late 20th century date.
- 7.1.2 The general stratigraphic sequences observed across Trenches 1-8 suggest that the ground level at the time the Site was part of the RAF Bicester airfield was heavily truncated across most of the Site during the later 20th century. The Site was then used as a landfill and made ground across the Site was built up to the level of the modern A4421 with numerous separate dumping events. A probable drainage ditch was cut across the site during these dumping events and was subsequently backfilled.

8 References

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Appendix A: Context Descriptions

Trench 1 (Switch House)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
100	Layer	Topsoil	35.0	7.0	0.30	Modern
101	Layer	Subsoil	6.0	2.0	0.20	n/a
102	Fill	Redeposited Limestone	11.0	7.0	0.20	Modern
103	Fill	Brown silt with limestone and rubble	11.0	7.0	0.60	Modern
104	Fill	Yellow brown clay with brick rubble	11.0	7.0	0.12	Modern
105	Fill	Dark grey silt	11.0	7.0	0.15	Modern
106	Cut	Modern Truncation	11.0	7.0	1.0	n/a
107	Fill	Grey brown silt with modern inclusion	15.9	4.0	1.4	Modern
108	Cut	Ditch	7.0	4.0	1.4	n/a
109	Fill	Brown sandy clay	n/a	7.5	0.35	Modern
110	Fill	Brown sandy clay with chalk	n/a	7.5	0.65	n/a
111	Cut	Modern truncation	n/a	7.5	1.0	n/a
112	Fill	Black sandy silt	n/a	8.0	1.0	Modern
113	Cut	Modern truncation	n/a	8.0	1.0	n/a
114	Fill	Grey brown silt	22.0	n/a	1.0	Modern
115	Cut	Modern disturbance	22.0	n/a	1.0	n/a
116	Fill	Redeposited limestone	35.0	7.0	0.25	Modern
117	Cut	Levelling event	35.0	7.0	0.25	n/a
118	Layer	Natural clays	6.0	2.0	0.20	n/a

Trench 2 (Access Road)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
200	Layer	Topsoil	14.5	7.2	0.30	Modern
201	Layer	Mid grey brown silt and gravels with rubble and modern inclusions	14.5	7.2	1.00	Modern
202	Layer	Yellow brown silt and clays with modern inclusions	14.5	7.2	n/a	Modern
203	Fill	Grey brown silt with modern inclusion	7.2	4.0	1.4	Modern
204	Cut	Ditch	7.2	4.0	1.4	n/a

Trench 3 (Transformer A2MT)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
300	Layer	Topsoil	15.0	8.0	0.25	Modern
301	Layer	Orange brown sandy silt	15.0	8.0	0.42	n/a
302	Deposit	Black silt with glass and rubble	15.0	8.0	0.54	Modern
303	Layer	Loose limestone and silt (redeposited natural dump)	15.0	8.0	0.13	Modern
304	Layer	Yellow brown clay with limestone	15.0	8.0	0.38	n/a
305	Layer	Bedrock	15.0	8.0	n/a	n/a

Trench 4 (Transformer C1MT)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
400	Layer	Topsoil	9.0	7.0	0.30	Modern
401	Layer	Orange brown silt and gravels	9.0	7.0	0.40	n/a
402	Fill	Black silt with modern inclusions	9.0	7.0	0.60	Modern
403	Cut	Cut of modern pit/truncation	5.0	6.0	1.2	n/a
404	Layer	Yellow brown clay	9.0	7.0	0.60	n/a
405	Layer	Bedrock	9.0	7.0	n/a	n/a

Trench 5 (Transformer A1MT)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
500	Layer	Topsoil (Brown silt)	15.0	8.0	0.35	Modern
501	Layer	Black silt with glass and rubble	15.0	8.0	0.40	Modern
502	Layer	Mottled yellow, blue and grey clay with brick	15.0	8.0	0.80	Modern
503	Layer	Grey brown silty sand with brick, glass and metal	15.0	8.0	1.05	Modern
504	Layer	Yellow brown clay with limestone	15.0	8.0	0.20	n/a
505	Layer	Bedrock	15.0	8.0	n/a	n/a

