

Project Code: YWN07
Date of report: 20th August 2008
Client: Enviros for Your Energy Ltd



Results of Archaeological Evaluation

Daventry Wind Farm, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire

Kate Bain
BSc AIFA

Project summary sheet

<i>Client</i>	ENVIROS FOR YOUR ENERGY LTD
<i>National Grid Reference</i>	SP 57868 75520
<i>Address</i>	GLEBE FARM, HILLMORTON LANE, YELVERTOFT, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
<i>Parish</i>	YELVERTOFT
<i>Council</i>	NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
<i>Planning Application No</i>	N/A
<i>NMRS No</i>	N/A
<i>SMR No</i>	N/A
<i>HB/SAM No</i>	N/A
<i>Listing Category</i>	N/A
<i>Project Manager</i>	MARK ROBERTS
<i>Text</i>	KATE BAIN
<i>Illustrations</i>	CAROLINE NORRMAN
<i>Fieldwork</i>	KATE BAIN CLAIRE CROSS LAURA MACCALMAN
<i>Specialists</i>	N/A
<i>Schedule</i>	
<i>Fieldwork</i>	JULY 2008
<i>Report</i>	AUGUST 2008

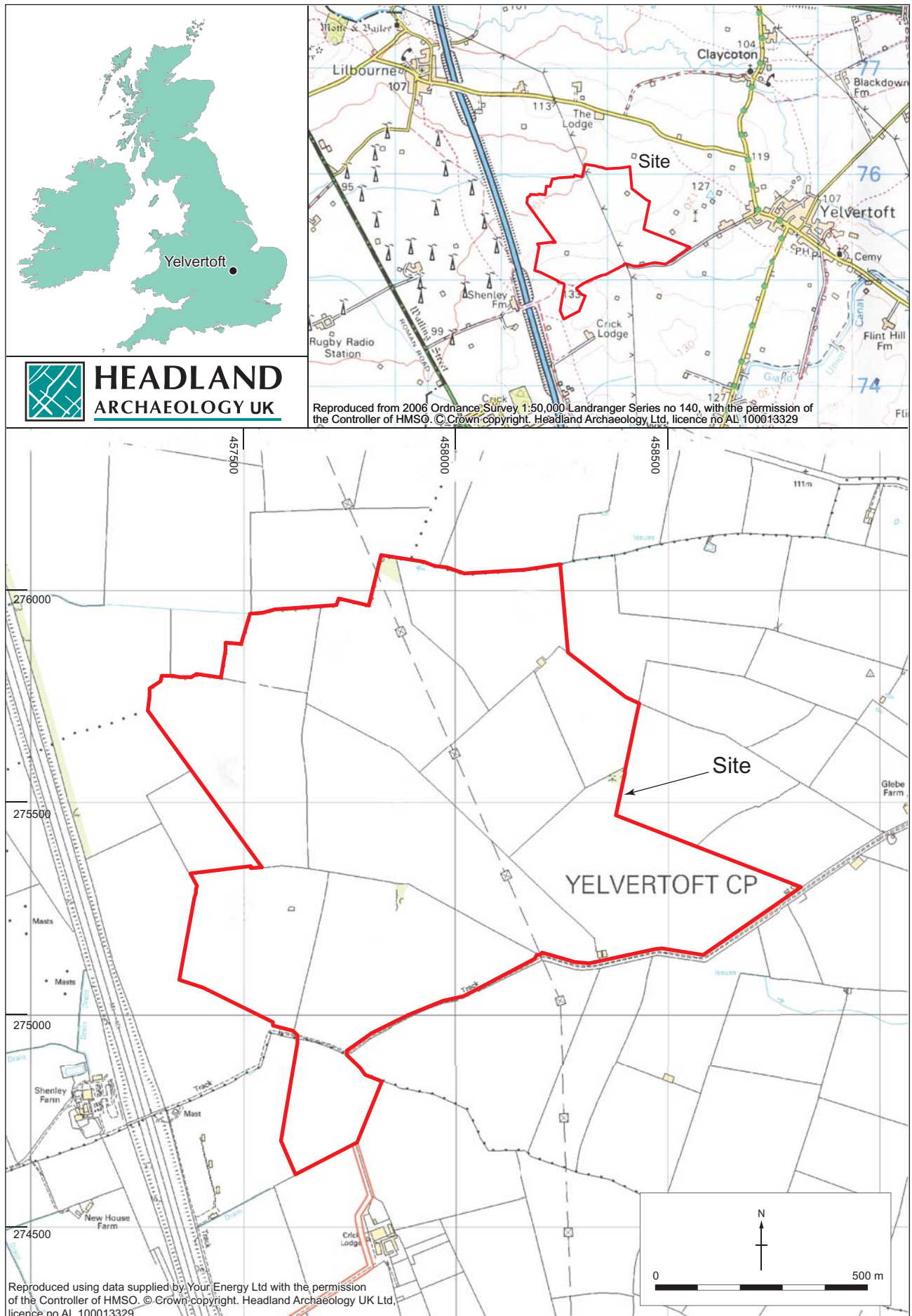
Signed off by:.....

