



making sense of heritage

Land at Shire Hill Farm, North Wraxall, South Gloucestershire

Report for Archaeological Watching Brief



South Gloucestershire Planning Application: PK14/4532/F
Ref: 110150.03
August 2015



**Land at Shire Hill Farm, North Wraxall,
South Gloucestershire**

Report for Archaeological Watching Brief

Prepared for:

Vicre Limited
Unit 7a East Bridgford Business Park
Kneeton Road
East Bridgford
Nottingham
NG13 8PJ

Prepared by:

Wessex Archaeology
1 Friary
Temple Quay
Bristol
BS1 6EA

www.wessexarch.co.uk


August 2015

**WA Report Ref: 110150.03
South Gloucestershire Planning Application: PK14/4532/F
Bristol Museum Accession Number: BRSMG2015.58**



Quality Assurance

Project Code	110150	Accession Code	BRSMG 2015.58	Client Ref.	
Planning Application Ref.	PK14/4532/F	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	378463 176173		

Version	Status*	Prepared by	Checked and Approved By	Approver's Signature	Date
v01	E	<i>Michael Fleming Supervisor</i>	ADC		19/08/2015
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					
File:					

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

DISCLAIMER

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT WAS DESIGNED AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF A REPORT TO AN INDIVIDUAL CLIENT AND WAS PREPARED SOLELY FOR THE BENEFIT OF THAT CLIENT. THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT DOES NOT NECESSARILY STAND ON ITS OWN AND IS NOT INTENDED TO NOR SHOULD IT BE RELIED UPON BY ANY THIRD PARTY. TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW WESSEX ARCHAEOLOGY WILL NOT BE LIABLE BY REASON OF BREACH OF CONTRACT NEGLIGENCE OR OTHERWISE FOR ANY LOSS OR DAMAGE (WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OCCASIONED TO ANY PERSON ACTING OR OMITTING TO ACT OR REFRAINING FROM ACTING IN RELIANCE UPON THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARISING FROM OR CONNECTED WITH ANY ERROR OR OMISSION IN THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN THE REPORT. LOSS OR DAMAGE AS REFERRED TO ABOVE SHALL BE DEEMED TO INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, ANY LOSS OF PROFITS OR ANTICIPATED PROFITS DAMAGE TO REPUTATION OR GOODWILL LOSS OF BUSINESS OR ANTICIPATED BUSINESS DAMAGES COSTS EXPENSES INCURRED OR PAYABLE TO ANY THIRD PARTY (IN ALL CASES WHETHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL) OR ANY OTHER DIRECT INDIRECT OR CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS OR DAMAGE.



Land at Shire Hill Farm, North Wraxall, South Gloucestershire

Report for Archaeological Watching Brief

Contents

Summary	iii
Acknowledgements.....	iv
1 INTRODUCTION.....	5
1.1 Project Background.....	5
1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology.....	5
2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND	5
2.1 Introduction	5
2.2 Prehistory.....	6
2.3 Romano-British	6
2.4 Saxon and Medieval.....	6
2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern.....	6
3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	6
4 METHODOLOGY	6
4.1 Introduction	6
4.2 Watching Brief.....	7
4.3 Recording.....	7
5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS.....	7
5.1 Stratigraphy.....	7
6 CONCLUSION	7
7 STORAGE AND CURATION	7
7.1 Museum	7
7.2 Archive.....	8
7.3 OASIS.....	8
7.4 Discard Policy	8
7.5 Copyright.....	8
7.6 Security Copy.....	8
8 REFERENCES.....	8
9 APPENDICES.....	9
9.1 Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables.....	9



Figures

Figure 1: Site Location Plan

Plates

Cover: Overall shot of turbine location from the south

Plate 1: West-facing representative section of Trench 1 and contexts (101), (102) (with 1m scale)

Plate 2: Overall shot of Trench 2 from the north-east (with 2 m scale)



Land at Shire Hill Farm, North Wraxall, South Gloucestershire

Report for Archaeological Watching Brief

Summary

Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Victre Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a wind turbine on land at Shire Hill Farm, North Wraxall, South Gloucestershire (Planning Application PK14/4532/F), centred on National Grid reference (NGR) 378463 176173.

The archaeological work was undertaken on 29th July and 18th August 2015. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were present within the area of the groundworks.



Land at Shire Hill Farm, North Wraxall, South Gloucestershire

Report for Archaeological Watching Brief

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology would like to thank Victre Limited for commissioning and funding the archaeological work. WA would also like to thank Helen Butcher and Matthew Cawley, representatives for Victre Limited and Paul Driscoll, County Archaeologist for South Gloucestershire Council, for their assistance throughout the project.

The watching brief was undertaken by Michael Fleming. This report was also compiled by Michael Fleming. The illustrations were produced by Kitty Foster. The project was managed by Andy King.



