

## Land at Little Markfield Farm, Forest Road Markfield, Leicestershire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Planning Reference: 14/01258/FUL Ref: 108300.02 March 2015

# II archaeology



## Land at Little Markfield Farm, Forest Road, Markfield, Leicestershire

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

#### Prepared for:

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March 2015

108300.02



#### **Quality Assurance**

Project Code	108300	Accession Code	X.A28.2015	Client Ref.	RC/18223/02
Planning Application Ref.	14/01258/FUL	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	447976 309242	2	

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	I	AWT	APN		18/03/15
File:	S:\Projec	cts\108300\Reports\v	01\108300_Littl	e_Markfield_AWT_20150312	2_v01
v02	E	AWT	APN	ditte	26/03/15
File:	S:\Projec	cts\108300\Reports\v	02\108300_Littl	e_Markfield_AWT_20150312	2_v02
File:					
File:					
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## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

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Figure 1 Trench location



## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

#### Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Temporis Wind Energy (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Little Markfield Farm, Forest Road, Markfield, Leicestershire, hereafter 'the Site' (NGR 447976 309242). Planning consent is being sought for a wind turbine and associated infrastructure on the Site (Hinckley & Bosworth Ref. 14/01258/FUL). A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by CgMs (2015) and submitted to Teresa Hawtin of Leicester Country Council, for approval.

No pre-20<sup>th</sup> century archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified, confirming that the Site lay at some distance from the historic core of Markfield. Previous land use of the Site is likely to have been agricultural, which has had little archaeological impact on the Site. Ridge and furrow earthworks survive in the general area but evidence of ridge and furrow was not present in any of the evaluation trenches. The depth of soil on Site was found to be shallow, ranging from 0.1m to 0.25m.

The proposed development is unlikely to have a negative impact upon the archaeological resource.

The archive of the archaeological evaluation is currently held at the offices of Wessex Archaeology in Sheffield, under the project code **108300**. It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museum under the accession number **X.A28.2015**. An OASIS form, ID number **wessexar1-206018** has been provisionally completed and will be finally submitted at the time of deposition.



## Land at Little Markfield Farm, Forest Field Road, Markfield, Leicestershire

## **Archaeological Evaluation Report**

#### Acknowledgements

The fieldwork was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Temporis Wind Energy Ltd, and Wessex Archaeology is grateful to Richard Conolly in this regard. The assistance of Teresa Hawtin of Leicestershire County Council who monitored the work is also acknowledged. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton. Fieldwork was directed by Ashley Tuck, and undertaken by Ashley Tuck and Emma Carter. This report was written by Ashley Tuck. The figure was illustrated by Chris Breedon and the plates prepared by Maria Elena Calderón.



## Land at Little Markfield Farm, Forest Road, Markfield, Leicestershire

## Archaeological Evaluation Report

#### 1 INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting on behalf of Temporis Wind Energy (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Little Markfield Farm, Forest Road, Markfield, Leicestershire, hereafter 'the Site' (NGR 447976 309242; **Figure 1**).
- 1.1.2 Planning consent is being sought for a wind turbine and associated infrastructure on the Site (Hinckley & Bosworth Ref. 14/01258/FUL).
- 1.1.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by CgMs (2015) in accordance with current industry guidance provided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2014a and 2014b) and in accordance with ClfA Codes of Conduct (2014c). The WSI was submitted to Teresa Hawtin, of Leicester Country Council, for approval.

#### 1.2 The Site

1.2.1 The Site is located to south of Markfield in fields belonging to Little Markfield Farm (**Figure** 1). The proposed turbine is to be located west of the M1 with an access track passing under the M1 motorway to the east via an underpass before running north across pasture fields to meet Forest Road, west of Little Markfield. **Trench 1**, the Site of the proposed turbine, was in an arable field to the west of the M1, bordered to the west and south by woodland, to the north by pasture and to the east by an arable field. **Trench 2** was situated in a pasture with a small stream bordered by pastures to the north and east, a public right of way to the south and the M1 directly to the west. **Trench 3** was similarly in a pasture immediately east of the M1, with pastures on all other sides. **Trench 4** was in the home field of Little Markfield Farm in an area used for the storing of machinery as well as grazing.