Trench 6 (Transformer C2MT)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
600	Layer	Topsoil	9.0	7.0	0.10	Modern
601	Layer	Subsoil	9.0	7.0	0.4	n/a
602	Fill	Black silt	n/a	9.0	1.0	Modern
603	Cut	Modern truncation	n/a	9.0	1.0	n/a
604	Fill	Mottled brown yellow silt and gravel with brick	n/a	8.5	1.0	Modern
605	Cut	Modern truncation	n/a	8.5	1.0	n/a
606	Layer	Natural Geology	n/a	2.0	1.0	n/a

Trench 7 (Abandoned Cess Pit, North-West of Access Road)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
700	Layer	Topsoil	6.6	2.8	0.08	Modern
701	Layer	Mixed dark brown and yellow brown sandy silt and detritus	6.6	2.8	0.52	Modern

Trench 8 (Cess Pit, South-East of Access Road)

No.	Type	Description	Length (m)	Width (m)	Depth/thickness (m)	Spot-date
800	Layer	Topsoil	9.9	6.6	0.23	Modern
801	Fill	Mixed grey, grey brown, brown, yellow brown sandy silt and detritus	9.9	5.84	1.63	Modern
802	Cut	Modern truncation	9.9	5.84	1.63	Modern
803	Layer	Natural Geology	n/a	n/a	0.45	n/a

Appendix B: The Finds

Only un-stratified finds comprising of modern glass, metal, brick, ceramic wares and a two rolls of ruined modern photographic film were recorded during the monitoring. None of the modern glass, brick or ceramic was retained. The rolls of ruined film were provisionally retained at the ADAS Milton Park office. They will be discarded if no further analysis is requested.

The second phase of watching brief in November 2018 revealed an un-stratified bayonet within the made ground (701) in Trench 7.

The bayonet is set in a 0.22 m long sheath and measures 0.32 m from handle to the tip of the sheath and weighs 400 g. The handle is set with two screws and the guard of the bayonet is broken on one side. All aspects of the bayonet including the blade, sheath and handle are heavily corroded. There is damage to the centre portion on one side of the sheath and the barrel ring has broken off, but both elements are otherwise in a good overall condition. The blade cannot be fully removed from the sheath due to corrosion resulting in difficulty identifying the date and type of the bayonet.

The bayonet is likely to be a No. 5 MK 1 Jungle Carbine Enfield bayonet, which was issued from 1944 up to the 1980's (per.com; All about Enfields 2018).

Oxfordshire Museum Services have been contacted to ascertain if the bayonet will be deposited at the museum or if it can be deposited with another local depository.

Context Number	Type	Description	Length (m)	Weight (kg)	Spot-date
701	Bayonet	Possible No. 5 MK1 Jungle Carbine Enfield Bayonet	0.32	0.4	Modern

Appendix C: Oasis Report Form

OASIS ID: adasuklt1-292574

Project details

Project name Bicester North Substation

Short description of the project During July and August 2017 ADAS carried out an archaeological watching brief for Scottish and Southern Energy Networks (SSE) for ground works for a new substation and associated infrastructure on land off Skimmingdish Lane, Bicester, Oxfordshire. The objective of the watching brief was to record all archaeological remains exposed during ground works for the substation (SP 59705 23765) (Figure 1).

A second phase of archaeological watching brief was carried out in November 2018 in response to further ground works required for the substation. These ground works included the excavation of a cess pit and a soak away outside of the substation perimeter.

The new substation lies in an area which is located with RAF Bicester airfield Conservation Area. The area was considered to have potential for buried deposits relating to the airfield.

The archaeological monitoring indicated with a high degree of confidence that no significant archaeological features/deposits relating to the RAF Bicester airfield or any other period were present on the site. The ground works for the development impacted only dumped made ground deposits of probable late 20th century date.

The general stratigraphic sequences observed across Trenches 1-6 suggest that the ground level at the time the Site was part of the RAF Bicester airfield was heavily truncated across most of the Site during the later 20th century. The Site was then used as a landfill and made ground across the Site was built up to the level of the modern A4421 with numerous separate dumping events. A probable drainage ditch was cut across the site during these dumping events and was subsequently backfilled.

