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Coombeshead Farm Diptford, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery Accession No: PLYMG.2013.24
Ref: 101621.03
December 2013



**Coombeshead Farm
Diptford, Devon**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

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Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AEE Renewables UK 12 Limited to undertake a trial trench evaluation at Coombeshead Farm, Diptford, Devon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 275050 055400.

The archaeological trial trenching over two areas of the Site comprised the excavation of sixteen 20m trenches, one 40m and one 60m trench. All trenches measured 1.8m in width. All trenches were targeted on anomalies identified in an earlier geophysical survey, in particular a large sub-oval enclosure located in the northern part of the Site.

The evaluation identified limited evidence for archaeological remains within the areas investigated on the Site, whether features or finds.

However, the evaluation was able to confirm and identify the ditches of a sub-oval enclosure possibly of Romano-British date. Observations during the evaluation partially confirmed the results of geophysical survey. It was noted, that a number of the strong geophysical anomalies were archaeological features albeit pertaining to shallow linear ditch or gully features, and a single posthole and possible pit. No dateable material was recovered from these features. Other geophysical anomalies that had been targeted were shown either not to be present or as a result of the natural underlying geology.

Apart from the identification of the enclosure the evaluation has indicated a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains at the Site. Due to the potential significance of the enclosure however, the Client is proposing to remove this area of the Site from the proposed development.

The work was undertaken from 10th to 12th December 2013.



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Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Tom Jones of AEE Renewables UK 12 Limited for commissioning the work.

Thanks are also due to Graham Tait of Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (HET) who monitored the work on behalf of the Local Planning Authority.

The fieldwork was undertaken by Oliver Good, with Andy Sole, Matthew Kendall, Darryl Freer, Ray Kennedy, Jon Martin and Jamie McCarthy. The report was compiled by Oliver Good and Gareth Chaffey, and the report illustrations were drawn by Linda Coleman. The small finds assemblage was assessed by Lorraine Mephram. The project was managed on behalf of Wessex Archaeology by Damian De Rosa.



Coombeshead Farm Diptford, Devon

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by AEE Renewables UK 12 Limited (the Client) to undertake an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Coombeshead Farm, Diptford, Devon, centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 275050 055400 (hereafter 'the Site') (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 The Client is proposing to submit a planning application for the installation of a c.10MW Solar Farm at the Site. A desk-based assessment (DBA) (ECUS 2013) and a geophysical survey (WA 2013a) were carried out for the Site. The DBA detailed the known archaeological and historical background of the Site, whilst the geophysical survey identified a number of anomalies, including a possible enclosure, ditches and other features that may be archaeological in origin. An archaeological brief was also prepared by Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (HET), the archaeological advisors to the Local Planning Authority (LPA) (ARCH/DM/SH/20727).
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the evaluation (WA 2013b) was prepared by Wessex Archaeology and submitted to, and approved by HET. The WSI set out a programme for an archaeological trial trench evaluation to target the results of the geophysical survey. The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with the Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard Guidance for Archaeological Evaluation* (as amended in 2008).
- 1.1.4 The fieldwork was undertaken from 10th to 12th December 2013.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The overall development site, comprising an area of approximately 24ha in size, is located c.2.5km south-east of Diptford and some 7.7km south-west of Totnes (**Figure 1**).
- 1.2.2 The evaluation Site comprised of two areas covering six agricultural fields approximately 15ha in size (**Figure 1**). The northern area is made up of four pasture fields; it is bounded by a road and field boundaries to the west, north and east with the southern boundary defined by the limits defined by the Client and a contour line (120m aOD). The southern area is made up of two fields with the Site extents defined by a road and field boundaries to the north, west and south; the eastern boundary is defined by a contour line (145m aOD).
- 1.2.3 The underlying solid geology comprises Middle Devonian slates (Ordnance Survey 1957).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A detailed archaeological and historical background for the Site has been compiled and presented previously (ECUS 2013; WA 2013b), and as such will not be repeated here.

Geophysical survey

- 2.1.2 The geophysical survey undertaken on the Site (WA 2013a), identified a limited number of possible archaeological features. Of primary interest was a sub-oval shaped enclosure located in the northern part of the Site, likely to be prehistoric or Romano-British in date (**Figure 2**). The enclosure may have featured an entrance in its south-western corner. Fragmentary linear anomalies consistent with ditches were noted across the Site.
- 2.1.3 The report noted that the results may have been complicated by the strong background magnetic field associated with the local geology; this resulted in a somewhat lowered confidence in the archaeological interpretation of some of the weaker anomalies, due to the possibility of a geological origin.

3 AIMS AND METHODS

- 3.1.1 Prior to the commencement of works, the agreed aims of the trial trench evaluation and the methods by which these aims would be achieved, were set out in the WSI (WA 2013b).

- 3.1.2 The general aims of the archaeological work were to:

- *Clarify the presence/absence and extent of any buried archaeological remains within the Site that may be threatened by development.*
- *Identify, within the constraints of the evaluation, the date, character, condition and depth 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*
- *By targeting the results of the geophysical survey the aim will be to tie down specific areas of the Site, in order to determine recommendations for further archaeological mitigation and/or for preservation in situ of archaeological remains.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

- 3.2.1 The evaluation was conducted according to the agreed WSI (WA 2013b) and comprised the excavation of 17 trial trenches (see **Appendix 1** for details). Following consultation with HET, it was agreed that the trench locations would be targeted on areas of highest potential identified as anomalies in the geophysical survey (WA 2013a). Nine trenches were excavated in the northern area of the Site (**Figures 1 and 2, Trenches 1 to 9**), each measuring 20m x 1.80m, whilst seven 20m x 1.80m, one 40m x 1.80m and a single 60m x 1.80m trench were excavated within the southern area of the Site (**Figures 1 and 4, Trenches 10 to 17**).
- 3.2.2 Prior to machining, the trench locations were scanned by WA using a cable tracing device. The trenches were excavated under constant archaeological supervision using a 13 tonne and 20 tonne 360° tracked excavators employing a toothless ditching bucket. The turf,

topsoil and subsoil were stored separately to facilitate appropriate backfilling and consolidation of each trench following the completion of recording.