Mark Roberts BA(Hons) MIFA, Project Manager

Date:.....

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	5
BACKGROUND)	5
METHODOLOGY	5
RESULTS	7
Trenches 1 & 2 (Turbine 1)	7
Trenches 3 & 4 (Turbine 2)	7
Trenches 5 & 6 (Turbine 3)	7
Trenches 7 & 8 (Turbine 4)	7
Trenches 9 & 10 (Turbine 5)	7
Trenches 11 & 12 (Turbine 6)	8
Trenches 13 & 14 (Turbine 7)	8
Trenches 15 & 16 (Turbine 8)	8
CONCLUSION	9
REFERENCES	9
APPENDIX 1	10
Trench Statistics – Daventry Wind Farm, Yelvertoft, Northampton	10
APPENDIX 2	14
Photographic Register	14



Illus 1
Site location

Results of Archaeological Evaluation

Daventry Wind Farm, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire

by Kate Bain

Headland Archaeology was commissioned by Enviros on behalf of Your Energy Ltd. to undertake a program of archaeological evaluation at Daventry Wind Farm, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire, ahead of the submission of an Environmental Statement for a proposal for the erection of eight new wind turbines. The site was deemed to be of archaeological potential as there are numerous sites ranging from the prehistoric through to the medieval period in the surrounding area. Up-standing elements of possible medieval cultivation practices are also preserved within its boundaries in the form of areas of ridge and furrow. A total of 16 trenches were excavated across the site, only one of which, Trench 9 contained any features or deposits of an archaeological nature. Here the bases of two very shallow linear plough furrows were observed toward the northern end of the trench. No further archaeological features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified during the course of works which was thought to represent a genuine absence of below ground features within the monitored areas, rather than their destruction by outside influences.

INTRODUCTION

This report presents the results of a programme of archaeological evaluation, by trial trenching, carried out in advance of a planning application for the development of a new wind farm on land at Glebe Farm, Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire. The evaluation sought to identify by trial trenching any archaeological remains on the site. This was carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Headland, 2008) submitted and previously agreed with Dan Windwood of Northamptonshire County Council.

BACKGROUND

The site lay just to the west of the village of Yelvertoft, Northamptonshire and was characterised by mixed use farmland, with a variety of crops including oil seed rape, wheat and pasture. The gently undulating fields were bounded by mixed species hedges, some of which originate from the 18th century enclosure of earlier open fields.

Whilst the results of a desk-based study, for inclusion in an Environmental Impact Assessment (in prep), identified numerous cultural heritage sites in the local area, none of these lie within the proposed development site with exception of an area of ridge and furrow cultivation. There was perhaps greater potential for the existence of previously unknown, below-ground archaeological remains within the site.