#### 1.3 Geology

1.3.1 The geology of the area in which the proposed turbine is located is relatively varied. The proposed turbine is located in an area underlain by mudstone of the Edwalton Member with superficial diamicton deposits of the Oadby Member. A meandering band of alluvial deposits is recorded along the bottom of the small valley between **Trenches 1** and **2**. Immediately to the north of the Site an outcrop of metamorphic Diorite of the south charnwood diorites is recorded (www.bgs.ac.uk). Stones appearing to be similar to Diorite were observed in all trenches during this excavation.

#### 1.4 Topography

1.4.1 The proposed turbine (**Trench 1**) is located at approximately 160m AOD on a very gentle south-west facing slope. To the west of the proposed turbine is a small valley, orientated



north/south. The small watercourse that flows south along this valley has been heavily canalised during the construction of the M1. **Trench 2** lies east of this, at c.140m aOD. The ground rises from here to Little Markfield Farm, with **Trench 3** at c.150m aOD and **Trench 4** at c.190m aOD.

#### 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

#### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following section summarises the archaeological background of the Site which was detailed in the written scheme of investigation (CgMs 2015).

#### 2.2 Roman

2.2.1 During fieldwalking ahead of the construction of the M1, Romano-British pottery and kiln bars were found within 1km of the Site. A Roman road is recorded 360m to the west of the proposed turbine.

#### 2.3 Anglo-Saxon

2.3.1 A single sherd of Anglo-Saxon pottery was found within 1km of the Site during fieldwalking ahead of the construction of the M1.

#### 2.4 Post-medieval

2.4.1 There is no evidence that the current farm Little Markfield Farm has ever extended as far as the construction footprint but there is some potential for outlying features associated with it or any earlier phases of the farm to be present.

#### 3 METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 General

- 3.1.1 Detailed methodology for the work can be found in the Written Scheme of Investigation (CgMs 2015). Wessex Archaeology procedures conform to industry best practice, as outlined in the standards and guidance documentation issued by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (ClfA 2014a), the United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC 2001). The methodology conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 3.1.2 Four 30m long trial trenches were excavated (**Figure 1**). **Trench 1** was excavated across the footprint of the proposed turbine base, and was found to contain 0.25m depth of soil. Because of this shallow depth, it was possible that the access track would impact on any buried archaeology, so the remaining three trenches were excavated as a sample of the route of the proposed access track.

#### 3.2 Research framework

3.2.1 The programme of archaeological investigation will be conducted within the general research parameters and objectives defined by '*East Midlands Heritage: A research Agenda and Strategy for the Historic Environment*' (compiled on behalf of the region's historic environment community by D. Knight, B. Vyner and C. Allen) and the earlier



Archaeological Resource Assessment and Research Agenda for the East Midlands '*The Archaeology of the East Midlands*' edited by N. Cooper (2006).

3.2.2 The investigation also took account of the national research programmes outlined in English Heritage's '*Strategic Framework for historic Environment Activities and Programmes in English Heritage* (SHAPE)' first published in 2008.

#### 3.3 Machine excavation

3.3.1 Topsoil was removed using an 180° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, working under the continuous direct supervision of a suitably experienced archaeologist. Topsoil was removed in a series of level spits down to the level of the natural geology.

#### 3.4 Hand excavation

3.4.1 No hand excavation was undertaken due to the negative results of the evaluation.

#### 3.5 Recording

- 3.5.1 All deposits were recorded using Wessex Archaeology's *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits.
- 3.5.2 Excavated areas and deposits were located by means of an RTK GPS system and tied into the OS grid with a tolerance of better than + or 100mm. All deposits had spot heights recorded in relation to Ordnance Datum, correct to two decimal places.
- 3.5.3 A photographic record was maintained using digital images. 35mm monochrome film equipment was available but was not required due to the negative results of the evaluation.

#### 3.6 Aims and objectives

- 3.1.1 The objectives of the programme of archaeological investigation were:
  - to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any archaeological remains within the development Site;
  - to assess the artefactual and environmental potential of the archaeological deposits encountered;
  - to assess the impact of previous land use on the Site;
  - to inform formulation of further measures to mitigate impacts of the proposed development on surviving archaeological remains;
  - to produce a Site archive for deposition with an appropriate museum and to provide information for accession to the Leicestershire HER; and,
  - to establish the depth of topsoil and subsoil and thereby inform the assessment of the potential impact of the proposed development.



#### 4 RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the information held in the Site archive, with a full list of context numbers and context descriptions contained in **Appendix 1**.

