



CREEK ROAD WIND TURBINE MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Archaeological Investigation Report





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MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

Archaeological Investigation Report

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QUALITY ASSURANCE

SITE CODE	79951	ACCESSION CODE	ECB3701	CLIENT CODE	873/MARCH
PLANNING APPLICATION REF.	F/YR07/0742/F	NGR	TL 4390 9924		

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**CREEK ROAD WIND TURBINE
MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE****Archaeological Investigation Report****Summary**

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Arcus Renewable Energy Consulting Ltd (hereafter referred to as the 'Client'), on behalf of ASC Renewables, to undertake an archaeological investigation at Creek Road Sewage Treatment Works, March, Cambridgeshire (hereafter the 'Site'). The work was carried out in response to a planning application for a new wind turbine (Planning ref. F/YR07/0742/F).

The Site lies within reclaimed marshland to the north-east of March. The surrounding area was identified as having high archaeological potential, with crop marks to the south-west providing extensive evidence of Romano-British activity, and assumed enclosure/paddocks extending into the development area.

The investigation was undertaken on 30th March and from 14th to 16th May 2012, and comprised the monitoring of groundworks for the construction of a new access road, substation and a turbine. Modern made ground was revealed within the majority of the works, to a depth of up to 0.6m below current ground level. However in isolated areas (Trench 7) natural geology was revealed at a depth of 0.2m below ground level.

No evidence of archaeological remains of any nature were revealed during the investigation. The Site had suffered truncation during the construction of the existing sewage works, and if present any archaeological remains would have been removed during these works. The absence of any residual finds indicates that the Site lay some distance from any settlement during the Romano-British period, and may have formed pastoral or agricultural land.

The project archive is held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield and will be deposited in due course with the Cambridgeshire County Museum Services under the following accession number: ECB3701.

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This project was commissioned by Arcus Renewable Energy Consulting Ltd on behalf of ASC Renewables, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Mark Turner and Nicola Clemo in this regard. Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (HET) for his assistance throughout the work. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank James Fiddler of the Raymond Brown Group.

Fieldwork was undertaken by Martin Huggon and the project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton. The report was compiled by Charles Hay and the illustrations were produced by Chris Swales.

CREEK ROAD WIND TURBINE MARCH, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Archaeological Investigation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Arcus Renewable Energy Consulting Ltd (hereafter referred to as the 'Client'), on behalf of ASC Renewables, to undertake an archaeological investigation at Anglian Water Authority's Creek Road Sewage Treatment Works, March, Cambridgeshire (TL 4390 9924), hereafter the 'Site'. The work was undertaken during groundworks in advance of the construction of a new turbine, substation and access tracks (Planning ref. F/YR07/0742/F).

1.1.2 The Site is located within an area of high archaeological potential and as such Andy Thomas of Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Team (HET), issued a design brief for an archaeological monitoring and recording exercise during construction (HET 2011). Wessex Archaeology produced a specification (Wessex Archaeology 2011) outlining how the archaeological requirements of the investigation would be met, which was approved by Andy Thomas (HET) prior to the works commencing.

1.2 Site Location and Topography

1.2.1 The Site lies within reclaimed marshland to the north-east of March. It is bounded by Creek Fen Road to the east, the Twenty Foot River to the north and farmland to the west and south. The Twenty Foot River links with the old course of the River Nene c. 700m to the south-east.

1.2.2 The Site lies on clay silt and sand (the Terrington and Barroway Drove Beds) over Ampthill Clay (BGS solid and drift geology 1:50,000), at c. 0m OD.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 General

2.1.1 The background to the scheme was summarised in the brief (CHET 2011) and is presented below.

2.1.2 The Site is located within an area with extensive evidence of Roman activity. Settlement and industrial activity were identified from crop marks to the south-west and enclosure/paddocks were seen extending into the development area.