- 3.2.3 All potential features and deposits of possible archaeological origin were partially excavated to ascertain their nature and function and were fully recorded using WA's *pro forma* record sheets.
- 3.2.4 A digital photographic record was kept. Particular attention was taken to record all access routes and trench locations to provide a full record of both the original and final condition of the fieldwork locations. Special attention was placed on the recording of the mechanical excavation, spoil handling and storage prior to, during and following the completion of the trial trenching.
- 3.2.5 A full graphic record was kept. The site drawings were drawn at an appropriate scale, typically 1:10 for sections and 1:20 for plans.
- 3.2.6 Site survey was carried out using 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.
- 3.2.7 All archaeological fieldwork was monitored on behalf of the LPA by Graham Tait (HET), and by Damian De Rosa on behalf of WA.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Natural deposits and soil sequences

- 4.1.1 Natural slate geology was encountered in all trenches, between 133.36m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) at the northern part of the Site, and 155.29m aOD to the south. Overall, natural deposits were located between 0.26m and 0.48m below the current ground surface.
- 4.1.2 The natural stratigraphic sequence of the Site was seen to be largely uniform, differing only in the depth of the layers (**Plates 3, 5 and 7**). Across the Site, the topsoil was typically a mid-brown silty clay loam with moderate slate inclusions, averaging 0.16m in depth. This generally overlay a sterile mid-greyish brown silty clay subsoil, averaging 0.23m in depth.
- 4.1.3 No disturbance or truncation was noted during the evaluation, and the potential for archaeological features was deemed to be good.

4.2 Archaeological features

- 4.2.1 The evaluation identified seven features of an archaeological nature, although datable material was recovered from only a single feature.
- 4.2.2 Two substantial ditches were located in **Trenches 1 (Plate 1)** and **2** and relate to a sub-oval shaped enclosure identified during the geophysical survey (WA 2013b) (**Figure 2**). Ditch **104** was located in the centre of **Trench 1**, and measured 2.81m x 1.80m and 1.23m deep. The ditch, which formed part of the western edge of the enclosure, contained seven separate phases of infilling but contained no datable material (**Section 1**).
- 4.2.3 Ditch **204**, recorded in **Trench 2**, measured 2.00m x 1.80m and 0.77m deep (**Figure 3: Plate 2, Section 2**). The feature formed part of the enclosure's southern edge, and

featured a much shallower profile than ditch **104**. Romano-British pottery was recovered from fill **207**, towards the top of the ditch. The differing depths of the features may also be a reflection of the natural geology, with the western side of the enclosure more vulnerable to erosion.

- 4.2.4 A number of linear features were noted during the evaluation. A roughly south-west, north-east aligned ditch **1503** was located in the south-western corner of **Trench 15 (Plate 8)**, whilst a single shallow gully **1304 (Plate 6)** was located in the centre of **Trench 13**, measuring 0.70m in width and 0.08m in depth. Two north-west, south-east aligned gullies (**1404** and **1406**) were recorded in the western end of **Trench 14**, c. 4m apart. It is possible that they formed a trackway within the wider landscape. The features corresponded with possible archaeological features identified during the geophysical survey. No datable finds were recovered.
- 4.2.5 The evaluation also identified a limited number of discrete features. A single posthole **403** was recovered from **Trench 4**, whilst a single pit **1505** was noted in the north-eastern end of **Trench 15**. Possible natural features or tree-throw holes **1004** and **1104** were located in **Trenches 10** and **11** respectively.

5 ARTEFACTUAL EVIDENCE

- 5.1.1 The only finds recovered from the Site comprise two sherds of pottery from context **207**. These are from the rim of an everted rim jar in a distinctively micaceous sandy ware. This can be identified as a type 2.1 storage jar in South Devon ware, which on the basis of the igneous-derived inclusions has a source somewhere in the south of the county (Holbrook and Bidwell 1991, fabric 5, 177-81 and fig. 71). While the possibility that this vessel is of early Romano-British date cannot be ruled out, as the ware has been found in levels at Exeter dated c. 60-5, it is more likely that it dates to the late 2nd century AD or later, when the industry appears to have expanded from a small-scale origin and its distribution widened (ibid. 21).

6 ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

- 6.1.1 No archaeological features or deposits suitable for environmental sampling were identified during the course of the fieldwork.

7 DISCUSSION

- 7.1.1 The evaluation identified limited evidence for archaeological remains within the areas investigated on the Site, whether features or finds.
- 7.1.2 The only notable archaeological evidence noted was represented by two separate ditches in **Trenches 1** and **2** relating to a large sub-oval shaped enclosure identified during the geophysical survey (WA 2013b). Pottery recovered from one of the ditches tentatively suggests a Romano-British date for the enclosure. This is potentially of some significance in supplementing a growing body of evidence for the identification of Romano-British features in this part of Devon.
- 7.1.3 Observations during the evaluation partially confirmed the results of geophysical survey. It was noted, that a number of the strong geophysical anomalies were archaeological features albeit pertaining to shallow linear ditch or gully features, and a single posthole and possible pit. No dateable material was recovered from these features. Other

geophysical anomalies that had been targeted were shown either not to be present or as a result of the natural underlying geology.

