ARCHAEOLOGY ENGLAND

Archaeological Trenched Evaluation:

Ford Oaks Solar and Green Infrastructure Facility, Marsh Green, Exeter, Devon

June 2022

Report No. 2097

By

John Davey and Juan Moreno

REGISTERED ORGANISATION CIfA

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Prepared for Heritage Archaeology Ltd

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Contents

List of Tables

Appendices

Figures

Plates

Non-Technical Summary

Archaeology England conducted an archaeological trenched evaluation on the site of the proposed Ford Oaks Solar and Green Infrastructure Facility, Marsh Green, Exeter, Devon, EX5 2EU *(centred on NGR:* SY 0407 9346*) during May and June 2022. The work comprised the excavation of 12 Evaluation Trenches in two separate locations approximately 800m apart. The southern field (centred on SY 0374 9293) contained four 1.8m x 30m trenches; and the northern field (centred on SY 0375 9388) contained eight 1.8m x 30m trenches.*

*A planning application (*reference 22/0990/MFUL*) is being prepared for permission for a renewable energy scheme comprising ground mounted photovoltaic arrays with associated substation, landscaping and biodiversity measures, fencing, access gate and ancillary infrastructure. The Historic environment assessments undertaken for the application to date comprise: Desk-based assessment; Site walkover survey; and Geophysical survey.*

The evaluation followed on from a geophysical survey of the site which recorded several magnetic anomalies interpreted as potentially indicative of the remains of ditched enclosures. Following consultation with the Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET) it was agreed that the proposed layout of the solar farm would be altered to avoid potential archaeological features. The trenches were subsequently located to test 'blank' areas on the geophysical survey where solar panels or associated infrastructure would be constructed.

No archaeological features were recorded in the northern field (Area 2) and two linears interpreted as a post-medieval field boundary and a land drain were recorded in the southern field (Area 1).

All work was undertaken in accordance with the standards and guidelines of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (2020).

1 Introduction

1.1.1 In May 2022, Archaeology England was commissioned by Enzygo Ltd for Low Carbon Alliance; and Heritage Archaeology Ltd who are acting as their consultant, to carry out an archaeological field evaluation on the site of the proposed Ford Oaks Solar and Green Infrastructure Facility, Marsh Green, Exeter, Devon, EX5 2EU. The site is centred on NGR: SY 0407 9346 (Figures 1 and 2). A planning application (reference 22/0990/MFUL) is being prepared for permission for a renewable energy scheme comprising ground mounted photovoltaic arrays with associated substation, landscaping and biodiversity measures, fencing, access gate and ancillary infrastructure. A pre-application enquiry was made to East Devon District Council (EDDC) for a proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure, reference 21/0155/PREAPP.

1.1.2 The Historic environment assessments undertaken for the application to date comprise: Desk-Based Assessment; Site Walkover Survey; and Geophysical Survey. Consultation has been ongoing between Heritage Archaeology Ltd and the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET) and this trenched evaluation phase of mitigation is based on the most recent engagement with them (16 March 2022), which was undertaken following the results of the geophysical survey (Kelly, 2022).

1.1.3 An outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was written by Heritage Archaeology (Kelly 2022; Appendix III) and approved in May 2022 by Devon County Historic Environment Team (DCHET) in their capacity as archaeological advisors to EDDC. A detailed method statement was subsequently prepared by Archaeology England in May 2022 (Davey, 2022; Appendix IV) and approved by DCHET. The WSI and Method Statement outline the scope of works, aims and objectives of the archaeological mitigation.

1.1.4 The work progressed in a phased manner, with each phase monitored by DCHET who then outlined the nature of any further mitigation work required. The field work was carried out under the supervision of Juan Moreno (PhD) with James Toseland, Einir Smith and John Davey (PhD MCIfA) all of Archaeology England. The trenched evaluation of the southern field (Trenches 1-4) was undertaken between 25th – 27th May 2022 and the northern field (Trenches 5-12) between 27th May 2022 – 1st June 2022. All elements of the project were managed by John Davey.

1.1.5 All work conformed to *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (CIfA 2020) and *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Artefact and Environmental Collection, Documentation Conservation and Research* (CIfA 2020).

2 Site description and archaeological background

2.1 Location, Topography and geology

Southern Field (Area 1)

2.1.1 The southern field lies approximately 700m to the south-southwest of Marsh Green on the north side of Withy Bed Lane, 75m west of the junction with Quarter Mile Lane. The proposed development area within this field is approximately 2.7ha and comprises the upper southern part of a larger pasture field. Ground level within the application site rises to c.90m aOD in the northeast and falls away to c.80m aOD in the southwest.

Northern Field (Area 2)

2.1.2 The northern field lies approximately 400m to the west-northwest of Marsh Green on the south side of Parsons Lane and is bounded to the west by the A30 trunk Road. The field covers an area of around 6.2ha and comprises improved pasture. Ground level rises from c.65m aOD in the north and east to c.70m aOD in the south and west.

Geology

2.1.3 **Southern field (Area 1)**: The underlying geology of the southern field comprises mudstone of the Aylesbeare Mudstone Group. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 247 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period. Superficially, the southern part of the southern field comprises Head, 1 - Clay, Silt, Sand and Gravel. Superficial Deposits formed up to 3 million years ago in the Quaternary Period. (BGS 2022).

2.1.4 **Northern field (Area 2):** The underlying geology of the northern field comprises mudstone of the Aylesbeare Mudstone Group. Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 247 to 252 million years ago in the Triassic Period. (BGS 2022). No superficial deposits are mapped within the area of the northern field.

2.2 A**rchaeological and historical background** (Kelly, 2022)

2.2.1 The area of the development site is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping (1:10,560 – 1890-1891) as within an area of enclosed fields with an irregular pattern, indicating fields created prior to formal Parliamentary enclosure, typically during the 18th century, or possibly earlier. The field pattern shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey is little changed from the Tithe Maps for Aylesbeare and Rockbeare (1845 and 1844 respectively). This field pattern remained largely unchanged into the 20th century and is still discernible, although there has been a large amount of boundary loss.

2.2.2 Lidar data for the site shows former field boundaries, ponds and extraction pits annotated on historic mapping and modern land drains. The site is recorded by the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project as medieval enclosures based on strip fields; this area was probably first enclosed with hedge-banks during the later middle-ages. The curving form of the hedge-banks suggests that earlier it may be farmed as open strip-fields. The southern and western-most parts of the site have had the most extensive boundary loss and are recorded by the HLC project as modern enclosures; these modern fields have been created out of probable medieval enclosures.

2.2.3 A geophysical survey was undertaken within the proposed development area (Edwards and Trick 2021). The geophysical survey was undertaken in accordance with an approved WSI and focused on those parts of the site topographically suited to that technique and agreed with the DCC Historic Environment Team during a site walkover.

2.2.4 The survey concluded that the methodology had been successful in detecting and locating anomalies of potential archaeological origin and anomalies likely to belong to the modern period. Anomalies identified included probable former field boundaries and three groups interpreted as representing potential cultivation patterns. Three groups of anomalies related to modern buried pipeline and pylons. Two possible ditched enclosures potentially indicating prehistoric activity were identified within the site at its north-western and south-eastern extents. These areas are topographically the higher, more level parts of the site.

2.2.5 There are eight non-designated heritage assets within the proposed development site, six are recorded from the historic environment record data or historic mapping and two from the geophysical survey data. Two relate to possible enclosures that could be indicative of prehistoric archaeology within the site. Five are related to the post medieval agricultural use of the site and include extraction pits and field barns. One is the site of a Second World War searchlight battery *Marsh Green*.

2.3 Map Regression

OS First Series, Sheet 22, 1809, 1:63360

(https://www.visionofbritain.org.uk/maps/sheet/first_edition/sheet22_sweng - accessed 09/06/2022)

2.3.1 This large scale map does not show individual field boundaries, although the current road layout (other than the modern A30 dual carriageway) is clearly recognisable as already in existence at that time. This includes Withybed Lane, Quarter mile Lane, Parson's Lane and the layout of the village of Marsh Green. The location of the southern and northern fields lie either side of an east-west aligned stream valley which is a tributary to Crann Brook, itself a tributary of the Clyst.

Tithe Map, Parish of Rockbeare in the County of Devon, Rockbeare, 1844, 3 chains/inch

2.3.2 The northern and southern fields both lay within the parish of Rockbeare at the time of the Tithe Map. Withy bed Lane, on the south side of the southern field formed the southern boundary of Rockbeare parish. This remarkably accurate and detailed map indicates that the southern field was subdivided in to two separate plots at that time, numbered 456 and 458. The former ditched boundary between the two is still visible on the ground as a slight earthwork depression. The northern field was subdivided in to four plots numbered 474, 475, 476 and 476a. A pond is depicted at the junction of plots 475, 476 and 476a which is still in existence. The northwest corner of plot 476 has now been truncated by the route of the modern A30 dual carriageway.

Table 1: Extract from Rockbeare Tithe Apportionment, 1843

Owner	Occupier	Plot	Estate	Name	use	Acres	Rods	Perches
Thomas Porter Esquire	Richard Skinner	456		Little Western Hill	Arable	2	3	29
Thomas Porter Esquire	Richard Skinner	458		Great Western Hill	Pasture	3	0	12
Thomas Porter Esquire	John Symons	474	Cottles	Parsons Field	Pasture	2	1	13
Reverend John Elliott	Reverend John Elliott	475	Westcotts	Seven Acre Marles	Arable	7	0	38
Reverend John Elliott	Reverend John Elliott	476	Westcotts	Barn Marles	Pasture	5	2	22
Reverend John Elliott	Reverend John Elliott	476.1	Westcotts	Copse Marles	Pasture	4	2	14

Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile Devon sheet LXXXI.3 Surveyed: 1888, Published: 1889

2.3.3 This large-scale map covers the northern site. It clearly shows that Tithe fields 476 and 476a at the western end of the northern field, had been amalgamated in to a single field in the intervening period since 1844.

Ordnance Survey 25 inch to the mile Devon LXXXI.7 Surveyed: 1888, Published: 1889

2.3.4 This large-scale map covers the southern site. No discernible change from the Tithe Map.

Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to the mile Devon LXXXI.3, Revised: 1903, Published: 1905

2.3.5 This large-scale map covers the northern site. No discernible change from the preceding map.

Ordnance Survey, 25 inch to the mile, Devon LXXXI.7, Revised: 1903, Published: 1905

2.3.6 This large-scale map covers the southern site. No discernible change from the preceding map.

Ordnance Survey County Series, 6" to the mile, Devonshire Sheet LXXXI.NE, Revised: 1938, Published: ca. 1944

2.3.7 This smaller scale map covers both the northern and southern sites. No discernible change from the preceding maps.

Ordnance Survey Plan, 1:10,000, sheet SY09SW – A, Surveyed / Revised: Pre-1930 to 1961, Published: 1962

2.3.8 This smaller scale map covers both the northern and southern sites. No discernible change from the preceding maps.

Ordnance Survey Plan, 1:10,000, sheet SY09SW – A, Surveyed / Revised: 1966 to 1970, Published: 1971

2.3.9 No discernible change from the preceding map, other than the construction of the overhead power line running across the northern field.

2.3.10 The only subsequent changes have been the removal of the subdividing field boundary in the southern field, the removal of all subdividing boundaries in the northern field. Google Earth imagery indicates that this process was complete by 2003. The construction of the A30 dual carriageway across the NW corner of the northern field was undertaken in 1996.

3 Aims and Objectives (Kelly 2022)

3.1.1 The programme of archaeological investigation (archaeological trenched evaluation, post excavation assessment, analysis, publication, and archiving) is commensurate to the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey (Figures 3 & 4).

3.1.2 The programme of work specifically aims to further characterise the potential archaeological deposits identified through corroborative evidence from all the non-intrusive surveys. This is consistent with the NPPF at paragraph 194.

3.1.3 The research objectives of the South West Archaeological Research Framework were taken into account in determining an appropriate and proportionate archaeological programme of work.

4 Methodology

4.1 Overview

4.1.1 The work was undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (2020).

4.1.2 Archaeology England contacted The Royal Albert Memorial Museum on the 23/5/2022, prior to the archaeological mitigation works commencing on site. The Royal Albert Memorial Museum reference number for the site is RAMM: 22/36.

4.2 Trenched Evaluation Methodology

4.2.1 The location of the evaluation trenches was set out and recorded on British National Grid (NGR) co-ordinates with GPS surveying equipment. The position and size of Trench 9 was adjusted on site at the request of DCHET in order to test the terminus of an 'L' shaped

linear anomaly recorded during the geophysical survey (Figure 4). Initially, all excavation works comprised the mechanical removal of non-archaeologically significant modern overburden, under constant archaeological supervision, using a toothless ditching bucket. All machining was conducted under archaeological supervision and ceased when the first archaeological horizon or natural substrate was revealed (whichever was encountered first). All archaeological features were recorded in plan, utilising GPS which enabled the production of accurate plan drawings at a scale of 1:20. The final 'as dug' areas were recorded accurately with GPS.

4.2.2 Examination of features concentrated on recovering the plan and any structural sequences. Emphasis was placed upon gaining a secure understanding of the stratigraphic and chronological development of the site, and on upon obtaining details of the phasing of the site. Mechanical assistance was utilised to remove bulk horizontal deposits, only with the express agreement of DCHET, in order to ensure the excavations permitted satisfactory examination of the earliest phases of archaeological activity present.

4.2.3 Sample excavation of archaeological deposits was undertaken in accordance with the methodology set out below, and was limited and minimally intrusive, sufficient to achieve the objectives identified in Section 3 above. There was no requirement to sample all archaeological features encountered. Where appropriate excavation was undertaken in such a way as to allow for the subsequent protection of remains either for conservation or to allow more detailed investigations to be conducted under better conditions at a later date. The following excavation strategy was employed.

- Topsoil and spoil heaps were checked for lithic artefacts, and spoil heaps scanned with a metal detector for metal artefacts.
- Small discrete features were fully excavated
- Larger discrete features were, as a minimum, half-sectioned (50% excavated)
- Long linear features were typically 50% sample excavated (i.e. half the length of their exposure, most typically 1m) in each trench where they were exposed.
- Ditch terminals and intersections between features were not generally fully-excavated at this stage, so as not to unnecessarily compromise the integrity of the archaeological record. However, hand-cleaning and limited intervention was undertaken to try and deduce stratigraphic relationships.
- One long face of each trench was cleaned by hand to allow the site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features. The exception to this was where trenches contained no archaeological features, or where topsoil and subsoil are exceptionally shallow.
- The full depth of archaeological deposits was assessed although not necessarily to natural deposits where it was clear that complex and deep stratigraphy was encountered.

4.2.4 Any variation of the above was undertaken only with the express agreement of the client and DCHET.

4.2.5 All archaeological features revealed were planned and recorded in accordance with industry standards. Each context was recorded on a pro-forma context sheet by written and measured description; principal deposits recorded by drawn plans (scale 1:20) or electronically using GPS as appropriate and drawn sections (scale 1:10 or 1:20 as appropriate). Photographs (digital colour) were taken as appropriate. Finds and samples were bagged separately and related to the context record. All artefacts recovered were retained for processing and analysis.

5 Results

5.1 Overview

5.1.1 The evaluation consisted of 12 evaluation trenches excavated across 2 fields. The trenches were machine dug to the top of any archaeological features or the geological natural layers, whichever was reached first. All trenches measured 30m long and 1.8m wide, unless otherwise stated, individual depths are provided for each trench below.

Table 2: Trench Summary

Trench Number	Area	Dimensions	Orientation	Plan	Section	Content
1	1	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.45m	N-S	Fig. 5	Fig. 10	Archaeologically Sterile
2	1	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.55m	NE-SW	Fig. 6	Fig. 10	PM/Modern linear ditch [2003]
3	1	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.45m	E-W	Fig. 5	Fig. 10	Archaeologically Sterile
4	1	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.29m	N-S	Fig. 5	Fig. 10	stone filled field drain [4003]
5	2C	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.25m	NW-SE	Fig. 8	Fig. 10	Archaeologically Sterile

6	2C	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.30m	N-S	Fig. 8	Fig. 10	Archaeologically Sterile
7	2C	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.32m	N-S	Fig. 8	Fig. 10	Archaeologically Sterile
8	2C	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.32m	NW-SE	Fig. 8	Fig. 10	Archaeologically Sterile
9	2W	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.31m	NE-SW	Fig. 7	Fig. 10	Archaeologically Sterile
10	2W	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.30m	NW-SE	Fig. 7	Fig. 10	Archaeologically Sterile
11	2E	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.45m	N-S	Fig. 9	Fig. 11	Archaeologically Sterile
12	2E	L:30m x W:1.8m x D:0.35m	E-W	Fig. 9	Fig. 11	Archaeologically Sterile

5.2 Trench 1 (Plates 1-2, Figures 5 and 10)

5.2.1 Trench 1 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m. It was oriented north to south and located to the west side of area 1 (Southern field). Trench 1 was positioned to investigate linear anomalies recorded during the earlier geophysical survey (Edwards and Trick 2021).

