

T H A M E S      V A L L E Y



S E R V I C E S

S O U T H W E S T

**Cleave Farm, Weare Giffard,  
Bideford, Devon**

**Archaeological Watching Brief**

**by Andy Weale**

**Site Code: CFWG14/52**

**(SS 4870, 2244)**

# **Cleave Farm, Weare Giffard, Bideford, Devon**

**An Archaeological Watching Brief**

**For Earthmill Ltd**

by Andrew Weale

Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd

Site Code CFWG 14/52

**April 2014**

## Summary

**Site name:** Cleave Farm, Weare Giffard, Bideford, Devon

**Grid reference:** SS 4870, 2244

**Site activity:** Watching Brief

**Date and duration of project:** 4th– 9th April 2014

**Project manager:** Steve Ford

**Site supervisor:** Andrew Weale

**Site code:** CFWG 14/52

**Area of site:** 0.1ha

**Summary of results:** Modern made ground was encountered close to the current farm buildings. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed

**Location and reference of archive:** The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, Reading and will be digitally uploaded to the ADS (OASIS code TVAS1-178701), and a digital copy of the report and photographs deposited at Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon with the Accession Number NDDMS2014.18 in due course.

*This report may be copied for bona fide research or planning purposes without the explicit permission of the copyright holder. All TVAS unpublished fieldwork reports are available on our website:  
[www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp](http://www.tvas.co.uk/reports/reports.asp).*

Report edited/checked by:	Steve Ford✓ 29.04.14 Steve Preston✓ 28.04.14
---------------------------	---

# **Cleave Farm, Weare Giffard, Bideford, Devon An Archaeological Watching Brief**

by Andrew Weale

**Report 14/52**

## **Introduction**

This report documents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out at Cleave Farm, Weare Giffard, Bideford, Devon SS 4870, 2244 (Fig. 1). The work was commissioned by Mr Rob Armour Chelu of Armour Heritage Ltd, Greystone Cottage, Trudoxhill, Frome, Somerset BA11 5DP on behalf of Earthmill Ltd, Equinox 3, Audby Lane, Wetherby, West Yorkshire, LS22 7RD.

Planning permission (1/0783/2012/FUL) has been granted by Torridge District Council for the installation of a 50kW wind turbine at Cleave Farm, Weare Giffard, Bideford, Devon EX39 4QX. The consent includes a condition (16) relating to archaeology, which states

‘No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Council as Planning authority.

‘Reason: To ensure that an appropriate record is made of archaeological evidence that may be affected by the development.’

This is in accordance with the Department for Communities and Local Government’s *National Planning Policy Framework* (2012). The field investigation was carried out to a specification produced by Armour Heritage Ltd and approved by Stephen Read Archaeological Officer of the Devon County Historic Environment Team, who advise the District Council on matters relating to archaeology. The fieldwork was undertaken by Andrew Weale, between 4th and 9th April 2014 and the site code is CFWG 14/52. The archive is presently held at Thames Valley Archaeological Services, South West, Taunton and will be digitally uploaded to the ADS (OASIS ID TVAS1-178701) and a digital copy of the report and photographs deposited at the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon with the Accession Number NDDMS2014.18.

## **Location, topography and geology**

The site is located approximately 1km to the east of the village of Weare Giffard, 5km south-east of Bideford, with Great Torrington 3km to the south (Fig. 1). The site comprises an area of arable farmland of less than 0.1ha, which is located to the north of Cleave Farm buildings and set on the south facing slope of a valley containing a

tributary of the River Torridge with a confluence with the river 1km to the west. The site lies at approximately 85m above Ordnance Datum. The underlying geology of the site is Carboniferous Sandstone part of the Bude Formation which also contains Mudstone and Siltstone which outcrop in the area of the site.

## **Archaeological background**

Cleave Farm lies within an area of known archaeological potential where a number of archaeological sites and monuments are recorded on the Devon Historic Environment Record. The most significant of these is Berry Castle, a Scheduled Iron Age hillfort in Huntshaw Wood, which occupies the summit of a high hill overlooking the valleys of Huntshaw Water to the north and Darracott Brook to the south and lies approximately 600m to the east of the site (Fig. 1). There are also a number of undated enclosures which have survived as cropmarks and are known from air photographs. One of these, a double-ditched enclosure, lies just to the west of the site of Cleave Farm in the fields between it and Southcott Barton. A near circular enclosure, c. 45m diameter, is visible as a cropmark approximately 400m to the west of the site.