- 7.1.4 Apart from the identification of the enclosure the evaluation has indicated a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains at the Site. Due to the potential significance of the enclosure however, the Client is proposing to remove this area of the Site from the proposed development.

8 STORAGE AND CURATION

8.1 Preparation and Deposition

- 8.1.1 The complete project archive will be prepared in accordance to Wessex Archaeology's Guidelines for Archive Preparation and accordance with Guideline for the preparation of excavation archives for long-term storage (UKIC 1990). Details of the archaeological evaluation will also be entered into the online "OASIS" database maintained by the Archaeological Data Service (ADS). A copy of the OASIS entry has been included in this report (**Appendix 2**).

8.2 The Archive

- 8.2.1 The complete archaeological evaluation archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, graphics and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; IfA 2009; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

- 8.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code **PLYMG.2013.24**, and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises the following:

- *1 files/document cases of paper records & A3/A4 graphics*
- *Digital data (site photographs, drawings, Word and pdf files)*

- 8.2.3 The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury under the WA project code **101621**. The project archive resulting from the evaluation will be deposited with the Plymouth City Museum & Art Gallery under Accession Code: **PLYMG.2013.24**.

8.3 Discard policy

- 8.3.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in Selection, Retention and Dispersal (Society of Museum Archaeologists 1993), which allows for the discard of selected artefact and ecofact categories which are not considered to warrant any future analysis. Any discard of artefacts will be fully documented in the project archive.
- 8.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995; English Heritage 2002).

8.4 Security Copy

- 8.4.1 In line with current best practice (e.g. Brown 2011), on completion of the project a security copy of the written records will be prepared, in the form of a digital PDF/A file. PDF/A is an ISO-standardised version of the Portable Document Format (PDF) designed for the digital preservation of electronic documents through omission of features ill-suited to long-term archiving.



9 REFERENCES

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10 APPENDIX 1 – TRENCH TABLES

TRENCH 1			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.52m	Ground level: 131.19 – 131.76m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 275126.64 N 55930.78 and E 275146.09 N 55936.15				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
101	Layer	Topsoil – Mid brown silty clay containing moderate sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.03m) and occasional rooting.		0 – 0.13m
102	Layer	Subsoil – Light brown silty clay with moderate sub-angular to sub-rounded slate inclusions (<0.05m).		0.13 – 0.48m
103	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.48m
104	Cut	Cut of a ditch on a north to south alignment with steep convex sides and a concave base. Measures 3.80m in length by 2.81m wide and 1.23m deep.		1.23m deep
105	Fill	Deliberate backfill of 104 – Light greyish brown silty clay containing moderate sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.04m). Derived from a deliberate backfilling event aimed to level off the hollow created by the feature.		0.16m thick
106	Fill	Secondary fill of 104 – Light brown silty clay containing frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded slate inclusions (<0.05m). Derived from natural depositional processes.		0.28m thick
107	Fill	Secondary fill of 104 – Light brown silty clay containing moderate sub-angular to sub-rounded slate inclusions (<0.05m). Derived from natural depositional processes.		0.30m thick
108	Fill	Secondary fill of 104 – Light yellowish brown silty clay containing frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded slate inclusions (<0.07m). Derived from natural depositional processes.		0.20m thick
109	Fill	Secondary fill of 104 – Mid brown silty clay containing frequent sub-rounded to angular slate inclusions (<0.06m). Derived from the erosion and stabilisation of the feature sides.		0.34m thick
110	Fill	Secondary fill of 104 – Mid brown silty clay containing frequent sub-rounded to angular slate inclusions (<0.05m). Derived from the erosion and stabilisation of the feature sides.		0.25m thick
111	Fill	Secondary fill of 104 – Mid brown silty clay containing frequent sub-rounded to angular slate inclusions (<0.04m). Derived from the erosion and stabilisation of the feature sides.		0.24m thick



TRENCH 2		Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.36m	Ground level: 130.20 – 131.07m aOD
Co-ordinates: E 275160.25 N 55914.98 and E 275161.00 N 55894.12			
Context	Description		Depth (m)
201	Layer	Topsoil – Mid brown silty clay containing moderate sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.04m) and occasional rooting.	0 – 0.13m
202	Layer	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay containing moderate sub-rounded to angular slate inclusions (<0.07m).	0.13 – 0.26m
203	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.	0.26m+
204	Cut	Cut of a ditch on a northwest to southeast alignment with moderate straight sides and a concave base. Measures 1.80m in length by 2.00m wide and 0.77m deep.	0.77m deep
205	Fill	Primary fill of 204 – Light brown silty clay containing frequent sub-angular to sub-rounded slate inclusions (<0.2m). Derived from the erosion and stabilisation of the feature sides soon after its initial excavation.	0.15m thick
206	Fill	Secondary fill of 204 – Light grey silty clay containing sparse sub-angular to sub-rounded slate and sparse sub-angular to rounded stone inclusions (<0.10m). Derived from natural depositional processes.	0.25m thick
207	Fill	Secondary/deliberate backfill of 204 – Light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent angular to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.16m). Derived from high energy deposition or a deliberate backfilling event to close the feature.	0.16m thick
208	Fill	Deliberate backfill of 204 – Mid to light greyish brown silty clay containing frequent sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.06m). Derived from a deliberate backfilling event aimed to level off the hollow created by the feature.	0.22m thick

