

LGBW/01



# LITTLE GRAFTON FARM, BOCKLETON, WORCESTERSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

commissioned by Simon Kirton (Emission Zero)  
on behalf of Piers Dowell

February 2016



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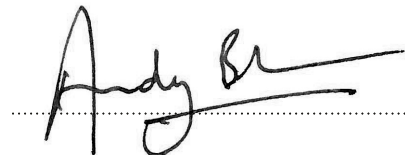
February 2016

project info

**HA JOB NO.** LGBW/01  
**HAS NO.** 1150  
**NGR** SO 57740 60929  
**PARISH** Tenbury Wells  
**LOCAL AUTHORITY** Malvern Hills District Council  
**OASIS REF.** headland3 - 235292

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## PROJECT SUMMARY

Headland Archaeology undertook documentary research and a watching brief on a plot of land at Little Grafton Farm, near Bockleton, Worcestershire. This was carried out in advance of the installation of a narrow, continuous cable trench for a proposed PV solar development. Due to the shallow depth of the trench much of the time the base of the trench remained within the topsoil/upper subsoil meaning archaeological features would not have been disturbed had they been present. When geological layers were visible, no archaeological features or deposits were located.

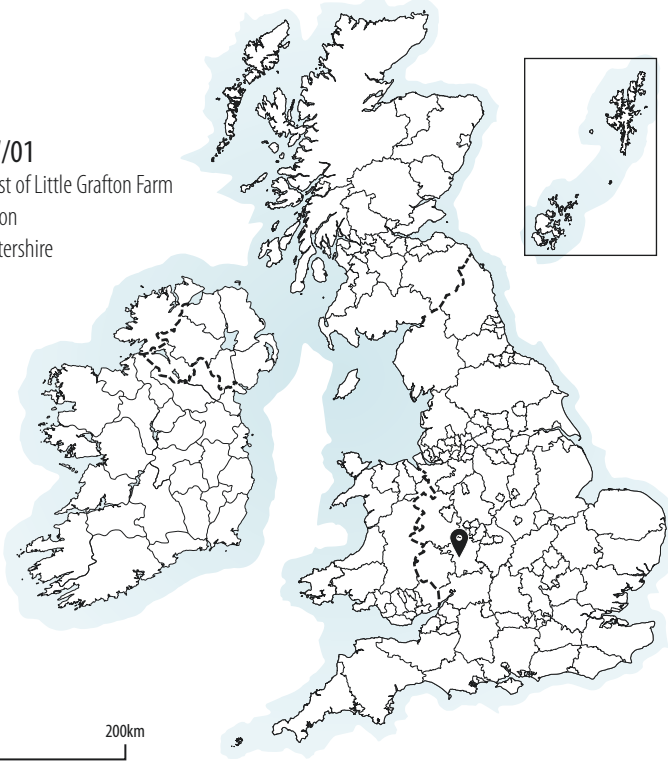
# CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
	1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND	1
	1.2 GEOLOGY	1
<b>2</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>	<b>1</b>
	2.1 OBJECTIVES	1
	2.2 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH	1
	2.3 WATCHING BRIEF	3
<b>3</b>	<b>RESULTS</b>	<b>3</b>
	3.1 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH	3
	3.2 WATCHING BRIEF	4
<b>4</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>REFERENCES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>APPENDICES</b>	<b>6</b>
	APPENDIX 1 CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA	6
	APPENDIX 2 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER	7
	APPENDIX 3 OASIS DATA COLLECTION: ENGLAND	8