3 AIMS AND METHODOLOGY

3.1 General

3.1.1 The archaeological investigation was designed to mitigate the impact of the proposed turbine and associated works through detailed archaeological investigation and recording. It aimed to identify and record any archaeological remains surviving within the limits of the proposed works, and to secure 'preservation by record' in accordance with Planning Policy HE12 of 'Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the Historic Environment' (DCLG 2010).

3.1.2 The aims of monitoring and recording were:

- To ensure that any archaeological features exposed during ground works were recorded and interpreted to an acceptable level.
- To ensure that any significant discoveries of artefact evidence were recorded and analysed to an acceptable standard.
- To make available the results of the investigation.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Site Methodology

4.1.1 Topsoil or overburden was removed using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of an archaeologist. Topsoil/overburden was removed in a series of level spits down to the upper archaeological horizon or the impact level of the works, whichever was reached first.

4.1.2 If archaeological features were revealed during the groundworks, Andy Thomas (HET) and Arcus were to be informed immediately and an appropriate strategy agreed. Due to on site constraints there was some variance from the agreed specification (Wessex Archaeology 2012). All work was agreed with Andy Thomas (HET) and Arcus.

4.2 Standard Methodology

4.2.1 All aspects of the programme were carried out in accordance with all relevant Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) Code of Conduct (IfA 2008a and b), English Heritage environmental guidelines (EH 2011) and Standard and Guidance, and Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England (Gurney 2003). References were also made to Research and Archaeology: A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1. Resource Assessment and 2. Research Agenda and Strategy documents (Brown and Glazerbrook 2000; Glazerbrook 1997).

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 Seven separate areas were subject to archaeological monitoring (Trenches 1 – 7; Figures 1 and 2). A full list of context numbers and context descriptions can be found in **Appendix 1**. The results from these trenches were largely similar; with modern made ground revealed across the majority of the Site. Excavation was carried out to a depth of 0.2m to 0.6m in Trenches 1 – 5, with deeper excavation only occurring in Trenches 6 and 7 (the locations of the substation foundation and turbine base).

5.2 Trenches 1 - 5

5.2.1 Trenches 1 - 5 were excavated to a maximum depth of 0.6m below ground-level and revealed no archaeological remains. Natural geology was not revealed in any of the trenches; the lowest deposits in all five trenches (**102, 201, 302, 401** and **501**) comprised dumped deposits associated with the sewage works and access roads. The deposits comprised clay silts and rubble dumps overlain by the modern topsoil or hardstanding (see Trench 2, **Plates 1** and **2**). Possible natural clay was revealed in Trench 4, in the east of the Site, but was disturbed by root action. No archaeological remains were revealed.

5.3 Trench 6

5.3.1 Trench 6, the turbine base and associated access, was excavated to a depth of 1.1m. Modern rubble rich made ground (**601-603**) was revealed, which was overlain by topsoil (**600**). See **Figure 2** and **Plate 3**.

5.4 Trench 7

5.4.1 An area of undisturbed natural geology was revealed in Trench 7, the foundation trench for the proposed substation. The trench was excavated to a depth of 1.4m and peat (**708**) was revealed at 1.1m below ground level. The peat was overlain by layers of alluvial silt and clay (**705-707**) that were truncated by a modern concrete filled trench (**701** and **702**) and a service trench (**703**). The deposits were overlain by modern hardstanding (**700**). See **Figure 2** and **Plates 4** and **5**.

5.5 Finds

5.5.1 No archaeological finds were recovered during this investigation.

5.6 Environmental Remains

5.6.1 An 18 litre environmental sample was taken from peat layer **708** for radiocarbon dating, should it be required. In light of the negative results of the investigation it is recommended the sample is discarded.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Summary

6.1.1 No archaeologically significant deposits were revealed during the works. The groundworks for the sewage works and access tracks had truncated much

of the Site, and where natural geology did survive no archaeological features or finds were identified.