Project dates Start: 04-07-2017 End: 24-08-2017; Start: 08-11-2018 End: 08-11-2018

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes	BNS17 - Site code
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	OXFORDSHIRE CHERWELL BICESTER Bicester North Substation
Study area	4,711 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 59705 23765 51.90878022465 -1.131977192496 51 54 31 N 001 07 55 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 74.5 m Max: 76 m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	RSK ADAS Ltd
Project brief originator	RSK ADAS Ltd

Project design originator	Diarmuid O Seaneachain
Project director/manager	Diarmuid O Seaneachain
Project supervisor	James McNicoll-Norbury and Peter Vellet

Project archives

Physical Exists?	Archive	No
Physical recipient	Archive	Oxfordshire Museum Service
Digital recipient	Archive	Oxfordshire Museum Service
Digital Contents		"none"
Digital Media available		"Database","GIS","Images raster / digital photography","Images vector","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient		Oxfordshire Museum Service
Paper Contents		"none"
Paper Media available		"Context sheet","Drawing","Plan","Report","Section","Survey ","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Monitoring and Recording Report: Bicester North substation, Land of A4421 Skimmingdish Lane, Bicester, Oxfordshire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	McNicoll-Norbury, J and Vellet, P

Date 2017; Amended 2018

Issuer or publisher ADAS

Place of issue or
publication Milton Park

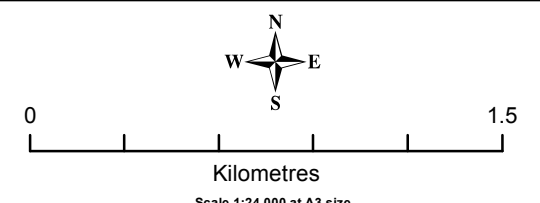


Bicester North Substation
Land off the A4421 Skimmingdish Lane,
Bicester, Oxfordshire

Figure 1: Site Location

■ Site Location

Drawn by: James McNicoll-Norbury Date: 16.11.2018
Verified By: Diarmuid O Seaneachain Date: 16.11.2018



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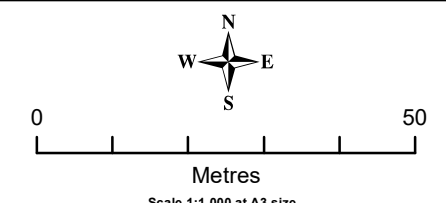


Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

- Trench
- Topsoil strip
- Archaeological Feature
- Site Application Boundary



Drawn by: Peter Vellet Date: 14.11.2018
 Verified By: Diarmuid O Seaneachain Date: 14.11.2018








