



making sense of heritage

Dillhorne Lane, Tickhill, Staffordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report



Ref: 110840.01
September 2015



**Dillhorne Lane,
Tickhill, Staffordshire**

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Prepared for:

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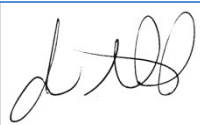
September 2015

110840.01



Quality Assurance

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Planning Application Ref.	SMD/2015/0088	Ordnance Survey (OS) national grid reference (NGR)	396295 344719		

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File: S:\PROJECTS\110840\Reports\V02\ 110840_Dillhorne Lane_AG_20150930					
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v04	F	AG	PW c/o ECUS		30/09/15
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* I = Internal Draft; E = External Draft; F = Final

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Dillhorne Lane, Tickhill, Staffordshire

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Dillhorne Lane, Tickhill, Staffordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Summary

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ecus Ltd on behalf of Elgar Middleton Environmental Energy Investments Ltd to carry out a programme of evaluation trenching of land at Heywood Grange, Tickhill Lane, Dillhorne, Staffordshire (centred on NGR 396295 344719). The evaluation was undertaken in order to support a planning application for a proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure at the Site (ref. SMD/2015/0088).

A historic environment desk-based assessment and geophysical survey have previously been undertaken for the Site, which established the potential for surviving archaeological remains. The evaluation comprised the excavation of ten trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m located to target features identified by the geophysical survey and blank areas, in order to determine the archaeological potential of the Site and characterise any remains that may survive prior to redevelopment.

None of the features identified as being of possible archaeological origin in the geophysical survey were confirmed within any of the evaluation trenches. The only feature excavated was a former hedgerow identified in Trench 7. Other finds of note comprise discrete patches of apparently modern vitrified material within Trenches 6 and 7.

On the basis of the results of the evaluation it is considered that the archaeological potential for the development area is extremely low.

The project archive has been compiled according to the Written Scheme of Investigation and is fully cross-referenced and indexed. It is currently held by Wessex Archaeology under the project code **110840** and will be transferred to The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery under accession number **2015.LH.170** in due course.



Dillhorne Lane, Tickhill, Staffordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

Acknowledgements

Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ecus Ltd and is grateful to Paul White and James Thomson in this regard. Wessex Archaeology would also like to thank Stephen Dean, the archaeological advisor to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for visiting the Site.

The fieldwork was directed by Martina Tenzer with the assistance of Callum Bruce between the 14th and 18th of September. The report was compiled by Alexandra Grassam. The illustrations were prepared by Alix Sperr. The project was managed for Wessex Archaeology by Andrew Norton.



Dillhorne Lane, Tickhill, Staffordshire

Archaeological Evaluation Report

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

- 1.1.1 Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ecus Ltd on behalf of Elgar Middleton Environmental Energy Investments Ltd (hereafter 'the Client') to carry out a programme of evaluation trenching of land at Heywood Grange, Tickhill Lane, Dillhorne, Staffordshire (hereafter the 'Site', centred on NGR 396295 344719). The evaluation was undertaken in order to support a planning application for a proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure at the Site (ref. SMD/2015/0088).
- 1.1.2 A historic environment desk-based assessment (Ecus Ltd. 2014) and geophysical survey (GSB Prospection Ltd. 2014) were undertaken for the Site, and which established the potential for surviving archaeological remains.
- 1.1.3 Following this work a condition was placed on the scheme by the archaeological advisor to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council, which recommended an archaeological evaluation.
- 1.1.4 The evaluation comprised the excavation of ten trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m in order to determine the archaeological potential of the Site and characterise any remains that may survive prior to redevelopment (**Figure 1**).
- 1.1.5 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI, Ecus Ltd 2015) set out the strategy and methodology by which Wessex Archaeology implemented the archaeological evaluation. All works undertaken conformed to current best practice and to the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment ('MoRPHE') (Historic England 2015) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA 2014a-d). The WSI was submitted to the Staffordshire Moorlands District Council for approval prior to fieldwork commencing.