There are a number of shrunken or abandon settlements within the area which may have Medieval origins. Approximately 600m to the north-west of the site the Ordnance Survey of 1804-07 shows a settlement called Crosstown. In the fields between Cleave Farm and Southcott Barton to the west a possible shrunken settlement survives as cropmarks on an aerial photograph taken in 1947 which showed surface irregularities in a field to the east of Southcott Barton farm. Deeds of the farm from 1673 and 1705 mention eleven cottages, one of which was occupied by Richard Warmington, and the 1837 Tithe Map Apportionment names a field to the north-east of the farm as 'Warmington's Meadow'. These fields also contain the double-ditched enclosure mentioned above. There is also a possible shrunken settlement at Cleave. The Lysons brothers' survey of the county published in 1822 refers to the parish of Weare Giffard as including the 'village of Clifft' which is scarcely even a hamlet today. The 1839 Tithe map shows two properties on the site of Cleave Farm one called Clifft the other Canns.

Domesday Book (Williams and Martin 2002) has an entry for Weare Giffard (called *Were* at the time) which was held in 1086 by Roald Dubbed and had been held by Ordwulf in the time of King Edward. It was assessed at 1 hide. There was land for 7 ploughs, and the villagers (16 villans with 9 slaves) had 7 and a half plough teams available. The estate included a share in a fishery, presumably on the Torrington, and there were also 10 acres of meadow, 15 acres of woodland and 20 acres of pasture. It was worth formerly 40 shillings both before and after the Conquest. The Count of Mortain (William the Conqueror's half brother) held an additional small area in the same manor, worth 5 shillings, which had land for 1 plough and a population of just two slaves.

## Objectives and methodology

The general objectives of the project were to:

- to determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains, and should remains be found to be present, to ensure their preservation by record to the highest possible standard;
- to determine or confirm the approximate date or date range of the remains, by means of artefactual or other evidence;
- to determine or confirm the approximate extent of the remains;
- to determine the condition and state of preservation of the remains; and
- to determine the degree of complexity of the horizontal and/or vertical stratigraphy present

The groundworks involved the area for the turbine itself, cable trenching and an access road. The cable trenches were excavated by a 360° tracked machine fitted with a toothed bucket. In the area of the access road and turbine, overburden was to be removed by a 360° type machine equipped with a ditching bucket.

Identified archaeological features and deposits would be cleaned and excavated by hand. Small discrete features were to be fully excavated. Larger discrete features would be half sectioned, and long linear features excavated to sample 20% of their length. A programme of environmental sampling was to take place should sufficient stratified deposits be located and metal detectors used to enhance the recovery of metal finds.

## Results

### *The cable trench*

The first part of the cable trench to be excavated was a section from a fence line at the rear (north) of the farm complex, southwards towards the farm buildings and was dug using a toothed bucket which remain the case throughout the cable trench. Topsoil was stored on one side of the trench and subsoils/natural bedrock was stored on the other. The trench was 0.70m wide and 1.00m deep at point A (Fig. 2, Pls 4 and 5) with topsoil 0.20m thick and subsoil 0.40m thick overlying a red brown clay with sandstone fragments. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

At a point 5m south of the fence line, the trench was reduced to 0.50m wide and was cut through an area of landscaping which appeared to be associated with the construction of the farm building to the south. Here (point B) there was a maximum of 0.30m of topsoil and 0.70m+ of a grey silty clay made ground which contained

modern plastic, oil filters and ceramic building material (Pl. 6). The level of the natural geology was not reached. No archaeological features or pre-modern artefacts were observed.