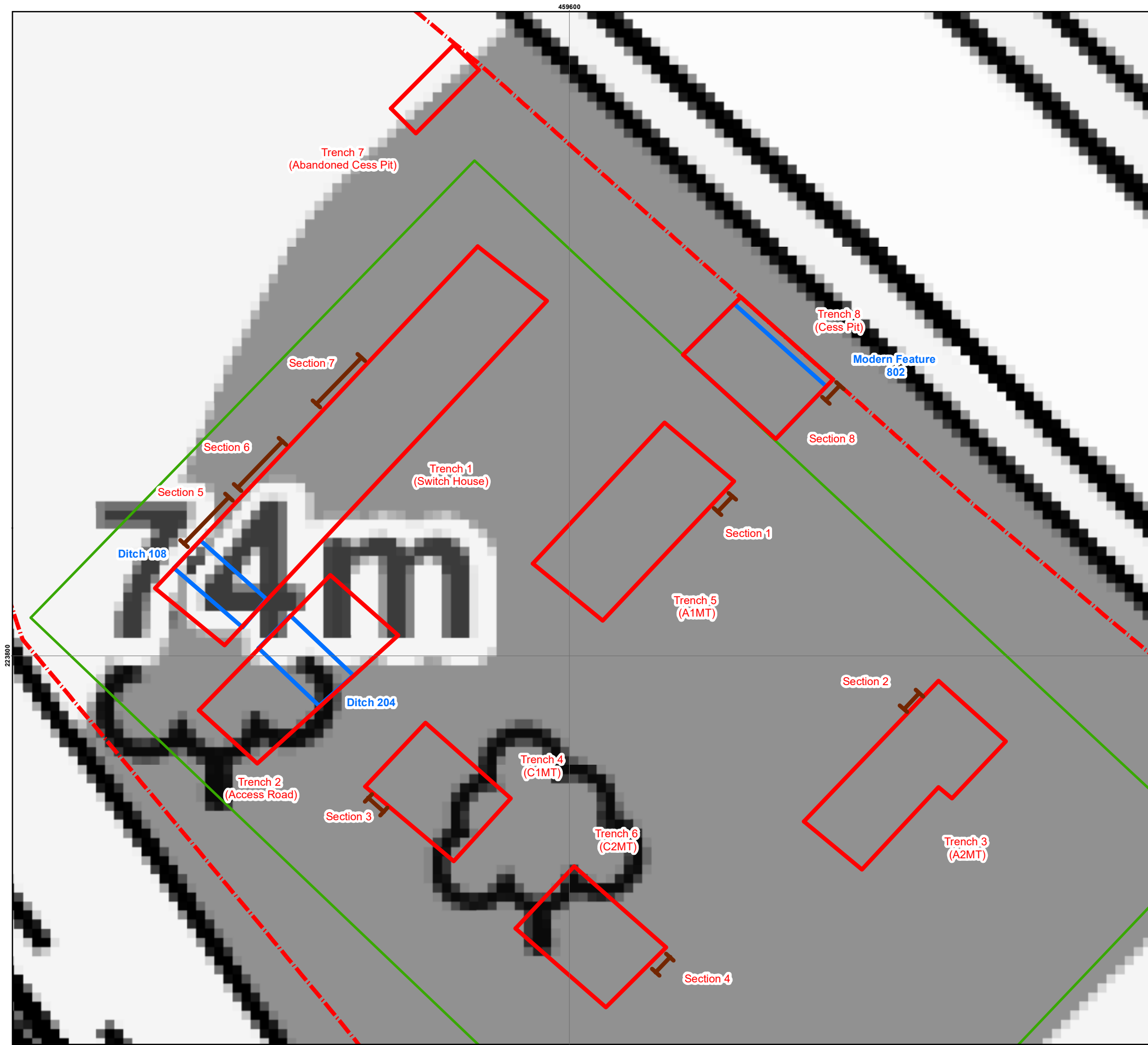
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Figure 3: Detailed Trench Plan

-  Section Line
-  Trench
-  Topsoil strip
-  Archaeological Feature
-  Site Application Boundary

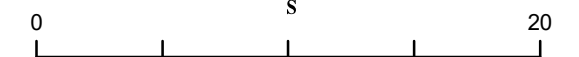


Drawn by: Peter Vellet

Date: 14.11.2018

Verified By: Diarmuid O Seaneachain

Date: 14.11.2018



Scale 1:300 at A3 size

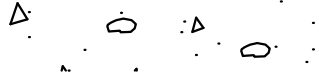

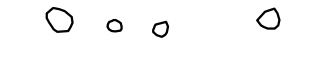
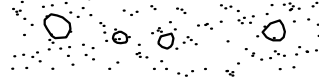
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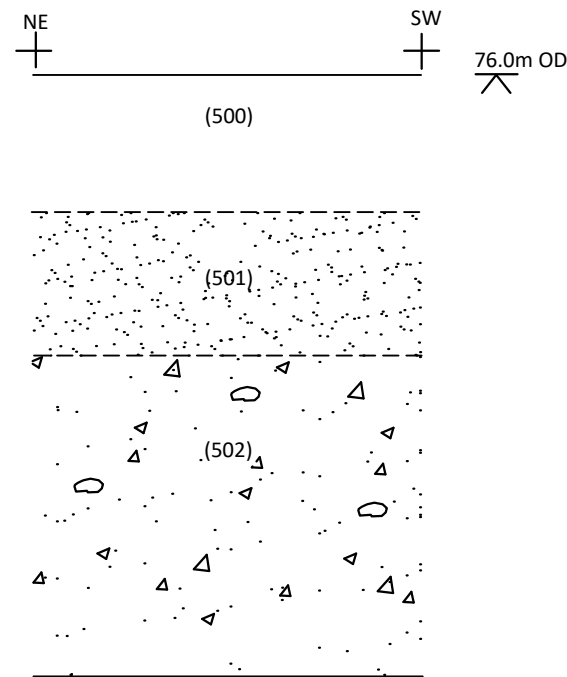
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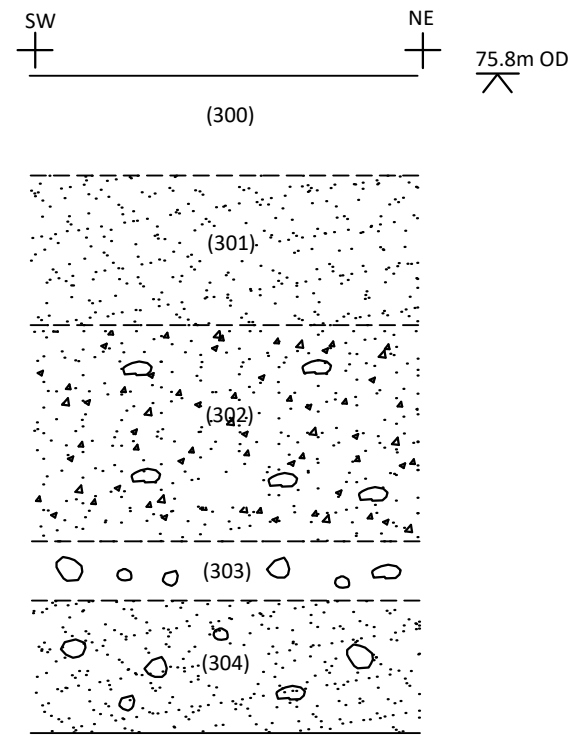
Figure 4: Representative Sections