6.2 Conclusions

6.2.1 If the archaeological remains recorded in the surrounding area did extend into the Site, they have since been truncated by the construction of the sewage works. However, the absence of archaeological features within the natural alluvial layers, and the absence of residual Romano-British artefactual evidence, indicates any Romano-British settlement lies elsewhere. The Site may have formed pastoral or agricultural land in the Romano-British period, as indicated by the crop mark evidence, but no boundary ditches were revealed during the works.

6.2.2 Peat was only observed in an isolated area (Trench 7) and no evidence for prehistoric activity was revealed.

7 ARCHIVE AND COPYRIGHT

7.1 Archive

7.1.1 The project archive has been compiled into a stable, fully cross-referenced and indexed archive in accordance with Appendix 6 of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (2nd Edition, English Heritage 1991), and *Archaeological archives – a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation* (Brown 2007). The archive is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code 79951. The archive will be deposited with Cambridgeshire County Museum Services under the following accession number: ECB3701 in due course. An OASIS form will be submitted at the time of deposition.

7.2 Copyright

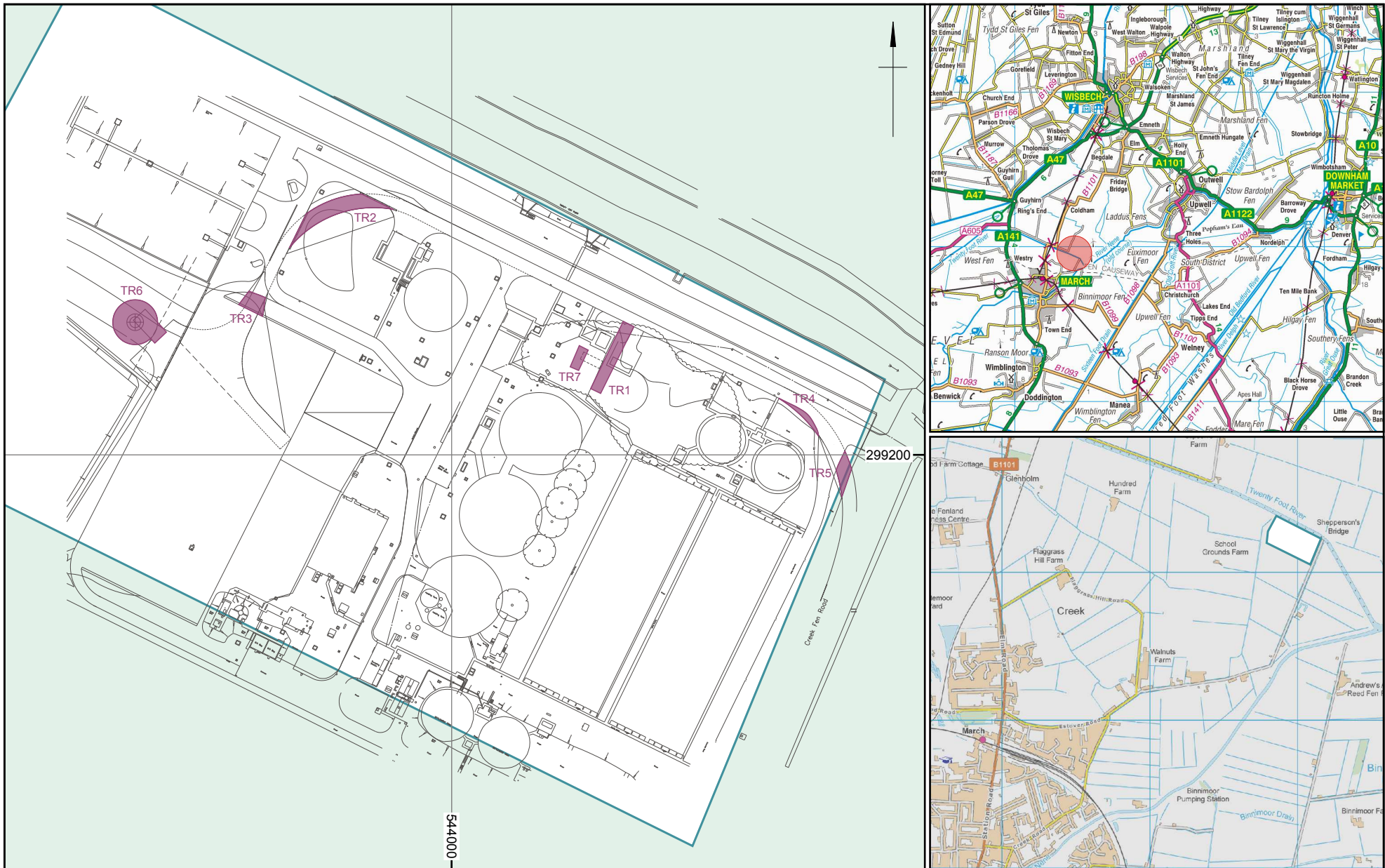
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APPENDIX 1: CONTEXT DESCRIPTIONS