5.2.2 The natural (1002) was encountered at a depth of c.0.29m across the whole of Trench 1. It consisted of firm brown-yellow sandy clay. The natural contained a mix of angular and sub-angular and rounded stones and pebbles. The average stone measured 50-100mm across. The soil also contained patches of manganese recorded throughout the trench.

5.2.3 The natural (1002) was overlain by subsoil layer (1001) measuring c. 0.17m thick and comprising a friable light brown clayey sandy silt containing occasional angular, sub-angular, rounded stones and cobbles (50-100mm). Overlying (1001) was moderately firm

topsoil (1000) measuring c.0.12m thick and comprising a brown sandy clay and turf with frequent rooting. No archaeological features were observed in Trench 1.

5.3 Trench 2 (Plates 3-4; Figures 6 and 11)

5.3.1 Trench 2 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.55m. It was oriented northeast to southwest and was located in the central part of Area 1 (Southern field). Trench 2 was positioned to investigate linear anomalies recorded during the earlier geophysical survey (Edwards and Trick 2021).

5.3.2 The natural (2002) was encountered at a depth of c.0.23m across Trench 2. It consisted of a firm orange-brown sandy clay. The natural contained frequent rounded and sub rounded stones and pebbles.

5.3.3 A single linear feature oriented obliquely north to south crossed the trench truncating the natural. The cut [2003] for the linear ditch was located c. 8.2m from the northeast end of Trench 2. The ditch cut had sloped sides and an irregular concave base. It measured 2.5m long by 1.1m wide and was 0.48m deep (Plate 4). The ditch cut contained multiple fills (2004-6). The primary fill (2004) was 0.35m thick and consisted of soft malleable grey-brown silty clay containing occasional rounded and sub rounded pebbles. Overlying (2004) was (2005), a 0.10m thick layer comprising of soft malleable dark brown silty clay. The fill contained isolated rounded cobbles but lacked the small pebbles seen in layer (2004). Above (2005) was (2006), a 0.2-0.25m thick layer of firm orange sandy clay containing rounded cobbles (redeposited from the natural). No finds were recovered from the ditch fills. To the north-northwest of (2006) but only observed in section was deposit (2007), measuring 0.5m thick and comprising soft grey-brown silty clay containing rounded and sub rounded cobbles. Ditch [2003] is interpreted as the former field boundary subdividing the southern field, observed on the ground as a linear sunken earthwork and first recorded on the Rockbeare Tithe map of 1844. It was removed at some time between 1966 and 2003. Deposit (2007) is interpreted as disturbance from the removal of the former hedge accompanying the ditched boundary. It was abutted by a later levelling deposit (2006).

5.4 Trench 3 (Plates 5-6; Figures 5 & 10)

5.5.1 Trench 3 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m. It was oriented east to west and located to the west side of Area 1 (Southern Field) in order to test an area that did not contain any geophysical anomalies.

5.5.2 The natural (3002) was encountered at a depth of c. 0.22m across the whole of Trench 3. It consisted of firm brown-yellow sandy clay. The soil contained a mix of angular and sub-angular and rounded stones and pebbles. The average stone measured 50-100mm.

5.5.3 The natural (3002) was overlain by subsoil layer (3001) which measured c. 0.12m thick, comprising of friable light brown clayey sandy silt containing a mix of angular, sub-angular, rounded stones and pebbles measuring c. 100mm. Overlying (3001) was moderately firm topsoil (3000) measuring c.0.12m thick and comprising a brown-yellow

sandy clay and turf with frequent rooting. No archaeological features were recorded in Trench 3.

5.6 Trench 4 (Plates 7-8; Figures 5 & 10)

5.6.1 Trench 4 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.29m. It was oriented north to south and located to the east side of Area 1 (Southern Field) in order to test an area that did not contain any geophysical anomalies.

5.6.2 The natural (4002) was encountered at a depth of 0.19m across the entire trench. It consisted of a firm brown-yellow sandy clay. The soil contained a mix of angular and sub-angular and rounded stones and pebbles. The average stone measured 50-100mm. was encountered at the base of the trench. It consisted of firm brown-yellow sandy clay containing a mix of angular, sub-angular and rounded stones and pebbles. The average stone measured 50-100mm. It was overlain by a subsoil layer (4001) measuring c. 0.09m thick and comprising of a friable light brown silty sandy clay containing a mix of angular, sub-angular, rounded stones and pebbles measuring more than 10mm in diameter. Overlying (4001) was the moderately firm topsoil (4000) measuring c.0.10m thick and comprising of a moderately firm brown-yellow sandy clay and turf with frequent rooting.

5.6.3 A single stone filled field drain [4003] was observed in Trench 4 truncating layer (4001). The drain measured 0.50m wide and 2.2m in length as exposed within the trench and was oriented northwest to southeast. It was located approximately 10m north from the south end of the trench and contained frequent rounded and sub-rounded pebbles within a mid-brown silty clay matrix.

5.7 Trench 5 (Plates 9-10; Figures 8 & 10)

5.7.1 Trench 5 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.25m. It was oriented northwest to southeast and located in the northern part of Area 2 (Northern Field) in order to test an area that did not contain any geophysical anomalies.

5.7.2 The natural (5002) was encountered at a depth of c. 0.22m across Trench 5. It comprised a friable mid-brown and orange clay containing a moderate amount of poorly sorted small stones. Occasional rooting was present as well as patches of manganese staining.

5.7.3 The natural (5002) was overlain by a subsoil layer (5001) which measured c. 0.10m thick and comprised a friable mid orange-brown sandy clay containing moderate sub angular small stones. Patches of rooting and manganese staining were observed within the layer. Overlying (5001) was the friable mid orange-brown sandy clay topsoil (5000) measuring c.0.12m thick and containing small stones and frequent rooting. A single Iron nail and a fragment of glazed ceramic sherd were recovered from the topsoil. No archaeological features were recorded within Trench 5.

5.8 Trench 6 (Plates 11-12; Figures 8 & 10)

5.8.1 Trench 6 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m. The trench was oriented north to south and located in the northern part of Area 2 (Northern Field) in order to test an area that did not contain any geophysical anomalies.

5.8.2 The natural (6002) was encountered at a depth of c. 0.25m across Trench 6. It consisted of a firm mid-brown, orange clay and contained sparse rooting, manganese staining and occasional small sub angular and rounded stones. Plough scarring was also visible within the trench truncating the natural.

5.8.3 The natural (6002) was overlain by a subsoil layer (6001) measuring c. 0.10m thick and comprising a friable light brown-orange sandy clay containing moderate rooting, manganese staining and occasional small sub angular and rounded stones. Overlying (6001) was the friable topsoil (6000) measuring c.0.15m thick and comprising a mid-orange-brown sandy clay and turf with frequent rooting. Manganese staining was also visible. No archaeological features were recorded within Trench 6.

5.9 Trench 7 (Plates 13-14; Figures 8 & 10)

5.9.1 Trench 7 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.32m. The trench was oriented approximately north to south and located in the northern part of Area 2 (Northern Field) in order to test an area that did not contain any geophysical anomalies.

5.9.2 The natural (7002) was encountered at a depth of c. 0.27m across Trench 7 and consisted of a firm mid-brown, orange clay containing sparse rooting, manganese staining and occasional small sub angular and rounded stones.

5.9.3 The natural (7002) was overlain by a subsoil layer (7001) measuring c. 0.10m thick and comprising a friable light brown-orange sandy clay containing moderate rooting, manganese staining and occasional small sub angular and rounded stones. Overlying (7001) was friable topsoil (7000) measuring c.0.15m thick and comprising a mid-orange-brown sandy clay and turf with frequent rooting. Manganese staining was also visible. No archaeology features were recorded within the trench.

5.10 Trench 8 (Plates 15-16; Figures 8 & 10)

5.10.1 Trench 8 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.32m. The trench was oriented northwest to southeast and located in the central part of Area 2 (Northern Field) in order to test an area that did not contain any geophysical anomalies.

5.10.2 The natural (8002) was encountered at a depth of c. 0.30m across Trench 8 and consisted of a firm mid brown-orange clay containing sparse rooting, manganese staining and occasional small sub angular and rounded stones. Plough scarring was also visible throughout the trench truncating the natural.

5.10.3 The natural (8002) was overlain by a subsoil layer (8001) measuring c. 0.14m thick and comprising a friable slight brown-orange sandy clay containing moderate rooting, manganese staining and occasional small sub angular and rounded stones. Overlying (8001) was the friable topsoil (8000) measuring c.0.16m thick and comprising a mid-orange-brown sandy clay and turf with frequent rooting. Manganese staining was also visible. No archaeological features were recorded within the trench.

5.11 Trench 9 (Plates 17 & 18; Figures 7 & 10)

5.11.1 Trench 9 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.31m. The northeast end of the trench was realigned 60 degrees to the north and was oriented northeast to south west to investigate the possible terminus of an 'L' shaped anomaly recorded during the earlier geophysical survey (Edwards and Trick 2021). Trench 9 was located in the southwest part of Area 2 (Northern Field).

5.11.2 The natural (9002) was encountered at a depth of c. 0.26m across Trench 9 and consisted of a firm mid-brown, orange clay containing sparse rooting, manganese staining and occasional small sub angular and rounded stones. Plough scarring was also visible truncating the surface of the natural.

5.11.3 The natural (9002) was overlain by a subsoil layer (9001) measuring c. 0.14m thick and comprising a friable light brown-orange sandy clay containing dark grey loam patches (rooting and bioturbation), moderate rooting, rare manganese staining and occasional small sub angular and rounded stones. Overlying (9001) was the friable topsoil (9000) measuring c.012m thick and comprising of a mid-orange-brown sandy clay and turf with frequent rooting. No archaeological features were recorded, and the 'L' shaped geophysical anomaly is interpreted as resulting from a combination of plough scars on two different alignments.

5.12 Trench 10 (Plates 19-20; Figures 7 & 10)

5.12.1 Trench 10 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.30m. The trench was oriented northwest to southeast and was located in the southwest part of Area 2 (Northern Field) in order to test an area that did not contain any geophysical anomalies.

5.12.2 The natural (10002) was encountered at a depth of c. 0.30m across Trench 10 and consisted of a firm mid brown-orange clay containing sparse rooting, manganese staining and occasional small sub angular and rounded stones (<100mm). Plough scars spaced approximately 0.30 – 0.40m apart were also visible truncating the surface of the natural measuring c. 5cm in width.

5.12.3 The natural (10002) was overlain by a subsoil layer (10001) measuring c. 0.16m thick and comprising a friable light brown-orange silty sandy clay containing moderate rooting, occasional manganese staining and occasional small sub angular and rounded stones. The subsoil also contained patches of dark grey-brown soil caused by rodent burrowing. Overlying (10001) was the friable topsoil (10000) measuring c.0.11m thick and comprising a mid-orange-brown silty sandy clay and turf with frequent rooting and occasional small

rounded and sub angular stones and Manganese staining. No archaeological features were recorded within the trench.

5.13 Trench 11 (Plates 21-22; Figures 9 & 11)

5.13.1 Trench 11 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.45m. The trench was oriented north to south and located in the northeast part of Area 2 (Northern Field) in order to test an area that did not contain any geophysical anomalies.

5.13.2 The natural (11002) was encountered at a depth of c. 0.27m across Trench 11 and consisted of a firm mid brown-orange silty clay containing sparse rooting, occasional manganese staining and small sub angular and rounded stones.

5.13.3 The natural (11002) was overlain by a subsoil layer (11001) measuring c. 0.16m thick and comprising a firm light brown-mid orange sandy silty clay containing moderate rooting, occasional manganese staining and small rounded stones. Overlying (11001) was the firm topsoil (11000) measuring c.0.11m thick and comprising a mid-orange-brown sandy clay and turf with frequent rooting. Manganese staining was less noticeable. No archaeological features were recorded within the trench.

5.14 Trench 12 (Plates 23-24; Figures 9 & 11).

5.14.1 Trench 12 measured 30m long by 1.8m wide and was excavated to a maximum depth of 0.35m. The trench was oriented east to west and located in the northeast part of Area 2 (Northern Field) in order to test an area that did not contain any geophysical anomalies.

5.14.2 The natural (12002) was encountered at a depth of c. 0.25m across Trench 12. It consisted of a firm mid brown-orange silty clay containing sparse rooting, infrequent manganese staining and occasional small sub angular and rounded stones.

5.14.3 The natural (12002) was overlain by a subsoil layer (12001) measuring c. 0.15m thick and comprising a firm mid brown-orange sandy silty clay containing moderate rooting, infrequent manganese staining and occasional small, rounded stones. Overlying (12001) was the firm topsoil (12000) measuring c.0.10m thick and comprising a mid-orange-brown sandy clay and turf with frequent rooting, and occasional Manganese staining. No archaeological features were observed within the trench.

6 The Finds

6.1.1 A total of two artefacts weighing 8g each were recovered from the evaluation at Marsh Green, Exeter. Both were recovered from topsoil (5000) in Trench 5. These consisted of a single heavily abraded sherd of post medieval earthenware with a brown interior glaze, and a single square shafted iron nail, measuring 6cm in length, which is again likely to be post medieval in date.

6.1.2 Due to the lack of further finds, it is likely that these two artefacts represent residual inclusions within the topsoil. They are of no direct significance to the site and of no further archaeological value.

7 Discussions and Conclusions

7.1 Discussions

7.1.1 The trenched archaeological evaluation at Marsh Green, Exeter, Devon followed on from an earlier geophysical survey which had highlighted the potential for a large number of linear anomalies (Edwards and Trick 2021). The identified anomalies included probable former field boundaries, and three groups interpreted as representing potential cultivation patterns. Two possible ditched enclosures potentially indicating prehistoric activity were also identified within the site, at its northwest and southeast extents, on the higher, more level parts of the site. The development design has subsequently taken account of the results of those surveys and some areas of geophysical anomalies likely to represent prehistoric enclosures have been removed from the development footprint. The evaluation trenches were therefore located only in areas within the re-designed development footprint. These areas were largely devoid of geophysical anomalies. It is perhaps unsurprising then that no archaeological features were recorded in any of these trenches given that this negative result corresponds with the results of the geophysical survey.

7.1.2 Nevertheless, three trenches (Trenches 1 and 2 in Area 1 and Trench 9 in Area 2) were located over geophysical anomalies thought to represent the location of potential archaeological features. The east-west aligned linears expected in Trenches 1 and 2 were not present within the trenches. It is considered that these geophysical anomalies are rather the result of magnetic disturbance from the gas main running a few metres to the south.

7.1.3 A north-south aligned anomaly recorded in Trench 2 was shown to be an archaeological feature: ditch [2003]. No finds were recovered from the fill of this ditch, so its date of origin is unknown. Nevertheless, it is associated with a former field boundary recorded on the Rockbeare Tithe Map of 1844 that remained in use until sometime between 1966 and 2003. Its location is still visible as a slight earthwork. An additional east-west aligned linear feature was recorded within Trench 4 and interpreted as a post-medieval stone-filled land drain [4003].

7.1.4 Trench 9 in Area 2 was positioned to try and locate the terminus of an ‘L’-shaped geophysical anomaly. No archaeological features were recorded within this trench. However, the soil profile was very shallow throughout this northern field and it is possible that the magnetometer had picked up the slightly magnetically enhanced shallow fills of plough scars. These were seen to criss-cross in two separate directions across the field in a number of the trenches. It is possible that the ’L’ shaped anomalies represent areas where the plough scars ran a little deeper, triggering an enhanced magnetic response. Occasional patches of manganese staining were also recorded throughout Area 2. It is

possible that some geophysical anomalies represent an enhanced magnetic response from these manganese rich patches.

7.2 Conclusions

7.2.1 The excavations at Marsh Green, Exeter comprised the trenched evaluation of twelve 30m Trenches positioned across two separate fields located approximately 800m apart. The excavations have demonstrated that the proposed development, as currently designed, is highly unlikely to impact on any significant impact archaeological sub-surface remains.

8 Acknowledgements

8.1.1 Archaeology England would like to thank Joseph Pole and Helena Kelly of Heritage Archaeology Limited for their invaluable help and advice throughout the project.