TRENCH 3			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.58m	Ground level: 131.90 – 132.64m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 275219.74 N 55912.51 and E 275237.88 N 55920.45				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
301	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing sparse to occasional sub-angular to sub-rounded slate inclusions (<0.04m) and occasional rooting.		0 – 0.18m
302	Layer	Subsoil – Dark to mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded to angular slate inclusions (<0.06m).		0.18 – 0.48m
303	Layer	Natural – Mixed; at the eastern end it is slate bedrock with then changes to greyish white/mid brownish yellow silty clay containing sparse manganese inclusions in the western half.		0.48m+



TRENCH 4			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.34m	Ground level: 133.56 – 133.64m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 275299.83 N 55930.86 and E 275311.08 N 55916.27				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
401	Layer	Topsoil – Mid to pale brown silty clay containing sparse rooting and occasional sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.05m).		0 – 0.22m
402	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.22m+
403	Cut	Cut of a sub-circular posthole with steep vertical sides and a flat base. Measures 0.26m in length by 0.24m in diameter and 0.13m deep.		0.13m deep
404	Fill	Secondary fill of 403 – Mid brown silty clay containing sparse sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.03m). Derived from natural depositional processes after the post was removed.		0.13m thick

TRENCH 5			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 40.00m x 1.80m (L-Shaped)		Max. depth: 0.48m	Ground level: 133.41 – 133.57m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 275294.10 N 55904.21 and E 275309.46 N 55916.48				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
501	Layer	Topsoil – Mid brown silty clay containing occasional rooting and moderate sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.05m).		0 – 0.13m
502	Layer	Subsoil – Light brown silty clay containing frequent sub-rounded to angular slate inclusions (<0.07m).		0.13 – 0.48m
503	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.48m+

TRENCH 6			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.53m	Ground level: 131.09 – 131.75m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 275288.94 N 55875.42 and E 275247.82 N 55881.60				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
601	Layer	Topsoil – Pale to mid greyish brown silty clay containing sparse rooting and sparse sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.04m).		0 – 0.25m
602	Layer	Subsoil – Mid brown silty clay with a reddish hue containing sparse to occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.03m).		0.25 – 0.40m
603	Layer	Natural – Mixed; slate bedrock in the eastern half and a mid yellowish brown silty clay with occasional manganese flecks in the western half.		0.40m+



TRENCH 7			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.38m	Ground level: 132.15 – 132.65m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 275290.21 N 55881.74 and E 275308.94 N 55874.21				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
701	Layer	Topsoil – Pale greyish brown silty clay containing occasional rooting and sparse to occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.05m).		0 – 0.23m
702	Layer	Subsoil – Mid brown silty clay with a reddish hue containing occasional sub-rounded to angular slate inclusions (<0.04m).		0.23 – 0.33m
703	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.33m+

TRENCH 8			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.42m	Ground level: 125.08 – 125.35m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 275344.88 N 55787.29 and E 275361.75 N 55797.25				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
801	Layer	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay loam containing occasional rooting and sparse sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.04m).		0 – 0.22m
802	Layer	Subsoil – Mid reddish brown silty clay containing sparse sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.03m).		0.22 – 0.38m
803	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.38m+

TRENCH 9			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 1.80m		Max. depth: 0.52m	Ground level: 123.23 – 123.26m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 27518.52 N 55751.12 and E 275202.65 N 55744.37				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
901	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing occasional rooting and sparse sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.04m).		0 – 0.15m
902	Layer	Subsoil – Dark to mid greyish brown silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded to angular slate inclusions (<0.06m).		0.15 – 0.40m
903	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.40m+
904	Cut	Cut of a natural hollow with moderate convex sides and a flat base. Measure 1.80m in length by 2.03m wide and 0.20m deep. Used as a dumping area in the post-medieval period.		0.20m deep
905	Fill	Secondary fill of 904 – Mid brown silty clay containing occasional sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.06m). Derived from natural depositional processes.		0.15m thick
906	Fill	Deliberate backfill of 904 – Mid brownish grey silty clay containing moderate sub-angular to sub-rounded slate inclusions and occasional charcoal and coal flecks (<0.04m). Derived from a deliberate backfilling event of waste materials.		0.13m thick



TRENCH 10			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 40.00m x 2.10m (L-Shaped)		Max. depth: 0.50m	Ground level: 150.42 – 150.64m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 274942.37 N 55122.41 and E 274939.86 N 55093.55				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
1001	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing sparse sub-angular to angular slate inclusions (<0.05m) and common rooting.		0 – 0.17m
1002	Layer	Subsoil – Dark to mid greyish brown silty clay containing moderate to common sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.06m).		0.17 – 0.38m
1003	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.38m+
1004	Cut	Cut of an excavated but unrecorded tree throw.		-
1005	Fill	Bioturbation fill of 1004 – Derived from root up-cast and subsequent natural depositional processes.		-

TRENCH 11			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 2.10m		Max. depth: 0.59m	Ground level: 151.55 – 152.06m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 274910.04 N 55089.56 and E 274923.73 N 55105.00				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
1101	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing sparse sub-angular to angular slate inclusions (<0.06m) and common rooting.		0 – 0.17m
1102	Layer	Subsoil – Dark to mid greyish brown silty clay containing moderate to common sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.04m).		0.17 – 0.39m
1103	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.39m+
1104	Cut	Cut of an excavated but unrecorded tree throw.		-
1105	Fill	Bioturbation fill of 1004 – Derived from root up-cast and subsequent natural depositional processes.		-