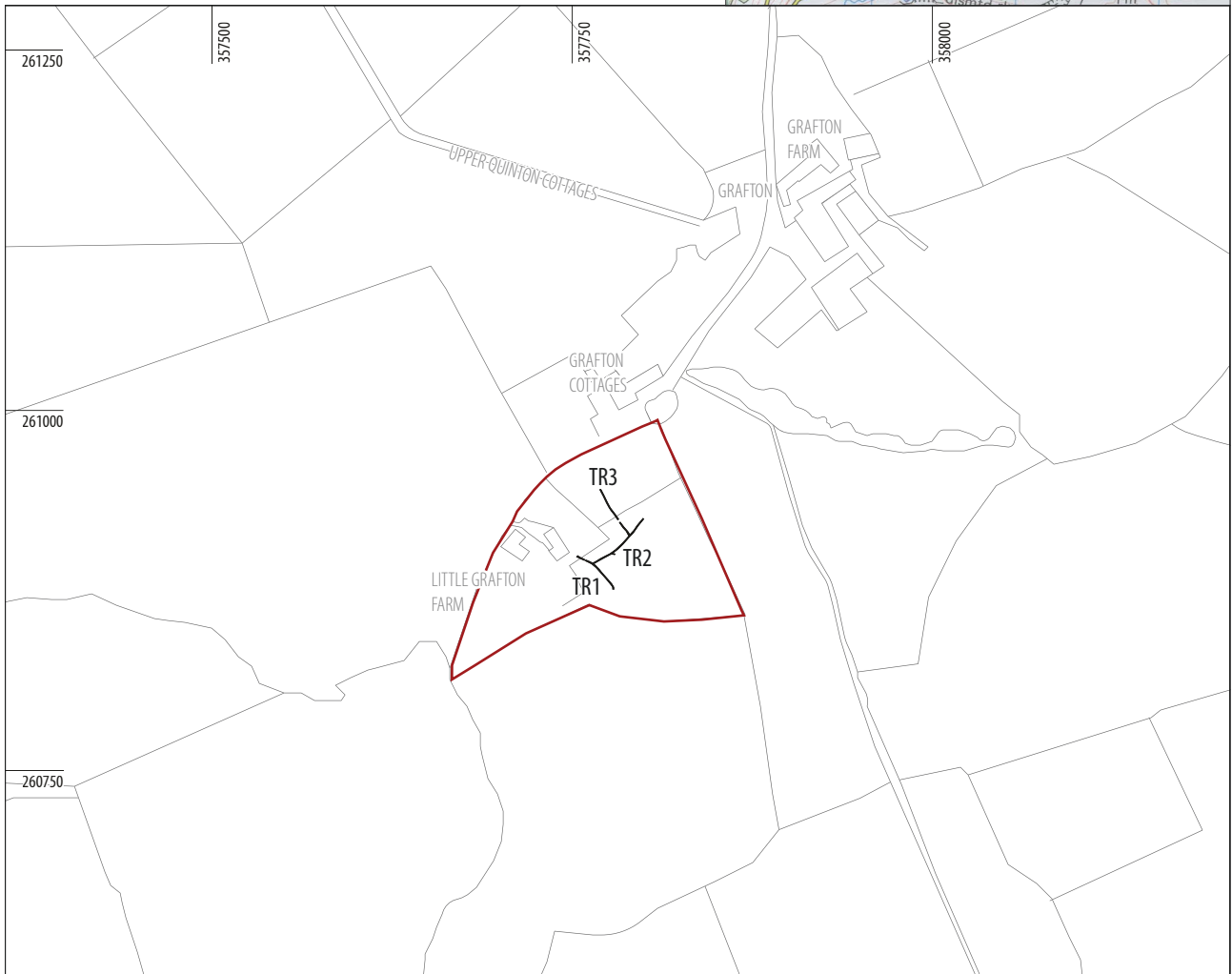
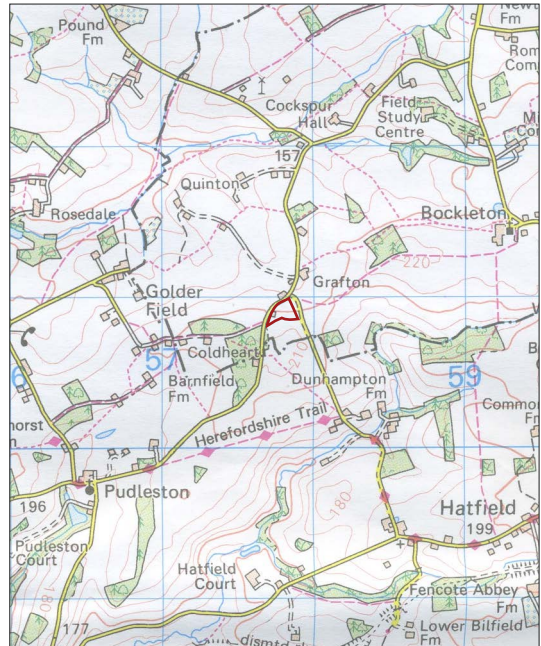
# LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