The cable run from the fence line northwards to the base of the turbine was excavated with a width of 0.70m and varied in depth from 1.00m to 1.30m (Pl. 1). At point C (Pl. 7) the topsoil was 0.30m thick, subsoil 0.20m thick with a red clay with sandstone fragments to 1.0m+. No archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

Further north at point D the topsoil was 0.40m thick, over subsoil 0.10m thick beneath which a red clay with sandstone fragments to 1.10m. Beneath this was crushed sandstone natural to a depth of 1.30m (Pl. 8). No archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

### *Access road and turbine base*

The access road from the current farm track at the north end of the site to the turbine area, and the turbine area itself, were stripped using a toothless bucket to a maximum depth of 0.35m. In this area topsoil was 0.18m thick but the base of the subsoil was not reached (Pls 1 and 3). No archaeological features or artefacts were observed.

## **Conclusion**

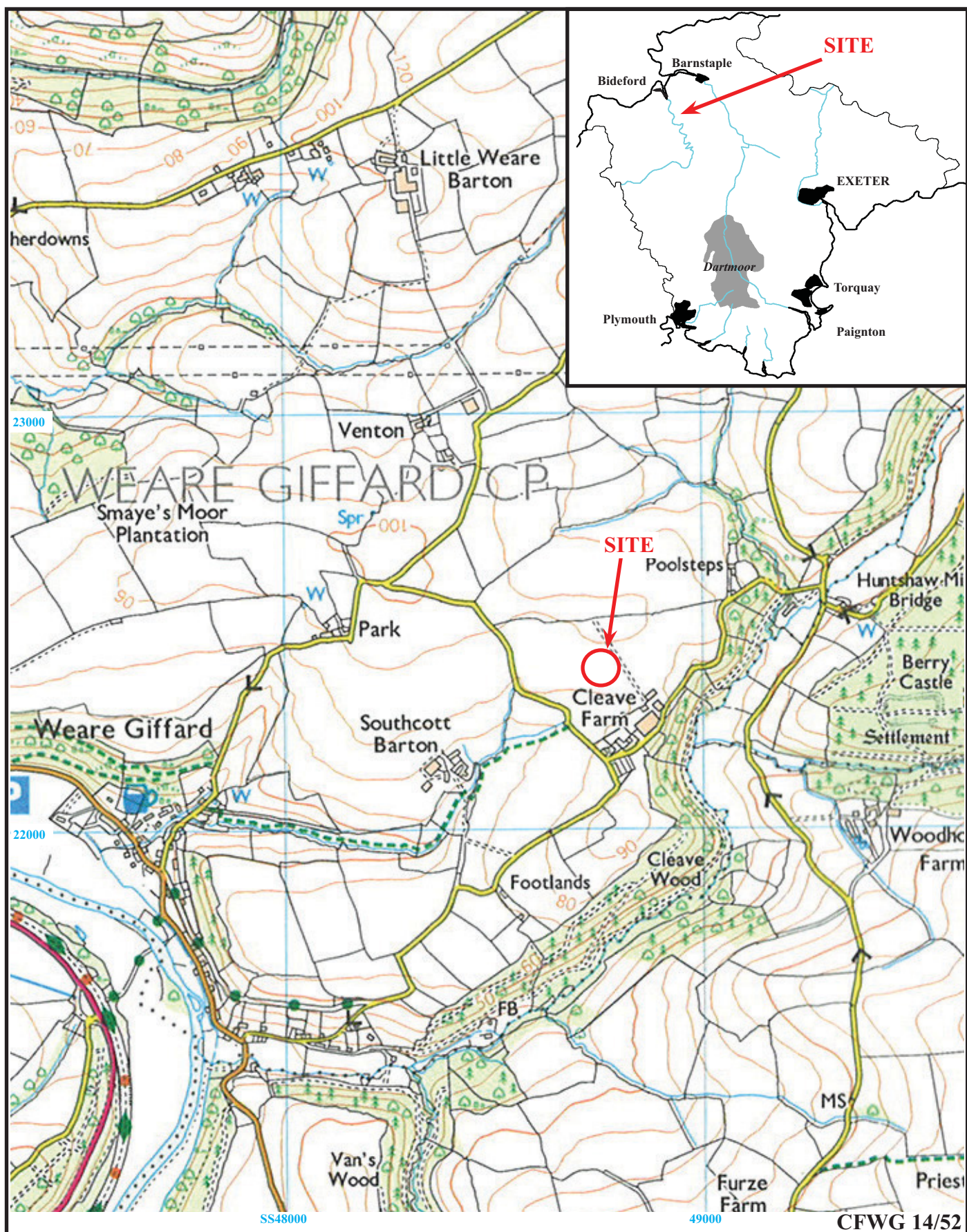
No archaeological features were encountered along the length of the cable trenches, modern services including drainage pipes, land drains and electric cables were encountered along the length of the trenches and showed clearly as cut features though both the subsoil and underlying red clays with sandstone fragments. If archaeological features had been present they too would have been seen as either subsoil/natural cut features or natural cut features. The only artefacts away from the made ground that were recovered from the spoil heaps were modern and related to farming activity, such as lengths of bailing twine.