Although no known sites dating to the early prehistoric period are recorded within the vicinity of the site, numerous sites dating from the middle Iron Age onward are in evidence. Romano-British sites are also plentiful in the surrounding landscape, the arterial Roman trade route of Watling Street runs to the west of the area and excavations at Daventry International Rail Freight Terminal (approximately 1.5km south-west of the study area) revealed exten-

sive remains dating to the Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods. Scatters of Roman material were identified during fieldwalking in the vicinity of the access track at the south of the site.

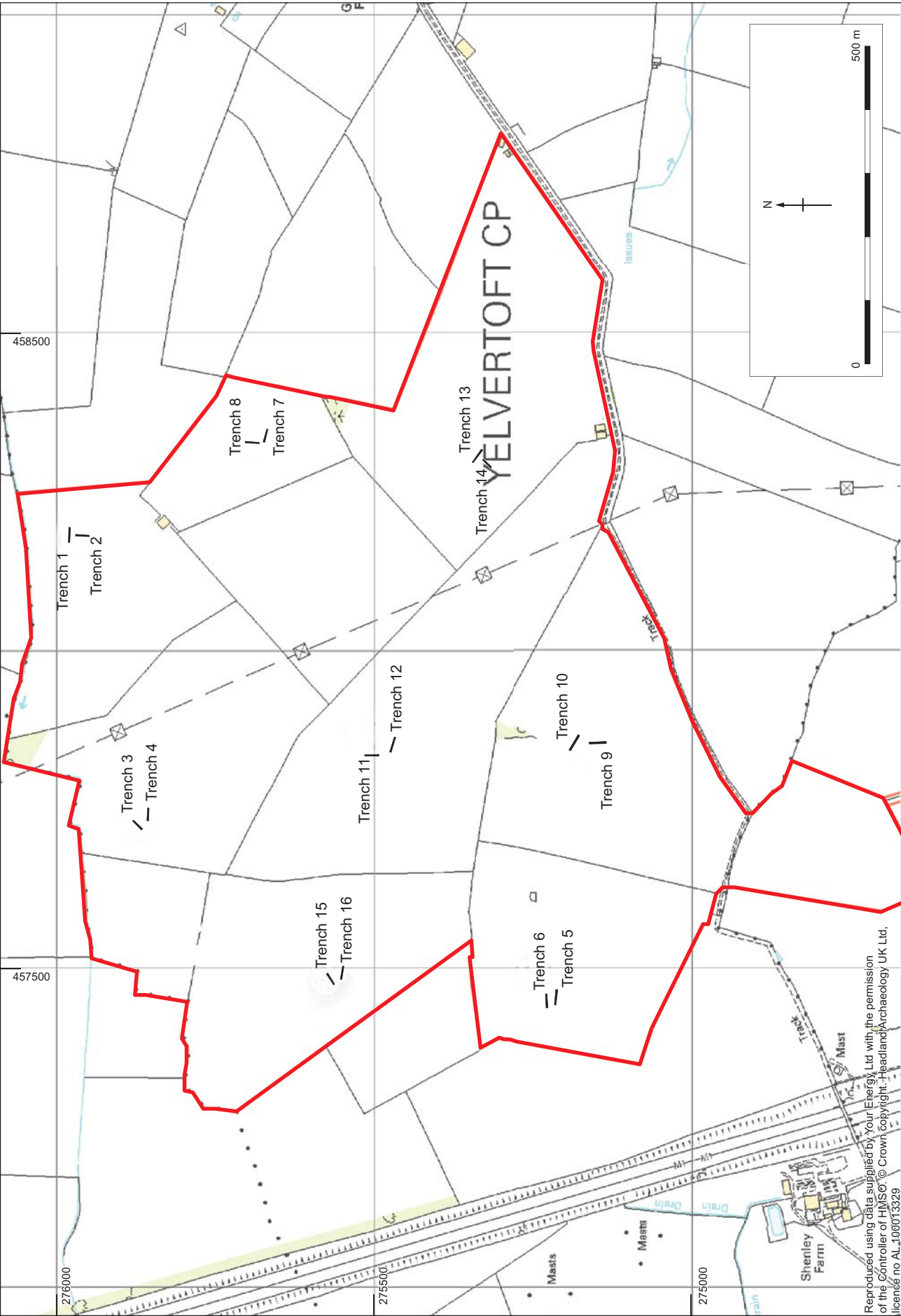
The village of Yelvertoft itself appears in the Domesday Book, suggesting that it is Anglo-Saxon in origin. This established nucleated settlement pattern seems to have expanded throughout the medieval period, when the majority of activity survives in the form of churches and areas of preserved ridge and furrow cultivation.