<b>ILLUS 1</b> SITE LOCATION	VIII
<b>ILLUS 2</b> ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND MAP	IX
<b>ILLUS 3</b> TRENCH 2. GENERAL SHOT OF TRENCH, FACING NE	2
<b>ILLUS 4</b> TRENCH 2. BAULK SECTION OF TRENCH, FACING SE	2
<b>ILLUS 5</b> TRENCH 1. BAULK SECTION OF TRENCH HIGHLIGHTING SURFACE DEPOSIT (1004)	3

**LGBW/01**  
 land east of Little Grafton Farm  
 Bockleton  
 Worcestershire



0 200km



**KEY**  
 development area  
 trench location

0 250m  
 N  
 scale 1:5,000 @ A4

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**ILLUS 1** Site location

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# LITTLE GRAFTON FARM, BOCKLETON, WORCESTERSHIRE

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF

### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 PLANNING BACKGROUND

Headland Archaeology was commissioned to undertake documentary research and a watching brief at Little Grafton Farm, Bockleton, Worcestershire (NGR 357740 260929) for works involving the construction of proposed new 250kWp Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Array. The ground work involved the laying of cable runs and piled footings for solar panel mounting staves.

The development was granted permission (15/01185/FUL) subject to planning conditions, one of which was a requirement for a programme of archaeological work. This was due to the location of the site in an area where little archaeological assessment has previously taken place, which is important particularly when considering the locale of the Grafton hamlet, part of the Bockleton and Hill Estate. This was set out by the Worcestershire Archives and Archaeology Service (WAAS), in their capacity as archaeological advisors to the local planning authority, in a project brief (WAAS 2015).

The trenches were located adjacent to the small hamlet of Grafton, which is essentially formed by three farms, Grafton Farm, Grafton Cottages and Little Grafton Farm which are located approximately 1.5km south-west of the village of Bockleton in southern Worcestershire, on the Worcestershire/Herefordshire border (ILLUS 1).

Work was undertaken in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation (Boucher 2015) agreed in advance of works by the archaeological advisor.

#### 1.2 GEOLOGY

The underlying geology is predominantly St Maughans Formation which comprises argillaceous rocks and interbedded sandstone, formed by river deposits (BGS 2014). There are no superficial deposits recorded within the proposed development area.

### 2 METHODOLOGY

#### 2.1 OBJECTIVES

The aim of the investigations were to satisfy the conditions related to the granting of the planning permission as laid out by WAAS.

The objectives of the documentary research and watching brief were as follows:

- To identify any likely previously known heritage assets within the site and inform the planning and results of the fieldwork and reporting stages of the project.
- To ensure the excavation and recording of any archaeological remains that would be disturbed by excavation of cable runs.
- To produce and deposit a satisfactory archive and disseminate the results of the work via grey-literature reporting and publication as appropriate.
- The regional research context was provided The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research.

The resulting archive (records) will be organised and deposited with Worcestershire Museums to facilitate access for future research and interpretation for public benefit.

#### 2.2 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

Two areas have been used in assembling and presenting the data:

A Development Area (DA) which corresponds to the red line for the application (all available data sources have been consulted for this area); and a Buffer Area (BA) which extends 500m from the boundary of the DA (within this area data has been gathered to inform the archaeological potential of the DA).

