making sense of heritage

Hollow Panson Farm, Torridge, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Ref: 100220.03
August 2013

archaeology

Hollow Panson
Torridge, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Front cover: Trench 1, view from south-west
Back cover: Working shot

Hollow Panson
Torridge, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amec Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd, to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Hollow Panson, Torridge, Devon (NGR 457150 109360).

The evaluation was undertaken ahead of the determination of a planning application for the erection of six wind turbines to a height of 115m, together with associated infrastructure at the Site. The fieldwork took place between the 15th to 19th July 2013.

The fieldwork consisted of the machine excavation of nine trenches targeted on anomalies indicated by a previous geophysical survey across the area. No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during this evaluation. Geological or modern features were shown to account for the geophysical responses.

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Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

This project was commissioned by Amec Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd and Wessex Archaeology would like to thank John Mabbitt in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Ann Dick (Devon County Council) for all her help and advice.

The evaluation was undertaken by Mike Dinwiddy with the assistance of Peter Wilson. This report was written and compiled by Naomi Brennan with illustrations prepared by Elizabeth James. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Sue Farr.

Hollow Panson
Torridge, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Amec Environment & Infrastructure UK Ltd ('the Client'), to carry out an archaeological trial trench evaluation of land at Hollow Panson, Torridge, Devon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 236330 093500 (hereafter 'the Site', **Figure 1**).

1.1.2 A planning application (1/1171/2012/FULM) has been submitted to Torridge District Council for the erection of six wind turbines to a height of 115m (68.5m to hub), together with associated infrastructure, at the Site.

1.1.3 The Archaeological Advisor to Torridge District Council recommended that an archaeological evaluation was undertaken ahead of the determination of the planning application to assess the archaeological potential and to 'ground truth' the results of an earlier geophysical survey (Stratascan 2012).

1.1.4 The fieldwork strategy and methodology was documented in a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, WA 2013) submitted by Wessex Archaeology and approved by the County Archaeological Officer at Devon County Council (DCC) prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.1.5 The evaluation was undertaken on the 15th to 19th July 2013.

1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The proposed Hollow Panson Wind Farm Site is located approximately 750m to the south-west of the village of Henford, 900m to the east of Chapmans Well and 900m to the north-west of Virginstow in the west of Devon. The Site itself is positioned on gently sloping agricultural land to the east of the A388 and west of Henford Wood.

1.2.2 The Site consists primarily of agricultural land dominated by arable fields, bordered by hedgerows with occasional mature trees. A shallow valley runs approximately north to south past the eastern edge of the Site within which flows the River Carey, southwards towards its confluence with the River Tamar at Launceston.

1.2.3 The underlying geology of the Site comprises mudstone, siltstone and sandstone of the Holsworthy Group (British Geological Survey South Sheet, Fifth Edition Solid, 2007).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Historic Environment chapter within the Environmental Impact Assessment (AMEC 2012) details the archaeological and historical background to the Site. A summary is provided below.

2.1.2 A geophysical survey has also been completed for the Site (Stratascan 2012) and formed the basis of the targeted trench evaluation.

2.2 Designated sites

2.2.1 There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Site. The nearest is located approximately 2.7km north of the Site at the Beacon on Belland Moor (11046940), which is one of a group of post-medieval signalling beacons.

2.2.2 Hollow Panson Farmhouse, (1104689) within the Site boundary and East Panson Farmhouse (1104691) located approximately 1km from the nearest turbine are both Grade II listed buildings. There are a further 99 listed buildings within the extended study area, three of which are designated at Grade I and five are designated at Grade II*.

2.3 Recorded archaeology

2.3.1 The Devon Historic Environment Record (DHER) contains two entries within the Site, comprising the existing Hollow Panson Farmhouse and the earlier Manor House at Hollow Panson.

2.3.2 Within the wider area, existing or documented rural settlements dating from the medieval period onwards are recorded, along with a single record of a possible Romano-British or prehistoric enclosure recorded as a cropmark 350m south-west of the Site.

2.3.3 The medieval activity is largely evidenced from the historic landscape, which shows sinuous field boundaries characteristic of the enclosure of medieval strip fields. Together with the introduction of a number of manorial place names from the late 12th to early 14th centuries, it suggests the agrarian use of the area during the medieval period. A medieval barton (settlement or manorial centre) at Hollow Panson is suggested. Earlier fabric within the existing farmhouse is recorded and a font at a purported chapel site is recorded on the DHER.