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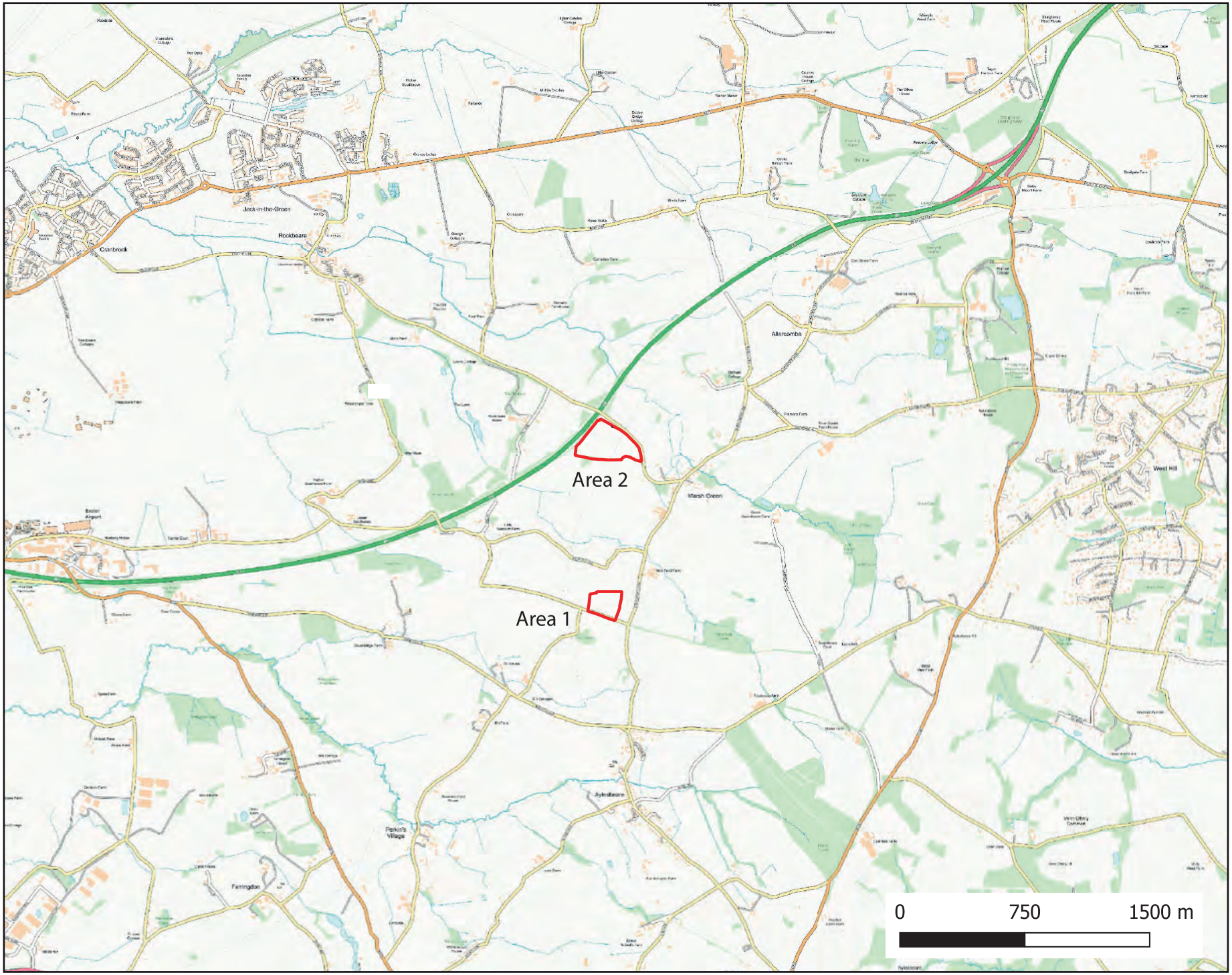

Figure 1: Location Plan

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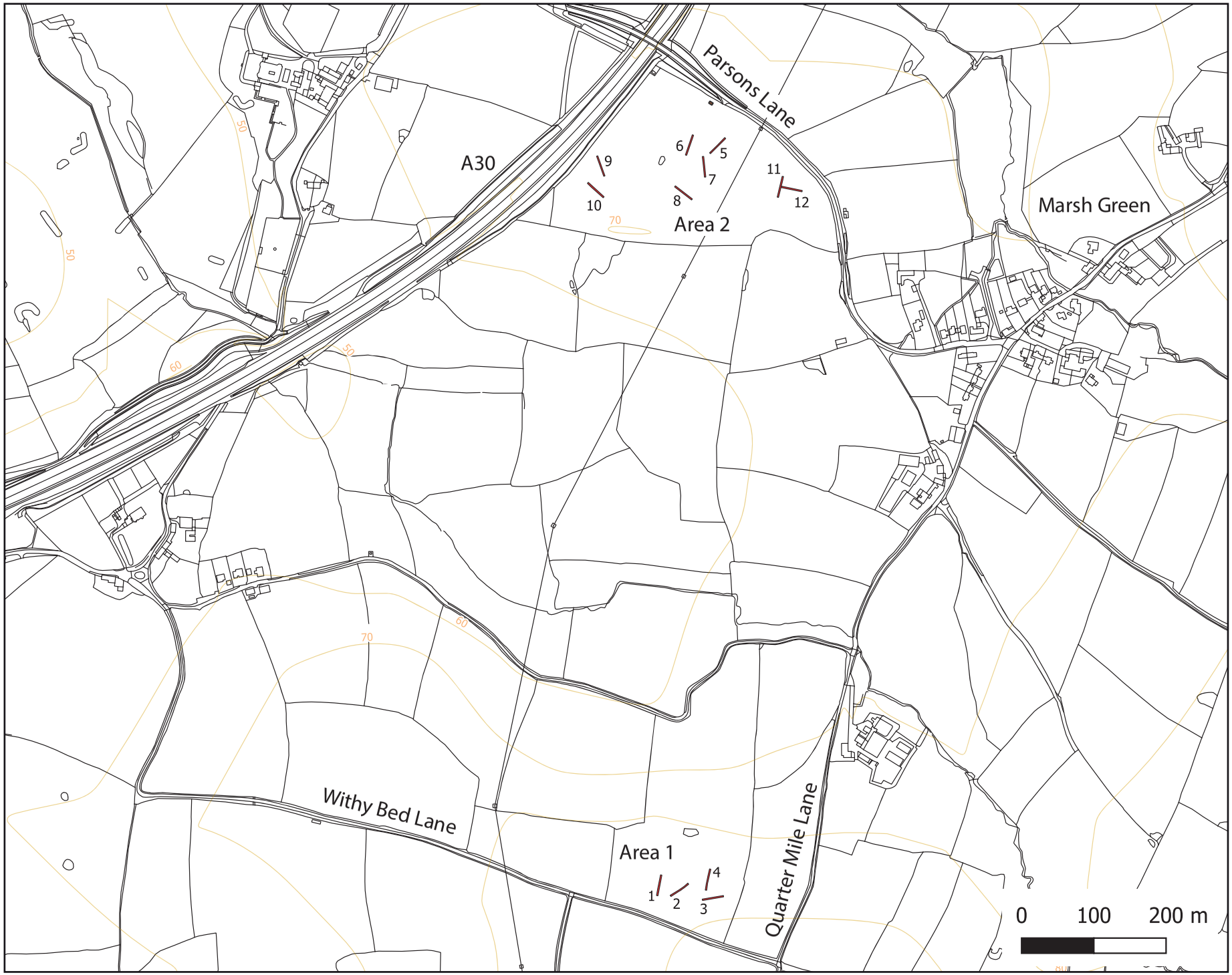

Figure 2: Trench Location Plan

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Figure 3: Area 1 Trench Plan: plotted against geophysical survey interpretation (After Kelly 2022; Edwards and Trick 2021)

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Figure 4: Area 2 Trench Plan: plotted against geophysical survey interpretation (After Kelly 2022; Edwards and Trick 2021)

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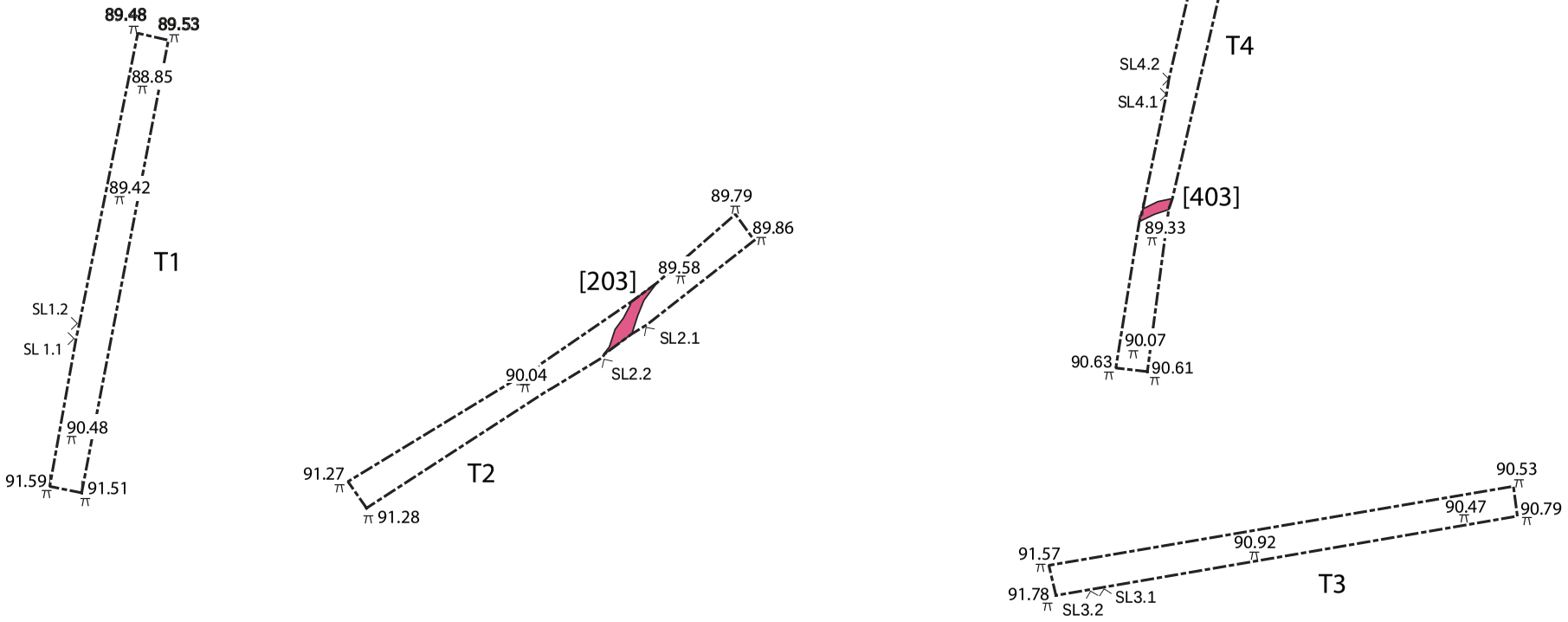

Figure 5: Area 1 Trench Plan

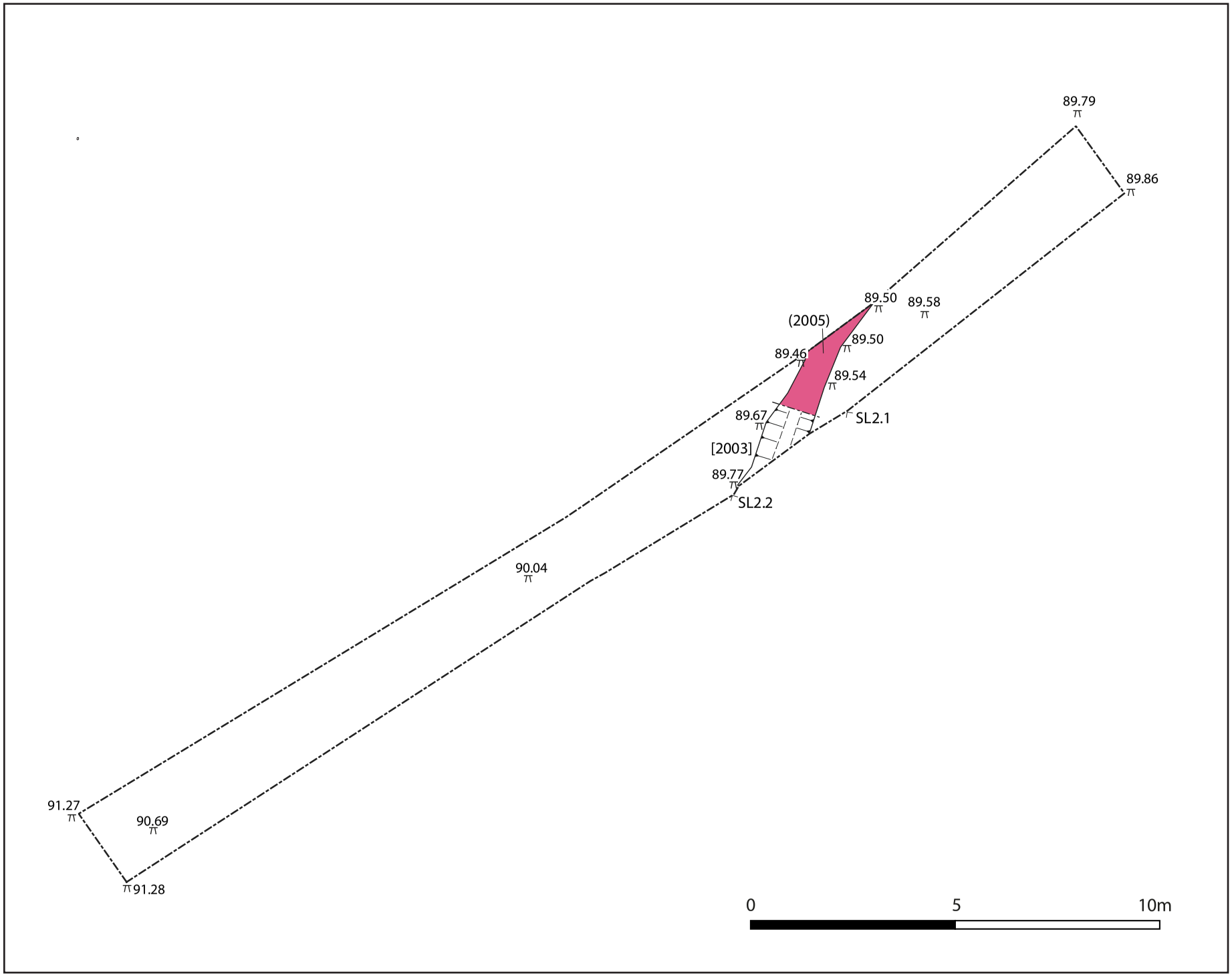

Figure 6: Trench 2 Excavation Plan

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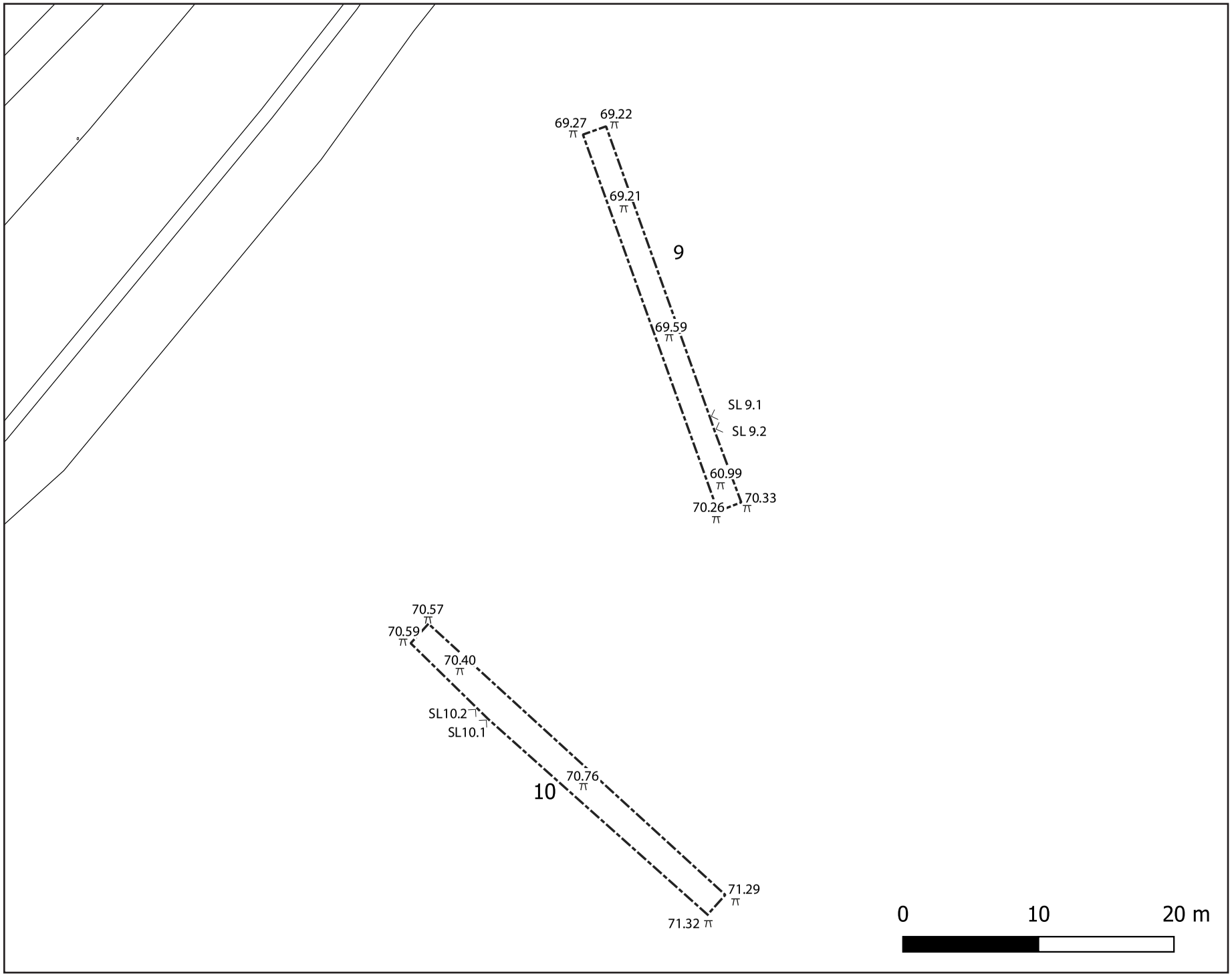