1.2 The Site

- 1.2.1 The Site comprises three fields (c. 38 hectares) located to the east of Tickhill Road and south of Oak Tree Farm, approximately 8km to the south-east of Stoke-on-Trent (**Figure 1**). It is bounded to the west by a belt of mature trees, to the east by Stansmore Wood and to the north and south by agricultural land. A small watercourse cuts through the centre of the north-west field in the Site.
- 1.2.2 The solid geology of the Site comprises Cheddleton Sandstone. No superficial deposits are recorded (British Geological Survey 2015).
- 1.2.3 The southern end of the Site lies at an approximate height of 241m above Ordnance Datum (aOD) and rises to a height of 236m aOD at the northern end.



2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 A detailed historical and archaeological background is presented in the historic environment desk-based assessment previously prepared for the Site (Ecus Ltd 2014) and in the WSI (Ecus Ltd 2015). The following is a summary of this information.

2.2 Prehistoric

- 2.2.1 No evidence for prehistoric activity is recorded within the Site or in the wider landscape, although this period is poorly represented in the archaeological record in this part of Staffordshire. The presence of small water courses in and around the Site and a marshy area within the north-west field of the Site provides the potential for the survival of palaeoenvironmental remains.

2.3 Romano-British

- 2.3.1 The route of a track and ditch feature, 400m south-west of the Site, has been attributed a Roman to post-medieval date. The feature was investigated in the 1962 which failed to recover any dating evidence and the location of the excavation unclear.

2.4 Medieval and post-medieval

- 2.4.1 Heywood Grange Farmstead, located approximately 600m north of the Site, is thought to be the site of a 14th century grange established by Ranton Priory. The name Heywood Grange is thought to be a corruption of 'Hewall Grange', which roughly translates to the 'grange surrounded by the high wall' or possibly 'the grange at the high spring'. The house dates to the late 17th century and is a Grade II Listed Building.
- 2.4.2 In addition to agricultural activity, there is also evidence for mining in the surrounding area during the late Medieval to early post-medieval period.

2.5 19th century to modern

- 2.5.1 The area around the Site is occupied by scattered historic farmsteads including Hardiwick, Summerhill, Stansmore and Blakeleybank located to the west and north of the Site.
- 2.5.2 Historic Ordnance Survey (OS) maps show little alteration within the Site from 1888 onwards. Hedgerow boundaries are areas of gorse are depicted in the north-west field which are still extant today. Partially removed historic field boundaries are shown on the 1888 map with sparse rows of trees depicted in the north-eastern field. From the 1925 OS map the north-east field is shown as under rough pasture.

2.6 Previous archaeological investigations

- 2.6.1 The geophysical survey identified a number of undated features within the Site of possible archaeological origin, comprising a possible curving ditch and pits in the north-east field, two former trackways crossing the north-west and north-east fields, and linear anomalies of uncertain origin throughout the Site, which were most likely thought to be either natural geological variations or related to former ploughing. Other identified features included a former field boundary, and a number of field drains (GSB Prospection Ltd. 2014).

3 METHODOLOGY

3.1 Aims and objectives

3.1.1 The objectives of the evaluation were to gain information about the archaeological resource within the Site (including its presence or absence, character, extent, date, integrity, state of preservation and quality). The work would inform the formulation of a strategy to avoid or mitigate the impact of the proposed scheme on the archaeological resource within the Site in accordance with national and local planning policy

3.1.2 The general aims of the project were:

- *to identify and record any archaeological deposits, structures or built fabric within the identified areas of interest;*
- *to determine the extent, condition, character, significance and date of any encountered or exposed archaeological remains;*
- *to accurately record the location and stratigraphy of areas excavated during groundworks;*
- *to recover artefacts disturbed by the Site works;*
- *to recover samples from sealed waterlogged contexts for environmental processing; and*
- *to prepare a comprehensive record and report of archaeological observations during the Site work.*

3.1.3 The specific aim of the project was:

- *to establish the nature and significance of the potential archaeological features identified by the geophysical survey.*

3.2 Fieldwork methodology

3.2.1 The following summarises the methodologies set out in full in the WSI (Ecus Ltd 2015). The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of ten trenches (**Figure 1**) measuring 30m by 1.8m, targeting geophysical archaeological anomalies and blank areas or spaced in order to intersect potential archaeological anomalies. All works undertaken conformed to current best practice and to the guidance outlined in Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment ('MoRPHE') (Historic England 2015) and the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' (CIfA 2014a-d).