TRENCH 12			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 2.10m		Max. depth: 0.42m	Ground level: 147.94 – 149.50m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 274933.39 N 55026.12 and E 274950.73 N 55016.38				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
1201	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing occasional rooting and sparse sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.04m).		0 – 0.16m
1202	Layer	Subsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay with a reddish hue containing occasional to common sub-rounded to angular slate inclusions (<0.07m).		0.16 – 0.38m
1203	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.38m+

TRENCH 13			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 2.10m		Max. depth: 0.48m	Ground level: 154.84 – 155.31m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 274778.92 N 55004.30 and E 274794.70 N 54990.92				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
1301	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam containing sparse sub-angular to angular slate inclusions (<0.06m) and common rooting.		0 – 0.16m
1302	Layer	Subsoil – Dark to mid greyish brown silty clay containing moderate to common sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.04m).		0.16 – 0.38m
1303	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.38m+
1304	Cut	Cut of a gully on a northwest to southeast alignment with moderate irregular sides and a concave base. Measures 2.10m in length by 0.70m wide and 0.08m deep.		0.08m deep
1305	Fill	Secondary fill of 1304 – Mid reddish brown silty clay containing abundant sub-rounded to angular slate inclusions (<0.04m). Derived from natural depositional processes.		0.08m thick

TRENCH 14			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 60.00m x 2.10m		Max. depth: 0.46m	Ground level: 152.02 – 154.82m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 274645.34 N 55000.40 and E 274703.01 N 55009.03				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
1401	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with a reddish hue containing common rooting and sparse angular to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.05m).		0 – 0.17m
1402	Layer	Subsoil – Dark to mid greyish brown silty clay containing moderate to common sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.06m).		0.17 – 0.38m
1403	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.38m+
1404	Cut	Cut of a gully on a north to south alignment with steep concave sides and a concave base. Measures 2.10m in length by 0.51m wide and 0.28m deep.		0.28m deep
1405	Fill	Secondary fill of 1404 – Mid reddish brown silty clay with grey mottling containing sparse angular to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.05m). Derived from natural depositional processes.		0.28m thick
1406	Cut	Cut of a gully on a north to south alignment with moderate concave sides and a concave base. Measures 2.10m in length by 0.33m wide and 0.10m deep.		0.10m deep
1407	Fill	Secondary fill of 1406 – Pale yellowish brown silty clay with grey mottling containing sparse angular to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.07m). Derived from natural depositional processes.		0.10m thick



TRENCH 15			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 2.10m		Max. depth: 0.52m	Ground level: 155.00 – 155.16m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 274755.96 N 54974.11 and E 274770.44 N 54988.92				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
1501	Layer	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay loam containing common rooting and rare sub-angular to sub-rounded slate inclusions (<0.06m).		0 – 0.38m
1502	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.38m+
1503	Cut	Cut of a ditch on an east to west alignment with moderate concave sides and a flat base. Measures 2.10m in length by 1.16m wide and 0.21m deep.		0.21m deep
1504	Fill	Secondary fill of 1503 – Mid greyish brown silty clay loam containing abundant sub-angular to angular slate inclusions (<0.05m).		0.21m thick
1505	Cut	Cut of a sub-oval pit on a southeast to northwest alignment with steep to moderate concave sides and a concave base. Measures 0.80m in length by 1.18m in diameter and 0.34m deep.		0.34m deep
1506	Fill	Secondary fill of 1505 – Mid greyish brown silty clay loam containing abundant to common sub-rounded to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.06m) and sparse charcoal flecks.		0.34m thick

TRENCH 16			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 40.00m x 2.10m		Max. depth: 0.56m	Ground level: 155.02 – 155.75m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 274753.80 N 54954.88 and E 274752.00 N 54913.90				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
1601	Layer	Topsoil – Mid greyish brown silty clay loam containing rare sub-angular to sub-rounded slate inclusions (<0.05m) and occasional to common rooting.		0 – 0.35m
1602	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.35m+

TRENCH 17			Type: Evaluation	Machine excavated
Dimensions: 20.00m x 2.10m		Max. depth: 0.46m	Ground level: 153.73 – 154.63m aOD	
Co-ordinates: E 274801.02 N 54905.13 and E 274822.53 N 54904.70				
Context	Description			Depth (m)
1701	Layer	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown silty clay loam with a reddish hue containing common rooting and sparse angular to sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.04m).		0 – 0.16m
1702	Layer	Subsoil – Dark to mid greyish brown silty clay containing moderate to common sub-angular slate inclusions (<0.07m).		0.16 – 0.38m
1703	Layer	Natural – Slate bedrock.		0.38m+