Figure 7: Area 2
W Trench Plan

ARCHAEOLOGY ENGLAND

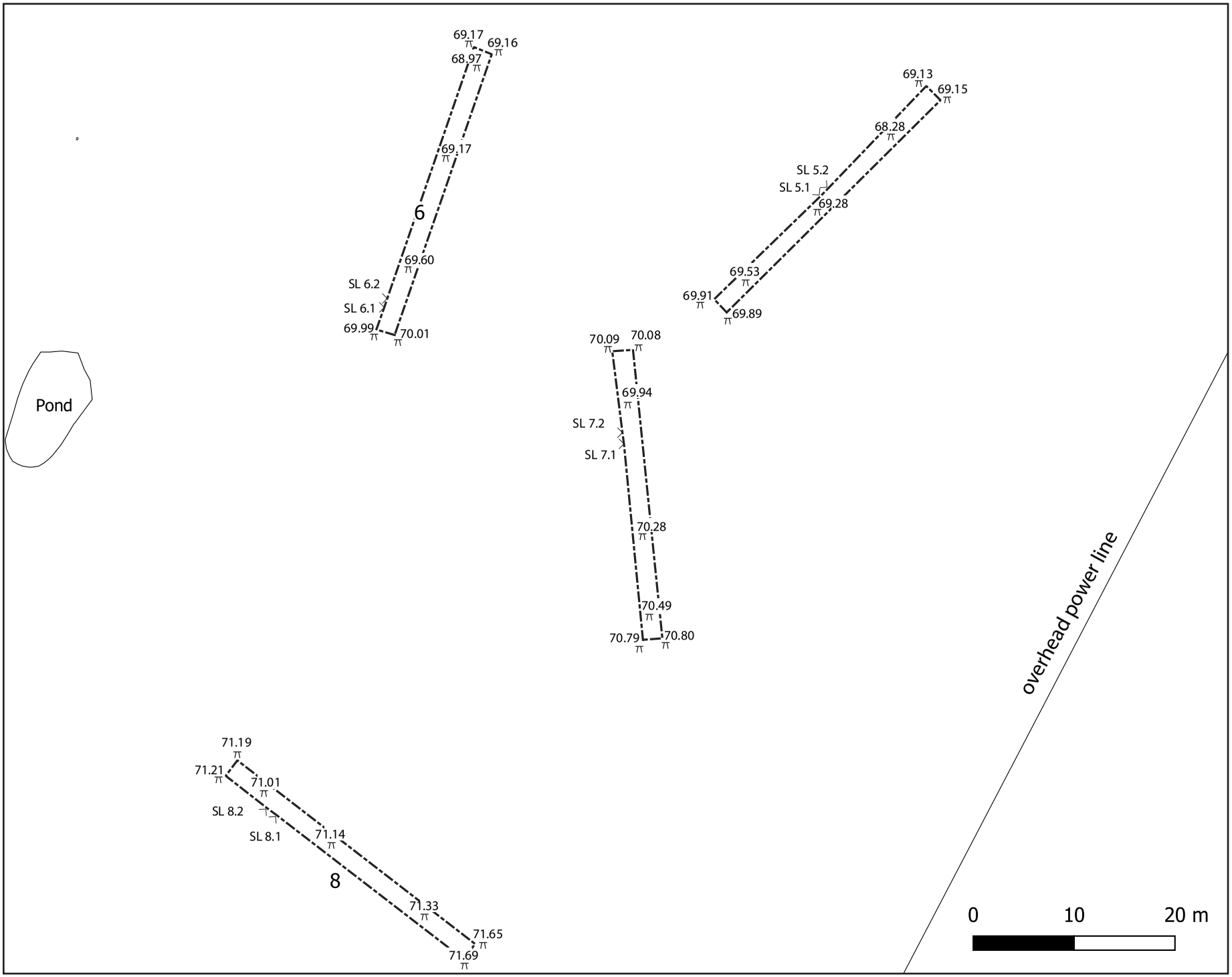

Figure 8: Area 2
Central Trench Plan

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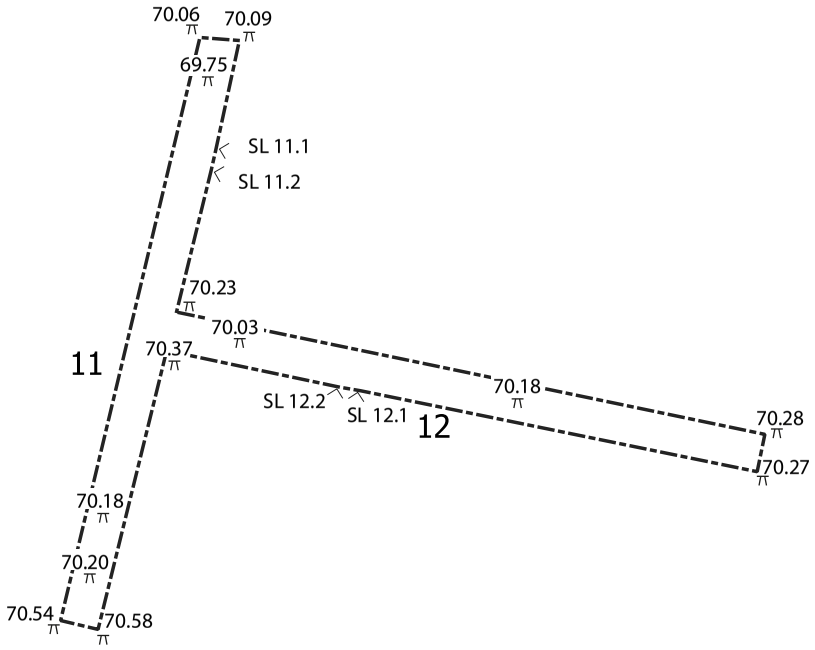

Figure 9: Area 2
East Trench Plan

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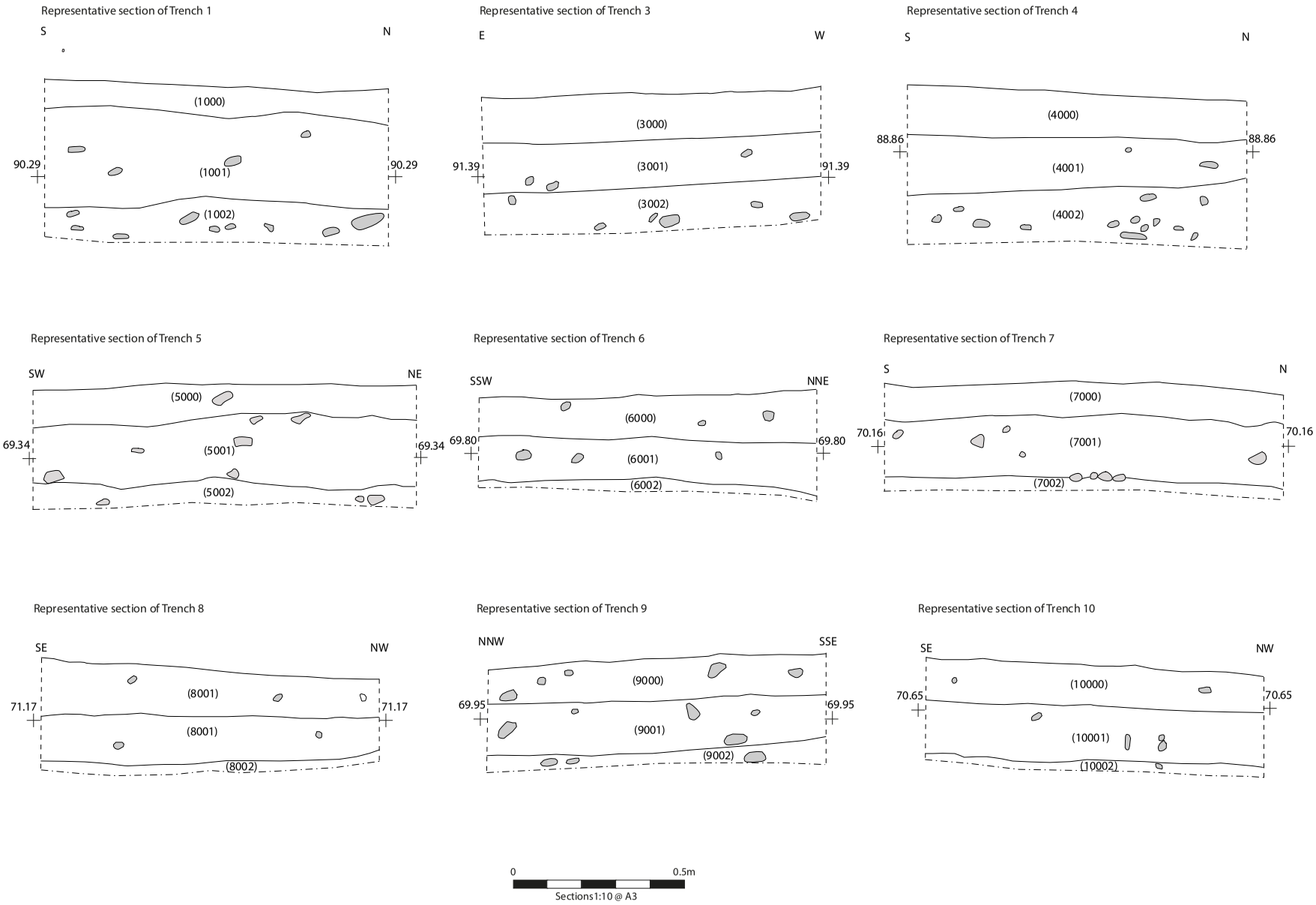

Figure 10: Trenches 1-10, Representative Sections

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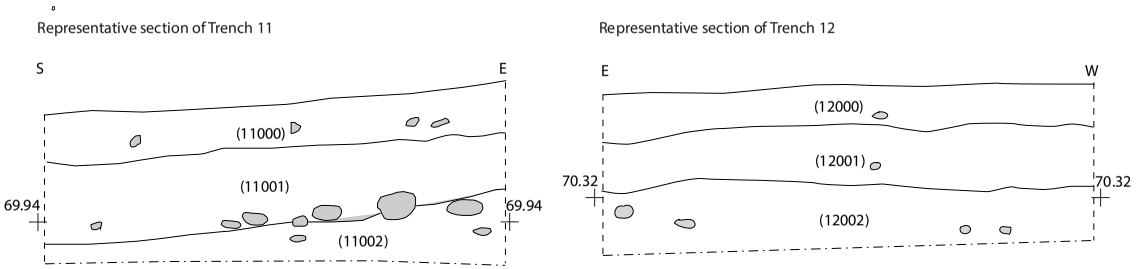

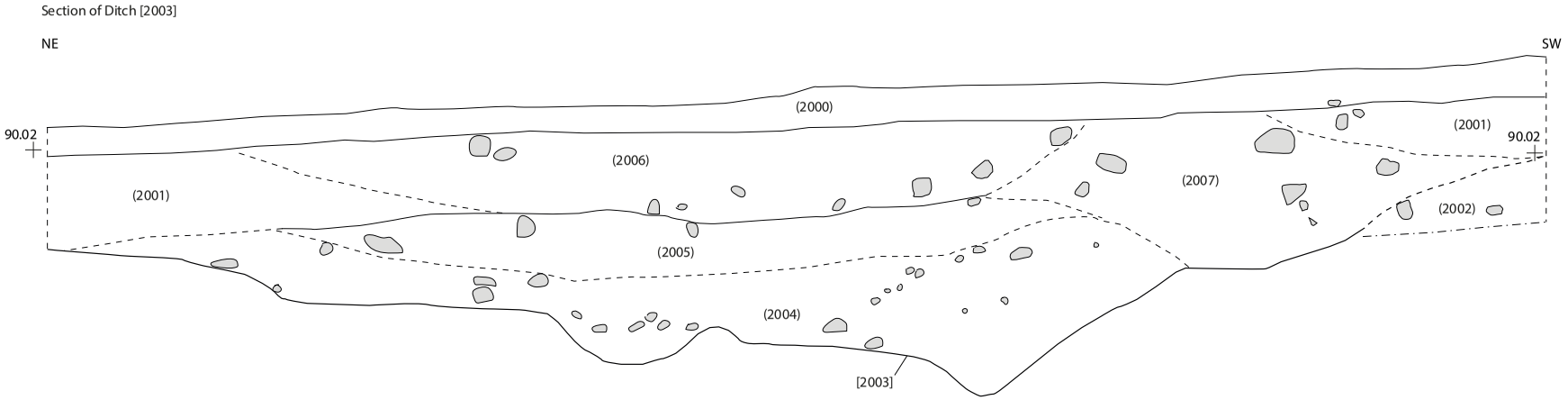

Figure 11:
Trenches 2 & 11-12
Sections

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Plate 1: Area 1, Trench 1, view to north. 2 x 1m scales.

Plate 2 : Area 1, Trench 1, representative east facing section, view to west. 1m scale.

Plate 3: Area 1, Trench 2, view to southwest. 2 x 1m scales.

Plate 4 : Area 1, Trench 2, northwest facing section cut [2003], view to southeast. 1m scale.

Plate 5 : Area 1, Trench 3, view to east northeast. 2 x 1m scales.

Plate 6 : Area 1, Trench 3, north northwest facing representative section, view to south southeast. 1m scale.

Plate 7: Area 1, Trench 4, view to east northeast. 2 x 1m scales.

Plate 8: Area 1, Trench 4, east facing representative section, view to west. 1m scale.

Plate 9: Area 2, Trench 5, View to SW, 2x 1m Scale

Plate 10: Area 2, Trench 5, southeast facing representative section, view to northwest. 1m scale.

Plate 11: Area 2, Trench 6, View to north northeast, 2x 1m Scale

Plate 12: Area 2, Trench 6, east southeast facing representative section, view to west northwest. 1m scale.

Plate 13: Area 2, Trench 7, View to south, 2x 1m Scale

Plate 14: Area 2, Trench 7, east facing representative section, view to west. 1m scale.

Plate 15: Area 2, Trench 8, View to southeast, 2x 1m Scale.

Plate 16: Area 2, Trench 8, northeast facing representative section, view to southwest. 1m scale.

Plate 17: Area 2, Trench 9, View to northwest, 2x 1m Scale.

Plate 18: Area 2, Trench 9, southwest facing representative section, view to northeast. 1m scale.

Plate 19: Area 2, Trench 10, View to northwest, 2x 1m Scale.

Plate 20: Area 2, Trench 10, northeast facing representative section, view to southwest . 1m scale.

Plate 21: Area 2, Trench 11, View to north, 2x 1m Scale.

Plate 22: Area 2, Trench 11, west facing representative section, view to east. 1m scale.

Plate 23: Area 2, Trench 12, View to east, 2x 1m Scale.

Plate 24: Area 2, Trench 12, north facing representative section, view to south. 1m scale.