Area	Context	Type	Description	Depth bgl (m)
Trench 1	100	Layer	Topsoil	0-0.1
Trench 1	101	Layer	Modern made ground. Orange brown silty sand with abundant concrete	0.1-0.14
Trench 1	102	Layer	Modern made ground overlain by 101. Yellow brown sand and dark grey brown clay silt	0.1-0.14
Trench 2	200	Layer	Topsoil	0+
Trench 2	201	Layer	Modern made ground. Dark grey brown clay silt with patches of sand and black clay presenting charcoal. Produced large concrete slabs, frequent broken bricks and three unused pipes	0.18-0.6
Trench 3	300	Layer	Topsoil	0+
Trench 3	301	Layer	Modern made ground. Presented large chunks of sandstone, compacted sand, broken brick and terram.	0.2+
Trench 3	302	Layer	Modern made ground. Found at North of trench, similar to 201. Dark grey brown clay silt with broken brick, clay patches presenting charcoal	0.2+
Trench 4	400	Layer	Topsoil	0+
Trench 4	401	Layer	Modern made ground. Significantly disturbed by tree rooting, may be natural in places	0.2+
Trench 5	500	Layer	Topsoil	0+
Trench 5	501	Layer	Modern made ground. Consisted mainly of silty sand, broken brick, charcoal and gravel	0.2+
Trench 6	600	Layer	Topsoil	0+
Trench 6	601	Layer	Modern made ground. Mid-grey brown clay silt, brick fragments, gravel, fragmentary concrete and sand	0.2+
Trench 6	602	Layer	Modern made ground. Dark yellow brown compacted sand, gravel and fragmentary brick	0.6+
Trench 6	603	Layer	Modern made ground. Dark grey silty clay, fragmentary brick and sand	1.1+
Trench 7	700	Layer	Modern made ground. Shingle and mid-orange brown clay silt. Abundant sub-angular stone and frequent fragmentary brick	0-0.2
Trench 7	701	Cut	Machine cut to clear natural. 7.6m long, sloped South by 0.75m	0.2-0.75
Trench 7	702	Fill	Fill of 701. Dark grey brown silt clay presenting sub-angular stone and a concrete pillar at South end	0.2-0.75
Trench 7	703	Cut	Cut for electricity cable. Straight sided machine cut running N-S	0.2-0.7
Trench 7	704	Fill	Fill of 703. Backfill for cable trench	0.2-0.7
Trench 7	705	Layer	Natural grey brown silty clay	0.2-1.2+
Trench 7	706	Layer	Natural. Mid-grey sandy silt	0.25-0.95
Trench 7	707	Layer	Natural. Dark grey brown silt clay	1.1+
Trench 7	708	Layer	Natural peat	1.4+