2.4 Historic mapping

2.4.1 Historic mapping demonstrates limited change in use from the mid-19th century to the present. The tithe map (1840) shows the general pattern of enclosure and although incomplete, where present shows the site boundary in the ownership of Sir William Molesworth and farmed by a number of tenant farmers.

2.4.2 The first edition Ordnance Survey mapping (1883) shows the existing field system in a similar form with only minor changes comprising gradual encroachment of enclosed farmland onto the remnant of Henford Moor and the development of the farmstead at Hollow Panson.

2.4.3 Agricultural buildings are first shown on the 1963 1:10,000 mapping.

2.5 Previous surveys

2.5.1 A site walk over was undertaken in June 2012 to inform the Historic Environment chapter within the Environmental Impact Assessment (AMEC 2012). With the exception of Hollow Panson Farmhouse, no discrete archaeological features were noted.

2.5.2 A geophysical survey (Stratascan 2012) across six areas (designated A-F; Figure 1 inset) has been undertaken at the Site, which identified a number of anomalies of probable archaeological origin. These included rectilinear features in Areas B, C and D, which were considered of possible prehistoric or Romano-British origin. Further anomalies, interpreted as possible archaeological origin, were identified elsewhere within the survey area. These include possible features in the northern extent of Area D and the western end of Area C, which may be associated with the probable features identified in these areas.

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The aims of the archaeological field evaluation were to:

- *Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be impacted by development;*
- *Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character and condition of any surviving remains within the Site;*
- *Assess the degree of existing impacts to sub-surface horizons and to document the extent of archaeological survival of buried deposits;*
- *Target trenches on anomalies identified as a result of the geophysical survey in order to clarify the nature and presence/absence of underlying archaeological remains;*
- *Produce a report which will present the results of the evaluation in sufficient detail to allow an informed decision to be made concerning the Site's archaeological potential.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 The full detailed methodology of the archaeological works was set out in a Written Scheme of Investigation (Wessex Archaeology 2013), and is summarised below.

3.2.2 A total of nine machine excavated trial trenches, six of which measured approximately 25m by 2.5m and three of which measured 50m by 2.5m, were targeted on anomalies highlighted by the geophysical survey (Stratascan 2012).

3.2.3 The trenches were excavated using a 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a 2.5m wide toothless bucket, under constant archaeological supervision. Mechanical excavation continued in spits through topsoil and subsoil down to either the uppermost archaeological features or natural deposits, whichever was encountered first. Topsoil was separated from subsoil and any other arisings, and stored at a minimum of 1m from the trench edge. The spoil from the trenches was scanned for artefacts. The trenches were backfilled with the excavated spoil, topsoil last in order to preserve the soil stratigraphy.

3.2.4 Where archaeological features were encountered they were investigated by hand, with a sufficient sample of each layer/feature type excavated in order to establish, as may be possible, their date, nature, character, extent and condition.

3.2.5 Any archaeological deposits and features were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording system with a unique numbering system for individual contexts. Archaeological features and deposits were hand-drawn at either 1:10 or 1:20, including both plans and sections, these were referred to the Ordnance Survey National Grid. The Ordnance Datum (OD) height of all principal features and levels were calculated. A representative section of each trench was recorded showing the depth of the overburden deposits.

3.2.6 A digital photographic record was compiled showing the trenches, the principal features, and the general context of the Site. Digital images have been subject to a managed quality control and curation process which has embedded appropriate metadata within the image and ensures the long term accessibility of the image set.

3.2.7 The survey was carried out with a Leica Viva series GNSS unit using the OS National GPS Network through an RTK network with a 3D accuracy of 30mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.

3.2.8 A unique site code **100220** was allocated to the Site, and was used on all records and finds.

3.3 Health and Safety

3.3.1 Health and Safety considerations were of paramount importance in conducting all fieldwork. Safe working practices will override archaeological considerations at all times.

3.3.2 All work was carried out in accordance with the *Health and Safety at Work etc. Act* 1974 and the *Management of Health and Safety Regulations* 1992, and all other relevant Health and Safety legislation, regulations and codes of practice in force at the time.