Machine excavation

3.2.2 The location of all trenches was scanned using a CAT before excavation took place in order to check for uncharted services.

3.2.3 Topsoil and subsoil were removed using a 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. Both topsoil and subsoil was stored separately at a safe distance away from the trench edge.

Hand excavation

3.2.4 Natural and archaeological features were sampled sufficiently to establish their origin and to characterise any related human activity.



- 3.2.5 Archaeological features were hand excavated but the complete excavation of obviously modern features was not regarded as necessary.

3.3 Monitoring

- 3.3.1 A monitoring visit was made by Stephen Dean (Archaeological Advisor to Staffordshire Moorlands District Council) and James Thomson (Ecus Ltd) to monitor the excavation and ensure all works was carried out according to the agreed WSI.

3.4 Recording

- 3.4.1 All recording was undertaken using Wessex Archaeology *pro forma* recording sheets and a continuous unique numbering system. A stratigraphic matrix was compiled to record the relationships between features and deposits (including those within 'blank' trenches).
- 3.4.2 All trenches were located by means of a RTK GPS system in relation to the OS grid, and other plans, sections and elevations of archaeological features and deposits were drawn as necessary at 1:10, 1:20 and 1:50 as appropriate.
- 3.4.3 A photographic record consisting of 35mm monochrome prints and digital images to a resolution of at least 10 megapixel was produced for the Site, including all trenches, natural and any archaeological features.

3.5 Specialist strategies

Artefacts

- 3.5.1 No artefacts other than modern building material were recovered during the evaluation.

Environmental

- 3.5.2 No features were identified which required environmental sampling.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The archaeological evaluation comprised the excavation of ten trenches (**Figure 1; Plates 1-11**) measuring 30m by 1.8m. The archaeological layers and stratigraphy were consistent in all of the trenches, although depths of deposits varied across the Site.
- 4.1.2 None of the features identified as being of possible archaeological origin in the geophysical survey were confirmed.
- 4.1.3 The only feature of note identified is a possible former hedgerow identified in **Trench 7**, which is described in more detail below. Other finds of note comprise discrete patches of apparently modern vitrified material within **Trenches 6 and 7**.
- 4.1.4 Features that were clearly the remains of tree bowls were identified in **Trenches 4, 5, 7 and 8** and modern land drains were identified in **Trenches 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8**. A full trench context listing is provided in **Appendix 1**.



4.2 Summary

Natural geology

- 4.2.1 The natural geology across the Site is varied in appearance from a mottled red brown and light grey mixed sandy clay with stone fragments to a yellow brown sandy clay. The natural depth was encountered between 0.49 to 0.26m below ground level (bgl).

Subsoil

- 4.2.2 A layer of subsoil measuring in depth from 0.10m to 0.18m was identified in all trenches and was described a silty clay varying in colour from dark black brown to a light grey brown with very rare stone inclusions. The layer may have formed a former topsoil or possibly colluvium.

Topsoil

- 4.2.3 The topsoil was a dark black brown clay silt with occasional small pebbles, which varied in depth from 0.15m to 0.31m.

4.3 Features of note

- 4.3.1 The backfilled remains of former hedgerow **704** was excavated and recorded in **Trench 7**, running on a north-west to south-east alignment (**Figure 2; Plate 8**). It measured 0.57m wide and 0.11m deep and was filled with a mid-grey sandy clay (**705**).
- 4.3.2 **Trench 7** also contained a discrete deposit of blue-black highly vitrified material (**706**) sealed beneath the subsoil **702** (most likely redeposited) and above the natural geology **703**. No subsoil was present in **Trench 6** but a layer of similarly dark vitrified material was recorded that contained rubble fragments (**602**). The material is presumed to be a modern spread.

5 ARTEFACTUAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL EVIDENCE

5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 No finds or deposits of significance were recovered during the archaeological evaluation.