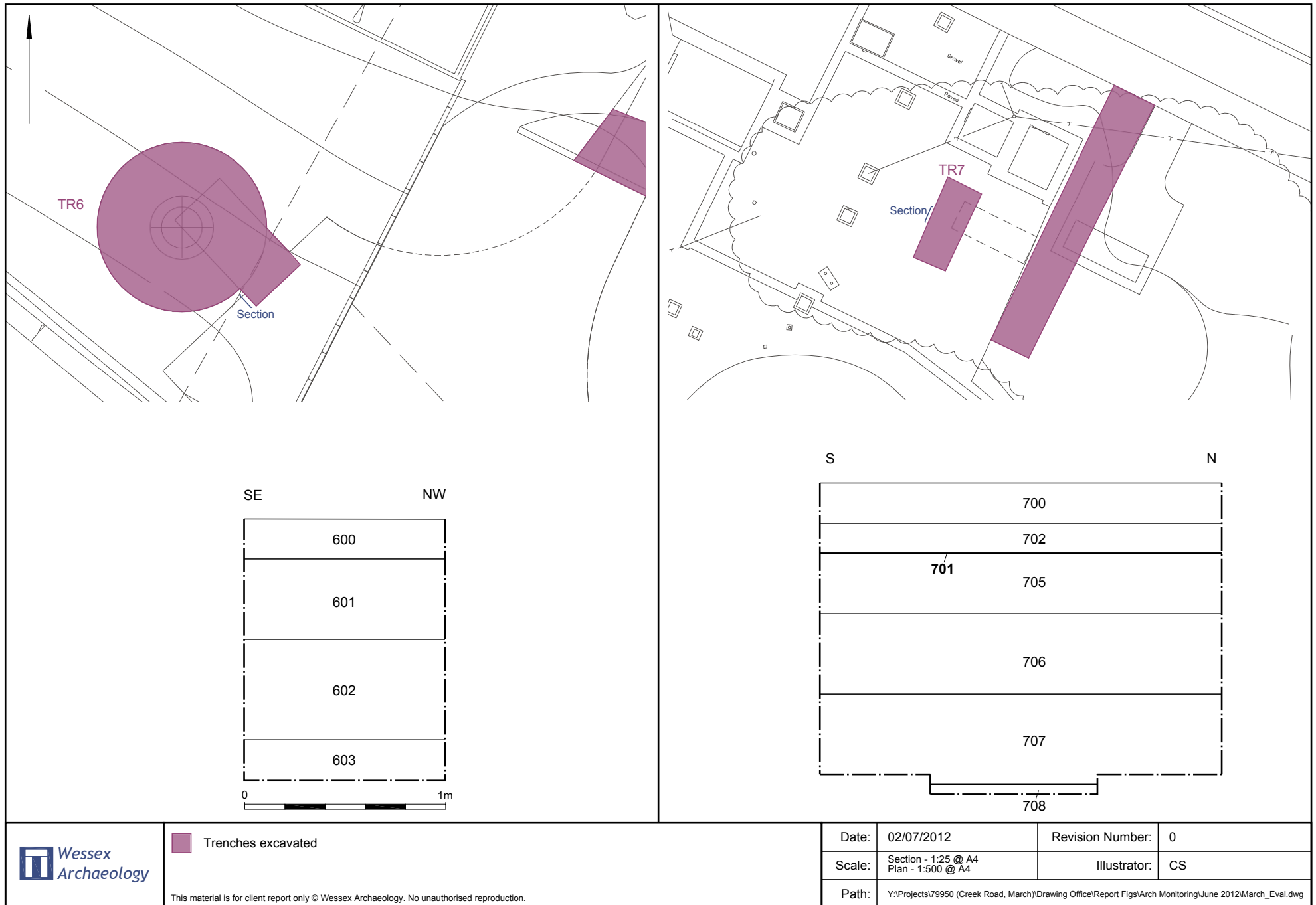
Site boundary
 Watching Brief Areas

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Site location

Figure 1



Sample sections within trenches 6 and 7

Figure 2



Plate 1: Trench 2, post excavation, from north-east.



Plate 2: Trench 2, north-west facing section.

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Plate 3: Trench 6, north-east facing section.



Plate 4: Trench 7, post excavation, from north-east.

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Plate 5: Trench 7, south-east facing section.

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