3.4 Best practice

3.4.1 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with the relevant guidance given in the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation* (IfA 2008).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence was generally consistent across the Site and comprised between 0.15-0.25m of a pale loamy topsoil overlying between 0.12-0.22m of a less well developed stony subsoil. The exception to this was Trench 6 where 0.28m of topsoil directly overlay the natural geology. In all trenches the natural geology encountered was a mixture of bands of weathered mudstone within a pale yellow clay matrix. Full details of the stratigraphic sequence can be found in **Appendix 1**.

4.1.2 No archaeological features or deposits were found in any of the trenches, however geological variation and features were shown to account for the majority of the geophysical anomalies (**Figure 1, Plates 1 and 2**).

4.1.3 The geophysical anomaly located at the northern end of Trench 9 in Area D was the result of ground compaction caused by the turning of agricultural vehicles. Similarly the parallel responses in Trench 5 in Area C were the continuation of a modern trackway.

4.1.4 No features could be seen to account for the geophysical response at the north end of Trench 1 or within Trench 6, but these may reflect geological variation below the depth of excavation.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

5.1.1 A single piece of worked flint was recovered from Trench 8. Though unstratified it implies some prehistoric activity in the general vicinity.

6 CONCLUSIONS

6.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits were encountered during the evaluation and geological or modern features were shown to account for most of the geophysical anomalies.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Archive

7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Barnstaple & North Devon Museum. The Museum has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, currently stored at Wessex Archaeology offices under the project code **100220**. Deposition of the finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner.

7.1.2 An OASIS online record http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/projects/oasis/ will be initiated and key fields completed on Details, Location and Creators Forms. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the DHER. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

7.1.3 The complete site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and artefacts, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by Barnstaple & North Devon Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (Walker 1990; SMA 1995; Richards and Robinson 2000; Brown 2011).

7.2 Copyright

7.2.1 The full copyright of the written/illustrative archive relating to the Site will be retained by Wessex Archaeology Ltd under the *Copyright, Designs and Patents Act* 1988 with all rights reserved. The recipient museum, however, will be granted an exclusive licence for the use of the archive for educational purposes, including academic research, providing that such use shall be non-profitmaking, and conforms with the *Copyright and Related Rights Regulations* 2003.

7.2.2 This report may contain material that is non-Wessex Archaeology copyright (e.g. Ordnance Survey, British Geological Survey, Crown Copyright), or the intellectual property of third parties, which we are able to provide for limited reproduction under the terms of our own copyright licences, but for which copyright itself is non-transferrable by Wessex Archaeology. The client is are reminded that they remain bound by the conditions of the Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 with regard to multiple copying and electronic dissemination of the report

7.3 Security Copy

7.3.1 In line with current best practice, on completion of the project a security copy of the paper records will be prepared, in the form of a pdf/a file, which will form part of the project archive.

8 REFERENCES

8.1 Bibliography

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9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1: Trench Summaries

bgl = below ground level

TRENCH 1			
Dimensions: 25.00x2.40m	**Max. depth:** 0.35m	**Ground level:** 151.41-152.07m aOD	
Easting: 236370	**Northing:** 093611		
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
101	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Pale brown sandy clay loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Under grass. Slightly diffuse interface with 102. Overlies 102.	0.00-0.16 bgl
102	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Pale yellow-brown clay loam. 10% stone, sub-angular, <1-5cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Fairly clear interface with 103. Overlies 103.	0.16-0.35 bgl
103	*Natural*	Natural geology. Weathered mudstone within pale yellow-brown clay and occasional pale orange sandy loam. Compact.	0.35+ bgl

TRENCH 2			
Dimensions: 49.50x2.40m	**Max. depth:** 0.36m	**Ground level:** 149.80-151.38m aOD	
Easting: 236411	**Northing:** 093584		
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
201	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Pale brown sandy clay loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Under grass. Slightly diffuse interface with 202. Overlies 202.	0.00-0.15 bgl
202	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Pale orange-brown clay loam. 10% stone, sub-angular, <1-5cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Fairly clear interface with 203. Overlies 203.	0.15-0.30 bgl
203	*Natural*	Natural geology. Weathered mudstone within pale yellow-brown clay and occasional pale orange sandy loam. Compact.	0.30+ bgl