Land at Shire Hill Farm, North Wraxall, South Gloucestershire

Report for Archaeological Watching Brief

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project Background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology (WA) was commissioned by Victre Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the installation of a wind turbine at Shire Hill Farm, North Wraxall, South Gloucestershire (Planning Application PK14/4532/F) hereafter referred to as the Site (**Figure 1**), centred on National Grid reference (NGR) 378463 176173 .
- 1.1.2 The County Archaeological Officer, advising South Gloucestershire Council, requested that all intrusive groundworks associated with the turbine installation should be subject to archaeological monitoring, supplemented as appropriate by archaeological excavation in accordance with National and Local policies relating to development and the historic environment.
- 1.1.3 The fieldwork and reporting have been carried out in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation approved by the County Archaeological Officer prior to groundworks commencing (WA 2015).
- 1.1.4 The initial scheme for two turbines was reduced to just one, with a proportionately reduced cabling-route. The location of this single turbine and its associated cable-route was positioned, partly to avoid overhead cabling.

1.2 Site Location, Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The Site is located approximately 3.45 km to the north-west of North Wraxall and 2.31 km north of the village of Marshfield, on the east side of the Tormarton Road, South Gloucestershire (**Figure 1**). The turbine installation site is a field formerly in use for pasture to the rear of Shire Hill Farm.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology comprises Chalfield Oolite Formation with no recorded superficial deposits. The ground slopes downhill gently to the north and east; the turbine site is located at a height of approximately 161m above Ordnance Datum (aOD).

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 The known archaeological and historical background to the Site is drawn from a previous desk-based assessment, cultural heritage impact & setting study (ArcHeritage & Trent & Peak Archaeology 2015), Historic England's (HE) list (HE 2015) and the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record (SGHER 2015).



2.1.2 There have been no previous intrusive archaeological investigations on the Site and there are no known archaeological remains within its immediate vicinity although this area is rich in archaeological remains.

2.2 Prehistory

2.2.1 Although there are no recorded cropmark features on the Site, there are a number of undated heritage assets including field systems, trackways and lynchets, as well as known prehistoric remains recorded in the local HER within 1km. The closest being a banjo enclosure approximately 0.90km to the west; a flint scatter approximately 0.86km to the south-east; and a ring ditch approximately 0.50km to the south-west.

2.3 Romano-British

2.3.1 Known Romano-British remains within 1km of the Site include unspecified 'finds' approximately 1km to the west; pottery scatters approximately 0.66km to the east and 0.77km to the south; and a settlement approximately 0.77km to the south-west. Based on the nature and spread of the findspots it has been suggested that the development area was in agricultural use in the Romano-British period.

2.4 Saxon and Medieval

2.4.1 Continuity of occupation in this area is evident from medieval pottery scatters recorded approximately 0.66km to the south and 0.48km to the north of the site (Russet 1985). Both Marshfield and North Wraxall have entries in the 1086 Domesday Survey. Approximately 0.72km to the north are the remains of ridge and furrow ploughing.

2.5 Post-Medieval and Modern

2.5.1 The land has undoubtedly continued to be used for agriculture, the adjacent site of Shire Hill Farm does not feature on historic mapping until the 1882 published edition Ordnance Survey plan.

3 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 With due regard to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA) Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief and Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation (CIfA 2014a; 2014b), the aims and objectives of the archaeological work are:

- *to identify all archaeological remains revealed during the course of ground disturbance within the affected area;*
- *to ensure the preservation by record of all archaeological remains revealed during the course of this ground disturbance;*
- *to prepare an appropriate archaeological report on the results and prepare an archive of the site including the treatment and preservation of any finds.*

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 All works were carried out in accordance with the WSI (WA 2015) and the Standard and guidance for archaeological excavation (CIfA 2014a) and Standard and guidance for an archaeological watching brief (CIfA 2014b).



4.2 Watching Brief

- 4.2.1 The monitored excavations comprised a single 4.50 m x 4.50 m trench on the site of the proposed wind turbine, which was mechanically excavated using a machine fitted with a toothless grading bucket under direction of a WA archaeologist, to an ultimate depth of 1 m. This was subsequently followed at a later date by monitoring of a 49 m length of cable-route trenching, extending from the turbine footing site to the point at which the existing power-supply could be connected.
- 4.2.2 For access to the turbine installation and cabling, existing concrete hardstanding and matting was used to avoid unnecessary ground-disturbance.
- 4.2.3 Where practicable and safe to do so, representative sections were manually cleaned, planned and/or drawn and located using GPS equipment by the attending archaeologist. All spoil was scanned for artefacts.