Due to the relatively dense archaeological activity in the surrounding area, but bearing in mind its subjection to agricultural activity, the site was deemed to have moderate potential for the survival of below ground archaeological features.

The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to ascertain whether there are any archaeological constraints that may affect the proposed development; in particular, to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains within the area and to ascertain their quality, nature, extent and character.

METHODOLOGY

A total of 16 trenches were excavated, deployed to prospect for archaeological remains within the approximately 60 m by 25 m footprint for turbines & crane base. Two trenches, totalling just over 40 linear metres, were excavated on the site of each proposed turbine, representing 5% of the total area likely to be directly affected by their erection. Trenches were excavated using a 13 tonne, 360° wheeled mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under constant archaeological supervision. A Digi-cat Cable Detector was used before trenching to offset the possibility of disturbing any unmarked services. All trenches were backfilled after being recorded. The line of a gas main was prospected for by ground probing radar to confirm the line shown on service plans.



Illus 2
Trench Locations

The location of all of trenches was plotted to Ordnance Survey National Grid coordinates. Individual trenches, features and deposits were recorded on pro-forma record sheets and trench sections illustrated at a scale of 1:20. A full photographic record was kept using colour print and monochrome film, supplemented by a digital photographic record.

RESULTS

Trenches 1 & 2 (Turbine 1)

Trenches 1 & 2 were located in a wheat field at the most northerly extent of the overall site boundary. These trenches were aligned east to west and north to south respectively, each measuring just over 20m in length. Each trench averaged a depth of around 0.75m, terminating at the surface of the fossil rich, yellow clay natural. This was sealed by a compact, mixed loam-clay, approximately 0.44m deep which was, in turn sealed by a layer of agriculturally enhanced, loam rich, topsoil. With the exception of a single ceramic land-drain, aligned east to west at the centre of Trench 2, no further features or deposits were encountered.

Trenches 3 & 4 (Turbine 2)

Trenches 3 & 4 were excavated in a field of mature oil seed rape at the northern limit of the site, to the immediate west of the location of Trenches 1&2. The stratigraphic sequence revealed within these trenches was very similar to that observed in trenches 1&2 although the natural clay was encountered at slightly shallower depth. A single land-drain, crossing the north-eastern corner of Trench 3 was the only observable feature in either trench.



Illus 3
Trench 4

Trenches 5 & 6 (Turbine 3)

Trenches 5 & 6 were located in a field of standing wheat at the south-western limit of the overall site boundary. Each was excavated on a roughly east to west alignment and measured and accounted for just over 40 linear metres of trenching. The trenches excavated on a slope the incline of which was toward their eastern ends, this was reflected in the stratigraphic profiles revealed, the trenches deepening from an average of 0.7m up to 0.9m, toward their western extents. The natural, a similar yellow clay to that observed elsewhere on the site, contained a moderate component of brittle orange stone mottling. A further ceramic land-drain was identified, aligned north-west to south-east across the approximate centre of Trench 6. No further features or deposits were encountered in either trench.