When discussed in tandem these are described as the Study Area (SA)

## Data sources

The assessment was based on a study of all readily available documentary sources, following the ClFA Standards and Guidance (ClFA 2014). The following sources of information were referred to:

- archaeological records and digital spatial data held by Worcestershire and Herefordshire Historic Environment Record (01 December 2015);
- records held at the Worcestershire and Herefordshire Record Offices (02 December 2015 and 03 December 2015 respectively);
- digital spatial data for designated heritage assets, downloaded from the Historic England website on 16 December 2015;
- archaeological records from the Historic England Archive, viewed through the Heritage Gateway website ([www.heritagegateway.org.uk](http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk));
- aerial photographs held by Historic England;
- geological data from the British Geological Survey;
- LiDAR Data from the Environment Agency;
- relevant internet resources, including Google Earth Pro and The Victoria County Histories (Vol X); and
- readily accessible published sources and unpublished archaeological reports.

## 2.3 WATCHING BRIEF

The main contractor excavated deposits with a mechanical excavator as necessary to complete the works to install the cables. Once the required depth had been attained, an archaeologist recorded the stratigraphic sequence in sections along the trench.

Fieldwork was started and completed on the 7th December 2015.

All recording was undertaken on pre-printed pro forma record cards. 35mm black-and-white prints were taken with a graduated metric scale clearly visible, supplemented by digital photography.

Sections and plans were recorded at 1:20 and 1:50, as appropriate. An overall site plan at an appropriate scale and relative to the National Grid was recorded by digital survey using a Trimble dGPS system.

# 3 RESULTS

## 3.1 DOCUMENTARY RESEARCH

### Known heritage assets within the study area

There are no designated assets within the study area, undesignated assets are listed with the reference number in the Worcestershire Sites and Monuments Record. Assets within the Study Area are shown in **ILLUS 2**, with detailed descriptions compiled in a gazetteer (Appendix 1).

## Previous investigations

An Historic England project was undertaken in the area to record the Historic Farmsteads of Worcestershire, which recorded three farmsteads dating to the 19th Century. One, Little Grafton Farm, is located within the DA.

Approximately 300m north-east of the DA, Mercian Archaeology undertook an Historic Building Recording and Watching Brief in 2005 at Grafton Farm, Bockleton, Worcestershire (Williams, P. 2005), covering Farm and associated buildings (see below). It determined that there was an earlier 17th century phase of a timber framed building, of which only part survived, incorporated into the later 19th century stone farm building. There were no archaeological deposits or artefacts found during the watching brief phase.

In 2008 Mercian Archaeology recorded Grafton Hall Cottage, 500m west, determining that it was built in the 19th Century and had remained largely unchanged in the 200 years since it was built. (Williams, P. 2008).

## Prehistory & Romano-British

There is no evidence of any activity from these periods within the SA.

## Anglo-Saxon and medieval

In the SA only one asset has been identified that dates to this period. Located approximately 240m to the north-east of the core DA is the remains of a Shrunken Medieval Village, Little Grafton (WSM11250), dated to the medieval period. Information is sparse about its size or surviving form.