#### 4.2 General stratigraphy

- 4.2.1 Each trench contained topsoil and natural (**Plates 1-4**). No subsoil deposits were seen on Site. Tough hard granular stone, likely to be metamorphic diorite, was seen in different proportions in every deposit.
- 4.2.2 In **Trenches 1-3** the topsoil was mid brown silt clay, and was 0.25m deep in **Trench 1** (101), 0.1m deep in **Trench 2** (201) and 0.2m deep in **Trench 3** (301). In **Trench 4** (401) the topsoil was mid greyish brown clayey silt, 0.2m deep.
- 4.2.3 The natural undisturbed geological substrate was yellow sand clay in **Trench 1** (102), yellow clay in **Trench 2** (202), grey clayey sand in **Trench 3** (302), and light orangey grey clayey sand in **Trench 4** (402).

#### 4.3 Modern

4.3.1 A modern pit (**403**, **Plate 5**) was found in **Trench 4**. The farmer informed us of its presence prior to excavating the trench, and stated that it had been dug to dispose of a deceased cow. The pit (**403**) was rectangular, 0.8m wide, and had clearly been dug with a mechanical excavator. It was filled with orange clay (**404**) containing 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery and post-medieval clay tobacco pipe.

#### 4.4 Negative result

4.4.1 Apart from the modern pit mentioned above (403), no archaeological features were identified.

#### 5 FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL

#### 5.1 General

5.1.1 No archaeological finds were recovered from the Site. No environmental samples were taken.

#### 6 DISCUSSION

#### 6.1 Conclusion

6.1.1 No pre-20<sup>th</sup> century archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified, confirming that the Site lay at some distance from the historic core of Markfield. Previous land use of the Site is likely to have been agricultural, which has had little archaeological impact on the Site. Ridge and furrow earthworks survive in the general area but evidence of ridge and furrow was not present in any of the evaluation trenches. The depth of soil on Site was found to be shallow, ranging from 0.1m to 0.25m.

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6.1.2 The proposed development is unlikely to have a negative impact upon the archaeological resource.

#### 7 STORAGE AND CURATION

#### 7.1 Museum

7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with Leicestershire County Council Museum under accession number **X.A28.2015**.

#### 7.2 **Preparation of archive**

- 7.2.1 The complete Site 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 Derby Museum, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; CIfA 2014b; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the accession code, and a full index will be prepared.

#### 7.3 Security copy

7.3.1 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.



#### 8 REFERENCES

#### 8.1 Bibliography

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- United Kingdom Institute of Conservation (UKIC), 2001, Guidelines for the Preparation of Excavation Archives for Long Term Storage

#### 8.2 Online sources

NERC, 2014, *Geology of Britain online viewer*, accessed 12/08/14, <a href="http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringgeology/geologyofbritain/viewer.html">http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringgeology/geologyofbritain/viewer.html</a>



### 9 APPENDICES

## 9.1 Appendix 1:Context descriptions

Trench 1		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
101	<b>Topsoil:</b> mid brown silt clay with 1% metamorphic stones up to 0.4m diameter	0-0.25
102	Natural: yellow sand clay with 3% stones as above	0.25+

Trench 2		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
201	Topsoil: mid brown silt clay with stones	0-0.1
202	Natural: yellow clay with 3% large stones 0.4m diameter	0.1+

Trench 3		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
301	<b>Topsoil:</b> mid brown silt clay with stones	0-0.2
302	Natural: grey clayey sand with stones	0.2+

Trench 4		
Context	Description	Depth (m BGL)
401	Topsoil: mid greyish brown clayey silt	0-0.2
402	Natural: light orangish grey clayey sand	0.2+
403	Cut: rectangular machine dug pit 0.8m wide. Not excavated	0.2+
404	Fill of 403: orange clay with post med clay pipe, modern glazed fine red ware	0.2+