4.3 Recording

- 4.3.1 Recording of exposed stratigraphy was undertaken using WA's *pro forma* recording sheets, with all features and deposits being assigned a unique context number.
- 4.3.2 A full photographic record of the fieldwork was made using a Pentax K50 digital camera with a 16 megapixel image sensor. The photographic record illustrated the general context of construction works, exposed features and deposits and general views of the Site as a whole. The digital images will be subject to managed quality control and curation processes which will embed appropriate metadata within the image and ensure long term accessibility of the image set.
- 4.3.3 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 30 mm or below. All survey data was recorded using the OSGB36 British National Grid coordinate system.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

5.1 Stratigraphy

- 5.1.1 A sequence of layers was observed during the works at the foundation of the turbine (Trench 1) and during the cable trenching (Trench 2). The stratigraphic sequence comprised a mid grey-brown clay-silt topsoil layer (**101, 102**) directly overlying natural tabular limestone bedrock (**102, 202**). No further deposits were observed during the works (**Plates 1 and 2**).

6 CONCLUSION

- 6.1.1 Despite the proximity to known areas of archaeological interest nearby to the Site, no archaeological finds, features or deposits were recovered.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 With the full agreement of the landowner the project archive will be deposited for long-term storage with Bristol City Museum Service under accession code **BRSMG 2015.58**. Prior to deposition the archive will be temporarily stored at Wessex Archaeology's Salisbury office under its unique site code of **110150**.



7.2 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 of Bristol Museum service and the ADS and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014c; Brown 2011; ADS 2013).

7.3 OASIS

- 7.3.1 An OASIS online record has been initiated for the work and key fields in regard of the Watching Brief have been entered under OASIS ID **wessexar1-218978**. All appropriate parts of the OASIS online form will be completed for submission to the South Gloucestershire Historic Environment Record. This will include an uploaded .pdf version of the entire report (a paper copy will also be included with the archive).

7.4 Discard Policy

- 7.4.1 Wessex Archaeology follows the guidelines set out in *Selection, Retention and Dispersal* (SMA 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.

7.5 Copyright

- 7.5.1 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 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-profit making, and conforms to the *Copyright and Related Rights regulations 2003*.

7.6 Security Copy

- 7.6.1 In line with current best practice (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

- Archaeology Data Service [ADS], 2013, *Caring for Digital Data in Archaeology: a guide to good practice*, Archaeology Data Service & Digital Antiquity Guides to Good Practice
- ArcHeritage & Trent & Peak Archaeology, 2015, *Shire Hill Farm, North Wraxall, Desk-Based Assessment, Cultural Heritage Impact and Setting Study*. Unpublished Client Report 2015/15
- British Geological Survey, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html> [10th August 2015]
- Brown, D.H., 2011, *Archaeological archives; a guide to best practice in creation, compilation, transfer and curation*, Archaeological Archives Forum (revised)