11 APPENDIX 2 – OASIS FORM

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: wessexar1-167261

Project details

Project name	Coombeshead Farm Diptford, Devon
Short description of the project	<p>Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by AEE Renewables UK 12 Limited to undertake a trial trench evaluation at Coombeshead Farm, Diptford, Devon, The archaeological trial trenching over two areas of the Site comprised the excavation of sixteen 20m trenches, one 40m and one 60m trench. All trenches measured 1.8m in width. All trenches were targeted on anomalies identified in an earlier geophysical survey, in particular a large sub-oval enclosure located in the northern part of the Site. The evaluation identified limited evidence for archaeological remains within the areas investigated on the Site, whether features or finds. However, the evaluation was able to confirm and identify the ditches of a sub-oval enclosure possibly of Romano-British date. Observations during the evaluation partially confirmed the results of geophysical survey. It was noted, that a number of the strong geophysical anomalies were archaeological features albeit pertaining to shallow linear ditch or gully features, and a single posthole and possible pit. No dateable material was recovered from these features. Other geophysical anomalies that had been targeted were shown either not to be present or as a result of the natural underlying geology. Apart from the identification of the enclosure the evaluation has indicated a low potential for the presence of archaeological remains at the Site. Due to the potential significance of the enclosure however, the Client is proposing to remove this area of the Site from the proposed development</p>
Project dates	Start: 10-12-2013 End: 12-12-2013
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	101621 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	PLYMG.2013.24 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation
Monument type	DITCH Roman
Monument type	DITCH Uncertain

Monument type	PIT Uncertain
Monument type	POSTHOLE Uncertain
Significant Finds	POTTERY Roman
Methods & techniques	"Targeted Trenches"
Development type	Solar Farm Development
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	Pre-application

Project location

Country	England
Site location	DEVON SOUTH HAMS DIPTFORD Coombeshead Farm Diptford, Devon
Postcode	TQ9 7NP
Study area	15.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	275050 55400 275050 00 00 N 55400 00 00 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Damian De Rosa
Project supervisor	Oliver Good
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	AEE Renewables UK 12 Ltd

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery Museun
Physical Contents	"Ceramics"
Digital Archive recipient	Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Survey","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery
Paper Media	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Plan","Report","Section"

available

Project bibliography 1

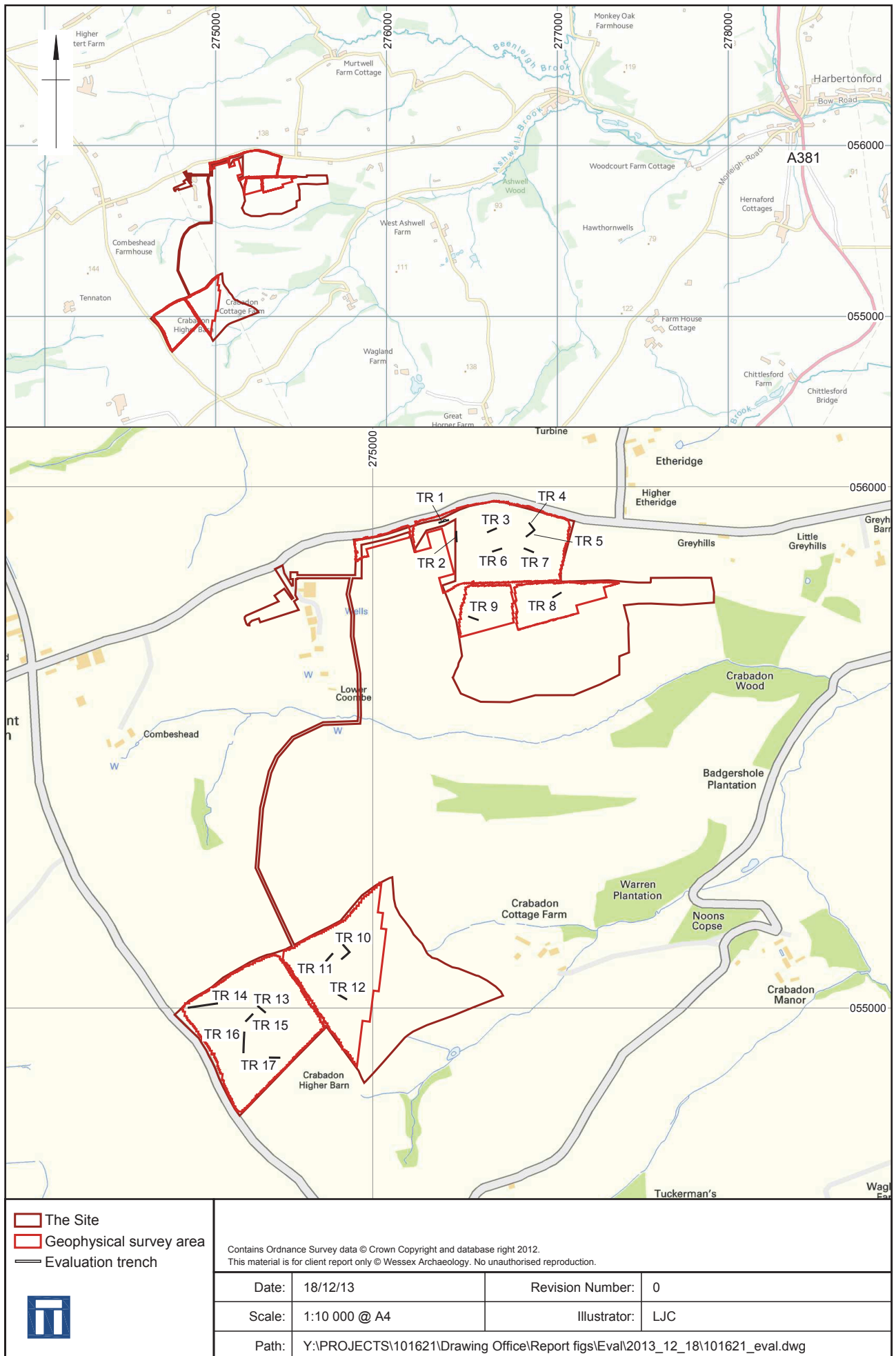
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Coombeshead Farm Diptford, Devon. Archaeological Evaluation Report
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Chaffey, G
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Good Olly
Other bibliographic details	WA Ref: 101621.03
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Unpublished - Salisbury
Description	Standard WA A4 format with 4 Figures and total of 8 plates
Entered by	Damian De Rosa (d.derosa@wessexarch.co.uk)
Entered on	19 December 2013