## 9.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

#### OASIS ID: wessexar1-206018

Project details	
Project name	Land at Little Markfield Farm, Forest Road, Markfield, Leicestershire
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd. on behalf of Temporis Wind Energy (hereafter 'the Client') to undertake an archaeological evaluation on land at Little Markfield Farm, Forest Road, Markfield, Leicestershire, hereafter 'the Site' (NGR 447976 309242). Planning consent is being sought for a wind turbine and associated infrastructure on the Site (Hinckley and Bosworth Ref. 14/01258/FUL). A Written Scheme of Investigation was prepared by CgMs (2015) and submitted to Teresa Hawtin of Leicester Country Council, for approval. No pre-20th century archaeological deposits or artefacts were identified, confirming that the Site lay at some distance from the historic core of Markfield. Previous land use of the Site is likely to have been agricultural, which has had little archaeological impact on the Site. Ridge and furrow earthworks survive in the general area but evidence of ridge and furrow was not present in any of the evaluation trenches. The depth of soil on Site was found to be shallow, ranging from 0.1m to 0.25m. The proposed development is unlikely to have a negative impact upon the archaeological resource.
Project dates	Start: 10-03-2015 End: 12-03-2015
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	108300 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Grassland Heathland 2 - Undisturbed Grassland
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Wind farm developments
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
Position in the planning process	Pre-application
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	LEICESTERSHIRE HINCKLEY AND BOSWORTH MARKFIELD Land at Little Markfield Farm, Forest Road, Markfield, Leicestershire
Postcode	LE67 9UN
Study area	0 Hectares
Site coordinates	SK 47976 09242 52.6784051834 -1.29030628961 52 40 42 N 001 17 25 W Point

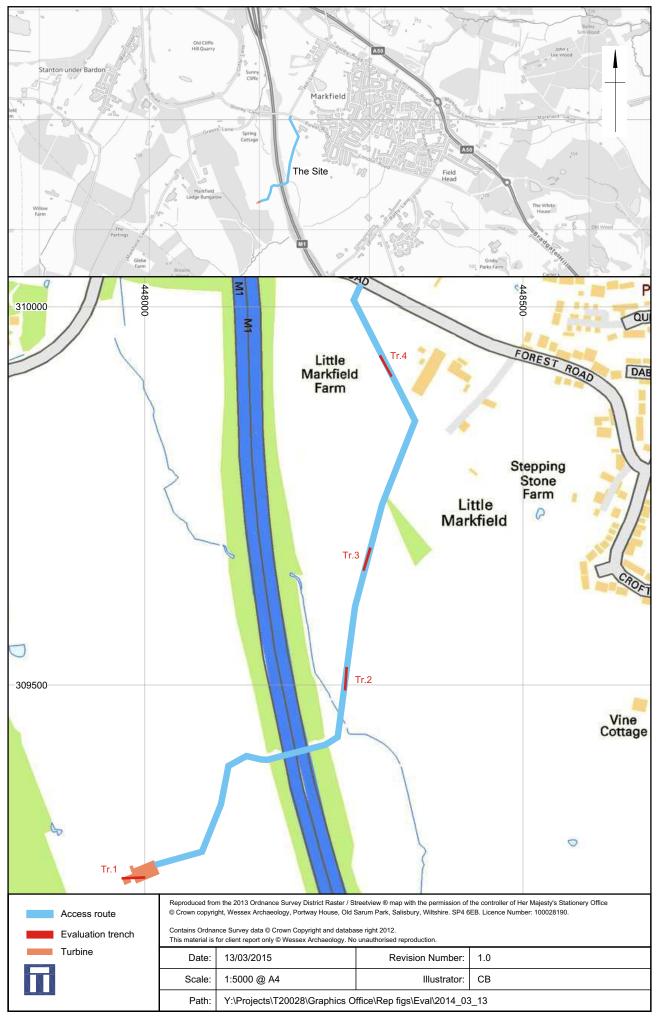
Height OD / Depth Min: 140.00m Max: 190.00m

#### **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd.
Project design originator	CgMs Consulting Ltd
Project director/manager	Andy Norton
Project supervisor	Ashley Tuck
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Temporis Wind Energy Ltd.
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museums Service
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"GIS","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Leicestershire County Council Museums Service
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Diary","Photograph","Report"
Project	
bibliography 1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Land at Little Markfield Farm, Forest Road, Markfield, Leicestershire
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Tuck, A.
Other bibliographic details	108300
Date	2015
Issuer or publisher	Wessex Archaeology
Place of issue or publication	Sheffield
Description	A4 comb bound laser printed report
Entered by	Ashley Tuck (a.tuck@wessexarch.co.uk)



Entered on 12 March 2015



**Trench** location



Plate 1: Trench 1 from south



Plate 2: Trench 2 from south

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Plate 3: Trench 3 from north



Plate 4: Trench 4 from south

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Plate 5: Modern pit 403 from south-east

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