Trenches 7 & 8 (Turbine 4)

Trenches 7 & 8 were excavated in pasture at the eastern edge of the site boundary, just to the south-east of the field containing Trenches 1 & 2. Trench 7 was aligned approximately east to west on across the contour of an increasing easterly slope, whereas Trench 8, aligned north to south ran along the contour toward the base of the slope. Consequently Trench 8 was, on average, slightly deeper, at around 0.9m than Trench 7, which increased in depth from its eastern end to a maximum of 0.82m

Again, the compact yellow clay natural was sealed by a mixed loam-clay, overlain by the cultivation soil. Numerous ceramic land-drains were encountered in both trenches but no archaeological features or deposits were identified.

Trenches 9 & 10 (Turbine 5)

Trenches 9 & 10 were located in a further field of pasture at the southern extent of the site. Trench 9 was aligned north to south and was located on a southern incline. Trench 10 was aligned north-west to south-east toward the foot of the same slope. Trenches 9 & 10 were the shallowest of all the excavated trenches, averaging a maximum depth of just under 0.5m, where the characteristic, plastic yellow boulder clay was encountered. The faint remains of 2 possible furrows were identified, aligned north-west to south-east at a distance of just over 6m apart in Trench 9. Sample excavation determined that the furrows survived to a maximum depth of 0.08m and were approximately 2m wide. These were infilled by the mixed loam-clay deposit seen throughout the trench, sealed by the topsoil. A further potential linear feature, located at the southern end of Trench 9, was sample excavated and subsequently identified as the remains of a probable tree throw pit. Trench

10 revealed a single ceramic land drain and no continuation of the possible furrows from Trench 9 was



Illus 4
Trench 9

observed. No further features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified within either trench.

Trenches 11 & 12 (Turbine 6)

Trenches 11 & 12 were excavated at the approximate centre of the site in a field of pasture, within which the remains of upstanding, but poorly preserved ridge and furrow was observed.

The natural was encountered at depths of be-



Illus 5
Trench 12

tween 0.75 and 1.1m and comprised mottled clay with broad seams of orange, fossil rich stone, as seen across the drier, less clayey parts of the site. Overlying the natural was the familiar yellowish brown clay-loam, which appeared to represent, in trenches 9 & 10, a remnant plough soil, sealed by the modern topsoil.

Despite its presence elsewhere in the field, no evidence of ridge and furrow was readily observable in the immediate area of the trenches, nor was any trace seen within them.

Trenches 13 & 14 (Turbine 7)

Trenches 13 & 14 were located in a field of mature oil seed rape at the south-eastern limit of the site, to the west of the location of Trenches 11 & 12. The stratigraphic sequence revealed within these trenches was very similar to that observed in trenches 11 & 12; although each stratigraphic unit contained less of the freer draining stony material were generally more clay rich. The natural clay was also encountered at a very similar depth to that in Trenches 11 & 12. A single ceramic land-drain ran along the eastern edge of Trench 13 and 3 further drains including a large 4 inch drain, were seen, aligned north-west to south-east across Trench 14. The greater number of drains reflecting the poor drainage associated with the more exclusively clay soils. No features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified in either trench.

Trenches 15 & 16 (Turbine 8)

Trenches 15 & 16 were excavated in a standing wheat crop toward the north-western limit of the site boundary. Similar to Trenches 5 & 6, which were just to the south, these trenches were quite deep, the surface of the natural clay being encountered at depths of up to 1.0m. Trench 15 revealed a much greater blue-grey clay component forming the natural than had been seen across other parts of the site. This was machine tested accordingly to ensure that the correct level had been achieved. Trench 16 to its south also contained an element of blue clay but also contained more of the familiar yellow and orange material, interspersed with more stone than Trench 15. Again, the natural was sealed by a characteristic clay-loam, overlain by the modern topsoil. A single ceramic land drain was encountered, aligned north-west-southeast, spanning Trench 15, no features or deposits of an archaeological nature were identified within either trench.