Legend

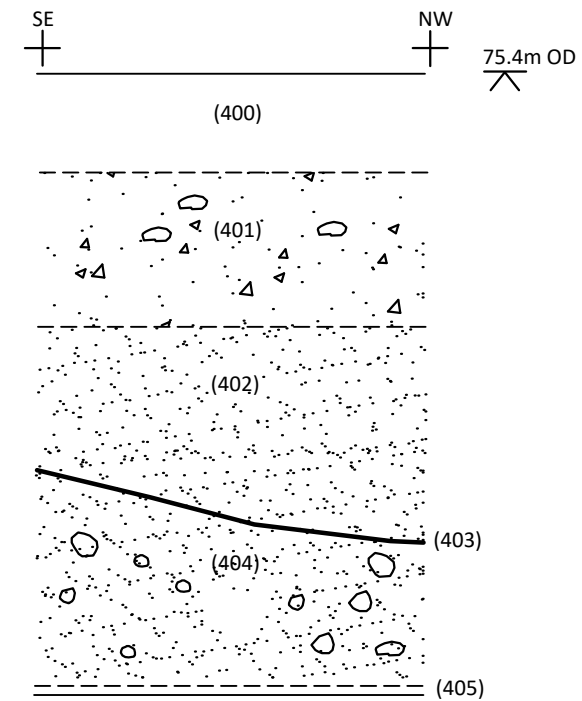
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-  Sandy Silt
-  Loose Limestone
-  Natural clays with limestone



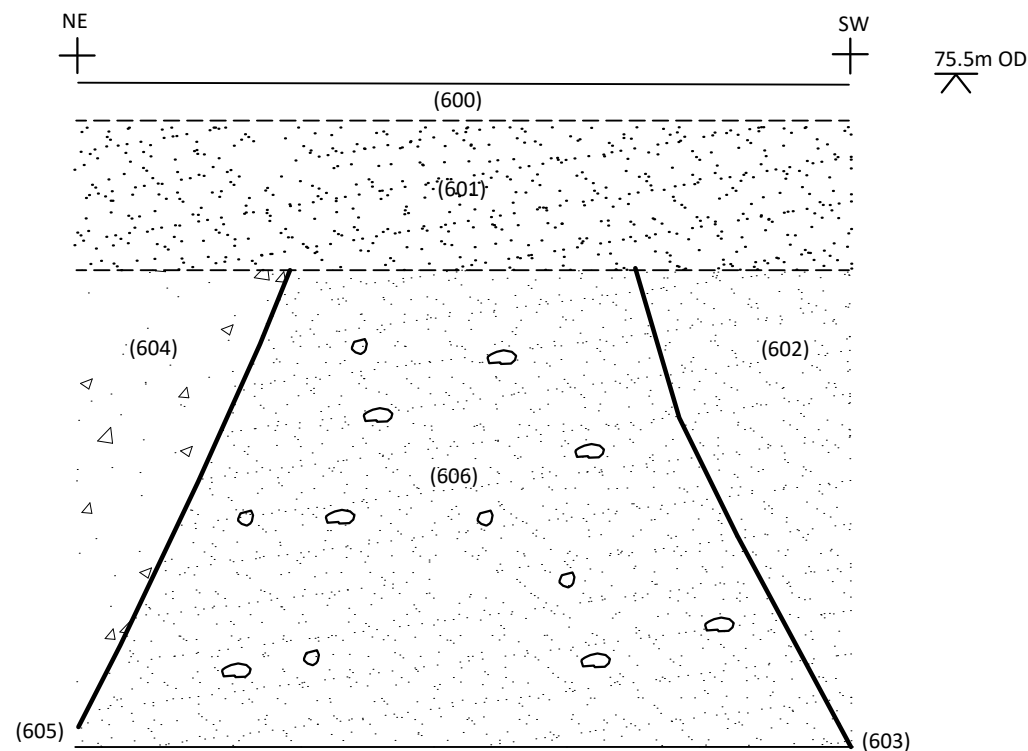
Section 1: North-west facing section
of Trench 5 (Transformer A1MT)