TRENCH 3			
Dimensions: 25.00x2.40m	**Max. depth:** 0.40m	**Ground level:** 145.75-150.00m aOD	
Easting: 236471	**Northing:** 093568		
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
301	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Pale brown sandy clay loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Under grass. Slightly diffuse interface with 302. Overlies 302.	0.00-0.18 bgl
302	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Pale brown clay loam. 15% stone, sub-angular, <1-5cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Fairly clear interface with 303. Overlies 303.	0.15-0.40 bgl
303	*Natural*	Natural geology. Weathered mudstone within pale yellow-brown clay and occasional pale orange sandy loam. Compact.	0.37+ bgl
304	*Geological feature*	Band of fragmented mudstone. Natural geological feature. Unexcavated.	-

TRENCH 4			
Dimensions: 25.80x2.40m	**Max. depth:** 0.27m	**Ground level:** 148.13-148.94m aOD	
Easting: 236552	**Northing:** 093537		
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
401	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Pale orange-brown sandy clay loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous.	0.00-0.17 bgl

		Bioturbated. Under grass. Slightly diffuse interface with 402. Overlies 402.	
402	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Pale yellow-brown clay loam. 10% stone, sub-angular, <1-5cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Fairly clear interface with 403. Overlies 403.	0.17-0.28 bgl
403	*Natural*	Natural geology. Weathered mudstone within pale yellow-brown clay. Compact.	0.27+ bgl

TRENCH 5			
Dimensions: 26.00x2.40m		**Max. depth:** 0.27m	**Ground level:** 147.13-147.70m aOD
Easting: 236633		**Northing:** 093497	
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
501	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Pale yellow-brown sandy clay loam. 5% stone, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Under grass. Slightly diffuse interface with 502. Overlies 502.	0.00-0.15 bgl
502	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Pale yellow-brown clay loam. 10% stone, sub-angular, <1-6cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Fairly clear interface with 503. Overlies 503.	0.15-0.27 bgl
503	*Natural*	Natural geology. Weathered mudstone within pale yellow-brown clay. Compact.	0.27+ bgl

TRENCH 6			
Dimensions: 25.80x2.40m		**Max. depth:** 0.28m	**Ground level:** 142.60-142.90m aOD
Easting: 236732		**Northing:** 093413	
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
601	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Pale yellow-brown sandy clay loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Under grass. Fairly clear interface with 602. Overlies 602.	0.00-0.28 bgl
602	*Natural*	Natural geology. Weathered mudstone within pale yellow-brown clay. Compact.	0.28+ bgl

TRENCH 7			
Dimensions: 50.45x2.40m		**Max. depth:** 0.28m	**Ground level:** 141.74-143.95m aOD
Easting: 236687		**Northing:** 093387	
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
701	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Mid grey-brown sandy clay loam. 5% stone, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Under grass. Slightly diffuse interface with 702. Overlies 702.	0.00-0.17 bgl
702	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Mid orange-brown clay loam. 10% stone, sub-angular, <1-4cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Fairly clear interface with 703. Overlies 703.	0.17-0.28 bgl
703	*Natural*	Natural geology. Weathered mudstone within pale yellow-brown clay. Compact.	0.28+ bgl

TRENCH 8			
Dimensions: 25.20x2.40m		**Max. depth:** 0.35m	**Ground level:** 149.50-151.00m aOD
Easting: 236405		**Northing:** 093481	
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
801	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Pale brown clay loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Under grass. Slightly diffuse interface with 802. Overlies 802.	0.00-0.15 bgl
802	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Pale brown clay loam. 20% stone, sub-angular, <1-6cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Fairly clear	0.12-0.32 bgl

		interface with 803. Overlies 803.	
803	*Natural*	Natural geology. Weathered mudstone within pale yellow-brown clay and occasional pale orange sandy loam. Compact.	0.30+ bgl
804	*Geological feature*	Band of fragmented mudstone. Natural geological feature.	0.10-1.04 bgl