The area of the access road and turbine were only stripped of topsoil and overburden to a maximum depth which was still within the subsoil. No subsoil cut features were located and if any features were present cut into the red clay beneath they would have been preserved *in situ*. The red clay with sandstone fragments may be a colluvial deposit which overlays the sandstone natural on the slopes of the valley

## **References**

BGS, 1977, *British Geological Survey*, 1:50,000, Sheet 292, Solid and Drift Edition, Keyworth  
NPPF, 2010, *National Planning Policy Framework*, The Stationery Office, Norwich  
Williams, A and Martin, G, H., 2002, *Domesday Book, a complete translation*, London





**Cleave Farm Wind Turbine, Weare Giffard,  
Bideford, Devon, 2014**

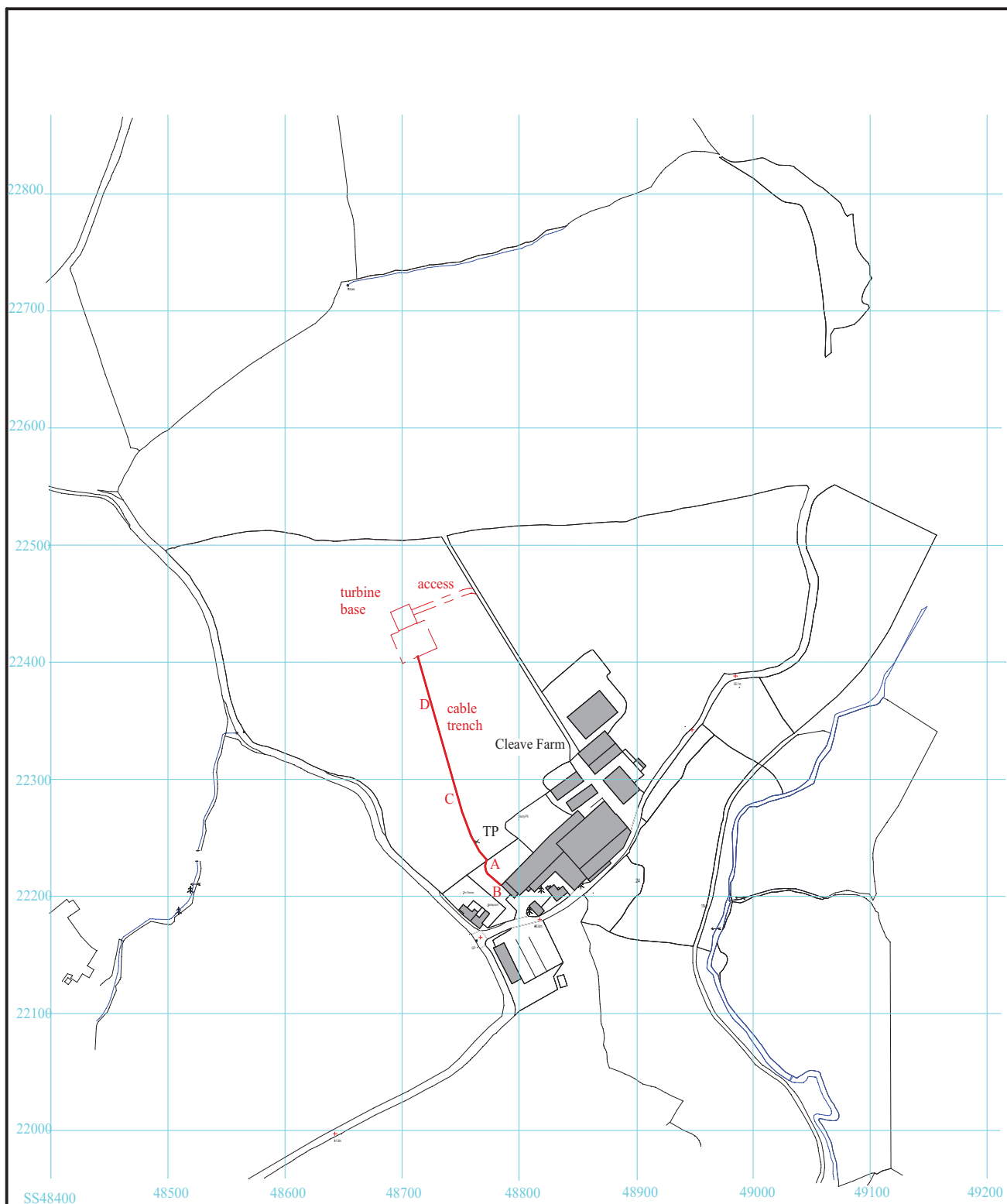
**Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 1. Location of site in relation to Weare Giffard,  
Bideford and within Devon.