OASIS:

Please e-mail [English Heritage](#) for OASIS help and advice

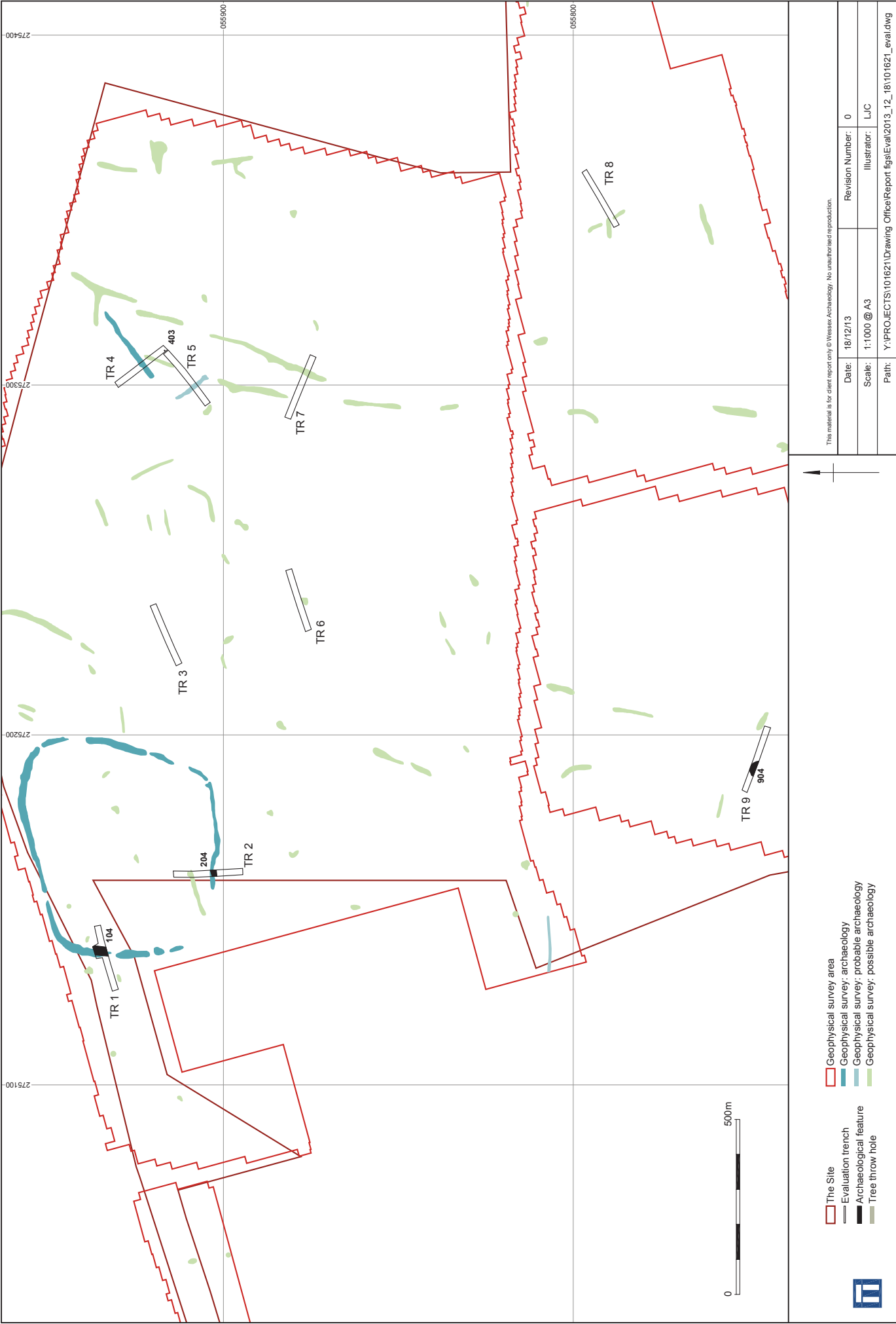
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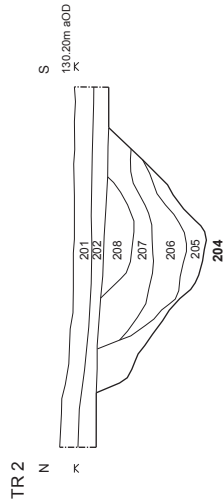
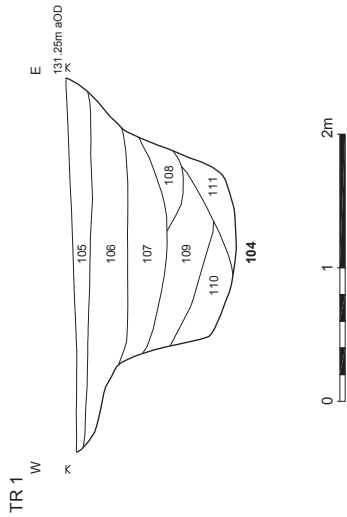
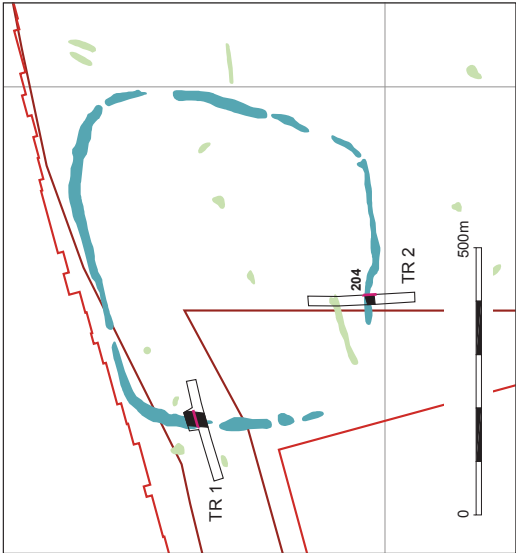
Site and trench location plan