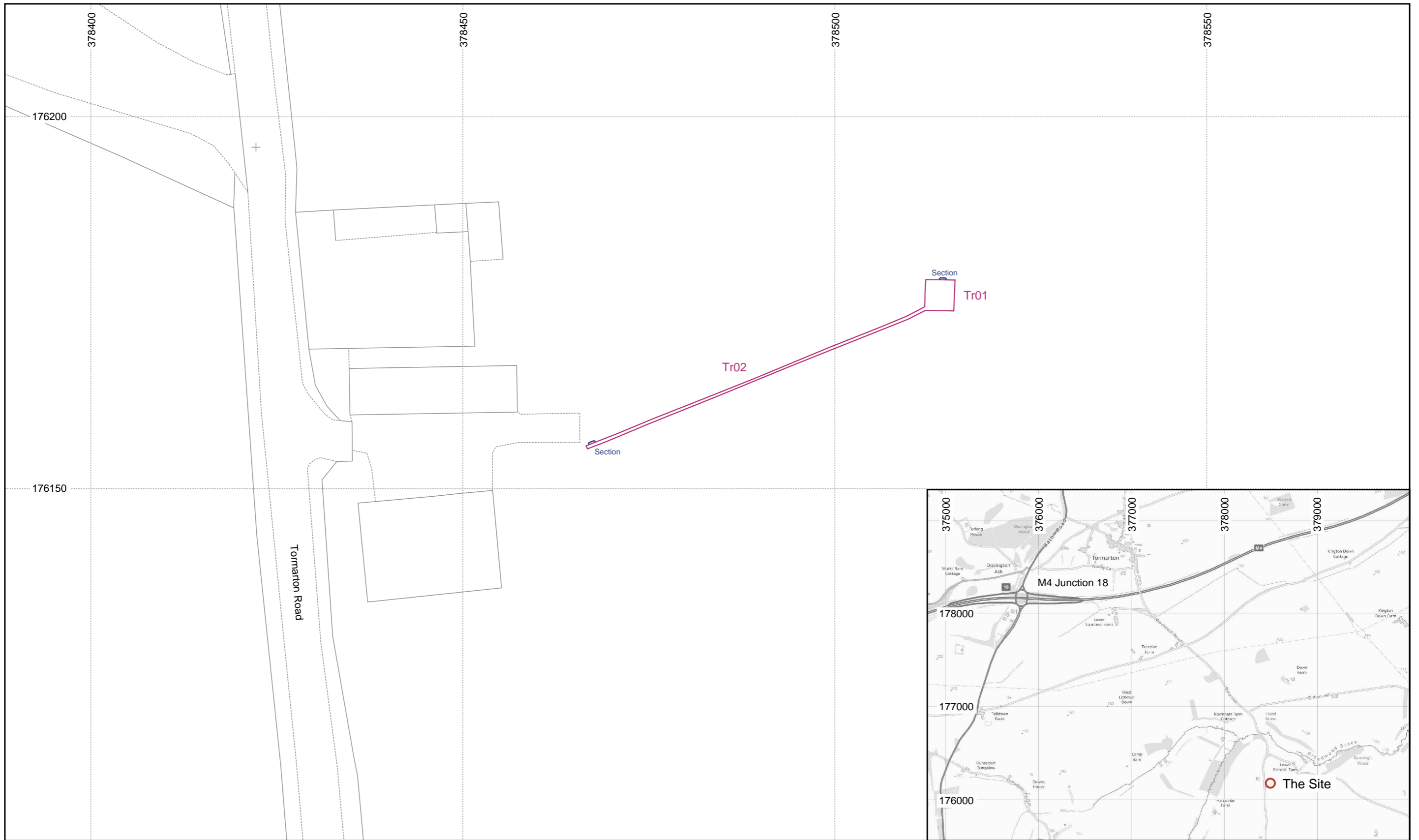
- CIfA, 2014a, *Standard and guidance: archaeological excavation*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- 2014b, *Standard and guidance: archaeological watching brief*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- 2014c, *Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives*, Chartered Institute for Archaeologists
- Heritage England (HE), 2015, *Archaeometallurgy, Guidelines for Best Practice*. Historic England Guidelines/ Standards. Swindon
- Open Domesday, 2015, *Place: North Wraxall*,
<http://opendomesday.org/place/ST8175/north-wraxall> [28 July 2015]
- Russet, V., 1985, *Marshfield. An Archaeological Survey of a Southern Cotswold Parish*. Avon, County Council: Bristol.
- Society for Museum Archaeologists [SMA], 1993, *Selection, Retention and Dispersal of Archaeological Collections*, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- 1995, *Towards an Accessible Archaeological Archive*, Society of Museum Archaeologists
- Wessex Archaeology [WA], 2015. *Land at Shire Hill Farm, North Wraxall, South Gloucestershire, Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Watching Brief*, Unpublished Client Report 110150.01


9 APPENDICES

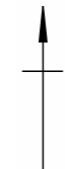
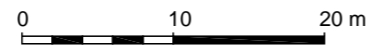
9.1 Appendix 1: Trench Summary Tables

Trench 1				
Dimensions: 4.50 m x 4.50 m x 1.00m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
101	Topsoil	Mid. Grey Brown Clay-Silt	Whole Trench	0-0.21
102	Natural Bedrock	Tabular Limestone.	Whole Trench	0.21+

Trench 2				
Dimensions: 49.00 m x 0.60 m x 1.00 m				
Context	Description		Dimensions (m)	Depth below surface (m)
201	Topsoil	Mid. Grey Brown Clay-Silt	Whole Trench	0-0.22
202	Natural Bedrock	Tabular Limestone.	Whole Trench	0.22+



 Turbine & cable route trenching location



Digital data reproduced from Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright 2015. All rights reserved. Reference Number: 100022432.
 Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown Copyright and database right 2015.
 This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.

Date:	19/08/2015	Revision Number:	0
Scale:	1:40,000 & 1:500 @A3	Illustrator:	KJF
Path:	X:\PROJECTS\110150\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2015_08_19		

Site Location Plan


Figure 1



Plate 1: West-facing representative section of Trench 1 and contexts (101), (102) (with 1 m scale)



Plate 2: Overall shot of Trench 2 from the north-east (with 2 m scale)

	This material is for client report only © Wessex Archaeology. No unauthorised reproduction.			
	Date:	19/08/2015	Revision Number:	0
	Scale:	N/A	Illustrator:	KJF
	Path:	X:\PROJECTS\110150\Graphics_Office\Rep figs\WB\2015_08_19		



Wessex Archaeology Ltd registered office Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB
Tel: 01722 326867 Fax: 01722 337562 info@wessexarch.co.uk www.wessexarch.co.uk



Wessex Archaeology Ltd is a company limited by guarantee registered in England, company number 1712772. It is also a Charity registered in England and Wales, number 287786; and in Scotland, Scottish Charity number SC042630. Our registered office is at Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP4 6EB.