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APPENDIX I:
Context Inventory

Context No.	Trench No.	Type	Description	Dimensions	Relationship
1000	1	Layer	Brown sand clay - turf/topsoil	L: > 30m x W: > 1.8m x D: 0.12m	Above (1001)
1001	1	Layer	Light brown to brown clay sand - subsoil	L: > 30m x W: > 1.8m x D: 0.17m	Below (1000) & Above (1002)
1002	1	Layer	Brown-yellow sand clay - natural	L: > 30m x W: > 1.8m x D: N/A	Below (1001)
2000	2	Layer	Light brown silt sand - topsoil	L: > 30m x W: > 1.8m x D: 0.1m	Above (2001)
2001	2	Layer	Light brown clay sand - subsoil	L: > 30m x W: > 1.8m x D: 0.13m	Below (2000), Above (2001)
2002	2	Layer	Orange-brown sand clay - natural	L: > 30m x W: > 1.8m x D: N/A	Below (2001)
2003	2	Cut	Cut of ditch	L: > 2.5m x W: 1.1m x D: 0.48m	Below (2004), (2005), (2006) & above (2002)
2004	2	Fill	Grey-brown silt clay - primary fill of ditch [2003]	L: > 2.5m x W: 1.1m x D: 0.35m	Below (2005), Above [2003],
2005	2	Layer	Dark brown silt clay - buried soil horizon	L: > 2.5m x W: 1.1m x D: 0.1m	Below (2006) & Above (2004)
2006	2	Layer	Orange sand clay - redeposited natural	L: > 2.5m x W: 1.1m x D: 0.2m	Below (2000) & Above (2005)
2007	2	Layer	Grey-brown silt clay	L: > 2.5m x W: 1.1m x D: 0.5m	Below (2000), Above (2002) & (2005), Abuts (2006)

3000	3	Layer	Light brown silt sand - topsoil	L: > 30m x W: > 1.8m x D: 0.10m	Above [3001]
3001	3	Layer	Light brown to brown clay sand - subsoil	L: > 30m x W: > 1.8m x D: 0.12m	Below (3000) & above (3002)
3002	3	Layer	Brown-yellow sand clay - natural	L: > 30m x W: > 1.8m x D: N/A	Below (3001)
4000	4	Layer	Light brown to brown turf with grass - topsoil	L: > 30m x W: > 1.8m x D: 0.09m	Above (4001)
4001	4	Layer	Light brown silt sand - subsoil	L: > 30m x W: > 1.8m x D: 0.1m	Below (4000) & Above (4002)
4002	4	Layer	Brown-yellow sand clay - natural	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: N/A	Below (4001)
5000	5	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay with grass - topsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.12m	Above (5001)
5001	5	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay - subsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.1m	Below (5000) & Above (5002)
5002	5	Layer	Mid brown-orange clay - natural	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: N/A	Below (5001)
6000	6	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay with grass - topsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.15m	Above (6001)
6001	6	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay - subsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.10m	Below (6000) & Above (6002)
6002	6	Layer	Mid brown-orange clay - natural	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: N/A	Below (6001)

7000	7	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay with grass - topsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.17m	Above (7001)
7001	7	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay - subsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.1m	Below (7000) & Above (7002)
7002	7	Layer	Mid brown-orange clay - natural	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: N/A	Below (7001)
8000	8	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay with grass - topsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.16m	Above (8001)
8001	8	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay - subsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.14m	Below (8000) & Above (8002)
8002	8	Layer	Mid brown-orange clay - natural	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: N/A	Below (8001)
9000	9	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay with grass - topsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.12m	Above (9001)
9001	9	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay - subsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.14m	Below (9000) & Above (9002)
9002	9	Layer	Mid brown-orange clay - natural	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: N/A	Below (9001)
10000	10	Layer	Mid orange-brown silt sand clay - topsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.11m	Above (10001)
10001	10	Layer	Mid orange-brown silt sand clay - subsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.16m	Below (10000) & Above (10002)
10002	10	Layer	Mid brown-orange clay - natural	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: N/A	Below (10001)

11000	11	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay with grass - topsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.11m	Above (11000)
11001	11	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand silt clay - subsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.16m	Below (11000) & Above (11002)
11002	11	Layer	Mid brown-orange silt clay - natural	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: N/A	Below (11001)
12000	12	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand clay with grass - topsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.1m	Above (12001)
12001	12	Layer	Mid orange-brown sand silt clay - subsoil	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: 0.15m	Below (12000) & Above (12002)
12002	12	Layer	Mid brown-orange silt clay - natural	L: > 1.8m x W: > 30m x D: N/A	Below (12001)

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APPENDIX II: Finds Quantification Table

Site: MGE/22/EV
Marsh Green, Exeter

Finds Quantification Table

Date: 13/06/22
Initials: RP

Context Number	Object Type	Quantity	Weight (g)	Description
5000	Pottery	1	8	Post medieval internally glazed (brown) earthenware sherd
5000	Fe	1	8	Post medieval square shafted iron nail 6cm in length

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APPENDIX III: Outline Written Scheme of Investigation

Outline Written Scheme of Investigation for an

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRENCHED EVALUATION

Ford Oaks Solar Farm

Marsh Green, Exeter, Devon

Heritage Archaeology

March 2022

Client	Enzygo Ltd for Low Carbon Alliance	
Site name	Ford Oaks Solar Farm, Marsh Green, Exeter	
Report type	Outline Written Scheme of Investigation for trenched evaluation	
Report reference	P00100.03.01	
Report date	23 March 2022	
Prepared by	Helena Kelly, BSc, MCIfA	
	Heritage Archaeology Harborough Innovation Centre Airfield Business Park, Leicester Rd, Market Harborough LE16 7WB	
Revision history	V1	Client draft/ DCC for comment
	V2	Updated following client review (28/03/2022 & 30/03/2022)

Contents

1 Introduction

1.1. Heritage Archaeology has been appointed to provide a historic environment assessment for the proposed Ford Oaks solar farm development at Marsh Green, Devon.

1.2. This Outline Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) provides an overview of the proposed archaeological field survey (trenched evaluation) and the context for undertaking that survey. Further details such as the excavation methods, key specialists and an updated programme would be set out in a method statement prepared by the relevant organisation undertaking the archaeological fieldwork.

1.3. As set out below the trenched evaluation is the third phase of assessment following desk-based assessment and walkover survey (June – August 2021), and a geophysical survey (November 2021). Those were undertaken prior to design refinement. The design has subsequently taken account of the results of those surveys and some areas of geophysical anomalies likely to represent archaeological activity have been removed from the development footprint. The programme of work outlined below provides for a targeted intrusive survey of areas of archaeological potential within the footprint of the proposed array.

Site location

1.4. The site is presently occupied by slightly undulating agricultural land being a mixture of arable and pasture. Figure 1 shows the site location and extent.

1.5. It is located at Marsh Green, Exeter, Devon. The nearest post code to the site centre is EX5 2EU and the grid reference is SY04079346. The site is within the modern and historic parishes of Rockbeare and Aylesbeare, and the East Devon District Council local authority area. The relevant Historic Environment Record (HER) is maintained by Devon County Council Historic Environment Service, who also advise East Devon District Council and Devon County Council on archaeological matters.

Planning background

1.6. A planning application is being prepared for permission for a renewable energy scheme comprising ground mounted photovoltaic arrays with associated substation, landscaping and biodiversity measures, fencing, access gate and ancillary infrastructure.

1.7. The Historic environment assessments undertaken for the application to date comprise:

- Desk-based assessment;
- Site walkover survey; and
- Geophysical survey.

1.8. A pre-application enquiry was made to East Devon District Council (EDDC) for a proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure, reference 21/0155/PREAPP. The pre-application response (dated 28 February 2022) advised that:

> *It is understood that the applicant has been liaising with the County Historic Environment Team with regard to the heritage information required to support any EIA or planning application for a solar farm in this area. The County Archaeologist has advised that he concurs with the methodology set out on page 29 of the Cultural Heritage/Archaeology section of the Screening Opinion prepared by Enzygo Environmental Consultants (document ref: CRM.3025.002, dates 26th November 2021), namely the undertaking of a geophysical survey, which we believe is being undertaken at the moment, followed by appropriate mitigation - either by design or further archaeological work - if required.*

1.9. Consultation has been ongoing with the Devon County Council (DCC) Historic Environment Team and the content of this WSI is based on the most recent engagement with them (a conference call on 16 March 2022), which was undertaken following the results of the geophysical survey.

Aims and objectives

1.10. The following method for a programme of archaeological investigation (archaeological trenched evaluation, post excavation assessment, analysis, publication, and archiving) is commensurate to the results of the desk-based assessment and geophysical survey.

1.11. The programme of work specifically aims to further characterise the potential archaeological deposits identified through corroborative evidence from all the non-intrusive surveys. This is consistent with the NPPF at paragraph 194.

1.12. The research objectives of the South West Archaeological Research Framework will be taken into account in determining an appropriate and proportionate archaeological programme of work.

2 Legislation, planning policy and best practice guidance

2.1. The archaeological trenched evaluation will be undertaken within the context of the following legislative, policy and best practice provisions. Particularly it will be undertaken in accordance with:

- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Code of Conduct (CIfA, 2020); and
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (CIfA, 2020).

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), 2021

2.2. The National Planning Policy Framework July 2021 (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied. The NPPF includes three overarching objectives for the planning system (section 2, paragraph 8), including "*c) an environmental objective – to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment…".*

2.3. Paragraph 194 of the NPPF directs that applicants should be required to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the asset's importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance.

2.4. Paragraph 203 relates to non-designated heritage assets, again directing that "*in weighing applications that directly or indirectly affect non-designated heritage assets, a balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset*."

Best practice and guidance

2.5. The following guidance documents have been referenced in preparing this report.

- Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning 2, Managing significance in decision-taking in the historic environment, Historic England, 2015;
- Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning 3, 2nd Edition (GPA3): The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic England, 2017;
- Conservation Principles; Policy for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment, Historic England, 2008;
- Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, Standard and guidance for archaeological field evaluation, CIFA, 2020; and
- Historic England Advice Note 12 (HEAN 12): Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets, Historic England, 2019.

2.6. Historic England, in GPA2 (pages 11-13), provides advice on the content of Written Schemes of Investigation, archaeological conditions, reporting, publication and archiving, and unexpected discoveries during work.

2.7. Conservation Principles sets out Historic England's recommended approach to making decisions about the historic environment. The document identifies the heritage values that can be attached to places to help define heritage significance. These align to heritage interests as set out in the glossary of the NPPF (significance for heritage policy), and comprise:

- Historical interest (or value): the way in which a heritage asset can illustrate past people, events and aspects of life and includes illustrative, associative and symbolic/ commemorative (communal) historic values;
- Archaeological interest (or evidential value): a heritage asset can hold, or potentially hold, evidence of past human activity that can be revealed through investigation;
- Architectural and artistic interest (or aesthetic value): This derives from a contemporary appreciation of the asset's aesthetics and design.

East Devon District Council – East Devon Local Plan 2013-2031 – Adopted 28 January 2016

2.8. The following policies are of relevance to this WSI:

- **EN6** – Nationally and Locally Important Archaeological Sites
  - Development that would harm locally important archaeological remains or their settings will only be permitted where the need for the development outweighs the damage to the archaeological interest of the site and its setting. There is a presumption in favour of preservation in situ in the case of nationally and locally important remains. Preservation of locally important remains by record will be required where the need for the development outweighs the need to preserve the remains in situ.
- **EN7** - Proposals Affecting Sites which may potentially be of Archaeological Importance
  - When considering development proposals which affect sites that are considered to potentially have remains of archaeological importance, the District Council will not grant planning permission until an appropriate desk based assessment and, where necessary, a field assessment has been undertaken.

2.9. The **East Devon District Council Heritage Strategy 2019-2031** provides further information on the historic environment resource of East Devon, strategies for positively managing the historic environment resource in East Devon and the Council's role in promoting the historic environment as part of a strategy for sustainable development.

3 Operational Matters

Programme

3.1. It is anticipated that the works will happen in accordance with the following broad programme:

- March 2022 - submit WSI for approval by DCC/ EDDC;
- Tbc – Fieldwork;
- Tbc – Reporting and consultation with DCC on the findings of the field assessment to determine next steps;
- Within 6 months – appropriate and proportionate archiving and report dissemination (see sections 6 and 7).

Organisation and Key Personnel

3.2. All archaeological fieldwork will be undertaken by a suitably qualified organisation that is a Registered Organisation with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, or equivalently qualified. The archaeological consultancy will be undertaken by Helena Kelly BSc MCIfA.

Health and safety

3.3. All work on site would be undertaken strictly in accordance with the project health and safety plan and task specific risk assessments. All companies working on the project will adhere to the client's required quality, health, safety and environment controls.

3.4. Access routes to working areas would be specified by the client and access would only be permitted to those routes and the area of the fieldwork.

3.5. A dynamic site-specific risk assessment will be undertaken. It is noted that this will include additional measures associated with the current Covid-19 restrictions and safe working in accordance with Government guidelines.

Outreach

3.6. The results of the work will be made publicly available, via the Devon Historic Environment Record. Any additional potential for public engagement with the findings will be commensurate to the findings and agreed through consultation with the Client and DCC, and also the Parish Council and Marsh Green residents, as appropriate.

4 Archaeological and historic context

4.1. The geology of the proposed development site is mudstone, siltstone and sandstone overlain by in part by sand and gravel. The site is on undulating agricultural land that ranges from 89m above Ordnance Datum on the southern edge and 79m aOD on the eastern edge, falling to 55m aOD in the site centre where a small watercourse passes through the site on an east-west alignment.

4.2. The development site is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping (1:10,560 – 1890-1891) as within an area of enclosed fields with an irregular pattern, indicating fields created prior to formal Parliamentary enclosure, typically during the 18th century, or possibly earlier. The field pattern shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey is little changed from the Tithe Maps for Aylesbeare and Rockbeare (1845 and 1844 respectively). This field pattern remained largely unchanged into the 20th century and is still discernible, although there has been a large amount of boundary loss.

4.3. Lidar data for the site shows former field boundaries, ponds and extraction pits annotated on historic mapping and modern land drains. The site is recorded by the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project as medieval enclosures based on strip fields; this area was probably first enclosed with hedge-banks during the later middle-ages. The curving form of the hedge-banks suggests that earlier it may be farmed as open strip-fields. The southern and western-most parts of the site have had the most extensive boundary loss and are recorded by the HLC project as modern enclosures; these modern fields have been created out of probable medieval enclosures.

4.4. A geophysical survey was undertaken within the proposed development area. The geophysical survey was undertaken in accordance with an approved WSI and focused on those parts of the site topographically suited to that technique and agreed with the DCC Historic Environment Team during a site walkover.

4.5. In summary, the survey concluded that the methodology had been successful in detecting and locating anomalies of potential archaeological origin and anomalies likely to belong to the modern period. Anomalies identified included probable former field boundaries, and three groups interpreted as representing potential cultivation patterns. Three groups of anomalies related to modern buried pipeline and pylons. Two possible ditched enclosures potentially indicating prehistoric activity were identified within the site, at its north western and south eastern extents. These areas are topographically the higher, more level parts of the site.

4.6. There are eight non-designated heritage assets within the proposed development site, six are recorded from the historic environment record data or historic mapping and two from the geophysical survey data.

- Two relate to possible enclosures that could be indicative of prehistoric archaeology within the site.

- Five are related to the post medieval agricultural use of the site and include extraction pits and field barns.
- One is the site of a Second World War searchlight battery Marsh Green.

5 The programme of archaeological work

Introduction

5.1. The trenching will target the areas of potential archaeological interest identified through desk-based assessment and geophysical survey that are within the footprint of the array and red line boundary for the proposed solar farm development at Ford Oaks. The targeted approach was agreed in principle with the DCC Historic Environment Team during a conference call (16th March 2022).

5.2. Nine 30m x 2m trenches are proposed, designed to adequately sample the archaeological potential of the site in order to define a sampling strategy for future mitigation in relation to any present archaeology. The precise dimension and location of the proposed trenches will be confirmed on site and in consultation with DCC Historic Environment Team. Indicative trench locations are shown on **Figure 1**, below.

5.3. The trenches will be mechanically excavated using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Under instruction from the designated supervising archaeologist, the machine will operate in 'spits', removing only an appropriate amount of overburden with each action. The supervising archaeologist will give the command to stop should archaeological deposits or structures become visible. At each soil horizon change, the supervising archaeologist will indicate to the machine driver that each stratum should be stored separately.

5.4. Upon reaching the archaeological horizon or the natural horizon, whichever is encountered first, machine excavation will stop. Should the trenches require excavation to depths in excess of approximately 1.5m to reach archaeological horizons, the trench may require stepping or shoring, or investigation by machine sondage, rather than features being cleaned by hand. This would be confirmed in consultation with the client and DCC Historic Environment Team.

5.5. The archaeological evaluation will provide an accurate record of any archaeological and palaeo-environmental finds, features, artefacts or ecofacts identified. If any such finds or features are identified, subsequent excavations will be undertaken by hand. Sampling strategies will be in accordance with the archaeological sub-contractor fieldwork manual and the requirements of DCC Historic Environment Team. All finds and features will be accurately located and planned accurately at appropriate scales.

5.6. A pre-excavation photo will be taken of the clean trenches. The archaeological contractor will make appropriate pre-and post-excavation site records.

5.7. Trenches will be backfilled using the arisings in reverse order, with the subsoil, topsoil and turf (if relevant) reinstated by machine.

Further mitigation

5.8. Following completion of the trenched evaluation described above, the results will be discussed with DCC Historic Environment Team, and a programme of archaeological recording agreed, that is proportionate to the significance of any heritage assets identified, and the predicted impact on them. The extent of any necessary excavation, and sampling

strategies will be agreed in consultation and confirmed through the provision of an updated WSI

General

Finds

5.9. All finds or environmental samples recovered during the archaeological works will be assessed and reported on by external specialists. A list of specialists for the project will be provided by the archaeological contractor when required. All finds will be treated in accordance with current best practice as set out in Chartered Institute for Archaeologists and Historic England guidance.

Human Remains

5.10. If human remains are encountered during the evaluation, they will be left in situ and the coroner notified. If it is deemed appropriate to excavate human remains, this will be done in accordance with appropriate Historic England and Chartered Institute for Archaeologists guidance (e.g., CIfA Technical Paper 13 Excavation and Post-excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed remains). Excavation, removal from site, analysis and final placing will all be subject to the requirements of the appropriate Ministry of Justice licence.

Treasure

5.11. If any artefacts are encountered that would constitute 'treasure' as defined by The Treasure Act, 1996, they will be reported to the local Coroner and relevant Finds Liaison Officer. Any artefacts deemed to be Treasure would be excavated on the day they are discovered and removed to a secure site. If this is impractical then appropriate security would be provided until full excavation and removal can occur.

Paleo-environmental sampling and analysis

5.12. Paleo-environmental assessment aims to identify areas suitable for the survival of evidence of past environments. These most commonly occur in the form of subsurface peat layers but can also include all waterlogged deposits. The identification of any suitable areas will take place during the archaeological works. Should any such deposits exist within the area of impact, samples will be taken by a suitably qualified specialist sub-contractor.