Illus 6
Trench 16

CONCLUSION

No significant below ground archaeological features or deposits were identified during the course of the archaeological evaluation. The preservation of above ground features, as part of a relict field system, suggests that very little ground disturbance has taken place on the site in terms of development in their immediate vicinity. Modern cultivation and agricultural drainage appear to have had a minimal effect on the natural geology and it seems, therefore, reasonable to assume that the absence of below ground archaeological features is as the result of a genuine paucity of activity, rather than for reasons of later intrusions. A tree throw pit, a natural feature, shows that in at least one part of the site the natural geology has not been truncated by modern agriculture.

REFERENCES

- Headland Archaeology (Uk) Ltd, (2008) *Archaeological Evaluation of land at Daventry Windfarm, Northamptonshire: Trial Trench Evaluation*. Written Scheme of Investigation Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
- Connolly, R. (2008) *Section 8: Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Environmental Statement for the Daventry Wind Farm*, Your Energy Ltd (in prep).

APPENDIX 1

Trench Statistics – Daventry Wind Farm, Yelvertoft, Northampton*Trench 1*

Length: 22.5m Alignment: E-W Average depth: 0.75m Maximum depth: 0.94m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
100	Topsoil	0.45
101	Subsoil: Light yellow-brown , compact clay loam	0.44
102	Natural: Light grey-yellow clay with orange stony patches	

Trench 2

Length: 20m Alignment: N-S Average depth: 0.7m Maximum depth: 0.92m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
200	Topsoil	0.30
201	Subsoil: Light yellow-brown , compact clay loam	0.43
202	Natural: Light grey-yellow clay with orange stony patches	

Trench 3

Length: 20 m Alignment: NE-SW Average depth: 0.75 Maximum depth: 0.85m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit
300	Topsoil	0.25
301	Subsoil: Light yellow-brown , compact clay loam	0.34
302	Natural: Light creamy, mottled grey and yellow boulder clay	

Trench 4

Length: 20m Alignment: E-W Average depth: 0.65m Maximum depth: 0.85m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
400	Topsoil	0.23m
401	Subsoil: light yellow-brown compact clay loam	0.33m
402	Natural: Light creamy yellow-orange and grey mottled clay	

Trench 5

Length: 20m Alignment: E-W Average depth: 0.60m Maximum depth: 0.75m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
500	Topsoil	0.25
501	Subsoil: Mid yellow-grey and brown mottled clay loam	0.35
502	Natural: Yellow and grey clay with orange stone marbling	

Trench 6

Length: 21.1m Alignment: NW-SE Average depth: 0.70m Maximum depth: 0.90m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
600	Topsoil	0.27
601	Subsoil: Mid yellow-grey brown mottled clay loam	0.55
602	Natural: Yellow and grey clay with orange stone marbling	

Trench 7

Length: 22m Alignment: E-W Average depth: 0.70m Maximum depth: 0.82m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
700	Topsoil	0.31m
701	Subsoil: Light yellow-brown compact clay loam	0.33m
702	Natural: Light yellow-grey, compact clay with orange mottling	

Trench 8

Length: 20.5m Alignment: N-S Average depth: 0.90m Maximum depth: 0.95m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
800	Topsoil	0.33
801	Subsoil: Light grey-brown clay loam	0.45
802	Natural: Mid-grey mottled boulder clay	

Trench 9

Length: 21.8m

Alignment: N-S

Average depth: 0.45m

Maximum depth: 0.55m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
900	Topsoil	0.26
901	Subsoil: Mid yellow brown mottled clay loam	0.15
902	Cut/interruption of tree bole 1.8m wide x 2m long	
903	Mid-dark brown clay loam infill of 902	0.05
904	Natural: Yellow and grey mottled boulder clay	
905	Cut of possible furrow 2.1m wide x 2m long	
906	Mid yellow brown mottled clay loam infill of 905 (as 901)	0.08m
907	Cut of possible furrow 2m wide x 2m long	
908	Mid yellow brown mottled clay loam infill of 907 (as 901)	0.05m