Section 2: South-east facing section
of Trench 3 (Transformer A2MT)



Section 3: North-east facing section
of Trench 4 (Transformer C1MT)



Section 4: South-east facing section
of Trench 6 (Transformer C1MT)

Drawn by: James McNicoll-Norbury Date: 15/11/2018

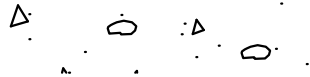


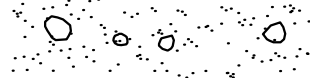
Checked by: Diarmuid O'Seaneachain Date: 15/11/2018

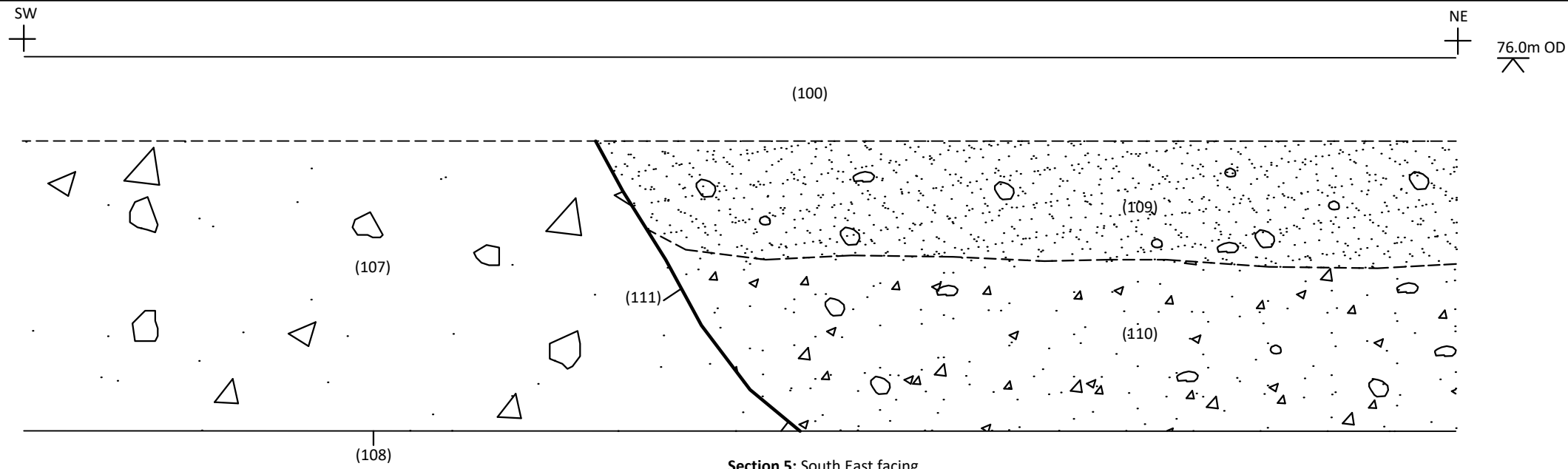


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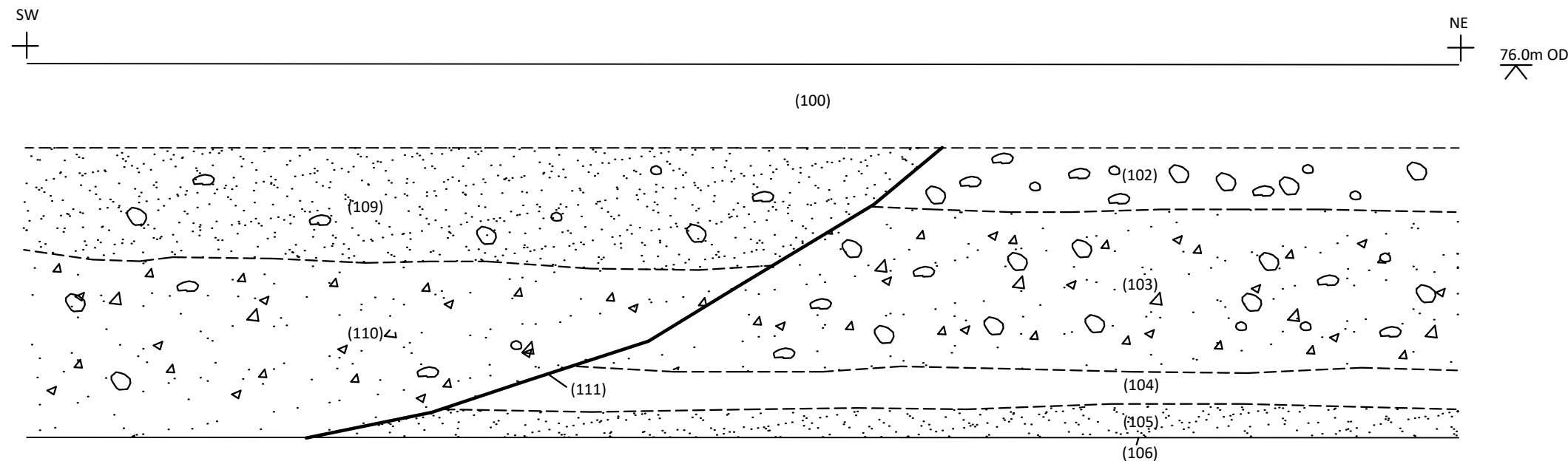
Figure 5: Representative Sections

Legend

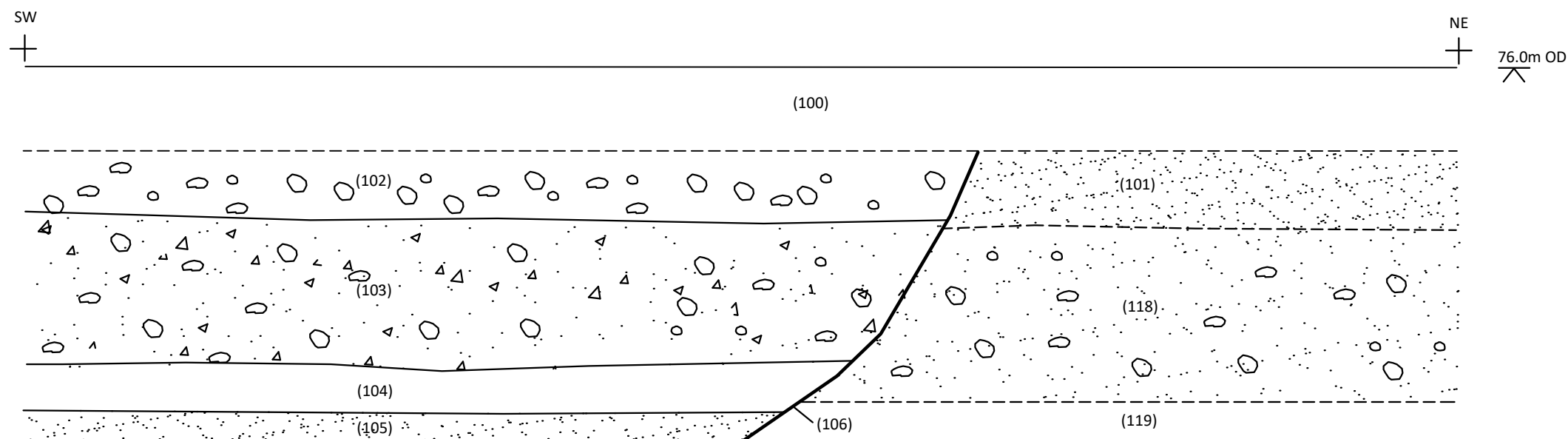
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-  Sandy Silt
-  Loose Limestone
-  Natural clays with limestone