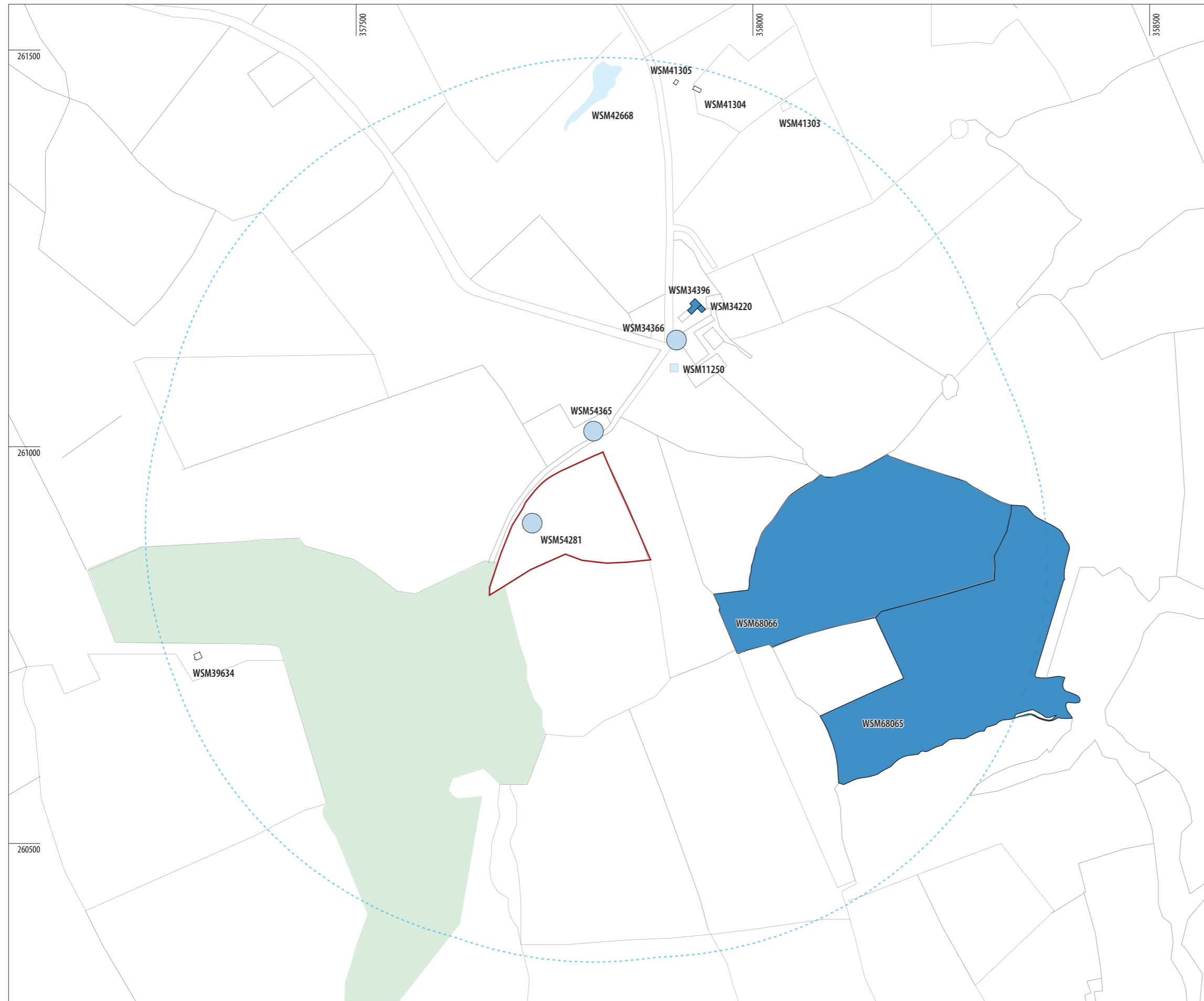
## Post-medieval to modern

The SA has had a number of changes of administrating authority in this period. It was part of Hatfield Parish in Herefordshire, before moving to Bockleton Parish in Herefordshire and then, more recently, Bockleton has been transferred to Worcestershire. In the Tithe Map of 1844 the fields are named The Meadow and Near Meadow and described as pasture. The farm, Little Grafton, was originally part of Bockleton Court and again identified as pasture land on sale of particulars in 1905 (Barns & Bernard 1905).

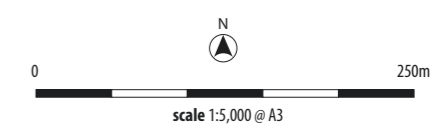
The farmstead of Little Grafton Farm (WSM54281), within the DA, is a partially extant 19th century unlisted farmstead with some associated agricultural buildings and a courtyard. The farmstead is described as having a partial loss of traditional buildings.

The remaining known heritage assets within the BA fall within this period. The earliest building is the former farmhouse at Grafton Farm (WSM34220) and its associated Buildings (WSM34396). The farmhouse was a 17th Century building, later incorporated into a 19th century structure. The associated buildings were stables (1868 & 1875) and buildings associated with the brewing industry including hop storage and kilns dated to 1880.