Reproduced from Ordnance Survey Explorer 139 at 1:12500  
Ordnance Survey Licence 100025880

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH WEST





CFWG 14/52



**Cleave Farm Wind Turbine, Weare Giffard, Bideford,  
Devon, 2014**  
**Archaeological watching brief**

Figure 2. Location of site.

0 250m

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH WEST



Plate 1.Strip for turbine base, looking north east, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 2. Pipe trench, looking south towards Cleave Farm.

CFWG 14/52

**Cleave Farm Wind Turbine, Weare Giffard, Bideford,  
Devon, 2014**  
Archaeological watching brief  
Plates 1 - 2.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH WEST





Plate 3. Turbine base section, looking north-east, Scales: 1m and 0.3m.



Plate 4. Pipe trench, looking south within northern part of Cleave Farm. Scales: 2m, 1m.

CFWG 14/52

**Cleave Farm Wind Turbine, Weare Giffard, Bideford,  
Devon, 2014**  
**Archaeological watching brief**  
Plates 3 - 4.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH WEST





Plate 5. Representative section of cable trench (A), looking south-east, Scales: 2m, 1m.



Plate 6. Southern representative cable trench section close to Cleave Farm (B), looking south-east, Scale: 1m.

CFWG 14/52

**Cleave Farm Wind Turbine, Weare Giffard, Bideford,  
Devon, 2014**  
**Archaeological watching brief**  
Plates 5 - 6.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH WEST





Plate 7. Representative section of cable trench (C), looking north-west, Scales: 2m and 1m.



Plate 8. Northern representative cable trench section close to new turbine base (D), looking north-east, Scales: 2m and 1m.