5.13. Having assessed the potential for analysis a project design would be produced to provide a detailed proposal for analysis (including, for example, C14 dating, loss-on-ignition to measure organic carbon content, humification and mass specific magnetic susceptibility) of any present selected samples. If necessary and appropriate the advice of the Historic England Science Advisor will be sought.

6 Reporting

6.1. A programme of reporting will be undertaken, to commence on completion of each phase of fieldwork. It will be proportionate to the findings of the fieldwork, and it may be that a single phase of assessment, analysis and reporting is enough in the event of non-complex findings. In the event of complex findings requiring specialist input, the 'MAP2' assessment and analysis approach would be adopted, with a post-excavation assessment report produced within six months of the completion of fieldwork, and a post excavation analysis report, a publication report, and site archive prepared within two years of the completion of fieldwork.

6.2. In the event of negative, or non-complex findings, separate reports will be produced detailing the results of each phase of fieldwork within eight weeks of the end of the fieldwork and archived within six months. The reports will include;

- a front cover to include the NGR, and HER reference number
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results,
- the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken,
- description of the methodology, including the sources consulted,
- the historical background of the development area,
- results of the fieldwork
- a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the impact,
- a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that design,
- the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted,
- a site location plan related to the national grid,
- appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located,
- plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds,
- illustrative photographs as appropriate,
- plan showing the positions of where the survey photographs were taken,
- coordinates (latitude/longitude) of relevant sites if archaeological remains have been discovered.

7 Archive

7.1. The report will be submitted to the client, and to Devon Historic Environment Record within six months of the completion of the trenching.

7.2. An archive of the results of the archaeological work will be produced, in accordance with CIfA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (CIfA 2020). The archive will contain all site records and materials recovered.

7.3. Details of the work will be entered on the OASIS database within 12 months of the completion of the project.

7.4. Opportunities for public engagement and possible wider dissemination of the results of the fieldwork will be determined in consultation with DCC Historic Environment Team, the Parish Council, and the residents of Marsh Green, commensurate to the findings on site.

8 Figures

Figure 1A: Proposed Trench Locations

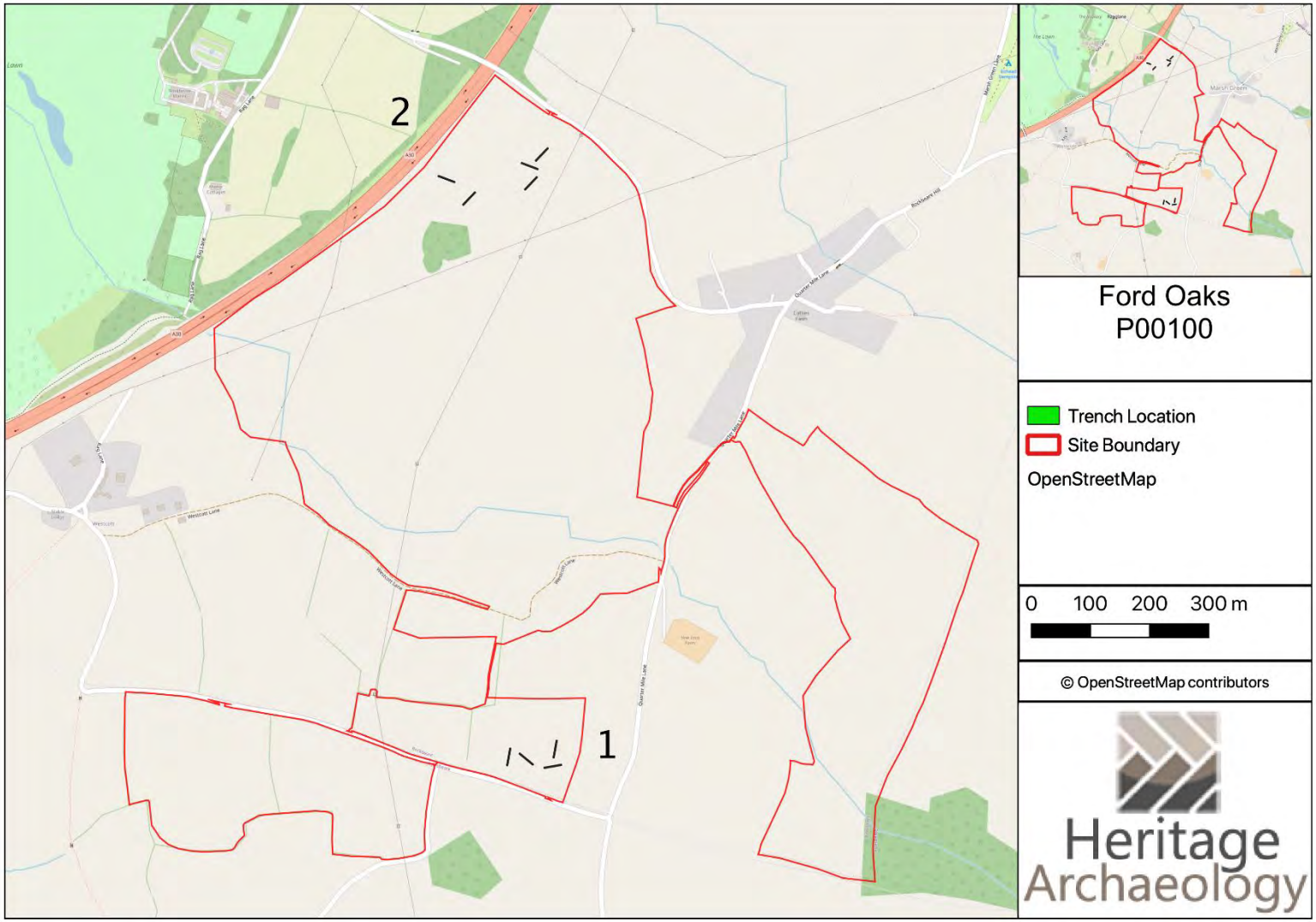


Figure 1B: Proposed trench locations (southern area (area 1) with geophysical survey data)

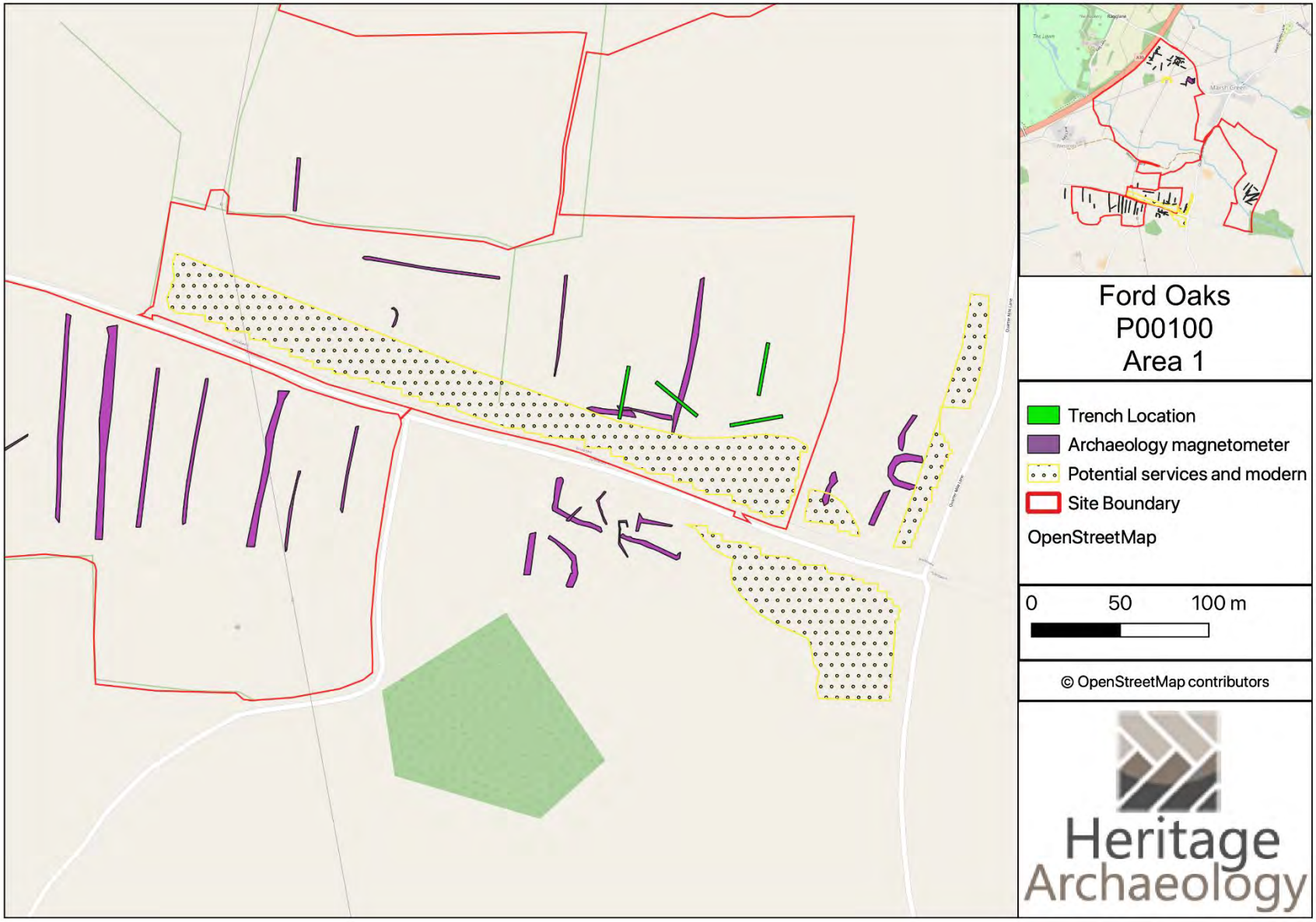
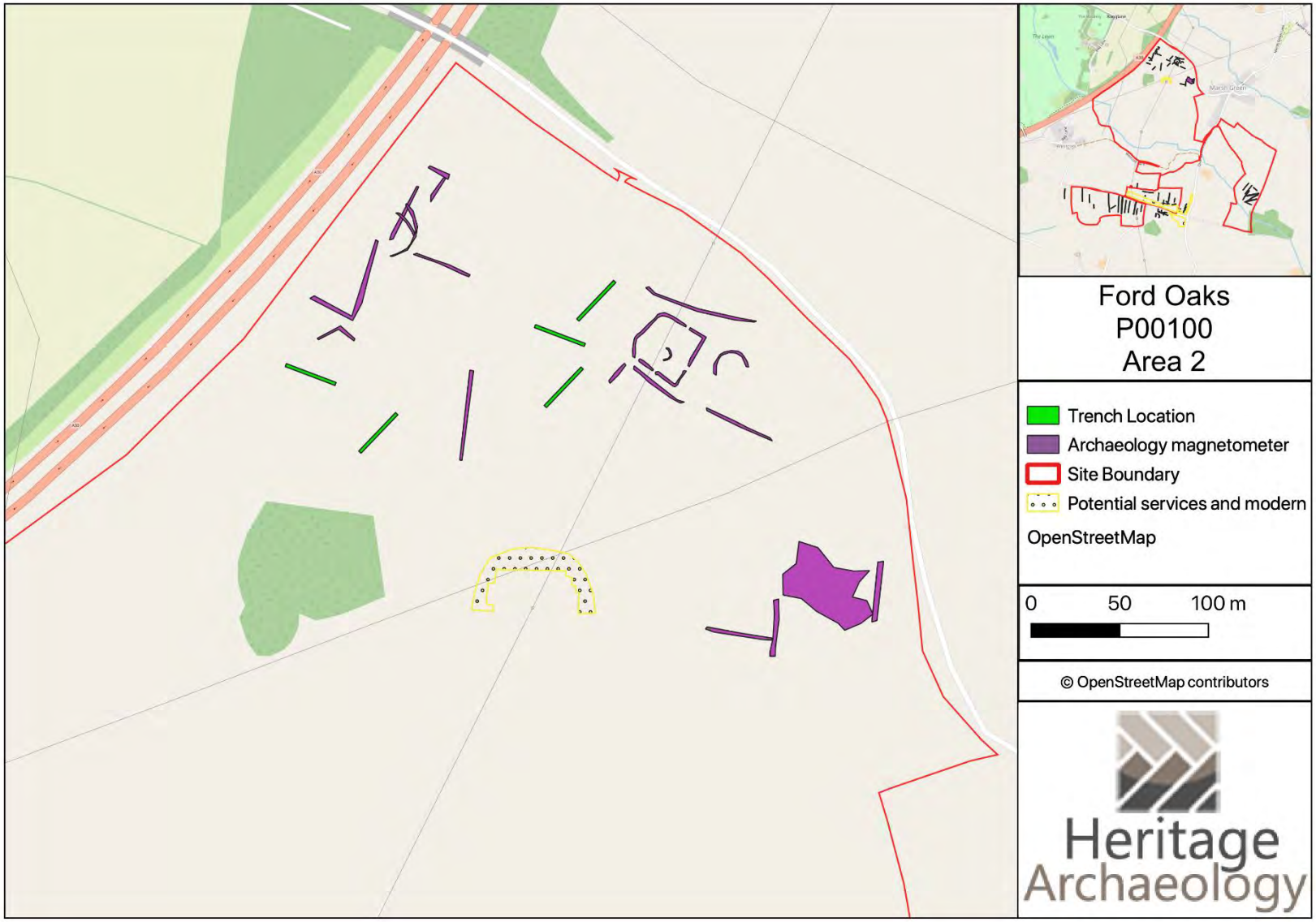


Figure 1C: Proposed trench locations (northern area (area 2) with geophysical survey data)



Archaeology England

APPENDIX IV:
Method Statement

ARCHAEOLOGY ENGLAND

METHOD STATEMENT

FOR AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL FIELD EVALUATION:

Ford Oaks Solar Farm Marsh Green, Exeter, Devon

Prepared for:
Heritage Archaeology Ltd

AE Project No: 3005

OASIS ID: archaeol26-506934

Museum Reference Number: RAMM:22/36

May 2022

Constructionline Part of Capita plc

Acclaim Accreditation

REGISTERED CIfA ORGANISATION

Contents

Summary

This Method Statement details the proposal for an archaeological field evaluation associated with the proposed construction of a renewable energy scheme comprising ground mounted photovoltaic arrays with associated substation, landscaping and biodiversity measures, fencing, access gate and ancillary infrastructure. The nearest post code to the site centre is EX5 2EU and the grid reference is SY04079346. This Method Statement has been prepared by Archaeology England for Heritage Archaeology Ltd to supplement the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (Kelly, 2022). The purpose of the method statement is to provide details such as the excavation methods, key specialists to be utilized by Archaeology England who will be undertaking the archaeological fieldwork.

1. Introduction and Planning Background

1.1 The proposed development site is located on land at Marsh Green, Exeter, Devon (henceforth – the site). The nearest post code to the site centre is EX5 2EU and the grid reference is SY04079346. The site is within the modern and historic parishes of Rockbeare and Aylesbeare, and the East Devon District Council local authority area. The relevant Historic Environment Record (HER) is maintained by Devon County Council Historic Environment Service, who also advise East Devon District Council and Devon County Council on archaeological matters. A planning application is being prepared for permission for a renewable energy scheme comprising ground mounted photovoltaic arrays with associated substation, landscaping and biodiversity measures, fencing, access gate and ancillary infrastructure.

1.2 Heritage Archaeology has been appointed to provide a historic environment assessment for the proposed development. Archaeology England have been commissioned to undertake the trenched evaluation, which will be the third phase of assessment following desk- based assessment and walkover survey (June – August 2021), and a geophysical survey (November 2021). Those were undertaken prior to design refinement. The design has subsequently taken account of the results of those surveys and some areas of geophysical anomalies likely to represent archaeological activity have been removed from the development footprint. The programme of work outlined below provides for a targeted intrusive survey of areas of archaeological potential within the footprint of the proposed array.

1.3 A pre-application enquiry was made to East Devon District Council (EDDC) for a proposed solar farm and associated infrastructure, reference 21/0155/PREAPP. The pre-application response (dated 28 February 2022) advised that:

It is understood that the applicant has been liaising with the County Historic

Environment Team with regard to the heritage information required to support any EIA or planning application for a solar farm in this area. The County Archaeologist has advised that he concurs with the methodology set out on page 29 of the Cultural Heritage/Archaeology section of the Screening Opinion prepared by Enzygo Environmental Consultants (document ref: CRM.3025.002, dates 26th November 2021), namely the undertaking of a geophysical survey, which we believe is being undertaken at the moment, followed by appropriate mitigation - either by design or further archaeological work - if required.

1.4 Consultation has been ongoing between Heritage Archaeology Ltd the Devon County Council Historic Environment Team (DCHET) and the excavation strategy based on the most recent engagement between them (a conference call on 16 March 2022), which was undertaken following the results of the geophysical survey.

1.5 This Method Statement has been prepared by John Davey (AE) at the request of Heritage Archaeology Ltd. It provides information on the methodology that will be employed by AE during the archaeological field evaluation.