From the Environment Agency LiDAR and Historic England Aerial photography, fields of ridge and furrow and former field boundaries can be identified across the study area. The largest of these are



- KEY
- - - buffer area
  - ▭ development area
  - HER - HERITAGE ASSETS
  - medieval
  - post-medieval
  - ▭ 18th century AD
  - 19th century AD



ILLUS 2 Archaeological background map





**ILLUS 3** Trench 2. General shot of trench, facing NE

**ILLUS 4** Trench 2. Bulk section of trench, facing SE

**ILLUS 5** Trench 1. Bulk section of trench highlighting surface deposit (1004)

recorded on the HER located approximately 300m and 500m south-east of the DA (WSM68065 & WSM68066) and have been dated to the post-medieval period.

Heritage assets from the 18th Century are located on the edge of the SA. 500m to the south-west of the DA is Grafton Hill Cottage (WSM39634), a simple two bay stone-built cottage. Approximately 600m to the north-east is a series of assets, two traditional farm buildings (WSM41304 & WSM41305) and a pond.

An unlisted extant farmhouse, Grafton Cottages (WSM54365), dating from the 19th Century is located 120m north-east of the DA. Approximately 260m in the same direction is Grafton Farm (WSM54366), a similar unlisted farmstead. In the northernmost extent of the BA is an area of quarrying identified from the 2nd Edition OS Map with some surviving earthworks.

## 3.2 WATCHING BRIEF

### Introduction

Full trench descriptions, including orientation, length, and depth are presented in Appendix II. Contexts are ordered by trench number: i.e. Trench 1 (1001), Trench 2 (2001). Cut features are shown in square brackets i.e. [1001] whilst their fills are expressed in round brackets e.g. (1002).

Whilst the cable trench was a continuous feature, it was split arbitrarily into three sections for ease of recording (Illus. 1).

Deposits were generally consistent across the site (ILLUS 3 and ILLUS 4). The only variation was confined to layer thickness, which increased towards the base of the hill.

Natural geological deposits generally comprised brownish red clay and were located at a depth between 0.43m and 0.60m. In some areas, small patches of pale green yellow degraded limestone could be seen. The natural clays were not always observed due to the shallow depth and undulating nature of the cable trench. Overlying the geology was a reddish brown loamy clay subsoil. This was between 0.22m and 0.30m thick.

The topsoil was observed across the entire Development Area. This comprised a dark red brown clay loam with frequent root intrusions, and was 0.21-0.31m thick.

The stratigraphy of the trenches across the DA simply consisted of topsoil over a clay geology, with no archaeological finds, features, or deposits.

### Blank trenches

No features or significant deposits were identified in trenches 1, 2, or 3. An active land drain was uncovered in the centre of Trench 3. Its purpose was believed to be to aid drainage of the balancing pond to the west of the field, but due to the swift infilling of water the precise location of the drain could not be recorded.

When the modern trackway was created adjacent to the house in the south of the DA, a layer of hard standing was laid over disturbed subsoil. This stratigraphy was revealed in the north-west end of

Trench 1, no further archaeological supervision was required within the disturbed area. This deposit (1004) was approximately 0.12m thick (ILLUS 5).

## 4 CONCLUSION

The background archaeological search identified a number of known heritage assets within the study area, all relating to the medieval or post-medieval periods. The Grafton Shrunken Medieval Village suggests the area was being occupied in the medieval period, however, as of yet no other assets have been found which relate to this period.

Activity from the post-medieval period is much more common. The map regression and apportionments identify the land as pasture, and through the aerial photography and LIDAR, ridge and furrow can be seen in the majority of fields. As such it is unlikely that any other agricultural related earthworks would be present.

Whilst there was a moderate potential for agricultural features dating from the medieval to post-medieval period to be present within the site no such features were encountered with the exception of modern land drainage features.

The watching brief supported the documentary evidence for the development area predominantly being a series of pasture fields, throughout the recorded history of the area.

Within the full length of the cable trench, over 60% was excavated to the natural geology. As no archaeological features were observed, there is low potential for any further remains.

## 5 REFERENCES

### Bibliographic references

BGS 2014 *British Geological Survey* Website Available: <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> Accessed 18. December 2015.

Boucher, A 2015 *Little Grafton, Bockleton, Solar PV array: Written Scheme of Investigation for Documentary Research and Watching Brief v.02* Headland Archaeology.