CFWG 14/52

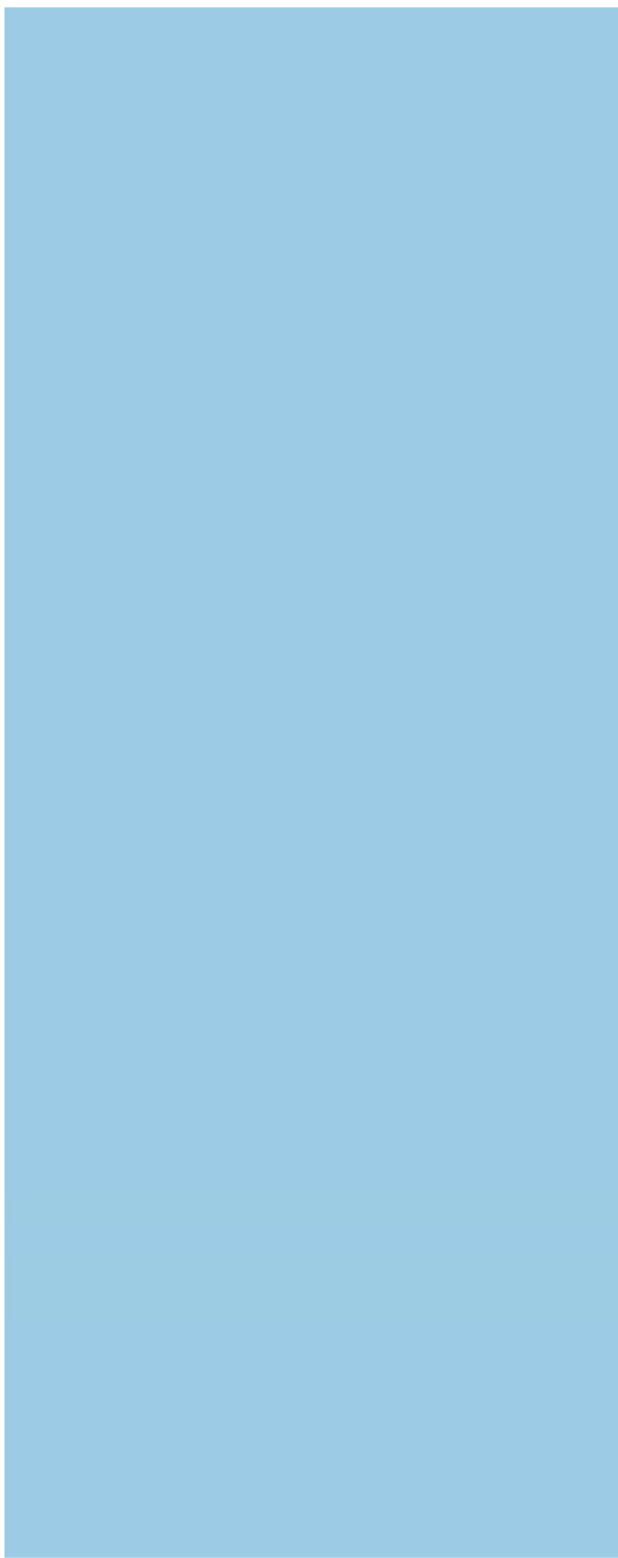
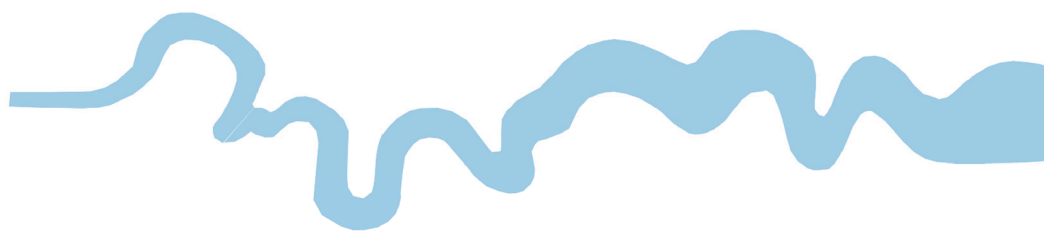
**Cleave Farm Wind Turbine, Weare Giffard, Bideford,  
Devon, 2014**  
**Archaeological watching brief**  
Plates 7 - 8.

THAMES VALLEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SERVICES  
SOUTH WEST



## TIME CHART

	Calendar Years
Modern _____	AD 1901
Victorian _____	AD 1837
Post Medieval _____	AD 1500
Medieval _____	AD 1066
Saxon _____	AD 410
Roman _____	AD 43
Iron Age _____	BC/AD 750 BC
Bronze Age: Late -----	1300 BC
Bronze Age: Middle -----	1700 BC
Bronze Age: Early -----	2100 BC
Neolithic: Late .....	3300 BC
Neolithic: Early .....	4300 BC
Mesolithic: Late .....	6000 BC
Mesolithic: Early .....	10000 BC
Palaeolithic: Upper .....	30000 BC
Palaeolithic: Middle .....	70000 BC
Palaeolithic: Lower .....	2,000,000 BC
↓	↓



**TVAS (South West),  
Unit 21 Apple Business Centre,  
Frobisher Way, Taunton,  
Somerset, TA2 6BB**

**Tel: 01823 288 284  
Fax: 01823 272 462  
Email: [southwest@tvas.co.uk](mailto:southwest@tvas.co.uk)  
Web: [www.tvas.co.uk](http://www.tvas.co.uk)**