Figure 1



Northern area

Figure 2



- The Site
- Evaluation trench
- Geophysical survey area
- Geophysical survey; archaeology
- Geophysical survey; probable archaeology
- Geophysical survey; possible archaeology
- Archaeological feature
- Tree throw hole



Plate 1: Trench 1, view from the south-east



Plate 3: South facing representative section of Trench 6



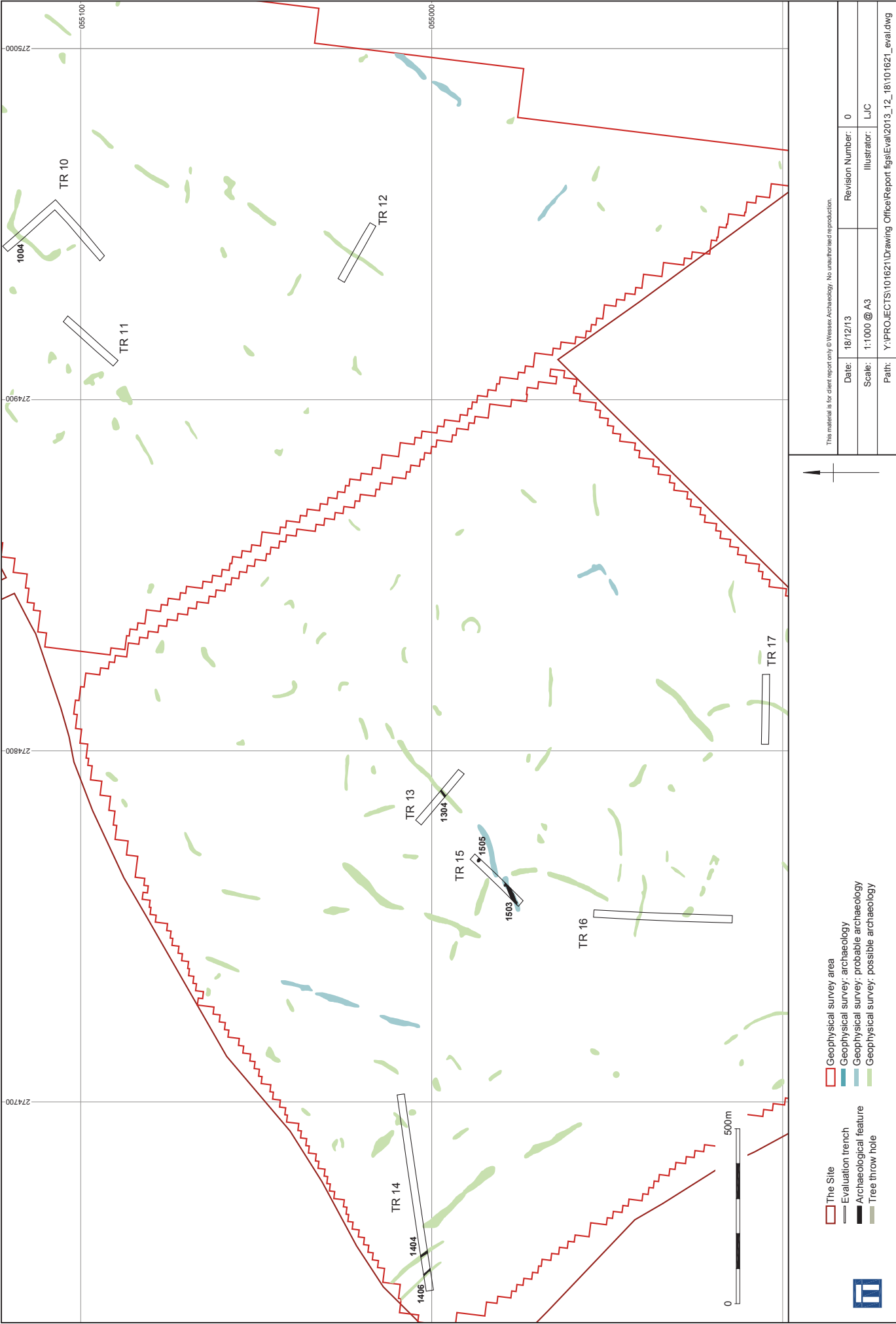
Plate 2: North-west facing section of ditch 204



Plate 4: Trench 7, view from the south-east

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Southern area

Figure 4



Plate 5: North-west facing representative section of Trench 11



Plate 6: South-east facing section of gully 1304



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Plate 7: South-west facing representative section of Trench 14



Plate 8: Trench 15, view from the north-east showing ditch 1503

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