Trench 10

Length: 22.3m

Alignment: NW-SE

Average depth: 0.44m

Maximum depth: 0.48m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1000	Topsoil	0.20
1001	Subsoil: Yellow-brown plastic clay loam	0.17
1002	Natural: Yellow-grey mottled boulder clay	

Trench 11

Length: 22.1m

Alignment: N-S

Average depth: 0.50m

Maximum depth: 0.75m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1100	Topsoil	0.25
1101	Subsoil: Light yellow-brown compact clay loam	0.20
1102	Light yellow-grey clay with orange stone mottling	

Trench 12

Length: 24.7m

Alignment: NE-SW

Average depth: 0.90m

Maximum depth: 1.13m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1200	Topsoil	0.33
1201	Subsoil: Light brown-yellow plastic clay loam	0.22
1202	Natural: Mid yellow-grey boulder clay	

Trench 13

Length: 23.1m

Alignment: NW-SE

Average depth: 0.55m

Maximum depth: 0.70m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1300	Topsoil	0.24
1301	Subsoil: Light grey-brown compact clay loam	0.22
1302	Natural: Light yellow-grey clay with orange mottling	

Trench 14

Length: 17m

Alignment: NE-SW

Average depth: 0.95m

Maximum depth: 1.2m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1400	Topsoil	0.30
1401	Subsoil: Light grey-brown compact clay loam	0.42m
1402	Natural: Yellow and grey boulder clay with orange mottling	

Trench 15

Length: 21m

Alignment: NE-SW

Average depth: 1.05m

Maximum depth: 1.35m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1500	Topsoil	0.22
1501	Subsoil: dark yellow-brown mottled clay loam	0.51
1502	Natural: Dark blue grey and orange boulder clay (over cut to test)	

Trench 16

Length: 21.5m

Alignment:: E-W

Average depth: 0.75m

Maximum depth: 0.90m

Context No.	Description	Depth of deposit (m)
1600	Topsoil	0.22
1601	Subsoil: mid- yellow-brown mottled clay loam	0.51
1602	Natural: Mid yellow and dark blue boulder clay with orange mottling	

APPENDIX 2

Photographic Register

Shot No.	Description	Initials & Date
1	ID shot	LM 15/07/08
2	Trench 10 section	LM 15/07/08
3	Trench 10 general shot	CC 15/07/08
4	Trench 9 general shot	CC 15/07/08
5	Trench 9 section	CC 15/07/08
6	Trench 5 general shot	CC 15/07/08
7	Trench 5 section	CC 15/07/08
8	Trench 6 general shot	CC 15/07/08
9	Trench 6 section	LM 16/07/08
10	Trench 16 general shot	LM 16/07/08
11	Trench 16 section	CC 16/07/08
12	Trench 15 general shot	CC 16/07/08
13	Trench 15 section	CC 16/07/08
14	Trench 11 general shot	CC 16/07/08
15	Trench 11 section	LM 16/07/08
16	Trench 12 general shot	LM 16/07/08
17	Trench 12 section	CC 16/07/08
18	Trench 7 general shot	CC 16/07/08
19	Trench 7 section	LM 16/07/08
20	Trench 8 general shot	LM 16/07/08
21	Trench 8 section	LM 17/07/08
22	Trench 14 general shot	LM 17/07/08
23	Trench 14 section	CC 17/07/08
24	Trench 13 general shot	CC 17/07/08
25	Trench 13 section	CC 17/07/08
26	Trench 1 general shot	CC 17/07/08
27	Trench 1 section	CC 17/07/08
28	Trench 2 general shot	CC 17/07/08
29	Trench 2 section	CC 17/07/08
30	Trench 3 general shot	CC 17/07/08
31	Trench 3 section	CC 17/07/08
32	Trench 4 general shot	CC 17/07/08
33	Trench 4 section	CC 17/07/08