1.6 The primary objective of the archaeological field evaluation is to provide the local planning authority with the information they have requested from the client in advance of their planning application, the requirements for which are set out in the following:

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 16 (February 2019)
- Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2020)
- Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets (Historic England 2019)
- Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (Historic England 2008)
- The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3 (2nd Edition) (Historic England 2017)
- East Devon District Council – East Devon Local Plan 2013-2031 – Adopted 28 January 2016

1.7 All work will conform to the Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (CIfA 2020) and be undertaken by suitably qualified staff to the highest professional standards.

2. Site Description & Archaeological Background (Kelly, 2022)

2.1 The site is presently occupied by slightly undulating agricultural land being a mixture of arable and pasture. Figure 1a shows the site location and extent.

2.2 The geology of the proposed development site is mudstone, siltstone and sandstone overlain by in part by sand and gravel. The site is on undulating agricultural land that ranges from 89m above Ordnance Datum on the southern edge and 79m aOD on the eastern edge, falling to 55m aOD in the site centre where a small watercourse passes through the site on an east- west alignment.

2.3 The development site is shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey mapping (1:10,560 – 1890-1891) as within an area of enclosed fields with an irregular pattern, indicating fields created prior to formal Parliamentary enclosure, typically during the 18th century, or possibly earlier. The field pattern shown on the first edition Ordnance Survey is little changed from the Tithe Maps for Aylesbeare and Rockbeare (1845 and 1844 respectively). This field pattern remained largely unchanged into the 20th century and is still discernible, although there has been a large amount of boundary loss.

2.4 Lidar data for the site shows former field boundaries, ponds and extraction pits annotated on historic mapping and modern land drains. The site is recorded by the Devon Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) project as medieval enclosures based on strip fields; this area was probably first enclosed with hedge-banks during the later middle-ages. The curving form of the hedge-banks suggests that earlier it may be farmed as open strip-fields. The southern and western-most parts of the site have had the most extensive boundary loss and are recorded by the HLC project as modern enclosures; these modern fields have been created out of probable medieval enclosures.

2.5 A geophysical survey was undertaken within the proposed development area. The geophysical survey was undertaken in accordance with an approved WSI and focused on those parts of the site topographically suited to that technique and agreed with the DCC Historic Environment Team during a site walkover.

2.6 In summary, the survey concluded that the methodology had been successful in detecting and locating anomalies of potential archaeological origin and anomalies likely to belong to the modern period. Anomalies identified included probable former field boundaries, and three groups interpreted as representing potential cultivation patterns. Three groups of anomalies related to modern buried pipeline and pylons. Two possible ditched enclosures potentially indicating prehistoric activity were identified within the site, at its north western and south eastern extents. These areas are topographically the higher, more level parts of the site.

2.7 There are eight non-designated heritage assets within the proposed development site, six are recorded from the historic environment record data or historic mapping and two from the geophysical survey data. Two relate to possible enclosures that could be indicative of prehistoric archaeology within the site. Five are related to the

post medieval agricultural use of the site and include extraction pits and field barns. One is the site of a Second World War searchlight battery Marsh Green.

3. Objectives

3.1 This Method Statement sets out a program of works to ensure that the archaeological field evaluation will meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2020).

3.2 The objective of the intrusive trial trench evaluation will be to locate and describe archaeological features that may be present within the development area. The work will elucidate the presence or absence of archaeological material, its character, distribution, extent, condition and relative significance. The work will include an assessment of regional context within which the archaeological evidence rests and will aim to highlight any relevant research issues within national and regional research frameworks.

3.3 A report will be produced that will provide information which is sufficiently detailed to allow the archaeological resource to be better understood. The information could then be used to help inform further archaeological work undertaken in association with the proposed development.

4. Timetable of works

4.1 Fieldwork

The programme of archaeological field evaluation will be undertaken prior to the submission of the planning application associated with the proposed development. The proposed start Date is Wednesday 25th May 2022. AE will update DCHET with the exact start date.

4.2 Report delivery

The report will be submitted to the client and to DCHET within three months of the completion of the fieldwork. A copy of the report will also be sent to the regional HER.

5. Fieldwork

5.1 Desk-Based Research

5.1.1 An element of desk-based research will be undertaken to inform the archaeological fieldwork and enable finds and features identified to be understood in their context. This work will be undertaken in advance of any fieldwork commencing.

5.1.2 As a minimum the desk-based research will take the form of an archaeological appraisal of the site to place the development area into its historic and archaeological context. This work will consist of map regression based on the

Ordnance Survey maps and the Tithe Map(s) and Apportionments. An examination will also be made of records and aerial photographs held by the HER, as well as of archaeological reports on investigations undertaken in the vicinity.

5.2 Evaluation Detail

5.2.1 The work will be undertaken to meet the standard required by The Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation (2020).

5.2.2 The archaeological project manager in charge of the work will satisfy themselves that all constraints to ground works have been identified, including the siting of live services and Tree Preservation Orders.

5.2.3 The agreed evaluation areas (Figures 1a & 1c) will be positioned to maximise the retrieval of archaeological information within accessible areas, and to ensure that the archaeological resource is understood. The trenching will target the areas of potential archaeological interest identified through desk-based assessment and geophysical survey that are within the footprint of the array and red line boundary for the proposed solar farm development at Ford Oaks. The targeted approach was agreed in principle with the DCC Historic Environment Team during a conference call (16th March 2022).

5.2.4 Twelve 30m x 2m trenches are proposed, designed to adequately sample the archaeological potential of the site in order to define a sampling strategy for future mitigation in relation to any present archaeology. The precise dimension and location of the proposed trenches will be confirmed on site and in consultation with DCC Historic Environment Team. Indicative trench locations are shown on Figure 1a, below. Any variation will need to be discussed and agreed with DCHET.

5.2.5 The trenches will be mechanically excavated using a machine fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. Under instruction from the designated supervising archaeologist, the machine will operate in 'spits', removing only an appropriate amount of overburden with each action. The supervising archaeologist will give the command to stop should archaeological deposits or structures become visible. At each soil horizon change, the supervising archaeologist will indicate to the machine driver that each stratum should be stored separately.

5.2.6 Upon reaching the archaeological horizon or the natural horizon, whichever is encountered first, machine excavation will stop. Should the trenches require excavation to depths in excess of approximately 1.5m to reach archaeological horizons, the trench may require stepping or shoring, or investigation by machine sondage, rather than features being cleaned by hand. This would be confirmed in consultation with the client and DCC Historic Environment Team.

5.2.7 The archaeological evaluation will provide an accurate record of any archaeological and palaeo-environmental finds, features, artefacts or ecofacts identified. If any such finds or features are identified, subsequent excavations will be undertaken by

hand.

5.2.8 A pre-excavation photo will be taken of the clean trenches. The archaeological contractor will make appropriate pre-and post-excavation site records. All finds and features will be accurately located and planned accurately at appropriate scales.

5.2.9 All areas will be subsequently hand cleaned using pointing trowels and/or hoes to prove the presence, or absence, of archaeological features and to determine their significance. The excavation of the minimum number of archaeological features will be undertaken, to elucidate the character, distribution, extent and importance of the archaeological remains. As a minimum, small discrete features will be fully excavated, larger discrete features will be half-sectioned (50% excavated) and long linear features will be sample excavated along their length - with investigative excavations distributed along the exposed length of any such feature and to investigate terminals, junctions and relationships with other features. Should this percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits may be required. One long face of each trench will be cleaned by hand to allow the site stratigraphy to be understood and for the identification of archaeological features. Exposed archaeological features and deposits will be cleaned and excavated by hand and fully recorded by context as per the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Standard and Guidance for Field Evaluation (2020). All features shall be recorded in plan and section at scales of 1:10, 1:20 or 1:50. All scale drawings shall be undertaken at a scale appropriate to the complexity of the deposit/feature and to allow accurate depiction and interpretation.

5.2.10 the investigation of features at the edge of excavations will include hand cleaning of the trench sides either side of the feature, for a distance of at least 1m from the feature edge, for the identification and recording of remnant bank deposits or other associated deposits and to record and gain an understanding of the overlying stratigraphy.

5.2.11 Should the above percentage excavation not yield sufficient information to allow the form and function of archaeological features/deposits to be determined full excavation of such features/deposits will be required. Additional excavation may also be required for the taking of palaeoenvironmental samples and recovery of artefacts.

5.2.12 If excavations reveal a substantial number of repetitive discrete features, such as stake-holes, these will be adequately sampled by excavation to understand their character rather than the complete excavation of all such features.

5.2.13 Any variation of the above will be undertaken only in agreement with DCHET.

5.2.14 The full depth of archaeological deposits will be assessed. This need not require excavation to natural deposits if it is clear that complex and deep stratigraphy will be encountered.

5.2.15 The depth of the excavation will conform to current safety requirements. If excavation is required below 1m the options of using shoring will be discussed with the client and DCHET, but the intention would be to stop at safe depths.

5.2.16 The excavation of trenches will be undertaken in a staged manner to prevent over-weathering of the exposed trench faces before they can be cleaned by hand by the site archaeologist(s) and facilitate hand-cleaning of freshly exposed surfaces. The four trenches in the Southern Area will be excavated first Thise in the northern area will only be opened once the excavation of the southern area has been completed.

5.2.17 Should potentially significant archaeological features be encountered during the course of the evaluation then DCHET and the client will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity. DCHET may subsequently request that further archaeological work is undertaken in order to fully evaluate areas of significant archaeological activity. Such work may require the provision of additional time and resources to complete the archaeological investigation. The scope of such work will be agreed with DCHET and the client prior to any extended works being undertaken.

5.2.18 Should deposits be exposed that contain palaeoenvironmental or datable elements appropriate sampling and post-excavation analysis strategies will be initiated. The project will be organised so that specialist consultants who might be required to conserve or report on finds or advise or report on other aspects of the investigation (e.g. palaeoenvironmental analysis) can be called upon and undertake assessment and analysis of such deposits – if required. On-site sampling and post-excavation assessment and analysis will be undertaken in accordance with English Heritage's guidance in Environmental Archaeology: a guide to the theory and practice of methods, from sampling and recovery to post-excavation (2011).

5.2.19 There will be provision for the site attendance of specialists who can advise on sampling strategies for the recovery of palaeoenvironmental information and with regard to specialist dating techniques, such as archaeomagnetic and OSL dating.

5.2.20 Should the development not proceed, and field evaluation represent the only archaeological fieldwork undertaken, appropriate assessment and full analysis/dating be undertaken of samples taken during the field evaluation to ensure that this information is not lost.

5.2.21 An adequate photographic record of the excavation will be prepared. This will include photographs illustrating the principal features and finds discovered, in detail and in context. The photographic record will also include working shots to illustrate more generally the nature of the archaeological operation mounted. All photographs of archaeological detail will feature an appropriately-sized scale. Digital images taken during the course of the fieldwork will form part of the digital archive to be submitted and curated by the ADS.

5.2.22 Where human remains are encountered, their excavation and removal will only be undertaken on receipt of the appropriate licence from the Ministry of Justice. Any consents or licences required will be obtained on behalf of the client

by the archaeological contractor. The District Coroner will be informed immediately.

5.2.23 Should any finds identified as treasure or potential treasure, including precious metals, groups of coins or prehistoric metalwork, be exposed, these will be removed to a safe place and reported to the local coroner according to the procedures relating to the Treasure Act 1996 Code of Practice (2nd Revision). Where removal cannot be effected on the same working day as the discovery suitable security measures will be taken to protect the finds from theft.

5.2.24 The results of the desk-based work and a copy of the agreed WSI must be made available to the site director/supervisor to enable the adequate interpretation of exposed features/deposits during fieldwork and so that the agreed programme of works is understood and undertaken.

5.3 Requirement for further archaeological works

5.3.1 The scope of any further work will be determined by the results of the initial evaluation of the site and will reflect the excavation specifications as set out above. Mitigation may take the form of area excavation of areas of archaeological sensitivity, strip, map and recording of all or part of the development site or a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording during construction works.

5.3.2 AE will provide DCHET with sufficient information on the results of the evaluation within three weeks of the completion of the fieldwork to enable the requirement and scope of any archaeological or design mitigation to be determined and agreed with DCHET and implemented either in advance of or during any construction works.

5.4 Recording

5.4.1 Recording will be carried out using AE recording systems (pro-forma context sheets etc) using a continuous number sequence for all contexts.

5.4.2 Plans and sections will be drawn to a scale of 1:50, 1:20 and 1:10 as required and related to Ordnance Survey datum and published boundaries where appropriate.

5.4.3 All features identified will be tied into the OS survey grid and fixed to local topographical boundaries.

5.4.4 Photographs will be taken in digital format with an appropriate scale, using a 12MP camera with photographs stored in Tiff format.

5.4.5 The archaeologists undertaking the evaluation will have access to the AE metal detector and be trained in its use.

5.5 Finds

5.5.1 The professional standards set in the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists'

Standard and guidance for the collection, documentation, conservation and research of archaeological materials (2020) will form the basis of finds collection, processing and recording.

5.5.2 All manner of finds regardless of category and date will be retained.

5.5.3 Finds recovered that are regarded as Treasure under The Treasure Act 1996 will be reported to HM Coroner for the local area.

5.5.4 Any finds which are considered to be in need of immediate conservation will be referred to a UKIC qualified conservator (normally Phil Parkes at Cardiff University).

5.6 Environmental Sampling Strategy

5.6.1 All environmental sampling and recording and will follow English Heritage's Guidelines for Environmental Archaeology (2002). Paleo-environmental assessment aims to identify areas suitable for the survival of evidence of past environments. These most commonly occur in the form of subsurface peat layers but can also include all waterlogged deposits. The identification of any suitable areas will take place during the archaeological works. Should any such deposits exist within the area of impact, samples will be taken by a suitably qualified specialist sub-contractor.

5.6.2 Having assessed the potential for analysis a project design would be produced to provide a detailed proposal for analysis (including, for example, C14 dating, loss-on-ignition to measure organic carbon content, humification and mass specific magnetic susceptibility) of any present selected samples. If necessary and appropriate the advice of the Historic England Science Advisor will be sought.

5.7 Human remains

5.7.1 In the event that human remains are encountered, their nature and extent will be established, and the coroner informed. All human remains will be left in situ and protected during backfilling. Where preservation in situ is not possible the human remains will be fully recorded and removed under conditions that comply with all current legislation and include acquisition of licenses and provision for reburial following all analytical work. Human remains will be excavated in accordance with the Chartered Institute for Archaeologist's Excavation and Post-Excavation Treatment of Cremated and Inhumed Human Remains: Technical Paper Number 13 (1993).

5.7.2 A meeting with DCHET, the client and AE will be called if the human remains uncovered are of such complexity or significance that the contingency arrangement (5.1.9 above) would not be of sufficient scope.

5.8 Specialist advisers

5.8.1 In the event of certain finds, features or sites being discovered, AE will seek specialist opinion and advice. A list of specialists is given in the table below although

this list is not exhaustive.

Artefact type	Specialist
Lithics	Dr Julie Birchenall (Freelance)
Animal bone	Dr Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University) Dr Hannah Russ (Freelance)
CBM, heat affected clay, Daub etc.	Dr Siân Thomas (Archaeology England) Dr Phil Mills (Freelance) Sandra Garside Neville (Freelance)
Clay pipe	Charley James Martin (Archaeology England)
Glass	Rowena Hart (Archaeology England)
Cremated and non-cremated human bone	Malin Holst (University of York) Dr Richard Madgwick (Cardiff University)
Metalwork	Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology England) Dr Kevin Leahy (PAS/University of Leicester) Quita Mould (Freelance)
Metal work and metallurgical residues	Dr Tim Young (GeoArch)
Neo/BA pottery	Dr David Mullin (Freelance) Dr Alex Gibson (Bradford University)
IA/Roman pottery	Dr Jane Timby (Freelance)
Roman Pottery	Dr Siân Thomas (Archaeology England) Dr Peter Webster (Freelance)
Medieval and Post Medieval Pottery	Paul Blinkhorn (Freelance)
Charcoal (wood ID)	Dana Challinor (Freelance)
Waterlogged wood	Professor Nigel Nayling (University of Wales – Lampeter) Damian Goodburn (MOLA) Mike Bamforth (Freelance)
Marine Molluscs	Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology England)
Pollen	Dr Rhiannon Philp (Archaeology England)
Charred and waterlogged plant remains	Wendy Carruthers (Freelance) Kath Hunter Dowse (Freelance)

5.9 Specialist reports

5.9.1 Specialist finds and palaeoenvironmental reports will be written by AE specialists,

or sub-contracted to external specialists when required.

6. Monitoring

6.1 DCHET will be contacted approximately two weeks prior to the commencement of site works, and subsequently once the work is underway.

6.2 Any changes to this Method Statement that AE may wish to make after approval will be communicated to DCHET for approval on behalf of the Planning Authority.

6.3 DCHET will be given access to the site so that they can monitor the progress of the work, they will be kept regularly informed about developments, both during the site works and subsequently during the post-fieldwork programme.

7. Post-fieldwork programme

7.1 The Site Archive

7.1.1 An ordered and integrated site archive will be prepared in accordance with: Management of Research Projects in the Historic Environment (MoRPHE) (Historic England 2006) upon completion of the project.