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 Summary

- 6.1.1 The evaluation identified traces of a former hedgerow **704** in **Trench 7**, and dumps of modern material in **Trenches 6** and **7**. Tree bowls were also identified and many of the trenches were cut by modern land drains.
- 6.1.2 None of the potential anomalies of archaeological origin were confirmed to be present during the archaeological evaluation.

6.2 Conclusions

- 6.2.1 The archaeological evaluation did not identify the presence of any archaeological remains as suggested by the geophysical survey and no significant finds or features were recorded in any of the trenches excavated.

- 6.2.2 The natural geology varied across the Site and it is likely that variances in the natural resulted in anomalous geophysical results. The geophysical anomalies interpreted as a possible curvilinear ditch and pits, were the results of dumped made ground in **Trench 6**.
- 6.2.3 The hedgerow in Trench 7 was aligned with an existing hedgerow dividing the western fields and most likely was removed to extend the south-eastern field. The hedgerow must have been removed prior to the late 19th century as the OS maps show no change in field shape.
- 6.2.4 On the basis of the results of the evaluation it is considered that the archaeological potential for the development area is extremely low.

7 STORAGE AND CURATION

7.1 Museum

- 7.1.1 It is recommended that the project archive resulting from the excavation be deposited with The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery. The Museums Service has agreed in principle to accept the project archive on completion of the project, under accession code **2015.LH.170**. Deposition of any finds with the Museum will only be carried out with the full agreement of the landowner

7.2 Archive

- 7.2.1 The complete Site archive, which will include paper records, photographic records, and digital data, will be prepared following the standard conditions for the acceptance of excavated archaeological material by The Potteries Museum and Art Gallery, and in general following nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1995; ClfA 2014d; Brown 2011; ADS 2013; English Heritage 2005; MGC 1991; UKIC 2001).
- 7.2.2 All archive elements will be marked with the Site/accession code and a full index will be prepared. The physical archive comprises one file document case of paper records.

7.3 Discard policy

- 7.3.1 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.
- 7.3.2 The discard of environmental remains and samples follows nationally recommended guidelines (SMA 1993; 1995).

7.4 Security copy

- 7.4.1 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.



8 REFERENCES

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Online resources:

British Geological Survey, 2015. www.bgs.ac.uk



9 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1: Trench context tables

Trench 1	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.58m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
101	Topsoil – Very dark black brown clay silt with frequent small rounded pebbles	0 - 0.31
102	Subsoil – Light grey silty clay with occasional round pebbles	0.31 - 0.49
103	Natural – Patchy yellow brown and light grey sandy clay with frequent irregular pebbles	0.49+

Trench 2	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.50m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
201	Topsoil – Very dark black brown clay silt with frequent small pebbles	0 - 0.23m
202	Subsoil – Mid grey sandy clay mixed with red brown sandy clay	0.23 – 0.37
203	Natural – Red brown sandy clay with patches of black-brown sandy clay	0.37+

Trench 3	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
301	Topsoil – Very dark black brown clay silt with frequent small pebbles	0 - 0.21
302	Subsoil – Mid grey silty clay	0.21 - 0.32
303	Natural – Yellow brown clay with occasional large stone fragments	0.32+

Trench 4	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.41m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
401	Topsoil – Dark greyish brown clay silt with frequent small pebbles	0 - 0.25
402	Subsoil – Light brown grey silty clay with very occasional small stone inclusions	0.25 - 0.36
403	Natural – Red brown and light grey mixed sandy clay with stone fragments	0.36+

Trench 5	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.39m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
501	Topsoil – Dark black brown clay silt with occasional small pebbles	0 - 0.21
502	Subsoil – Dark brown silty clay	0.21 - 0.33
503	Natural – Red brown and light grey mixed sandy clay with stone fragments	0.33+

Trench 6	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.45m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
601	Topsoil – Dark brown clay silt with occasional small pebbles	0 - 0.23
602	Subsoil – Dark grey silty clay	0.23 - 0.34
603	Natural – Red brown and light grey mixed sandy clay with stone fragments	0.34+