Barns & Bernard 1905 *The Bockleton Estates in the Counties of Worcester & Hereford* Herefordshire: CN36/4.

CIfA 2014 *CIfA Standards and Guidance* Website Available: <http://www.archaeologists.net/codes/ifa> Accessed 16 December 2015.

Victoria County Histories *A History of Worcestershire* Vol. IV. Pgs. 241 – 246.

Williams, P 2005 *Historic Building Recording and Watching Brief at Grafton Farm, Bockleton* (Building WSM34220).

Williams, P 2008 *Historic Building Recording and Watching Brief at Grafton Hill Cottage, Bockleton, Worcestershire* Mercian Archaeology (Building WSM34220).

Worcester Archive and Archaeology Service 2015 *Requirements for an Archaeology Watching Brief: Proposed new 250kWp Ground Mounted Photovoltaic Array at Little Grafton, Bockleton, Worcestershire* WR15 8PT.

*The Archaeology of the West Midlands: A Framework for Research.*

### Cartographic references

*Maps of Bockleton Parish, in the county of Worcester and the county of Hereford* Tithe assessment, c1842 Herefordshire Archives Ref: AF53/14

*Maps of Hatfield Parish, in the county of Hereford* Tithe assessment, c 1844 Herefordshire Archives Ref: IR30/14.

*Ordnance Survey, Second Edition* 1905 Herefordshire Sheet XIII 10 Worcestershire Sheet XXV 4 8

*Ordnance Survey, Second Edition* 1905 Herefordshire Sheet XIII 11 7 Worcestershire Sheet XXV 4 8 and XXVI 5 (Parts of).

## 6 APPENDICES

### APPENDIX 1 CULTURAL HERITAGE ASSETS WITHIN THE STUDY AREA

HA No.	Record Type	Description	Type	Period	Grid Ref.
WSM11250	MON	Shrunken Medieval Village, Grafton, Bockleton	SHRUNKEN VILLAGE	MEDIEVAL	357898 261099
WSM34220	BLD	Former Farmhouse, Grafton Farm, Bockleton	FARMHOUSE	POST MEDIEVAL	357933 261173
WSM34396	BLD	Farm Buildings Attached to Old Farmhouse, Grafton Farm, Bockleton	FARM BUILDING, HOP KILN	POST MEDIEVAL	357925 261177
WSM39634	BLD	Grafton Hill Cottage, Bockleton	DWELLING	18TH CENTURY AD	357310 260736
WSM41303	MON	Pond, Grafton Field, Bockleton	POND	18TH CENTURY AD	358038 261428
WSM41304	BLD	Traditional Farm Building, Grafton Field, Bockleton	FARM BUILDING	18TH CENTURY AD	357927 261449
WSM41305	BLD	Traditional Farm Building, Grafton Field, Bockleton	FARM BUILDING	18TH CENTURY AD	357901 261458
WSM42668	MON	Quarry at Grafton Field, Bockleton	QUARRY	19TH CENTURY AD	357799 261440
WSM54281	BLD	Little Grafton Farm	FARMSTEAD	19TH CENTURY AD	357719 260904
WSM54365	BLD	Grafton Cottages	FARM STEAD	19TH CENTURY AD	357797 261019
WSM54366	BLD	Grafton Farm	FARMSTEAD	19TH CENTURY AD	357901 261134
WSM68065	MON	Ridge and Furrow, South East of Little Grafton Farm	RIDGE AND FURROW	POST MEDIEVAL	358275 260732
WSM68066	MON	Ridge and Furrow, East of Little Grafton Farm	RIDGE AND FURROW	POST MEDIEVAL	358140 260874

## APPENDIX 2 TRENCH AND CONTEXT REGISTER

TR 1	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
	1001	Topsoil. Dark red brown clay loam, friable, frequent root intrusion.	29m x 0.3m	0.00 – 0.21m
	1002	Subsoil. Mid red brown loam clay, firm, occasional root intrusion.		0.21m – 0.43m
	1003	Natural. Mid brown red clay, firm, rare degraded limestone fragments.		0.43m+
	1004	Modern track. Light blue grey stone layer in a sandy matrix, friable.		0.00 – 0.12m

Summary: No archaeological features or deposits identified. This trench was located on the highest ground and generally the natural layer (1003) was attained. A modern trackway over disturbed subsoil was towards the northern end.