7.1.2 The site archive (including artefacts and samples) will be prepared in compliance with CIfA Standard and guidance for the creation, compilation, transfer and deposition of archaeological archives (2020). The report will be submitted to the client, and to Devon Historic Environment Record within six months of the completion of the trenching.

7.1.3 Details of the work will be entered on the OASIS database within 12 months of the completion of the project.

7.1.4 Opportunities for public engagement and possible wider dissemination of the results of the fieldwork will be determined in consultation with DCC Historic Environment Team, the Parish Council, and the residents of Marsh Green, commensurate to the findings on site.

7.2 Archive Deposition

7.2.1 The archive will consist of two elements, the artefactual and digital – the latter comprising all born-digital data and digital copies made of the primary site records and images.

7.2.2 The final archive (site and research) will, whenever appropriate, be deposited with a suitable receiving institution. In this case, the artefactual archive will be deposited the Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter. Arrangements have been made with the receiving institution before work starts. The RAMM Museum Reference Number is RAMM: 22/36. DCHET will be approached for a Devon and Dartmoor HER event number. The accession number will serve as the unique identifier/code for the site. All material from and relating to the site will be

marked with this number in a manner agreed with the RAMM, using archive-quality materials. The accession number should be cited on all correspondence and in all publications.

7.2.3 The digital archive will be deposited with the Archaeology Data Service (ADS).

7.2.4 Although there may be a period during which client confidentiality will need to be maintained, copies of all reports and the final archive will be deposited no later than six months after completion of the work.

7.2.5 Wherever the archive is deposited, this information will be relayed to the HER. A summary of the contents of the archive will be supplied to DCHET HER. The RAMM Collections and Development Policy and Archaeological Archives Deposition Document (2020) will be adhered to.

7.2.6 An OASIS project reporting form will be completed when the project is completed. The OASIS project ID is: archaeol26-506934

7.3 Reporting

7.3.1 A programme of reporting will be undertaken, to commence on completion of each phase of fieldwork. It will be proportionate to the findings of the fieldwork, and it may be that a single phase of assessment, analysis and reporting is enough in the event of non-complex findings. In the event of complex findings requiring specialist input, the 'MAP2' assessment and analysis approach would be adopted, with a post-excavation assessment report produced within six months of the completion of fieldwork, and a post excavation analysis report, a publication report, and site archive prepared within two years of the completion of fieldwork.

7.3.2 In the event of negative, or non-complex findings, separate reports will be produced detailing the results of each phase of fieldwork within eight weeks of the end of the fieldwork and archived within six months. The reports will include;

- a front cover to include the NGR, and HER reference number
- a concise, non-technical summary of the results,
- the circumstances of the project and the dates on which the fieldwork was undertaken,
- description of the methodology, including the sources consulted,
- the historical background of the development area,
- results of the fieldwork
- a statement, where appropriate, of the archaeological implications of the impact,
- a copy of this project design, and indications of any agreed departure from that

design,

- the report will also include a complete bibliography of sources from which data has been derived, and a list of any further sources identified but not consulted,
- a site location plan related to the national grid,
- appropriate plans showing the location and position of features or sites located,
- plans and sections showing the positions of deposits and finds,
- illustrative photographs as appropriate,
- plan showing the positions of where the survey photographs were taken,
- coordinates (latitude/longitude) of relevant sites if archaeological remains have been discovered.

8. Staff

The project will be managed by John Davey (AE Project Manager) and the fieldwork undertaken by suitably qualified and experienced AE archaeologists. Any alteration to staffing before or during the work will be brought to the attention of DCHET and the client.

9. Health and Safety

9.1 Risk assessment

Prior to the commencement of work AE will carry out and produce a formal Health and Safety Risk Assessment in accordance with The Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999. A copy of the risk assessment will be kept on site and be available for inspection on request. A copy will be sent to the client (or their agent as necessary) for their information. All members of AE staff will adhere to the content of this document.

9.2 Other guidelines

AE will adhere to best practice with regard to Health and Safety in Archaeology as set out in the FAME (Federation of Archaeological Managers and Employers) health and safety manual Health and Safety in Field Archaeology (2002).

10. Insurance

AE is fully insured for this type of work and holds Insurance with Aviva Insurance Ltd and Hiscox Insurance Company Limited through Towergate Insurance. Full details of these and other relevant policies can be supplied on request.

11. Quality Control

11.1 Professional standards

AE works to the standards and guidance provided by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. AE fully recognise and endorse the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists' Code of Conduct, Code of Approved Practice for the Regulation of Contractual Arrangements in Field Archaeology and the Standard and Guidance for archaeological field evaluation (CIfA 2020) currently in force. All employees of AW, whether corporate members of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists or not, are expected to adhere to these Codes and Standards during their employment.

11.2 Project tracking

The designated AE manager will monitor all projects in order to ensure that agreed targets are met without reduction in quality of service.

12. Arbitration

Disputes or differences arising in relation to this work shall be referred for a decision in accordance with the Rules of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators' Arbitration Scheme for the Institute for Archaeologists applying at the date of the agreement.

13. References

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Compilation, Transfer and Deposition of Archaeological Archives.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists, 2020. *Standards and Guidance for the Collection, Documentation, Conservation and Research of Archaeological Materials.*

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists. 2020. *Standards and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation.*

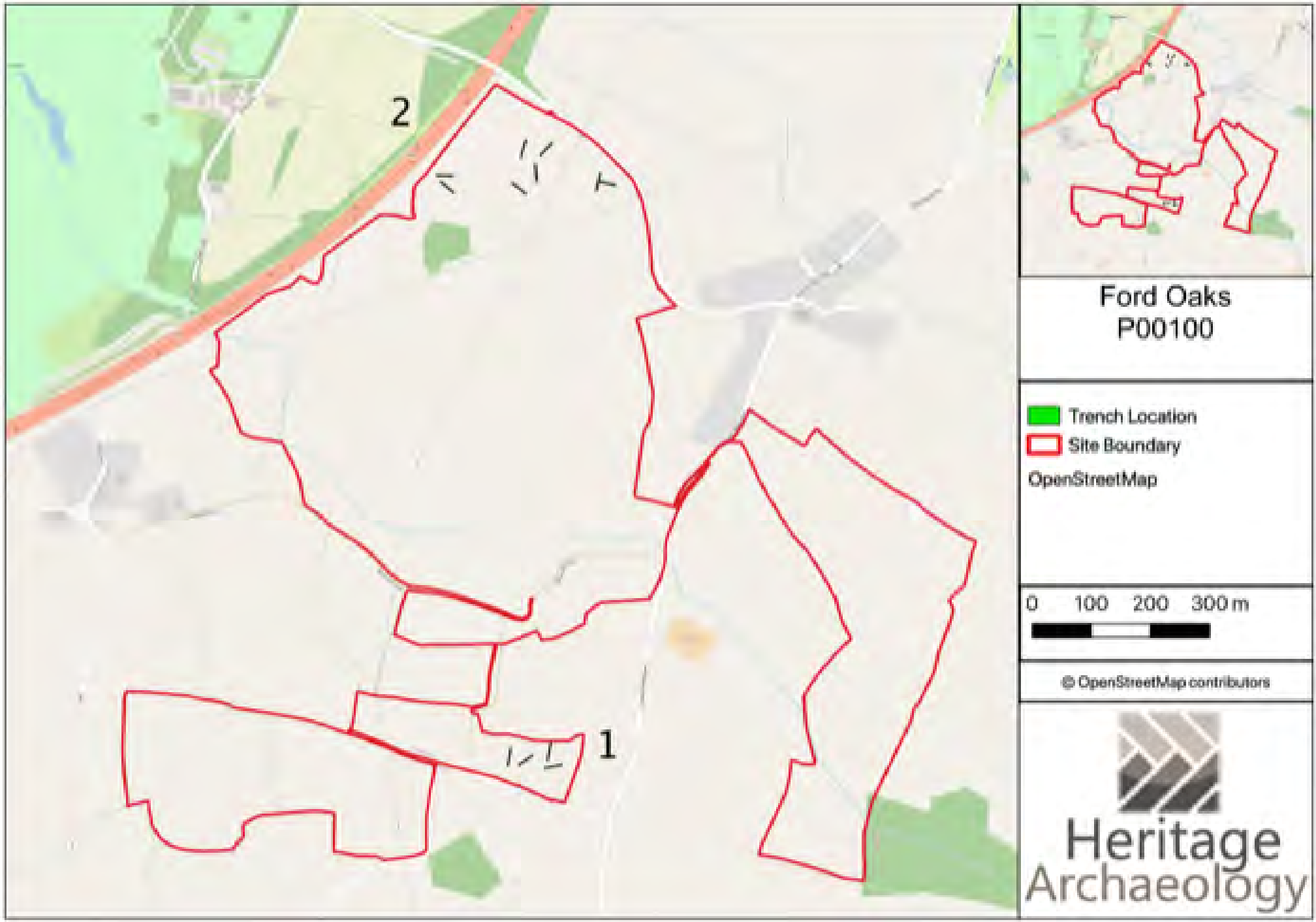
Historic England, 2008. *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance.*

Historic England, 2019. *Statements of Heritage Significance: Analysing Significance in Heritage Assets.*

Historic England, 2017. *The Setting of Heritage Assets: Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3 (2nd Edition).*

Kelly, H. 2022. *Outline Written Scheme of Investigation For An Archaeological Trenched Evaluation, Ford Oaks Solar Farm Marsh Green, Exeter, Devon.* Heritage Archaeology. Report ref. P00100.03.01 v2, March 2022.

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019. *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), Section 16.*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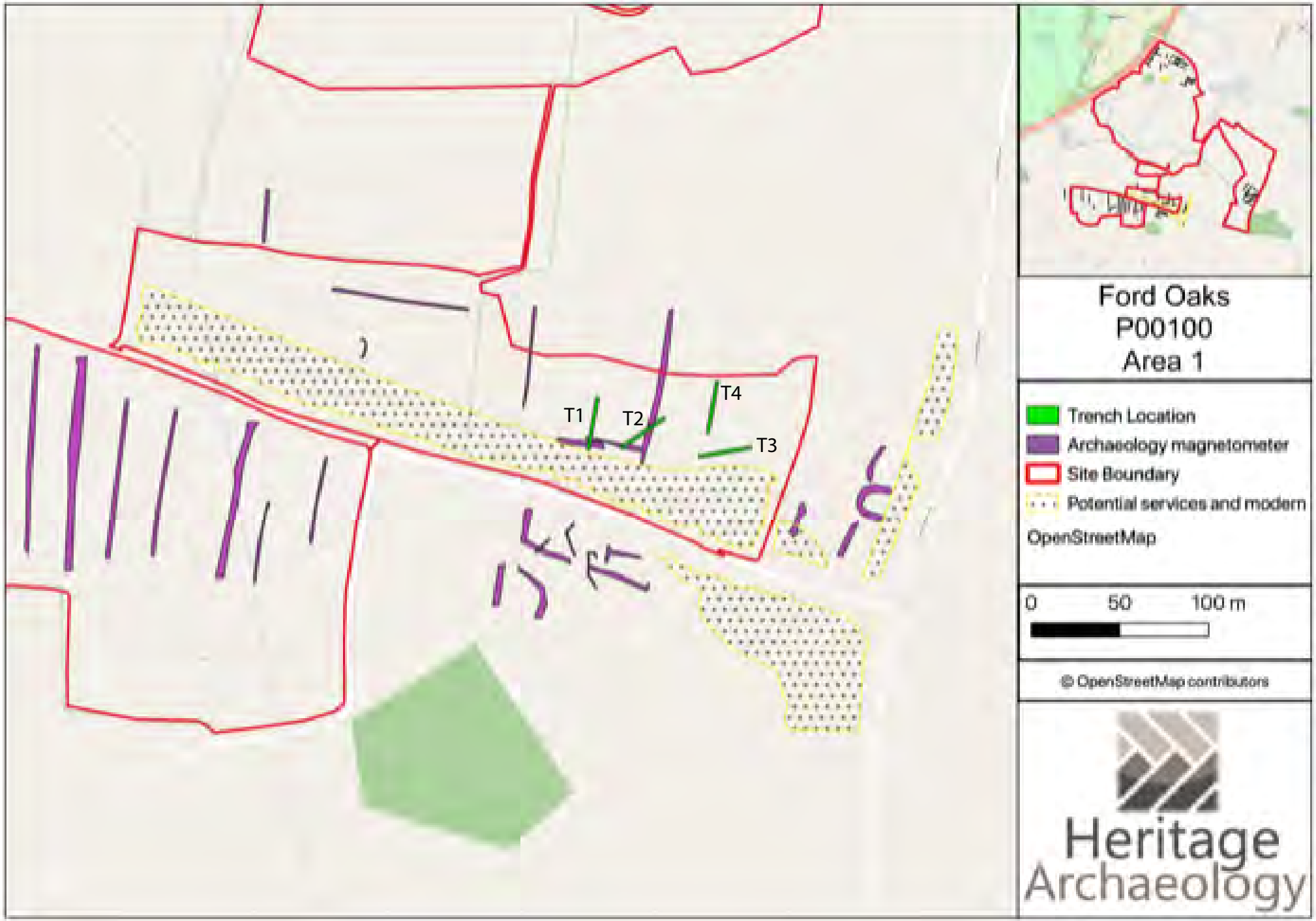
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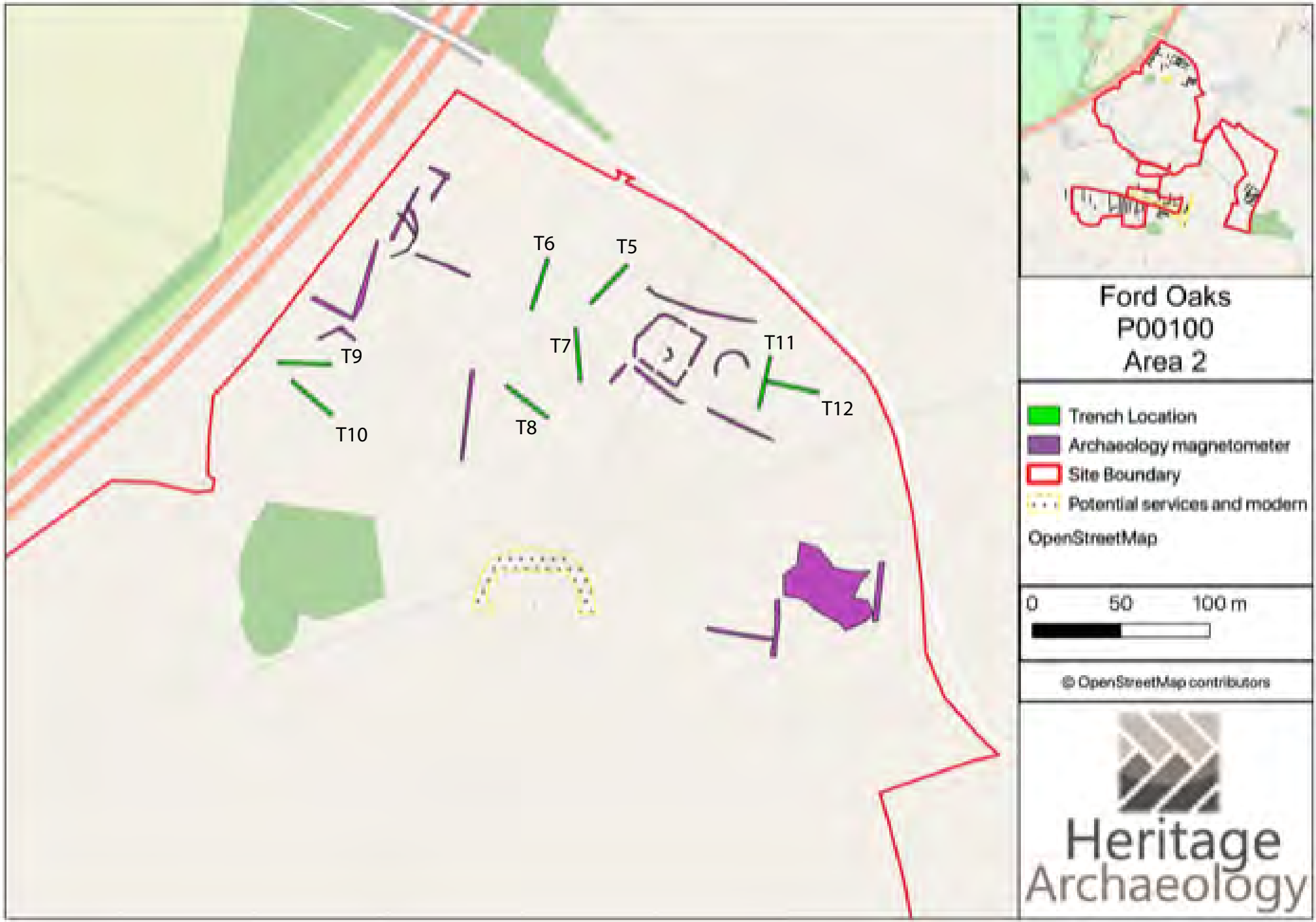
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Site Boundary
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