TRENCH 9			
Dimensions: 48.60x2.40m	**Max. depth:** 0.46m	**Ground level:** 150.61-152.70m aOD	
Easting: 236404	**Northing:** 093538		
Context	**Description**		**Depth (m)**
901	*Topsoil*	Modern topsoil. Pale brown clay loam. 2% stone, sub-angular, <1-3cm. Fairly loose and friable. Homogeneous. Bioturbated. Under grass. Slightly diffuse interface with 902. Overlies 902.	0.00-0.25 bgl
902	*Subsoil*	Modern subsoil. Pale brown clay loam. 15% stone, sub-angular, <1-5cm. Moderately compact. Fairly homogeneous. Fairly clear interface with 903. Overlies 903.	0.25-0.43 bgl
903	*Natural*	Natural geology. Weathered mudstone within pale yellow-brown clay and occasional pale orange sandy loam. Compact.	0.40+ bgl

9.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

Hollow Panson, Torridge, Devon - Wessex Archaeology

OASIS ID - wessexar1-156716

Versions

View	**Version**	**Completed by**	**Email**	**Date**
View 1	1	Sue Farr	s,farr@wessexarch.co.uk	8 August 2013

Completed sections in current version

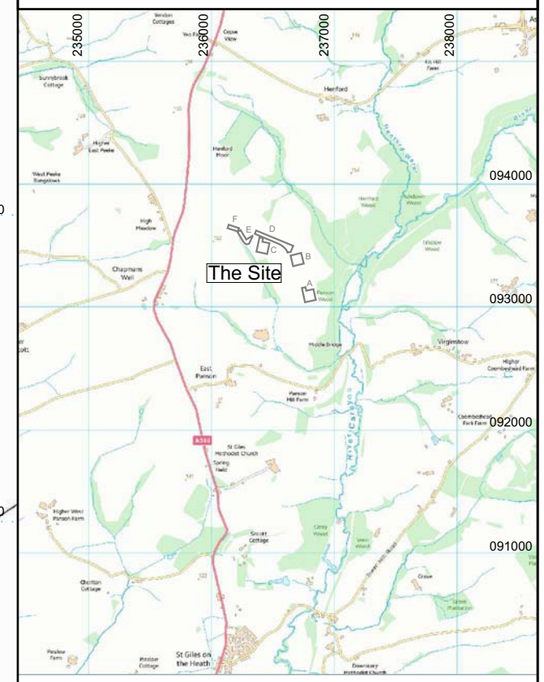
Details	**Location**	**Creators**	**Archive**	**Publications**
Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	1/1

Validated sections in current version

Details	**Location**	**Creators**	**Archive**	**Publications**
No	No	No	No	0/1

File submission and form progress

Grey literature report submitted?	No	**Grey literature report filename/s**	
Report release delay specified?	Yes	**Release delay**	Release into ADS library once signed off
Images submitted?	No	**Image filename/s**	
Boundary file submitted?	No	**Boundary filename**	
HER signed off?		**NMR signed off?**	



Evaluation trench

Geological feature

Extent of Geophysical survey

Interpretation:

PROBABLE ARCHAEOLOGY
Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - probable cut feature of archaeological origin
Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - probable bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
Moderate strength discrete anomaly - probable thermoremanent feature
Widely spaced curving parallel linear anomalies - probably related to ridge-and-furrow
POSSIBLE ARCHAEOLOGY
Positive anomaly / weak positive anomaly - possible cut feature of archaeological origin
Negative anomaly / weak negative anomaly - possible bank or earthwork of archaeological origin
Moderate strength discrete anomaly - possible thermoremanent feature
Magnetic spike - probable ferrous object
OTHER ANOMALIES
Closely spaced parallel linear anomalies - probably related to agricultural activity such as ploughing
Linear anomaly - probably related to vehicle ruts
Linear anomaly - possibly related to land drain
Magnetic disturbance associated with nearby metal object such as service or field boundary
Strong magnetic debris - possible disturbed or made ground
Scattered magnetic debris
Area of amorphous magnetic variation - probable natural (e.g. geological or pedological) origin

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Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:40000 and 1:2000 @ A3
Illustrator:	SEJ
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	...\Eval\13_08_02\100220_eval.dwg

Location of Site, evaluation trenches and results of geophysical survey

Figure 1

Plate 1: Geological feature 304, viewed from the north-east

Plate 2: Geological feature 804, viewed from the south-east

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