Section 5: South East facing
section of Trench 1 (Switch House)



Section 6: South-east facing section
of Trench 1 (Switch House)



Section 7: South-east facing section
of Trench 1 (Switch House)

Drawn by: James McNicoll-Norbury Date: 15/11/2018

Checked by: Diarmuid O Seaneachain Date: 15/11/2018

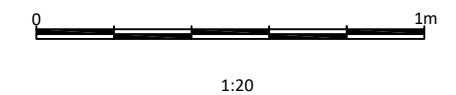
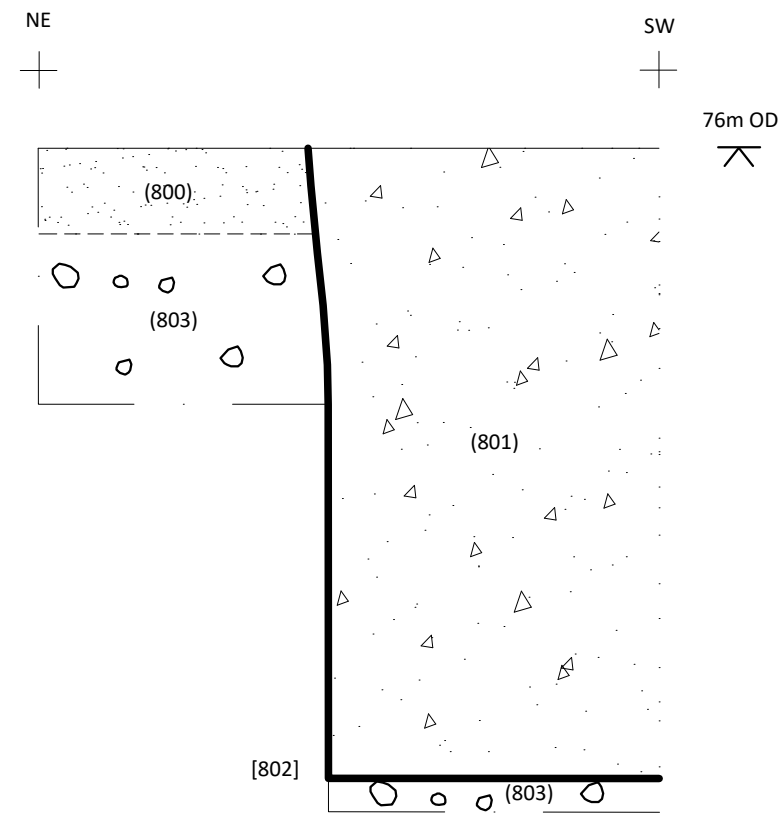
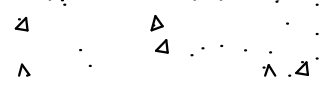




Figure 6: Representative Section 8



Section 8: North-west facing section in Trench 8 (Cess Pit)

Legend

- 
 Made Ground
- 
 Subsoil
- 
 Natural Geology

Drawn by: Peter Vellet Date: 15/11/2018

Checked by: James McNicoll-Norbury Date: 15/11/2018



1:20

Plates



Plate 1: General shot of Modern Ditch 108 in Trench 1, looking south-east.



Plate 2: View of Trench 1 (the Switch House), looking south-east.



Plate 3: View of the Ditch 108 continuing into Trench 2 (the access road), looking east.



Plate 4: View of the north-east facing section in Trench 4 (Transformer C1MT), looking south-west.



Plate 5: View of excavated Trench 5 (Transformer A1MT), looking east.



Plate 6: Rolls of aerial photographic film recovered during excavation of Trench 5 (Transformer A1MT).



Plate 7: North-west facing section of Trench 6 (Transformer C2MT), looking south-east.



Plate 8: South-west facing section of Trench 7 (Cess Pit North-West of Access Road), looking north-east.



Plate 9: Bayonet recovered during excavation of Trench 7 (Cess Pit North-West of Access Road).



Plate 10: View of Trench 8 (Cess Pit South-East of Access Road) showing partial machine excavation of Modern truncation 802, looking north-west.