TR 2	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
	2001	Topsoil. Dark red brown clay loam, friable, frequent root intrusion.	48m x 0.3m (61m x 0.3m)	0.00 – 0.29m
	2002	Subsoil. Mid red brown loam clay, firm, occasional root intrusion.		0.29m – 0.59m
	2003	Natural. Mid brown red clay, firm, rare degraded limestone fragments.		0.59m+

Summary: No archaeological features or deposits identified. Two offshoots added a further 13m to the total length of this trench. Towards the north east end of the trench in particular, the natural was not always attained.

TR 3	Context	Description	Dimensions	Deposit depth (BGL)
	3001	Topsoil. Dark red brown clay loam, friable, frequent root intrusion.	26.2m x 0.3m	0.00 – 0.31m
	3002	Subsoil. Mid red brown loam clay, firm, occasional root intrusion.		0.31m – 0.60m
	3003	Natural. Mid brown red clay, firm, rare degraded limestone fragments.		0.60m +

Summary: No archaeological features or deposits identified. This trench was located at one of the lowest points of the fields, and as such did not attain the level of the natural across the entire trench. A land drain in the central area, when disturbed, flooded this part of the trench which made for difficult viewing.



## APPENDIX 3 OASIS DATA COLLECTION: ENGLAND

OASIS ID: headland3-235292

Project details	
<b>Project name</b>	Little Grafton, Bockleton, Solar PV array
<b>Short description of the project</b>	Headland Archaeology undertook documentary research and a watching brief on a plot of land near Bockleton, Worcestershire. This was for a narrow, continuous cable trench for a proposed solar farm, and as such potential archaeological layers were not attained in all areas of the trench. When geological layers were visible, there were no archaeological features or deposits located.
<b>Project dates</b>	Start: 02-12-2015 End: 07-12-2015
<b>Previous/future work</b>	No / Not known
<b>Any associated project reference codes</b>	LGBW - Contracting Unit No.
<b>Any associated project reference codes</b>	67616 - HER event no.
<b>Type of project</b>	Field evaluation
<b>Methods &amp; techniques</b>	"Documentary Search","Targeted Trenches"
<b>Development type</b>	Pipelines/cables (e.g. gas, electric, telephone, TV cable, water, sewage, drainage etc.)
<b>Development type</b>	Solar Farm developments
<b>Prompt</b>	National Planning Policy Framework - NPPF
<b>Position in the planning process</b>	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location	
<b>Country</b>	England
<b>Site location</b>	WORCESTERSHIRE MALVERN HILLS BOCKLETON Little Grafton
<b>Postcode</b>	WR15 8PT
<b>Study area</b>	0 Square metres
<b>Site coordinates</b>	SO 57740 60929 52.244523088504 -2.61902206128 52 14 40 N 002 37 08 W Point

Project creators	
<b>Name of Organisation</b>	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
<b>Project brief originator</b>	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
<b>Project design originator</b>	Headland Archaeology (UK) Ltd.
<b>Project director/manager</b>	Andy Boucher
<b>Project supervisor</b>	Robyn Pelling
<b>Type of sponsor/funding body</b>	client
<b>Name of sponsor/funding body</b>	Piers Dowell

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**Project archives**

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<b>Physical Archive Exists?</b>	No
<b>Digital Archive recipient</b>	Worcester Museum
<b>Digital Media available</b>	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
<b>Paper Archive recipient</b>	Worcestershire Museum
<b>Paper Media available</b>	"Context sheet","Diary","Map","Photograph","Report"

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**Project bibliography 1**

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<b>Publication type</b>	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
<b>Entered by</b>	Robyn Pelling (robyn.pelling@headlandarchaeology.com)
<b>Entered on</b>	21 December 2015





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