Trench 7	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.31m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
701	Topsoil – Dark brown clay silt with occasional small pebbles	0 - 0.15
702	Subsoil – Dark brown grey silty clay	0.15 - 0.26
703	Natural – Red brown and light grey mixed sandy clay with stone fragments	0.26+
704	Cut: Former hedgerow	0.26 - 0.37
705	Fill: Fill of former hedgerow 704. Mid grey sandy clay with abundant fragments of sandstone	0.26 - 0.37
706	Blue-black made ground	0.26

Trench 8	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.54m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
801	Topsoil – Dark brown grey clay silt with occasional small pebbles	0 - 0.31
802	Subsoil – Red brown silty clay	0.31 - 0.42
803	Natural – Red brown sandy clay with frequent stone inclusions	0.42+

Trench 9	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.36m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
901	Topsoil – Dark brown grey silt clay with occasional inclusion of small pebbles	0 - 0.21
902	Subsoil – Mid grey silty clay	0.21 - 0.31
903	Natural – Red brown sandy clay with gravel inclusions and occasional large stone fragments	0.31+

Trench 10	Dimensions: 30 x 1.8m	Max depth: 0.38m
Context	Description	Depth (m)
1001	Topsoil – Very dark black brown clay silt with frequent small rounded pebbles	0 - 0.23
1002	Subsoil – Dark black brown silty clay with the very occasional small pebble	0.23 - 0.29
1003	Natural – Mixed red brown and yellow grey sandy clay with occasional large stone fragments and patches of black-brown material	0.29+



9.2 Appendix 2: OASIS form

OASIS DATA COLLECTION FORM: England

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Printable version

OASIS ID: wessexar1-223394

Project details

Project name	Dillhorne Lane, Tickhill, Stoke on Trent, Archaeological Evaluation
Short description of the project	Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Ecus Ltd on behalf of Elgar Middleton Environmental Energy Investments Ltd to carry out a programme of evaluation trenching of land at Heywood Grange, Tickhill Lane, Dillhorne, Staffordshire (centred on NGR 396295 344719). The evaluation was undertaken in order to support a planning application for a proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure at the Site (ref. SMD/2015/0088). A historic environment desk-based assessment and geophysical survey have previously been undertaken for the Site which established the potential for archaeological remains within the Site. The evaluation comprised the excavation of ten trenches measuring 30m by 1.8m located to target features identified in the geophysical survey in order to determine the archaeological potential of the Site and characterise any remains that may survive prior to redevelopment. None of the features identified as being of possible archaeological origin in the geophysical survey were confirmed within any of the evaluation trenches. The only feature of excavated was a possible former hedgerow identified in Trench 7 and other trenches contained the remains of tree bowls. Other finds of note comprise discrete patches of apparently modern material in Trenches 6 and 7. On the basis of the results of the evaluation it is considered that the archaeological potential for the development area is extremely low.
Project dates	Start: 14-09-2015 End: 18-09-2015
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	110840 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2015.LH.170 - Museum accession ID
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 1 - Minimal cultivation



Current Land use	Woodland 5 - Undetermined
Monument type	TREE BOWL Modern
Significant Finds	NONE None
Methods & techniques	"Sample Trenches"
Development type	Solar Farm
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	STAFFORDSHIRE STOKE ON TRENT STOKE ON TRENT Tickhill Lane, Dillhorne, Stoke on Trent, Archaeological Evaluation
Postcode	ST10 2PL
Study area	38 Hectares
Site coordinates	SJ 96295 44719 52.999471683944 -2.055212207086 52 59 58 N 002 03 18 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 236m Max: 241m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Wessex Archaeology
Project brief originator	Elgar Middleton Environmental Energy Investments Ltd
Project design originator	Wessex Archaeology
Project director/manager	Andrew Norton
Project supervisor	Martina Tenzer
Type of sponsor/funding body	Energy company
Name of sponsor/funding body	Elgar Middleton Environmental Energy Investments Ltd

Project archives

Digital Archive recipient	Potteries Museum and Art Gallery
Digital Archive ID	2015.LH.170
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive	Potteries Museum and Art Gallery



recipient

Paper Archive ID 2015.LH.170

Paper Contents "none"

Paper Media available "Context sheet", "Diary", "Photograph", "Report", "Unpublished Text"

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Description A4 Comb bound report

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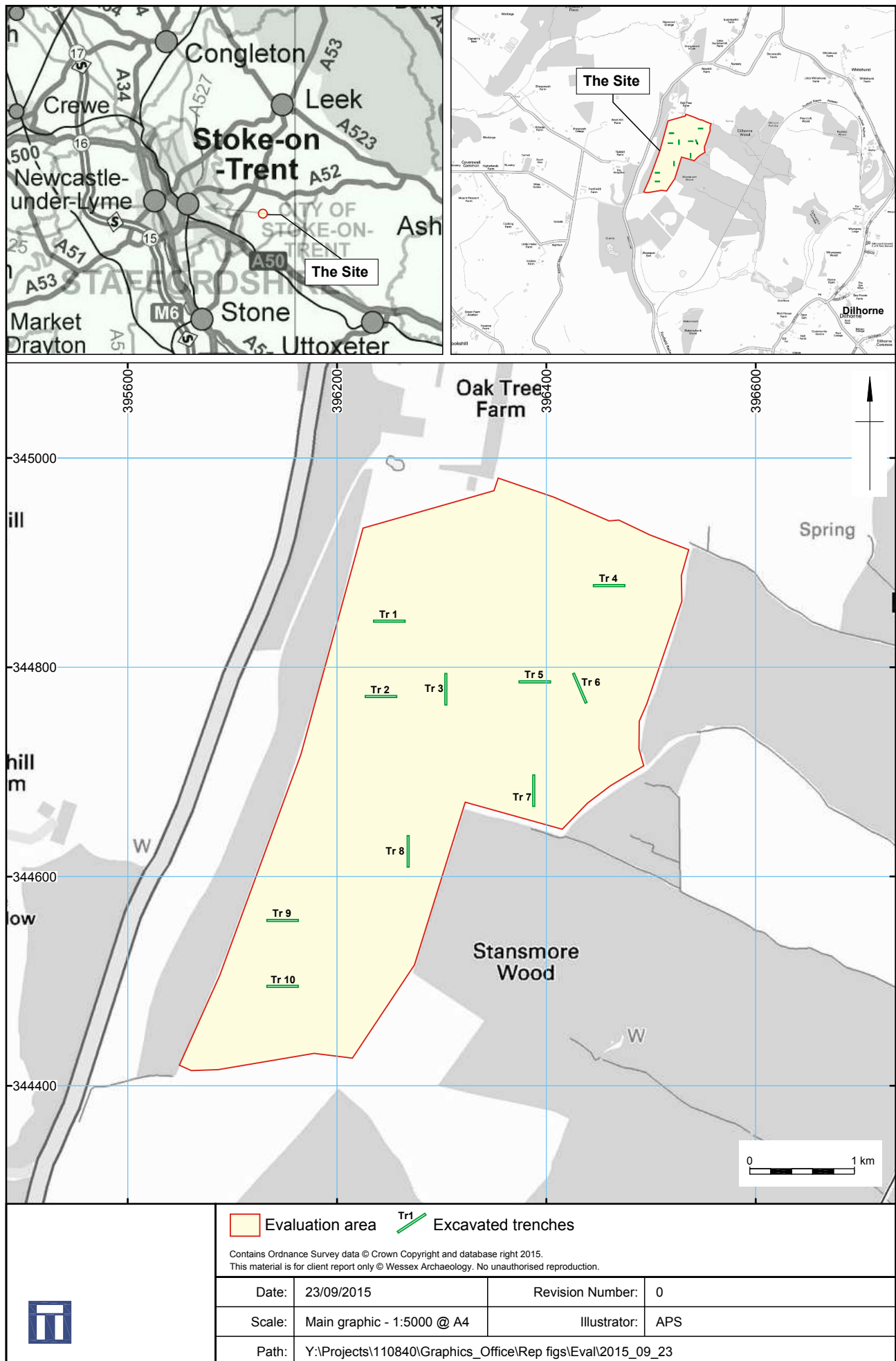
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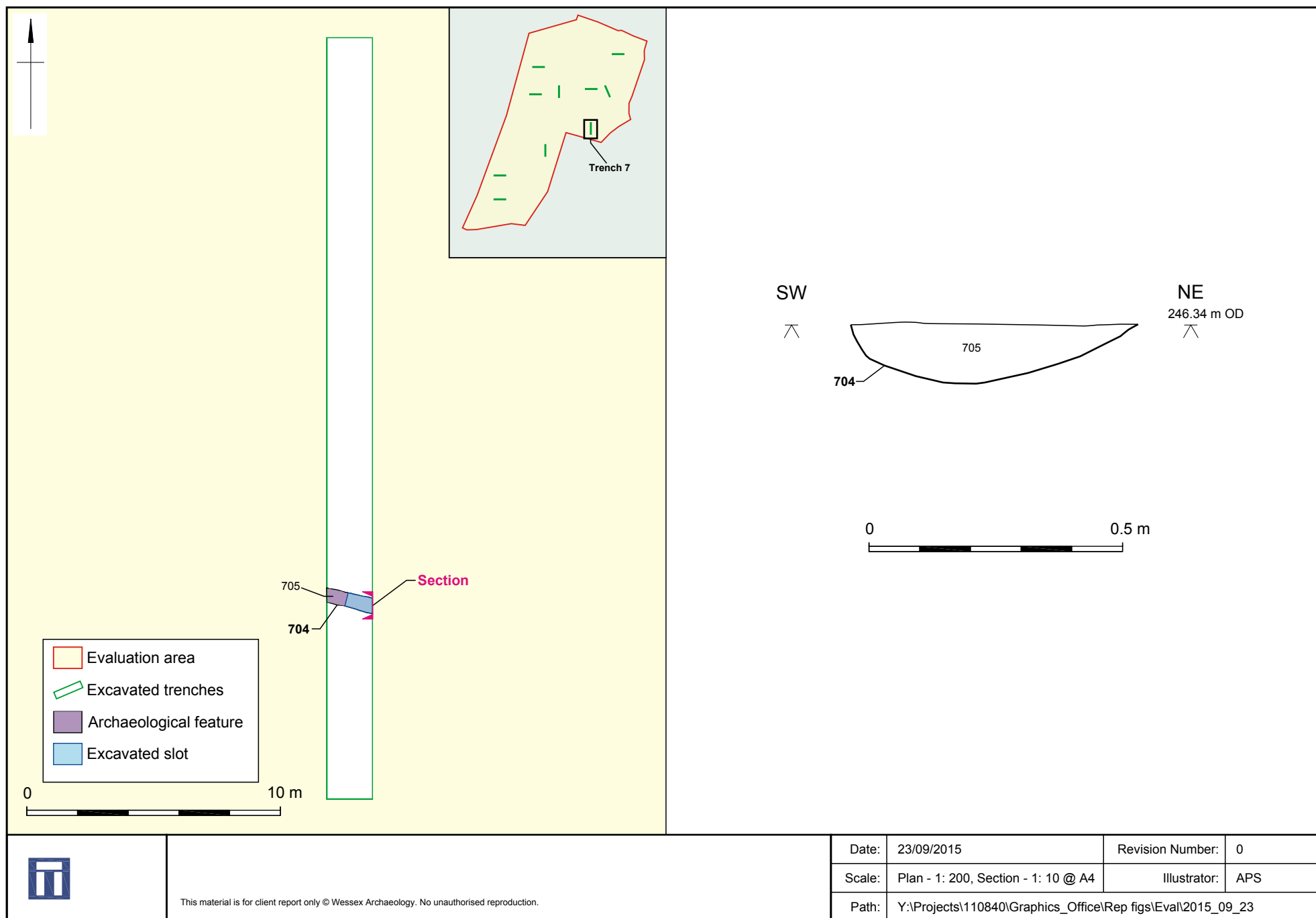
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Site location

Figure 1



Trench 7, hedgerow 704

Figure 2



Plate 1: Trench 1 looking west



Plate 2: Trench 2 looking east


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Plate 3: Trench 3 looking north



Plate 4: Trench 4 looking east


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Plate 5: Trench 5 looking east



Plate 6: Trench 6 looking south-east


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Plate 7: Trench 7 looking south



Plate 8: Hedgerow 704 looking east


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Plate 9: Trench 8 looking south



Plate 10: Trench 9 looking east



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Plate 11: Trench 10 looking east

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